

Policy:	Funding Priorities
First approved:	13 December 2012
Last reviewed:	6 December 2018
Next review due:	December 2021

This policy sets out the funding priorities and the criteria which will be applied and published. Adjudication and monitoring processes are detailed in separate policies titled “Development Grant Adjudication” and “Development Grant Monitoring”.

1.0 Funding priorities 2021 – 2022 (internal only)

Grants will be offered to:

- Not-for-profit organisations supporting young carers and young adult carers.
- Not-for-profit organisations supporting young offenders.

The aim is for the annual grant budget to be split approximately equally between the two sectors over two funding cycles.

2.0 Young Offender Grant Purpose (website copy)

The issue

Despite falling numbers of children and young people in youth custody, outcomes for those sent to prison have got worse. Reoffending rates remain stubbornly high with over two thirds of young people released from secure institutions reoffending within 12 months of release. This shows the destructive cycle of crime that some young people fall into and struggle to get out of.

Employment is recognised as being a key pathway to reducing reoffending as it offers independence, status, earning power, a structured routine, social contact and a sense of purpose and direction. Yet many young offenders lack workplace skills and experience and stigma associated with offending can have a profound impact on employment opportunities.

Many of these young people have had complicated and chaotic lives and can be resistant to education and training due to bad experiences at school.

Covid-19 has had a huge impact on employment opportunities for young people. Many of the industries that have traditionally employed young people have been hard hit by the economic consequences of the pandemic.

Funding focus

We want to fund projects that will help young offenders find meaningful and secure employment. We understand that the path to employment can be complex and that building strong relationships of trust is a vital part of supporting someone on their journey. Therefore, we will not fund projects that are solely recruitment services for young people.

We welcome applications that:

- Have specific outcomes and targets related to securing employment for participants. *General employability and training programmes that make participants 'employment ready' or 'better skilled' will not be considered.*
- Show that they will also work with employers and provide post placement support to both employee and employer.
- Demonstrate that they understand the wide range of challenges and issues that will need to be addressed to help a young person succeed on their employment journey.
- Show existing work with young offenders already taking place and can evidence a track record of helping them to achieve positive outcomes. You might already provide employment support or want to add this focus to the current support you offer young offenders.

Funding can only be used to work with young offenders even if your organisation works with vulnerable young people more broadly. We will prioritise proposals that:

- Exclusively target young offenders from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities,
- Young women, and
- Young offenders who have been 'looked after'

If you already work specifically with adult ex-offenders around employment you will need to show us in your application that you understand the unique challenges faced by young offenders and that your project will offer support that is appropriate and effective for their needs. This might be through working with another organisation who have this specific expertise of working with young people.

Young Carers/Young Adult Carers Grant Purpose (website copy)

The issue

Young carers can face many barriers and challenges within schools which may lead to them not reaching their full academic potential. When young carers are recognised within the school environment, work can be done to ensure that the impact their caring role has on their education is addressed and minimised.

Working within school settings is also an effective way of identifying hidden young carers and providing them with early support that can prevent their caring role having a negative impact on their education, health and wellbeing.

Colleges and universities have many young people juggling the dual role of being a student and a carer. However, few are likely to have shared this with their tutors

or lecturers and so will be trying to navigate the pressures of higher education and caring without recognition of their unique situation. Many young adult carers also feel conflicted about leaving home to study at a university or college away from their family and the person they care for. This can lead to reduced education and employment opportunities.

Covid-19 has had a huge impact on children and young people across the UK and those with caring responsibilities are likely to be disproportionately affected. Therefore, we are particularly looking for proposals that seek to address learning gaps linked to the pandemic.

Funding focus

We are **not** looking for standalone new projects to be set up to support young carers and young adult carers. What we want to fund is work that amplifies the impact of what you are already doing with young carers and enables your existing support to develop or go further. This might mean adding an education component to what you already do or increasing the work you are currently doing around education and young carers/young adult carers.

We welcome applications that;

- Provide support to young carers and young adult carers who have fallen behind with their learning due to their caring responsibilities and the impact of Covid-19.
- That work in/with local primary and secondary schools to identify, support and raise awareness of young carers. Projects may provide support directly to young carers as well as helping schools to develop whole-school approaches to raising awareness of caring and supporting children and young people who have caring responsibilities.
- Support young adult carers to continue in higher and further education and training

If you have any doubt, please phone our office for an informal chat before submitting on 01707 707078.

3.0 Grant Criteria for Young Carer and Young Offender Grants (website copy)

Applicant criteria (Young carers/young adult carers)

- Applicants must be a registered charity, not-for-profit social enterprise or community interest company working within the UK with a UK office.
- Social enterprise and community interest companies must have a governing document which shows the name, aim/purpose, objects of the group, including a dissolution clause - what happens if your group ceases to function. This clause should show that you are a not-for-profit group by confirming that any assets remaining after all debts are paid will be given to another voluntary group with similar aims. This document should also include details of your Trustees or management committee.

- The sole purpose of applicants' constitution must be to support unpaid carers or young carers/young adult carers. (Organisations with a broader remit running a project to support young carers/young adult carers are not eligible to apply)
- Organisations whose priority is to support the “cared for”, but also provide some support for carers are not eligible to apply.
- Applicants must demonstrate in their application how they have expertise and a history of working with young carers/young adult carers.
- Applicants' average annual income over the past 3 years must be less than £1,000,000.
- Applicants must have their annual accounts independently examined or audited.
- Applicants already in receipt of a Development Grant can apply for further funding as this is for a completely different project.

Grant details

- Grants are available from £10,000 up to £60,000 for a duration of 12 months to 2 years. The amount of funding requested must be proportional to the project that will be undertaken.
- A maximum of £30,000 per year can be requested.

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- Applicants must demonstrate in their application how they have expertise and a history of working with young offenders.
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4.0 Pro-active Applications (internal only)

Where it is considered to be strategically beneficial to improving support for young carers/young adult carers or young offenders, an organisation may be invited to apply for a grant outside of the standard open grant process. They may be asked to submit an application that sits outside the grant criteria but still links to the Trust's overall strategy.

Existing grant recipients can be invited to reapply for follow-on funding (during the final year of the grant) if Trustees believe this would add value to the grant already awarded. However, consecutive grants cannot be awarded for more than 6 years without a funding gap.

5.0 Risk (internal only)

The portfolio should include grants of low and medium risk. Each round of applications is reviewed on its own merit in terms of balancing the risk of the new awards made.