

<b>Meeting</b>	Trustee Board meeting
<b>Date</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> June 2024
<b>Title</b>	Young Offenders Grants Application Shortlisting
<b>Agenda item</b>	8
<b>Paper by</b>	Victoria Southwell

### **1.0 Purpose of paper**

To provide a clear understanding of the shortlisting process to enable fair and consistent shortlisting of Young Offender Grant Applications to be undertaken by Trustees.

### **2.0 Overview**

This is the first round of the second year of the young offender strategy and is focused exclusively on young women and girls.

A total of 43 applications were received from organisations wanting to support young women and girls either already in contact with the criminal justice system or highly vulnerable to becoming so. The criteria stated that applicants needed to be organisations led by and for women and girls, as a means of both supporting this small sector and trying to manage the volume of applications received.

We received applications from all 4 nations with 1 application coming from Wales, 2 from Scotland, 2 from Northern Ireland and the remaining 38 coming from England.

37 applications were from organisations that had never applied to Triangle Trust for funding previously which shows that we were successful in opening up our funding to organisations not previously known to us.

With regards to types of organisations making applications, 29 had charity status, 12 were solely Community Interest Companies and 2 were just social enterprises or had another status.

There were 8 applications (20%) that did not fit the criteria, due to the wider organisation not working exclusively with women and girls. The information on the website was significantly updated and the eligibility quiz also revised which was intended to strengthen the information that is available prior to applying. This element of the criteria was very explicit. It was noticeable that during the application window the number of enquiries via email and phone was significantly higher than in previous rounds. This obviously has an impact on staff time during this period but has potentially impacted the quality of applications positively.

*The applications have been assessed and divided into the following groups:*

- *0 applications – withdrawn by the organisation after submission.*
- *8 applications – instantly rejected as they were not submitted by organisations led by and exclusively for women and girls.*
- *22 applications – recommended for rejection after review by the Director and Grants Administrator due to quality.*
- *13 applications – longlisted to be reviewed by Trustees.*

The purpose of the discussion at the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> June is for Trustees to shortlist applications worthy of being assessed by the Director, who will conduct a thorough review (either by Zoom or in person) prior to the selection of successful applications at the October 2024 meeting.

The grant budget allows a total value of £400,000 of new young offender grants to be awarded. This will equate to a minimum of 5 applications being funded if they are all requesting the maximum grant amount of £80,000 over two years. Most applications are close to the maximum amount available, so depending on Trustee scoring up to seven could be shortlisted for assessment with around five or six ultimately being supported.

The summary details of the 30 rejected applications are attached as Appendix 2.

Electronic copies of the 13 applications to be reviewed have been uploaded onto the website along with details of the allocated Trustee reviewers. They will also now appear as tasks on your dashboard once you log onto Salesforce.

### **3.0 Trustee review process**

Each application selected for Trustee review has been allocated to three Trustees to undertake a detailed review against the following criteria:

- Does the organisation have existing expertise working with young people either on the edge of the criminal justice system or already in it?
- Does the organisation understand the needs and challenges of working with young women and girls who are either highly vulnerable to entering the criminal justice system or already in it?
- Will the grant make a difference to contributing to reducing reoffending or the number of first convictions for young women and girls supported by the project?
- Is the applicant able to explain how they will track the impact that the project is having on beneficiaries and other stakeholders?
- Does the organisation have existing expertise using a gender and trauma informed approach?
- Are the costs covered by the grant reasonable?
- Are any of our target groups prioritised? (young women, young people who have been 'looked after' and young people from BAME communities)

The first filter undertaken by the Director and Grants Administrator has identified **14** applications that align well with the criteria and the aims of our strategy. As well as considering the points above you may also want to consider if there is anything additional that sets an application you read apart – this might be geography, or the planned work being focused on a specific group. (e.g., supporting young women and girls affected by gangs, mental ill health, or addiction issues) or wanting to pilot a new and innovative approach.

We have already agreed that we will prioritise applications focusing solely on either looked after young people and young people from BME communities. However, you may want to also note any applications that whilst not solely targeting these groups will be planning to work with high numbers of young women and girls from them.

Details of the full published criteria for applicants are within Appendix 1.

Trustees should score each allocated application (see spreadsheet) either 1, 2, 3 or 4 using the scale below. Whilst there is no specific definition about what in your opinion constitutes a 1, 2, 3 or 4 (as this is subjective and may not be the same as other Trustees) the crucial thing is that you apply consistent scoring across all of the applications that you read. **Half scores are not permitted.** Please note that the scoring changed for the last round after Trustee feedback making an extra point available. We have decided to stick with this for this round and will review again after the shortlisting meeting.

