

Agenda Item 9

Date 24th June 2021

Title Triangle Trust Grant Strategy 2022

1.0 Purpose of paper

For Trustees to discuss the way forward for the 2022 Grants Strategy.

2.0 Summary

Trustees will remember at the March 2021 Trustee meeting the one year strategy for 2021 was approved. This focused on providing education support for young carers and employment support for young offenders. This paper suggests the next steps for the 2022 strategy.

- It was agreed that the strategy for 2021 would be for one year with a 3 year strategy being developed to commence in 2022.
- The new strategy was launched at the end of March and the funding window for applications for work with young carers/young adult carers also opened. Funding for young offenders will be available from September.
- The criteria for 2021 focuses on;
 - Improving education outcomes for young carers and young adult carers, especially those whose education has been impacted by Covid-19. Funding is focused on supporting work in local schools that identify and recognise the issues young carers face, projects that help young carers and young adult carers make up learning after falling behind and support for young adult carers in higher and further education and training.
 - Supporting young offenders to achieve long-term employment outcomes. Applications from organisations working with young women, care leavers and young people from BAME communities will be prioritised.
- We have received 33 applications for young carer funding. Interest from the sector has been strong and our filters have kept application numbers manageable. However, there are already areas within the criteria that could be refined to ensure the impact we are hoping to contribute to is achieved. It is likely the young offenders funding round will also provide useful learning about how to pitch future funding and what kind of work is most effective in achieving outcomes for this group.
- With so much potential to learn from the current strategy, embarking on a three year strategy without the benefit of really engaging with this may be a missed opportunity. It would therefore be useful to understand Trustee's views on having a further one

year strategy (focused again on education outcomes for young carers and employment outcomes for young offenders but with some refinements) to inform the development of the three year strategy that would run from 2023 onwards.

3.0 Recommendations

Trustees are requested to

- (i) Feed in thoughts about a further one year strategy to run through 2022-23.
- (ii) Indicate support for continuing to fund work with both young carers/young adult carers and young offenders during this period.
- (iii) Agree to approve a further one year strategy at the March 2022 Trustee meeting ready for launch by the end of March 2022.

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 link our funding in the carers and criminal justice sectors through the theme of young people. The Theory of Change that has been developed has the ultimate goal of 'The lives of disadvantaged young people are transformed'. This will link to the rehabilitation of offenders through 'reoffending rates for young people are reduced' and young carers through 'young carers and young adult carers have better education outcomes'. This new linkage is an exciting development for Triangle Trust and the response from both sectors around our support in these areas has been extremely positive.

4.2 Current planned approach

When the 2021 strategy was signed off at the March 2021 Trustee meeting it was agreed that further meetings throughout 2021 would be used to consider and agree a longer term strategy going forward.

4.3 Reasons for delaying a longer term strategy

At the time of writing we had received 33 applications to be considered at the first stage of short listing for young carers. Already it is clear that many applications are of a high quality and fit the set criteria well. This is reassuring and suggests that we were correct in focusing our funding in the area we have.

These applications will be shortlisted by Trustees in June, assessed over July and August and recommendations for funding made at the October Trustee meeting. Many projects will not start until late November at the earliest – meaning that by the point we need to agree the new strategy we will have very little understanding of how they are progressing.

Young offender applications will not be shortlisted until the December meeting and recommendations for funding made at the March 2022 meeting. This provides little time for us to really understand the kind of changes we may need to make to the wider criteria or focus that would be fed into the new strategy.

Pushing the longer term strategy agreement back by 12 months would provide us with more time to take into account the progress of these grants. It would also mean that we could run a further year of funding with these areas of focus which would provide further valuable learning to help inform our future direction.

There are already some areas that it would be good to refine for a further round of young carers funding and it is likely to be the same for the young offenders round later in the year. Running both programmes for a second time would allow these adjustments to be made, once considered and agreed by Trustees, and this would again inform the approach we take with the longer term strategy. These include widening the eligibility criteria for young carer applicants to include organisations working with a wider group of young people than young carers but who hold the local young carers contract and reconsidering the maximum income threshold that applications can have. Currently this is an annual average of £1m over a three year period but excludes some organisations who would be a strong fit who work in

locations that are currently under represented in our portfolio. It would be useful to decide what level of income Trustees might be comfortable increasing this to so as to ensure that relevant organisations are not excluded but still keep the funding focused on those delivering work at a local level.

5.0 Risks

Externally there would not be any awareness that we have not launched a three year strategy in 2022. It is likely that a further year of the current funding focus would be welcomed by both sectors. We can also continue explicitly highlighting the links to the impact of Covid-19 to our approach, as these will clearly still be being felt by both target groups of young people.

Internally there are no risks that have been identified – a further year of grant making with this focus will in fact benefit the development of the strategy as we will have more hard data that we will be able to use to inform our thinking. We will also be able to fully benefit from the insights of the new Trustee currently being recruited – we have specifically asked for candidates ideally with experience of grant making at a strategic level.

6.0 Next steps

The tweaked strategy for 2022 would be agreed at the March 2022 meeting so that we are able to take into account the application cycles for young carers/young adult carers and young offenders during 2021. It is recommended that the December 2021 meeting is used to discuss and agree the criteria regarding eligibility based on income size and organisation type, as well as any other pertinent issues that are identified. The final detail of the strategy for 2022 would then be developed and launched at the end of March 2022. As part of this a funder landscape study would be undertaken to ensure that we are still focusing on sectors in need of support and not replicating funding provided by other funders.

A timeline for developing the longer term strategy during 2022 will also be shared and agreed at the December meeting.