



Meeting	Trustee Board meeting
Date	10.30am, 19 March 2020
Venue	Online meeting
Trustees Present:	Helen Moss (HM) - Chairman Karen Drury (KD) Alison Hope (AH)
In attendance:	Victoria Southwell (VS) Director Annie Corpe (AC) Grants Assistant (minutes)
Not online:	Bruce Newbigging (BN), Julian Weinberg (JW) Doreen Foster (DF) Andrew Pitt (AP) James Anderson (JA) Sophie Klein (SK) (Observer) Jim Marshall (JM) (Observer) David Loudon (DL) (Observer)

2996. Investment presentation

VS to arrange conference call when end of March figures are available with Ruadhri from Sarasin, KD, AP and DL. Date to be confirmed. Updates have been forwarded by Sarasins to Trustees. AP and DL feel that the current approach seems to be the right one for now.

VS

2998. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

2999. Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 5 December 2019 were approved as a correct record.

Future meetings and dates may need to be altered following today's meeting.

Minute 2990. VS confirmed that £250,000 capital was transferred to the operating bank account as agreed.

3000. Management Accounts

The Management Account to 31 January 2020 were noted.

AP comments were noted.

KD requested a simplification of accounts which is in hand. AC to discuss format with JM to make the management account format more meaningful to Trustees. **JM**

HM is interested in overall picture rather than detail. She noted grant funding is reduced as there are not the projects available to support. There are some support cost queries – National Insurance budget figure is £0, office rent is more than budget. Full year forecast needs updating on management accounts.

3001. Budget

National Insurance contributions line to be reviewed, although the employer's rebate isn't included in this. Trustee travel and expenses budget seems very low compared to this year. A full discussion with JM to occur when outturn available for 19/20. Costs have been set at maximum of 12% of grants, and Trustees have historically worked towards a 10% figure.

The equipment line spend for 2019/20 will be higher than budget due to purchase of two laptops this year rather than just the planned one. June meeting should include actual 19/20 figures to compare to 20/21 draft budget figures. VS to also revise some budget lines before June meeting. JM joins in October 2020 but is keen to be involved sooner.

The Triangle Trust is in a period of development and becoming more learning focused so some funding assumptions will need to be revisited. Trustees need to consider what kind of funder The Triangle Trust should be. VS to look at benchmarking of other funders regarding costs against charitable activities. Some of VS activity is charitable activity rather than overhead. It was confirmed that it was not felt that core costs are currently out of control. **VS**

Triangle Trust 2020/21 Strategic Plan

3002. The draft strategic plan DF keen to build annual sector overview into the strategy so that we can be confident that our funding focus remains relevant and meeting the most need. This will also have the benefit of ensuring that Trustees are kept abreast of key sector issues which will be useful in informing their decision making. **VS**

KD suggested that making grants of £650,000 should be amended to making grants of up to £650,000. **VS**

Some of the revised timelines that have been put in place for 2020 may need to be altered depending on the applications received for rehabilitation grant round starting on 23 March 2020. The plan will be reviewed on a regular basis.

3003. Progress reports

Crossroads Care Wokingham – includes some interesting statistics on improvement in health. Good piece of reflected learning shown in how they overcame challenges. Trustees felt it was an excellent report.

North Argyll – not available at the time of posting papers due to technical issues. The report has since been submitted properly and VS approved the report and confirmed there were no issues.

Trustees were sad to learn of Creative Carers closure. VS felt that despite the organisation closing Triangle Trust funding had made a long term difference and so this was a positive outcome. The reasons behind the closure though show the pressures on unpaid carers who also lead projects on a voluntary or part time basis and the huge impact that changes of circumstances can have.

AH visited Freedom Unlimited in October. AH expressed surprise that the CEO is leaving. The request to transfer funds to a linked project that does not work exclusively with ex-offenders will be denied.

VS had long call with Rod at Code 4000. It appears they will still be able to deliver the agreed outcomes, despite the non-renewal of MoJ funding. The project appears to have the ability to be flexible.

HM fed back that she felt that Scarborough and Ryedale is a really interesting organisation and the grant that was awarded has made a clear difference to their capacity by relieving the pressure on the CEO.

VS thinks there is lots of rich learning that is missed with the current reporting structure. Using both narrative and face to face reporting in addition to quantitative reporting would likely improve the quality of reporting going forward and this will be looked at more deeply as part of the building of the new outcomes framework.

3004.

Carer grant shortlisting

A total of 24 Development Grant applications were received from organisations supporting unpaid carers. The applications had been assessed and divided into the following groups:

- 0 applications – instantly rejected as they are from organisations which did not meet the criteria
- 10 applications – recommended for rejection after review by the Director and Grants Assistant due to quality.
- 14 applications – longlisted to be reviewed by Trustees

Ref Code	Organisation Name	Amount Requested
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Recommended for shortlisting without discussion (2 applications)		
2020-02-C012	Gateshead Carers	£ 62,430
2020-02-C001	Solihull Carers Centre trading as Carers Trust Solihull	£ 79,500
		£ 141,930

Recommended for shortlisting with discussion (8 applications)		
2020-02-C023	Action for Carers Oxfordshire	£ 78,000
2020-02-C006	Carefree (the trading name of Carefreebreaks)	£ 80,000