Excellent <b>should definitely</b> be shortlisted	4
Strong application that <b>should</b> be shortlisted if funds permit	3
Good application that <b>could</b> be shortlisted if funds permit but some concerns and weaknesses	2
Several issues and weaknesses identified making the application not worth considering further	1

The extra point available hopefully helps to separate the applications that you score and make finalising a shortlist easier. If you have scored your applications similarly then you may want to additionally decide which you would prioritise if they could not all be funded – if you have primarily awarded a 3 then please assign a priority application a 4. Please also make some comments about what you liked about an application, what the strengths were and also where you thought applications had weaknesses. This may need to be considered during the shortlisting discussion if there are a large number of applications achieving a similar total.

When the Trustee scores are collated, each application will have a score between 4 and 12. The approximate implications of these scores are below; these may be adjusted slightly to ensure the number of applications discussed at the meeting is manageable.

4 to 6	Rejected without discussion at the meeting
7 to 9	Discussed at the meeting
10 to 12	Shortlisted for a Director visit without discussion at the meeting

Please return your scores and comments to Frances by **12.00pm** on **17<sup>th</sup> June** by emailing [info@triangletrust.org.uk](mailto:info@triangletrust.org.uk). The collated scores will then be circulated prior to the meeting.

#### **4.0 Salesforce**

The supporting documentation for each application can be viewed on Salesforce, the online grants database. Salesforce also has a direct link to the applicants' website. Trustees have received training on the new system and also been provided with written instructions and a recording of the training session so please refer to these. Please contact Frances if you have any problems using the system.

Visit the following to log onto Salesforce: <https://login.salesforce.com/>

## **Appendix 1: Published Development Grant Details and Criteria**

### **Young Offenders criteria for grant aid**

#### **The issue**

“Young adult women (aged 17–25) in contact with the criminal justice system face multiple disadvantage. They have complex, overlapping needs, with their experience of coming into contact with the criminal justice system underpinned by experiences of violence and abuse, poor mental health, addiction, and having no safe place to call home. The challenges they face are mutually reinforcing and take place in a wider context of social and structural inequalities which shape their lives, including gender-inequality and racism.” (AGENDA Alliance)

Despite falling numbers of children and young people in youth custody, concerns remain that the criminal justice system isn't responsive to the specific needs of young women and girls and doesn't take into account additional vulnerabilities that may be connected to offending behaviours.

Whilst women account for a small proportion of the prison population in the UK, their outcomes remain poor. Committing less serious offences, they receive shorter custodial sentences, with over half of women in 2022 being sentenced to six months or less. This can be disastrously disruptive to home life, employment prospects and moving on.

In 2021/22, just over half of all young women in custody had been in local authority care as a child, and young women of colour are disproportionately represented among the women's prison population.

In 2022, women made up 29% of all recorded self-harm incidences in prisons, despite only making up 4% of the prison population.

In 2018, the Ministry of Justice published its Female Offender Strategy which aimed to reduce the number of women entering the criminal justice system, have fewer women in custody and create better conditions for women in custody. However, in January 2022 the National Audit Office said this strategy had only made “limited progress” in improving outcomes for women as the MoJ had “not prioritised investment in this work”.

A mapping project published in 2022 by ROSA, showed the small amount of funding awarded to the women and girls' sector in the UK in 2021 (just under 2% of £4.1bn) and a third of all grants for women and girls-focused activity went to organisations with no specific focus on women and girls. This highlights a lack of prioritisation of organisations tackling complex and systemic issues faced by women and girls, of whom female offenders are a key group.

#### **Funding**

**We want to fund projects that are focused on young women and girls who already have a history of offending or who are at high risk of registering a first offence.**

We are looking to support work that specifically aims to reduce the likelihood of a young woman or girl either entering the criminal justice system or reoffending and support them to move on positively with their lives.

Projects will need to demonstrate age, gender, trauma, and culturally responsive approaches to working with young women and girls. We are particularly interested in supporting work that provides peer support from women with their own lived experience and projects that can demonstrate that they have been co-designed with the voices of young women and girls.

In an effort to fill the gaps in support that exist for young women and girls, we want to provide opportunities for new ideas to be developed and new ways of working to be tested. So, whilst we will fund existing projects, we are also interested in supporting organisations to try out new approaches or grow a much smaller piece of work, as long as it can be clearly demonstrated that it is informed by the experiences and voices of young women and girls.

