

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Resettlement and Rehabilitation of Offenders**Clink Charly****Adv: Sandra Jones****Base: Sutton****Amount requested: £105,000****Benefit: London-wide****Amount recommended: £105,000****The Applicant**

The Clink Charity (The Clink) aims to reduce reoffending amongst offenders through provision of practical skills and training. It works in partnership with Her Majesty's Prison Service to run projects that allow prisoners to learn and engage with the public, with the aim to integrate back into society upon release. The Clink opened its first restaurant in 2009 in High Down Prison and has since managed expand services to three more prisons across the country. On top of offering training within the hospitality industry, they now also run horticulture and events catering projects. In July 2017 all four Clink restaurants were ranked 1st on TripAdvisor.

The Application

The Trust is asked to fund the f/t salary and associated expenditure of a High Down Prison based support worker to provide an effective and inclusive service to The Clink's graduates. This role is an integral part of The Clink's five-step programme (recruit, train, support, employ, mentor). The support worker evaluates each of the client's needs on an individual basis and provides advice, support and mentoring in areas such as: finding employment, housing, substance abuse and debt issues. The mentoring process starts three months before the client's release and continues post release until the client is confident enough to operate on their own. It should be noted that the organisation already has a person in post whose salary is currently being funded from the charity's reserves.

The Recommendation

The Clink has a strong track record of providing successful training and mentoring services to offenders. Although there were some initial queries regarding the geographical beneficiary base as the prison serves as a catchment area for both London and Surrey, the charity has confirmed that the funding will only be used towards London-based clients. The Clink's bid sits firmly within the Trust's Resettlement and Rehabilitation of Offenders programme outcomes and comes at a time of widespread funding cuts to the prison service. Funding is advised as follows:

£105,000 over 3 years (3 x £35,000) to support the f/t salary and expenditure of a High Down Prison based Support Worker to provide an effective and inclusive service to graduates of The Clink Programme.

Funding History

Meeting Date	Decision
11/05/2017	Application withdrawn with the intention to submit another application in the future.
31/10/2012	£120,000 over three years (3 x £40,000) for a mentoring programme supporting ex-prisoners back into society and the workplace in the London area.

Background and detail of proposal

According to an April 2018 report conducted by the Justice Lab and the Ministry of Justice, The Clink graduates are 49.6% less likely to reoffend than the control group. Their reduced reoffending rates, coupled with the fact that it costs up to £40,000 a year to incarcerate a prisoner, result in considerable savings to the taxpayer whilst at the same time providing the graduates with an opportunity for a career. In 2017 the programme trained 304 prisoners and awarded 106 City & Guilds certificates, with 95 qualified graduates released into communities.

The hospitality sector has long been facing shortages of skilled workers and issues with retention rates. The Clink graduates have been able to fill this gap and have proven to be reliable within the industry. Holding down a job and breaking the cycle of reoffending often has a knock-on impact on the graduate's family, friends and community. The proposal also stresses the importance of advocacy work being done by allowing the public to visit a restaurant in a prison setting and have their food prepared and served by offenders. Changing the public's perception is an important step towards changing their attitude towards ex-offenders.

The role of the support worker makes an important link between the practical training aspect of The Clink programme and a successful release of the graduates into employment and society. It is vital that the prisoners' training is complemented by advice and mentoring from the support worker, ensuring that the graduates learn the life skills needed to apply their newly acquired knowledge successfully outside prison gates.

Financial Information

The Clink has a low cost of raising funds as funding is mainly from contracts and the income derived from the restaurant. The growth in income for 2018 is due to an increase in grants applied for as well as opening a café in Manchester.

Year end as at 31December	2016	2017	2018
	Audited Accounts £	Audited Accounts £	Budget £
Income & expenditure:			
Income	2,341,329	2,400,303	3,224,117
- % of Income confirmed as at 15/08/2018	n/a	n/a	68.59%
Expenditure	(2,236,956)	(2,463,537)	(3,108,958)
Total surplus/(deficit)	104,373	(63,234)	115,159
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	92,923	58,216	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	11,450	(121,450)	115,159
	104,373	(63,234)	115,159
Cost of Raising Funds	28,844	22,183	30,450
- % of income	1.2%	0.9%	0.9%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	2,131,179	2,299,753	2,689,041
Free unrestricted reserves:			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	108,491	73,297	188,456
No of months of operating expenditure	0.6	0.4	0.8
Reserves policy target	175,000	175,000	175,000
No of months of operating expenditure	1.0	0.9	0.8
Free reserves over/(under) target	(66,509)	(101,703)	13,456