

Organisation Name	Reference	2020-05-R004
Finding Rhythms		

Visit Date	Visited By
23 December 2021 online	Julian Weinberg

Grant Summary
<p>Finding Rhythms works within prisons and in the community to change the behaviour of offenders through creating music. Musicians, experienced in delivering engagement programmes in difficult settings, run sessions to teach participants to write, compose and record their own original music based on their experiences and feelings. This enables them to gain qualifications, and learn how to build strong supportive relationships on their journey to not reoffending.</p> <p>The grant will increase the capacity of the Creative and Business Director and the administrative support team, and create a bank of high quality facilitators focused on building the emotional intelligence of beneficiaries. This will enable the service to become more strategic: building stronger partnerships with prisons and local authorities leading to delivering planned, rather than ad hoc, services. This will improve outcomes for participants and sustainability for the charity</p> <p>https://www.finding-rhythms.co.uk</p>

Visit Details (People met, premises visited etc.)
This meeting was conducted remotely due to Covid restrictions. I met up with Dami Solebo, the Business Director.

Information about the Organisation
<p>I had been provided with relevant documentation including the organisation's 6 month progress update report. Started projects at Wormwood Scrubs. Challenging people to do more than they could. Worked in a number of prisons. Worked with hostels and ex-prisoners. Last 2 years – impact of Covid – model is based on collaborating energy.</p> <p>Discussions about moving online but so many restrictions, it didn't take off – the opposite of what we do. Its ordinarily person facing but it's been hard for us. There's only so much they can do.</p> <p>Forged a relationship with Only Connect who provide support for ex-prisoners. Trying to engage services. It's another string to their bow. Community work has been quite strong. It's been difficult to do prison work – they each had different rules about mixing. March 20 to Sep 21, haven't been able to do any prison work. From September have worked in 4 prisons, Ayelsbury, Chelmsford, Milton Keynes (Woodhill) and Brixton.</p> <p>Dami has had to work from home over the past year.</p> <p>We have been able to have a number of sessions and replicate a studio to educate with music. A portfolio goes towards a Princes Trust award. Our working model has been groups of 12-15. But there have a been a number of staffing issues in prisons so we have been working in smaller groups of 6-7 which isn't bad but really means a smaller reach.</p>

The funding over the first year has helped Robin Harris (Creative Director and founder) to give more time to the organisation to address retraining. He's been able to have training sessions with musicians.

Progress with conflict resolution and behaviour management – brought in Vida Carmel – a coach trainer. She has provided 2 online training sessions.

We have been working more with ex-prisoners in the community. Plan is to return to in-prison work. Will just try and pick which prisons we work with and have more intensive support in those prisons – have a stronger connection with fewer establishments.

He recognises that the work is hard but relishes the challenge.

Bringing in a new Operations Manager? Have someone starting in January.

Issues and Comments

See above.

Other Feedback

It's been a very challenging year as it has been for many organisations. They are trying to collaborate more with other organisations but there is a high level of engagement with their services.