2020-02-C019	Carers Forum Stirling Area t/a Stirling Carers Centre	£ 30,000
2020-02-C008	Carers Network Westminster	£ 80,000
2020-02-C021	Signpost Stockport for Carers	£ 71,033
2020-02-C018	Southend Carers (SC)	£ 74,129
2020-02-C013	Hillingdon Carers	£ 64,530
2020-02-C010	Carer's Voice Norfolk and Waveney	£ 65,915
		£ 543,607

Recommended for rejection without discussion (4 applications)

2020-02-C011	Care for the Carers	£ 74,143
2020-02-C024	Swansea Carers Centre	£ 78,523
2020-02-C005	Blackburn with Darwen Carers Service Ltd	£ 78,218
2020-02-C007	Carers Link East Dunbartonshire	£ 62,002
		£ 292,886

Issues with applications:

- buildings applications funding didn't add up
- Southend Carers not well thought through
- Hillingdon have enough funds (a false score obtained due to averaging)
- applications in general were poor.
- applications were hugely inflated and rarely scored 3.
- only 2 new organisations were longlisted.

AH suggested that an alternative approach to funding current grantees at this current time as they deal with the impact of the Corona Virus may be more effective for this funding round, especially as the quality of applications seemed to be really poor. VS felt the current funding criteria lends itself better to rehabilitation grant applications which are often social enterprises or CICs or led by people from outside the charity sector. Carer charities are often more traditional and see their needs more in terms of core costs which are presented as a project.

A number of options were discussed and it was agreed that Triangle Trust would not take any of the applications through to shortlisting but should recognise the effort made in making applications, communicate with all applicants to assess their current priorities, and discuss the impact of COVID-19 at national level with Carers UK. VS to also discuss with other funders as to level and type of support required. VS to then write paper to discuss with AH and KD by 19 April at the latest with a proposal for reuse of the budget for

the benefit of unpaid carers at this current time. Grant approval to be halted to ensure prudent emergency funding can be made available to organisations.

Rehabilitation Development Grant award

Six shortlisted applications received a site visit - a total grant value of £374,341 was applied for.

VS

5 proposals were approved – Reasons Why Foundation, Prison Radio Association, Inside Out Support Wales, Circles South West and Safe Welcome After Prison.

3005.

Prison Radio Association was initially assessed as a medium priority. KD picked up on VS' comment in her report about being unconvinced initially about whether it was a 3 year project. KD felt that due to the unique bank of data the work could create that 3 years was justified and VS agreed that she had been convinced at the assessment. VS also updated that MoJ has been using National Prison Radio to disseminate information regarding coronavirus to the prison population. Prison visits have been curtailed and relatives have been using NPR to send messages to inmates to keep in contact which is vital for reducing isolation.

Trustees were concerned that The Compass Project felt more skewed to recovery rather than offending and as such it did not feel possible to offer support if this part of the core criteria wasn't met. KD felt that this was a vital principle not to move away from. Even though it is likely that 98% of those worked with are offenders, but focus on referrals through recovery projects felt far more significant than routes from offending organisations. The remaining five projects were approved.

Director's Update

3006.

The Triangle Trust has signed a funders pledge started by London Funders which reassures grantees that support and flexibility will be given to them by funders during this time of crisis. Bigger funders may join together and form pots of funding to support various sectors. All current Triangle Trust grantees have already been emailed to reassure them of our understanding of the impact of the current situation and to offer support and confirm that we will be as flexible and understanding as possible with any requests from them about making changes to their grants. Many have gratefully responded.

Technology issues that affected the carers application round have now been resolved following a technical detailed email sent to Formstack. Salesforce and Formstack are now working well.

Hatfield office is now clear and rented to others from end of March 2020.

AC has been learning systems and streamlining processes.

Office still currently open (*post meeting note 23 March 2020 VS and AC are working from home*)

3007. Gifts

Recipient	Amount	Payment month
Mrs Berwick	£850	April
Mrs McCahill	£850	April
Miss Thorn	£850	April
Mrs Wilson	£850	April
Mrs Coulthurst	£850	May
Mrs Bolton	£850	June
Mrs Marshall	£850	June
Mrs Robinson	£850	June
Total	£6,800	

Trustees ratified the above gifts.

3008. Trustee appointments

HM and BN will retire as at the end of this meeting. SK and DL are appointed at the end of this meeting. Retirement celebration to be arranged when face to face meetings are allowed. **AC**

KD requested urgent review of business continuity plan and risk register prior to June meeting. KD and VS to discuss. There shouldn't be an impact on the charity as both VS and AC are set up to work from home. It will be business as usual. **KD VS**

AC to book Christmas celebration. **AC**

KD acknowledged the help that HM has given to her, and AH thanked HM for introducing her.

3010. Future meeting dates and venues:

It was agreed Zoom has worked well for this board meeting and could be used in future.

- Thursday 18th June, online Zoom call, time to be confirmed.
- Thursday 15th October, 3-5pm at Sarasins **(TBC)**
- Thursday 3rd December, 11am-1pm (to include Christmas lunch), venue tba

Signed by Chairman

Dated.....