

Agenda Item 9

Date 3rd December 2020

Title Triangle Trust Grant Strategy 2021

1.0 Purpose of paper

To update Trustees on the progress being made on developing the Grants Strategy for 2021 and for Trustees to agree broad criteria.

2.0 Summary

Trustees will remember at the October 2020 Trustee meeting it was agreed that the 2021 strategy would focus on young carers and young people who have been in the prison system. This paper sets out the next steps that need to be agreed as we continue developing the detail of the strategy.

- The work plan for the development of the 2021 strategy requires agreement of approach at the December 2020 meeting and final sign off in March 2021.

- Since the October 2020 Trustee meeting we have continued to research and be in close contact with organisations working in these two sectors, other funders and other relevant stakeholders and organisations. We have progressed our thinking about our focus being on;
 - Young carers and young adult carers impacted by Covid-19 to provide further support for the additional challenges they are experiencing.
 - Young offenders under the age of 25 being supported to secure employment, as this is shown to have the greatest impact on recidivism. Applications from organisations working with young women, young people who have been through the care system and young people from BAME communities will be prioritised.
 - We offer grants of up to £60,000 over two years (maximum £30,000 per year) which would enable a minimum of at least 10 grants being awarded across both focus areas.
 - That we also additionally allocate up to £25,000 to fund consultancy and mentoring support from The Cranfield Trust.

- This paper provides on page three onwards more detail on the type of projects we should support, the kinds of organisations that can apply and further criteria to manage applications and interest.

3.0 Recommendations

Trustees are requested to

- (i) Feed in any further thoughts on the recommended priorities, types of organisations who can apply for support and the focus of the strategy.
- (ii) Agree the proposed duration and value of grants, types of organisations that can apply and inclusion of support from The Cranfield Trust in our 2021 grant making.

4.0 Supporting information and things to consider

4.1 The decision to have a one-year strategy for 2021 has provided the opportunity to look at how Triangle Trust can provide a different type of funding support whilst still focusing on carers and the rehabilitation of offenders. The theme of young people links our funding in a way that was not been previously apparent and makes our approach more coherent and joined up.

4.2 Young Carers

At the October Trustee meeting we agreed that the focus of the carers sector funding would be on young carers. This was a group who had been identified as experiencing significant additional disadvantage as a result of Covid-19 that had impacted their mental well-being, education, caring responsibilities and feelings of isolation. Below are the three key areas that need agreement for the full criteria and programme detail to be developed with this focus;

- **Priorities** - Young carers and young adult carers up to the age of 25.
- **Focus** – Projects that specifically address challenges caused by Covid-19 and offer additional support. This might be around education by helping to support gaps in learning or situations that have developed that make attending school and 'doing well' difficult due to Covid-19. It might be projects offering support around mental health and well-being, reducing isolation, career support or moving away from home and becoming independent. Projects that provide advocacy, information and advice specifically for young carers around situations and issues linked to Covid-19 would also be considered for support. This funding would not be available for organisations to set up a brand new young carers service. It is about adding additional support to existing services and enhancing the work they are already doing to address issues caused by the impact of Covid-19.
- **Types of organisations to fund** – as with the current Development Grants we should only consider applications from organisations who work exclusively with carers or young carer organisations. Organisations working with carers would have to show that they already work with young carers. We will not fund generic youth services who want to work with young carers and will not fund organisations working with the cared for person who want to support the young person undertaking the caring role.

4.3 Young Offenders

At the October Trustee meeting we discussed the focus of the rehabilitation of offenders funding being on young offenders. This was a group who had been identified as having substantially high reoffending rates compared to older offenders. Young people from BAME communities, young women and those who have been in the care system are over represented in the prison system and face additional challenges that Trustees recognised as having an impact on their offending behaviour and life outcomes. Below are the four key areas that need agreement for the full criteria and programme detail to be developed with this focus;

