

MEETING: 04/09/2013

Ref: 11633

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Positive Transitions to Independent Living

The Who Cares Trust

Adv: Jenny Field

Base: Islington

Amount requested: £152,629

Benefit: London-wide

Amount recommended: £152,600

Purpose of grant request: To improve the lives and outcomes of 16-25 year old care leavers through activities that boost their confidence and skills.

Background

The Who Cares Trust was established in 1992 to support children and young people in the care system and to help them to thrive and reach their potential. It produces information and magazines for young people in care and encourages more child-centred services through its training and information services for foster carers, local authorities and care professionals. It was one of eight charities that led the Care Inquiry during 2012. Its findings were published earlier this year. The main conclusions were that the care system still too often fails children and families; that 'permanence' for children means 'security, stability, love and a strong sense of identity and belonging'; and that there is no one route to achieving permanence.

Funding History

You have supported this charity once before with a grant of £65,000 approved in September 2003 towards the cost of producing "Junior Who Cares" for 8 - 12 year olds in the care system in London. This was an important development for the organisation and the magazine is now part of its core provision.

Current Application

In 2011, there were 10,250 under 16 year olds in care in London. During that year, 2,270 young Londoners aged 16 or above left the care system. Statistics show inequalities between young people in care and their peers, with 13% of children in care obtaining good GCSEs (compared with 58% for their peers) and 7% of care leavers going to university (compared with 36% amongst their peers). Almost 40% of prisoners aged under 21 years have been in the care system at some point in their lives. The After Care report, published by the Children's Rights Director, interviewed 308 care leavers. 46% said they had been made to leave care too early and 49% said that they felt that had been badly prepared for leaving care.

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Funding is requested over three years for work supporting young people leaving the care system in London. Its two Participation Officers work with young 16-25 year olds to help them build the skills they need to successfully live independently. Young people are referred to the project by local authorities, other voluntary organisations and by word of mouth. The Who Cares Trust runs a participation programme from its London base which includes practical topics such as writing CVs and job applications; cookery; financial literacy; first aid; and personal development. It also recruits young people who have left care as trainers for foster carers, students and professionals working in the care system. Finally, it runs three advisory boards made up of young people who have been in care who feed in their personal experiences in order to help shape the work of the charity. The Who Cares Trust will aim to work with 100 care leavers annually.

Financial Observations

Audited accounts for the year ended 31st March 2013 show an overall deficit of £89,904 (17% of turnover) comprising a deficit of £103,035 on unrestricted funds, which was planned following two unexpected, one-off donations totalling £476,000 received in the previous financial year, and partially offset by a surplus of £13,131 on restricted funds.

The reserves policy of the charity's trustees is to hold between 6 and 9 months' worth of core costs in reserves, equating to between £209,590 and £314,386. Unrestricted free reserves as at 31st March 2013 were £367,788, representing 10.5 months' of current year core running costs. In addition, at 31st March 2013 the charity also held unrestricted reserves of £235,283 which it has designated for policy development work over the next five years (an area that the charity advises is difficult to fundraise for).

The current year budget to 31st March 2014 shows an overall deficit of £51,952.

Officer's Appraisal

The Who Cares Trust has over 20 years of expertise and knowledge about the care system and the needs of looked-after young people and a firm commitment to listening to young people themselves about their preferences. Young people leaving care face many challenges and the work of the Who Cares Trust endeavours to give them the skills and confidence they need to succeed.

Recommendation

£152,600 over three years (£48,800; £51,000; £52,800) towards a participation programme for young Londoners aged 16-12 years leaving the care system.



The City Bridge Trust

Charity Registration Number: 1035628

Working with Londoners: Application for a grant

Please read the guidance notes before completing this form

Reference:
(office use only)

11633

Date Received:

31/01/2013

Programme
Area:

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1. About your organisation

Name of organisation applying for grant: The Who Cares Trust	
If the organisation is part of a larger organisation, what is its name?	
Address for correspondence: Kemp House 152-160 City Road London	
Postcode: EC1V 2NP Is this your home address? No	
Contact person: Ms Claire Brooke	Position: Head of Fundraising
Phone: 020 7251 3117	Fax:
E-mail: claire.brooke@thewhocarestrust.org.uk	
Website: http://www.thewhocarestrust.org.uk	
Legal status of organisation: Registered Charity	
If registered, please give charity number: 1010518	
Date organisation established: 22/04/1992	

2. Request for funds

Under which of the Trust's themes are you applying (see our website or brochure for further details)? Positive Transitions to Independent Living
Purpose for which funds are requested: (25 words maximum) To improve the lives and outcomes of 16-25 year old care leavers through activities that boost their confidence and skills.
How much funding is requested? Year 1: £48,853 Year 2: £50,900 Year 3: £52,876 Total: £152,629

3. Aims of your organisation

Our vision is

- all children in care are raised by people who care for, value and respect them
- all children in care receive the support, encouragement and opportunities they need to enjoy their life, to thrive and to achieve their potential
- there is recognition of the support and resources that children coming into care are likely to need in order to address traumatic pre-care experiences of abuse, neglect and serious family dysfunction
- those acting as corporate parents understand fully their responsibilities for developing and safeguarding the children they care for.