We will prioritise applications that are targeting young women and girls who are care experienced or from Black or minoritised/racialised communities. These groups are disproportionately represented amongst young female offenders and the intersection between them and offending rates is something that needs to be urgently addressed.

### **The type of intervention we will fund**

Due to high reoffending rates amongst women, supporting work with young women post release from custody is a key area of interest. We will support work that takes place in prisons, through the gate and ongoing post release support.

We also want to support work that tries to prevent a young woman or girl from either offending in the first place or helping to change offending behaviour to avoid receiving a criminal conviction. This might be through projects that are targeting those closest to the criminal justice system who have received either formal or informal Out of Court Disposals (OCD), those who are linked to Youth Offending Team Prevention Programmes, other kinds of point of arrest diversion programmes and those who are known to HMPPS teams or the Police.

Earlier interventions are also really important to prevent girls entering into offending behaviour and the criminal justice system. Proposals that target working with girls in the care system, those known to be on involved in low level gang activity and those who are excluded from school (or are on the edge of exclusion) would also be welcomed.

We will be running a learning programme alongside our funding to help build an evidence base of what works for young women and girls caught up in the criminal justice system. We hope that grantees will be able to use this to bolster their case for future funding and that more widely we can shine a light on areas that are under resourced and underdeveloped.

We welcome applications that:

- Have specific outcomes and targets related to at least **two** of the following key social impact areas; individual development, health and well-being, employability, education, and social cohesion. The proposed project has to demonstrate how these social impact areas will lead to a reduction in reoffending or first offences.
- Demonstrate that they understand the wide range of challenges and issues that will need to be addressed to help a young person succeed after being released from a Young Offenders Institution or prison.

- Show a track record of either current or previous work with young women and girls and can demonstrate that the proposed project is culturally responsive, and trauma and gender informed.
- Show existing work with young people who have been in the criminal justice system is already taking place and can evidence a track record of helping them to achieve positive outcomes. Clear referral pathways from key partners (such as Police and Youth Offending Teams) should be highlighted as part of this.

Funding can only be used to work with young women and girls who have been in the criminal justice system or who are at a high risk of entering it, even if your organisation works with vulnerable young women and girls more broadly. We cannot accept applications where our target group only make up some of the cohort of young people on your project.

### **Age Range**

We will fund work taking place with young women and girls aged between 11 and 30. It is unlikely however, that we would fund a project working across this whole age range.

### **Types of organisations that we will fund**

We will only consider applications from organisations that exist solely to support the wellbeing and welfare of women and girls. Whilst we recognise that there are many exceptional organisations working with a wider group of beneficiaries who provide support to young women and girls, we want to support the women and girls sector specifically with this funding round. Therefore, only organisations 'led by' and 'for' women and girls will be eligible to apply.

### **Applicant criteria**

- 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.
- Applicants must demonstrate in their application how they have expertise and a history of working with young offenders.
- Applicants must have their annual accounts independently examined or audited.

### **Grant details**

- Grants are available from £10,000 up to £80,000 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 £40,000 per year can be requested.

## Appendix 2: Applications Recommended for Rejection

	<b>Name of Applying Organisation</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
1	Advance	£78,360
2	Akoma	£10,000
3	Aurora New Dawn	£80,000
4	Bloss.M Ltd	£72,000
5	Community Footprints Service CIC	£41,646
6	Essence Youth Mentoring CIC	£25,200
7	Glow NI	£60,370
8	Grassroots Enterprise for Social Inclusion and Poverty Relief (GESIPR)	£80,000
9	GROW	£77,999
10	Homeless House CIC	£52,831
11	Housing for Women	£80,000
12	North Wales Women's Centre	£64,456
13	One Stop Advice and Training Centre	£79,680
14	One True Voice	£50,000
15	Rose Alchemy CIC	£39,998
16	Several Seats	£60,100
17	The Billy Project	£20,001
18	Together Women	£80,000
19	Tomorrows Women	£76,119
20	Transform Trainers and Consultancy CIC	£17,718
21	Women for Well Women	£80,000
22	Women in Prison	£80,000

## Appendix 2: Applications outside of the advertised criteria

	<b>Name of Applying Organisation</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
1	Active Communities Network	£80,000
2	Afghanistan and Central Asian Association (ACCA)	£75,000
3	African Physical Training Organisation	£40,000
4	Birmingham Says No	£34,000
5	Black Country Women's Aid	£80,000
6	Eat Sleep Ride CIC	£15,000
7	Life of Her CIC	£70,000
8	Treasures Foundation	£72,400