

2019-10-R029 The Reasons Why Foundation

Grant Details:

Total Grant: £64,800
Amount awarded to date: £21,600
Amount remaining: £43,200
Start date: 1 January 2021
End date: 31 December 2023
Date of Report: 29 September 2022



Grant Summary:

The Reasons Why Foundation (RWF) provides a behavioural change mentoring service to people with criminal convictions across the London region. Individual long term support empowers service users to achieve their potential and lead positive and productive lives and reduce reoffending.

The grant will fund an Operations Manager who will work closely with the CEO, freeing them up to develop and implement a social franchising model based on their programme. This model will increase the scale and impact of the work of RWF, whilst maintaining the small local feel of the organisation that they believe makes their approach authentic. Ten franchises are expected to receive support from RWF working with a minimum of 100 participants each after 3 years. The franchise fees will fund the new post at the end of the grant period and provide additional income for RWF.

therwf.org

Current issues:

The Reasons Why Foundation, like many organisations, needed to replan much of its work due to the impact of Covid-19 on beneficiaries and service delivery. The core purpose of the Development Grant awarded in March 2020 was to provide additional operational support within the organisation. This support would free the CEO up to develop social franchising as a way of earning valuable income and growing RWF's delivery model.

The impact of the pandemic on this plan was significant though and in December 2020 Trustees agreed that year 1 of the grant could instead be used to work alongside a company to help Roger, the CEO with the development of the social franchising process in the short term. It was then planned that at the end of year one the Operations Manager would be recruited and take on the day-to-day work of RWF (in years 2 and 3 of the grant) allowing Roger to take forward and build upon the work that had been done in year one.

Whilst progress has been made with moving this project forward, it has not happened at the speed that was anticipated, it has flagged a number of other issues that need

addressing and the landscape for rolling out social franchising has changed. All of this has meant that social franchising has slipped down the priority list for the organisation.

Following a Trustee visit with James and the submission of a report that detailed progress against targets, it was agreed that continuing to support this piece of work did not represent good value for money for Triangle Trust nor Reasons Why Foundation.

The work that RWF does is interesting though and there is strong synergy with our focus on young offenders. Originally Roger asked us to consider converting the grant into a core grant, however I am not convinced that this will offer any greater value for money than continuing with the social franchising. My concern would be that it would disappear into a black hole, and we would struggle to understand how it was used and the difference it made to the organisation. I also feel uncomfortable agreeing to something that we explicitly say we don't fund on our criteria unless it was due to emergency circumstances which this does not feel it is.

The link to work with young offenders does potentially provide an opportunity to convert the rest of the grant though into funding that would support RWF to meet some of their costs in a different way. They are already working with Women in Prison, and this could help us to fund a project focused on young women, something currently lacking in the portfolio.

Reasons Why Foundation is currently applying for CIO status, which Roger believes will open up the funding possibilities available to them through Trusts and Foundations. This could present future opportunities for a project like this to be funded in the longer term if it has an existing a track record.

Therefore, I would recommend that we request further detail from Roger about a proposed project for young women and measure this against the existing criteria we have for the young offenders funding opportunity. Should the proposal be a good fit a recommendation will be brought back to the Trustees Meeting in December 2022 for consideration.