We achieve this by working closely with children in care and ensuring that everything we do is informed by their views and experiences.

4. Main activities of your organisation

- Helping children in care to feel less isolated and part of a community by producing magazines and information materials especially for them.
- Influencing policy to better reflect the real experiences of children in care by creating forums where they can give their views directly to MPs and local politicians.
- Encouraging more child-centred services by running courses and producing materials for foster carers, local authorities and care professionals
- Boosting the self-esteem of children in care by developing innovative projects in conjunction with them that increase their success in education, employment and relationships.

5. Number of staff

Full-time	Part-time	Management committee members	Active volunteers
11	3	10	4

6. How do you support your volunteers?

We have a written volunteer policy and handbook to ensure we support volunteers in a consistent way. We refund volunteers travel expenses and refreshment costs. We actively encourage care leavers to volunteer to gain experience and skills.

7. Property occupied by your organisation

Is the main property owned or leased/rented by your organisation?	If leased/rented, how long is the outstanding lease/rental agreement?
Leased	5 years

8. Finance

From your most recent audited or independently examined accounts, complete the following:

Financial year ended -

Month: March

Year: **2013**

Income received from:	£
Voluntary income	48,167
Activities for generating funds	89,469
Investment income	20,285
Income from charitable activities	361,393
Other sources	
Total Income	519,314

Expenditure:	£
Charitable activities	594,083
Governance costs	5,766
Cost of generating funds	44,668
Other:	
Total Expenditure	644,517
Unrealised profit on investments	35,299
(Deficit)/surplus for the year:	(89,904)

Asset position at year end	£
Fixed assets	15,758
Investments	274,340
Net current assets	504,376
Long-term liabilities	
*Total A	794,474

Reserves at year end	£
Endowment funds	
Restricted funds	177,310
Unrestricted funds	617,164
*Total B	794,474

* Total A and Total B must be the same and should be taken from your balance sheet

9. Statutory funding

For the financial year above, what % of your income was from statutory sources?
15%

10. Material changes

Describe any material changes to the organisation's activities, structure or financial position since the date of the most recent accounts:

11. Previous applications to the Trust

Have you applied to the Trust before? If so, please give details:

Month/Year:	02/04	Ref:	3877	Grant received:	£65,000	OR application rejected?	No
Month/Year:		Ref:		Grant received:		OR application rejected?	
Month/Year:		Ref:		Grant received:		OR application rejected?	

12. Previous funding received

Funding received by your organisation from the following sources during the last **THREE** years:
(i) City of London (other than the City Bridge Trust) **(ii)** London boroughs **(iii)** London Councils (formerly ALG)
(iv) Health authorities **(v)** Central government departments **(vi)** Other statutory bodies (e.g. Housing Corporation, Arts Council) - List source, years and annual amounts:

	Year: 2010	Year: 2011	Year: 2012
(i)			
(ii) Magazine sales	222,382	121,263	87,343
(iii)			
(iv)			
(v) Department for Education	75,000	75,000	81,341
(vi)			

13. Previous grants received

Grants received by your organisation from charitable trusts and foundations (other than the City Bridge Trust) during the last **TWO** years. List source, years and annual amounts:

	Year: 2011	Year: 2012
John Ellerman Foundation	25,000	
Clothworkers	20,000	
Esmee Fairbairn Foundation		200,000
The Freemasons Grand Charity		30,000
The Balcombe Trust		20,000
Lloyds TSB Foundation England & Wales		19,300

14. What steps is your organisation taking to reduce its carbon footprint?

At the Trust we try to use Fairtrade and recycled products whenever we can. We don't provide bottled water to staff or visitors and use glasses rather than plastic cups. We make use of Islington's recycling scheme with recycling bags in the office. Staff use public transport or bicycles and there is no parking provided at the office. We have an informal policy of using electronic communications rather than paper and turning off PCs and lights when not in use. Our influence on our energy use is limited as our office is housed in leased accommodation and utilities are managed by the landlord.

15. Purpose

Complete this section whatever the amount of grant requested. **In addition**, if the request is for £25,000 or more in total, a fuller proposal should be sent with this form. Also, if your application is for all or part of new or existing post(s), please enclose a copy of the relevant job description(s) including the salary level.

In order to provide the right information, please refer to guidance note 15 before completing this section.

