

<b>Meeting</b>	Trustee Board meeting
<b>Date</b>	8 December 2022
<b>Title</b>	Reasons Why Foundation change of grant use
<b>Agenda item</b>	8
<b>Paper by</b>	Victoria Southwell

### **1.0 Purpose of paper**

To update Trustees on the request from Reasons Why Foundation to change the use of their grant and seek approval for this.

### **2.0 Background information**

In 2019 Reasons Why Foundation were awarded a Development Grant of £64,800 to fund an Operations Manager who would work closely with the CEO, freeing him up to develop and implement a social franchising model based on their programme.

Like many organisations though, the pandemic caused RWF to need to replan much of its work and in December 2020 Trustees agreed that year 1 of the grant could be used instead to cover the costs of a social franchising agency working alongside the CEO to develop the social franchising process. The Operations Manager role would then be recruited to in year 2 of the grant.

Whilst some progress towards this was made, the post pandemic landscape has changed the viability of rolling out a socially franchised RWF model. The CEO has now come back with a further request to change the use of the grant for the remaining two years of funding.

### **3.0 Suggested way forward**

RWF is an innovative organisation with a charismatic leader who has personal experience of the criminal justice system. He is passionate and knowledgeable, and this massively informs the work that RWF does. The work that they do with individuals is well thought of and they have a good reputation in the sector.

RWF work with a growing number of young people and have really developed their work with this group over the past couple of years. The pandemic forced them to focus on their community offer as access to prisoners in custody was extremely restricted. In 2021 RWF submitted an application to us for additional funding to run an employment project for young people but this was rejected due to them already having a Development Grant.

With the intended use of the current grant no longer viable the funding could either be cancelled and no further payments made, or the use changed once again to enable RWF to work with young offenders to support them to achieve employment outcomes. I requested that RWF send me a proposal that matched the criteria of the current young offender funding and additionally complete a year 1 reporting form that identified three key achievements that will be worked towards. Both of these documents described a well-planned project that provides long terms mentoring and support to young offenders alongside employment support through a partner organisation Orange Bow CIC.

RWF proposes working with 15 young offenders annually, with at least 8 securing long term employment opportunities and 90% reducing their offending behaviour.

#### **4.0 Recommendations**

This project would enable us to support a further project focused on working with young offenders and is a strong match to the current criteria. It is likely that if this application had come through the usual route that it would have been shortlisted.

Whilst it is disappointing that the intended purpose of the grant hasn't been achieved, this remains an interesting organisation that would still add value to the portfolio. I am comfortable that the proposed project has a strong likelihood of success and the lived experience led culture of RWF will provide for some interesting learning.

My sense is that RWF have lots of support options available to them, but it would be worth also seeing if there is any value in offering them the services of Cranfield Trust via the Spark Programme. They are in the process of becoming a CIO and this will undoubtedly open up many new opportunities for them. It might be timely therefore for them to access some strategic support to help with these potential growth and development opportunities.

With this in mind I would recommend that Trustee approve the request to change the use of the remainder of the grant (£43,200) to delivering a project focused on young offenders.