

Committee	Dated:
City Bridge Trust	20 th March 2017
Subject: Partnership Programme: Prisoners Abroad	Public
Report of: Chief Grants Officer	For Decision

Summary

This report requests funding of £350,000 to continue Prisoners Abroad's administration of a hardship fund, in partnership with City Bridge Trust, for destitute British citizens returning to London after imprisonment overseas.

This was one of two initiatives that came out of your 2012/13 Quinquennial Review, the other being your partnership with Buttle UK which you have funded to establish a hardship fund for families rebuilding their lives following domestic violence.

You approved an initial allocation of £330,000 to Prisoners Abroad in January 2014 and a further allocation of £330,000 in July 2015.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- a) Approve a grant of £350,000 to continue the partnership with Prisoners Abroad until the implementation of your new programme in 2018.

Main Report

About Prisoners Abroad

1. Prisoners Abroad (PA) is the only UK charity providing humanitarian aid, advice and emotional support to British prisoners held in foreign prisons, often in conditions that seriously threaten their physical and mental health. It supports them during their incarceration and when they return to the UK. It also supports family and friends.
2. It has three main areas of activity:
 - **Working with clients during prison sentences.** PA provides a vital link between prisoners detained overseas and various agencies both in the UK and in the country in which they are held. PA provides specialist advice to prisoners and their families, including information on foreign criminal justice systems, prisoners' rights, prison conditions, parole, remission and transfer to the UK. Last year, they supported 1,669 prisoners, including 539 new prisoners in 106 countries.

- **Working with families and friends of those detained.** PA provides advice, support and information to friends and family about foreign prison conditions and criminal justice systems. It aims to aid communication between families and the imprisoned family member and to prevent family relationships from breaking down. It also has 23 family support groups in the UK, run by volunteers.
 - **Resettlement work following release from prison.** PA's resettlement service provides a range of services designed to prevent homelessness and destitution for Britons returning to the UK.
3. It provides free and confidential services on the basis of need. It does not campaign to get prisoners released and it cannot give legal advice, pay fines or visit prisoners overseas.

Prisoners Abroad Resettlement Service

4. The majority of deportees have been out of the UK for many years and had built lives, with partners, children and jobs abroad before finding themselves with no choice but to leave it all behind. Around 60% of new returnees have been out of the UK for at least 10 years and around 20% of new returnees have been out of the UK for at least 40 years. As a result, 32% of the people that Prisoners Abroad help have no relative in the UK and those that do often have no contact with their relatives and cannot expect assistance. 78% have nowhere to stay on arrival at London's airports, 44% arrive in the UK with a health problem requiring medical attention (20% report mental health issues and 20% substance abuse issues). Often people arrive without their medication and so put themselves and others at risk.
5. Returnees are unable to access many homeless services without a link to a Borough and will find it impossible to afford deposits and agency fees for longer-term rented accommodation. It is also extremely difficult to access the welfare benefits to which they are entitled and the process normally takes four to six weeks, leaving them destitute in the meantime.
6. The Hardship Fund exists to support people through this initial period. In the reporting period 1/10/15 to 30/11/16, 303 ex-prisoners used the Resettlement Service. 165 received hardship payments at a total cost of £228,524 in the following categories: 87 people were given emergency accommodation; 127 subsistence grants; 130 travel grants in London; 23 passports; 47 agency fees/rents/deposits; 37 mobile phones; 39 basic necessity grants and 48 starter packs (kettles etc.)

Outputs/outcomes for 2017/18 for Hardship Fund

7. Outputs

- 150 people have accommodation for their first few days/weeks on return from abroad
- 210 people receive food grants of £5 per day
- 225 people receive travel grants to sort out administrative matters
- 68 people receive passports to prove their identity

- 90 people housed on a permanent basis
- 90 people receive mobile phones
- 150 people receive basic necessity grants
- 90 people receive 'starter packs' for starting out in longer-term accommodation

8. Outcomes

- Reduced street homelessness and long-term homelessness among returning ex-prisoners
- Reduced hunger, poverty and destitution among returning ex-prisoners
- Increased support to social support systems, health services and employment among returning ex-prisoners.

Financial Information

9. The estimated surplus funds and unrestricted free reserves at year end 16/17 are lower than usual due to two exceptional circumstances: the decision to move, to provide more room for the increased number of clients at the resettlement centre and a high turnover of staff in the fundraising department. The work on the new centre is now complete and the staffing issue resolved, giving confidence in future finances for the charity. 51% of the income for 2017/18 has been secured.

Year end at 31 March	2015/16 Independently Audited Accounts	2016/17 Current year forecast	2017/18 forecast
	£	£	£
Income and Expenditure			
Income	1,598,578	1,530,250	1,697,200
Expenditure	1,591,864	1,742,818	1,697,200
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(25,484)	(192,721)	-
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	32,198	(19,847)	-
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	6,714	(212,568)	-
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	0.004%	12%	-
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	18%	20%	19%
Free unrestricted reserves			
Free unrestricted reserves held at Year End	525,805	174,291	205,675
How many months' worth of expenditure	3.95	.73	1.45
Reserves Policy target	360,000	360,000	424,300
How many months' worth of expenditure	2.70	2.82	3
Free reserves over/(under) target	165,805	(185,709)	(218,625)

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Summary Assessment of Strategic Initiative for Committee Decision
 (Use: Y/N/Potentially or N/A where relevant)

FILTERS	
Will The pro-active grant:	
Further the Trust's Vision and Mission (a fairer London & tackling disadvantage)?	Y
Support work within one of existing Investing in Londoners programmes (iIL)?	Y
Or, meet a clear need that has arisen since(iIL) were agreed?	N/A
Have the potential for impact beyond that of an individual reactive grant or number of individual grants?	Y
Be affordable within the agreed annual budget (from the Trust alone or in combination with other funders) and, looking forward, leave sufficient budget to meet anticipated pro-active grants for the remainder of the financial year?	Y
Be made to an organisation(s) that conforms to the Trust's eligibility criteria and has the capacity and expertise to deliver the work?	Y

PRIORITISATION GUIDANCE	
Evidence	
Is there external and/or internal research and information that supports the need for the proposed grant?	Y
Is there external and/or internal research and information that indicates the approach proposed in the grant will be successful?	Y
Is there evidence that indicates the work will be hard to fund from other sources?	Y
Impact	
Will the grant tackle a root cause(s), or positively influence policy or practice?	Y
Will the work/approach funded be replicable?	Y
Does the grant provide an opportunity to strengthen Civil Society in London?	Y
Is the work sustainable beyond the period of the grant?	Y
Can the impact of the work be measured through evaluation?	Y