- **Priorities** - Projects that work with young people from BAME communities, young women and care leavers should be prioritised at shortlisting but not the sole focus of the programme. Once we have run the programme at least once we should have a better idea of application numbers from projects focused on these specific groups and decide if there is enough of a demand to make this the sole focus. Young people are classed as those up to 25 years of age.
- **Intervention point** - Whilst working with young people on release from prison is important Trustees were also keen to understand if there was an earlier point where our funding could be effective. Undoubtedly stopping these young people from ever entering the prison system is the ultimate outcome. But this is a hugely complex area requiring significant investment. The Youth Endowment Fund has an early intervention remit but a budget from the Home Office of £200 million over ten years. The Troubled Families Programme has been operating for many years and in January 2020 received a further £165 million of Government funding. Finding an earlier point to focus our support is a good thing to aim for and potentially our 2021 strategy will help us understand where that point might be going forward. I would recommend that we keep this in our minds as we develop the strategy for 2022 onwards.
- **Focus** – This funding should be focused on the ultimate outcome of young offenders securing long term stable employment. Organisations eligible to apply would be both those that specifically focus on securing employment for offenders and ex-offenders and projects more generically focused on the rehabilitation of young offenders who have securing employment as a key named outcome. We know that having a job is a key factor in successful rehabilitation of offending behaviour so should support projects that combine both prison based and community interventions that provide support and mentoring to create pathways to employment.
- **Types of organisations to fund** - Currently we only fund organisations working exclusively with offenders and ex-offenders. This was an important principle for the Development Grant funding as it enabled us to strongly support that sector. Young offenders though are different to older offenders and we need to be aware of the specific support needs they have. Many will feel alienated and put off by projects working solely with offenders and equally many of those projects will lack the skills to work effectively with young people. We are also going to be focusing our funding on work that will support projects and beneficiaries rather than the wider organisation, so solely supporting rehabilitation of offenders organisations is less relevant. Trustees are asked therefore to agree to support organisations with a wider 'youth' focus. We are looking for expertise though so any non-specialist criminal justice organisation would need to demonstrate a strong track record of having effectively worked with young offenders. Equally any specialist organisations would need to demonstrate experience of working with young people or the capacity to be able to do so. This would be clearly stated in the advertised criteria.

5.0 Grant size and length

If we are planning to continue allocating £650,000 across the two funding areas in 2021 then it is recommended that we offer grants of up to £60,000 over two years (maximum you can apply for would be £30,000 per year). This would enable us to make a minimum of at least 10 grants across both focus areas.

With both programmes the intention is not for applicants to set up a new project but rather add to and enhance their existing work. For young offenders it might be that a project that already works with young offenders wants to add an employment component to what they do or they may want to develop a project specifically for one of our priority groups. An existing employment project may want to develop their work to engage young offenders. For young carers it would be about projects offering additional support to address issues caused by the impact of Covid-19 and not carer organisations setting up new young carer projects.

5.0 Outcomes and Impact

5.1 A Theory of Change will be developed for the strategy that will identify the rationale for focusing our support in the areas and the outcomes that we are hoping our funding will contribute to. This will help to articulate the aims of the strategy, how we are going to do it and how we expect change to happen. This document will help us to be clear about our purpose which will benefit applicants and grantees and enable us to tell a stronger story about the impact our support has contributed to. The Theory of Change will be signed off at the March 2021 Trustee meeting and considered by a smaller group of Trustees prior to the March meeting.

5.2 In addition to the grant funding it is recommended that we also allocate some resources to working with The Cranfield Trust to provide selected grantees with consultancy and mentoring support as part of their Funder Plus programme. This would enable us to provide some support to grantees who need additional help with their long term growth and sustainability, especially as we move forward from the impact of Covid-19. (This could also be made available to selected current Development Grant holders).

6.0 Risks

As we develop the criteria for this funding further we are both asking and answering multiple questions about the focus, applicants and grant amounts. Working with young people, especially those on the margins of society, is complicated and it is vital that the right organisations and right people are leading this work. As flagged previously the new criteria will potentially increase the interest in our funding opportunities and we will need to manage this. Our new website will give us the ability to force applicants to answer a series of questions about their organisation and work before being able to make an application. Those that do not fit the criteria will be unable to proceed to making an application which will filter out many ineligible applications.

Even with these additional systems in place it is likely that we will receive more applications than we can fund so we will need to do work prior to shortlisting and

assessment to define what 'good' looks like from our perspective. This will aid our decision making and crucially help us build a strong grant portfolio. Our current first stage shortlisting, done by the Director and Grants Assistant, will be reviewed prior to the first round of funding being available.