

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Bridging Divides - Positive Transitions****Change, Grow, Live****Adv: Kate Moralee****Base: Outside London****Amount requested: £321,808****Benefit: London-wide****Amount recommended: £321,800****The Applicant**

Change Grow Live (C,G,L) began life as a small charity responding to local need in Sussex in 1977, growing into a national charity with a turnover of £200m+ supporting people who experience addiction issues. It merged with Sova in 2012, changed its name from Crime Reduction Initiative in 2016 and took over some of the services of Lifeline in 2017. It works with people experiencing addiction issues who may also experience homelessness and/or have experience of the criminal justice system.

**The Application**

C,G,L is seeking your support to employ a volunteer coordinator and associated volunteer and family costs to maintain contact and relationship between imprisoned mothers and their children. 30 volunteers per year will support 30 mothers who have received short term sentences. Maintaining positive family contact is critical for reducing the likelihood of mothers reoffending on release and reduces the impact of adverse childhood experiences by maintaining a secure relationship for the children. C,G,L will work in partnership with PACT to receive referrals for women in Downview Prison.

**The Recommendation**

C,G,L has been providing services to people within the criminal justice system for over 40 years. It has a track record of delivering a similar project in HMP Highdown which received recognition in Lord Farmers Review for Women 2019. There is currently no statutory requirement to provide support for family contact with many children prevented from maintaining relationships with their mother through costs of travel and lack of adult to escort them. C,G,L has existing relationships with PACT who will be the referral agent and with prison support teams, Probation and Community Rehabilitation Companies and Mental Health Teams. This application meets the criteria of your Positive Transitions ex-offenders leaving custody or serving sentences priority area. Funding is recommended:

***£321,800 over 5 years (£62,500, £62,800, £64,600, £65,700, £66,200) to cover the salary of a f/t volunteer coordinator and all associated costs to provide support to mothers from London receiving short term custodial sentences maintain contact with their families.***

**Funding History**

<b>ID</b>	<b>Type/Status</b>	<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Decision</b>
15220	Bridging Divides Withdrawn	28/11/2019	Proposal withdrawn as it was unclear in several parts.

## **Background and detail of proposal**

There is significant evidence of the harm caused by lack of contact between mothers in prison and their children, both for the lifetime outcomes of the children and for the mother's likelihood to re-offend. The Lord Farmer Review for Women 2019 reports that mothers are unable to make progress in addressing other areas of their lives until reassured about their children.

This approach has been tested with the "Visiting Mum" project at HMP Eastwood Park which received recognition for addressing the issue of parental contact with children. This proposal offers support to the mother to maintain relationships with children, whilst also offering support to children and carers during the period of custodial sentence and on release into the community. Support includes reassurance to the family members, preparation for visits, accompaniment and transport to visits, support with emotional reactions and preparations for future visits. CGL will work with student from a local university to evaluate the impact of the project to provide evidence supporting reduction in re-offending rates.

CGL was well placed to respond to some of the challenges of Covid19 as some staff are home based meaning that IT systems were in place for remote working. However not all services are best suited to being delivered from a home base, though in these challenging times CLG benefited from infrastructure investment made pre covid19.

CLG may be interested in the core costs conversion offer – though dependent on start date of the project and external environment at the time.

## **Financial Information**

C,L,G is heavily dependent on statutory income, however mitigates the impact of this holding numerous contracts with a variety of commissioners and rolling end dates. Most contracts due to be renewed in 2020 have been rolled over for 1 year, due to the impact of covid-19. Restricted/unrestricted surplus/deficit for its 2021 budget is estimated based on historical information on the advice of CBT Finance Team with result that the unrestricted reserves for this year is also an estimate. Although free reserves held are above the policy level they equate to less than 1.5 months of expenditure so are not excessive as the policy level is relatively low.

Year end as at 31/03	2019	2020	2021
	Signed Accounts	Draft Accounts	Budget
	£	£	£
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	212,573,000	219,120,000	221,100,000
- % of Income confirmed as at n/a	N/A	0	0%
Expenditure	(211,368,000)	(214,097,000)	(219,700,000)
Total surplus/(deficit)	<b>1,205,000</b>	<b>5,023,000</b>	<b>1,400,000</b>
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(32,000)	789,000	126,000
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	1,237,000	4,234,000	1,274,000
	<b>1,205,000</b>	<b>5,023,000</b>	<b>1,400,000</b>
Operating Expenditure (unrestricted)	209,707,000	214,562,000	219,700,000
<b>Unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Unrestricted reserves held at year end	27,868,000	32,102,000	33,376,000
No of months of operating expenditure	1.6	1.8	1.8
Reserves policy target	15,000,000	15,000,000	15,000,000
No of months of operating expenditure	0.9	0.8	0.8
Reserves over/(under) target	12,868,000	17,102,000	18,376,000