In 2011 there were 10,250 under 16 year olds in care in London; 2,270 young people aged 16 and over left care. Statistics show extreme inequality between children in care and their peers. 13% of children in care obtain five good GCSEs (58% for their peers); 7% of care leavers go to university (36% for their peers); one third of care leavers are not in education, employment or training (14% for their peers); almost 40% of prisoners under 21 are care experienced.

The After Care report, published in 2012 by the Children's Rights Director, interviewed 308 care leavers. 46% said they were made to leave care too early; 49% said they had been prepared badly or very badly.

Our two Participation Officers build positive relationships with young people aged 16-25 who are about to leave care or care leavers. We recruit young people via Local Authorities, charities and by word of mouth. In our dedicated space in London we develop and deliver a varied participation programme for them, in conjunction with them. We help them to learn new skills to boost their self-confidence and enrich their lives and prospects. The programme includes:

'Future Focus' - practical skills sessions on topics such as first aid; writing CVs and job applications; cookery; money matters; personal development. We use external trainers where appropriate. In a friendly and relaxed environment, young care leavers learn and develop new skills which improve their education and employment prospects.

'Young Trainers' - young people with experience of care devise training tools and deliver training for foster carers, students and professionals from the care and education sectors. The young people share their knowledge and experience, learn new skills and are paid a small fee. The professionals gain an insight into what it feels like 'from the other side' and are better able to support young people in care. The outcome is ultimately an improved care system.

Advisory Boards - our three boards comprise care-experienced young people and meet quarterly. They give us their opinions and advice based on personal experience so our staff can deliver appropriate projects based on what young people say they need to succeed and how the system should change. We pay each young person a fee for their time.

The project aim is to create two activities each week enabling 300 care leavers aged 16-25 over three years to:

- gain new skills that will enhance their education or employment prospects;
- create a supportive community which boosts their self-confidence and esteem so they are empowered to make positive life choices;
- enhance their personal and social skills so they are better able to live independently.

We are a national charity with 20 years of expertise and knowledge about the care system and the wishes and needs of looked-after young people. We campaign for better outcomes for children in care and deliver national programmes to benefit and empower them. We have a reputation for our expertise in communicating and consulting with young people in care and care leavers to get their voices heard. 20% of our staff is care-experienced including our paid intern. We support volunteers who are care-experienced. We have three advisory boards of care-experienced young people to inform and develop our work. Through our publications we reach one in four of all children in care. 'Who Cares Town', our website section specially designed for young people in care, had 22,792 unique visitors last year. To ensure our participation programme is accessible to all we make no charge to young people, provide refreshments and cover costs of travel, child care, translation and interpretation.

16. Explain how you will monitor and evaluate both your own outcomes and those of the programme under which you are applying.

We have recently invested in a new database to record information on our participation work and progress made, to enable us to monitor our work quantitatively and qualitatively. For each individual we work with, we will keep confidential records on their gender, age, ethnicity, contact details and contact with the Trust. We will monitor and record young people's progress and achievements.

We will collect data to measure activity plus impact to ensure that we are achieving the agreed outcomes. To make it as easy as possible for participants to feedback we will use forms, questionnaires, informal interviews, a comments and a suggestions box and accept comments via email, phone, text or face to face. We will use feedback to inform future sessions and make changes to their location, length, style, size and/or content.

We will ask external people who deliver or contribute to sessions to give us their feedback.

17. Beneficiaries

How many people will benefit from the grant per year? 100			
In which local authority is your organisation based? Islington			
Which borough(s) of Greater London will benefit from this grant? (if more than one, please give % for each) We will work with care leavers from any London Boroughs. We will record this information but can't estimate in advance.			
At what address will the activity be located? Mostly in our dedicated space in London E1. Participation Workers arrange face to face meetings with individual care leavers in a place of their choosing.			
What age group will benefit? over 16 years			
What will the ethnic grouping(s) of the beneficiaries be?			
	%		%
White - British		Black - Caribbean	
White - Irish		Black - African	
White - Other (please describe)		Black - Other (please describe)	
Asian - Indian		Black - British	
Asian - Pakistani		Chinese	
Asian - Bangladeshi			
Asian - Other (please describe)		Other (please describe)	
Open to everyone			100
What proportion of the beneficiaries will be disabled people? 0%			

18. Funding required for the project

What is the total cost of the proposed activity/project?

(List main expenditure headings and amounts)

Expenditure heading	Year 1 £	Year 2 £	Year 3 £	Total £
Engagement Fund (travel, refreshments, child care etc)	16,000	16,320	16,646	48,966
Participation Workers Salaries 40% plus NIC and pension	25,075	26,495	27,849	79,419
Projects Advisory Board 4 x 2hr meetings plus .5hr prep for 6 young people	600	612	624	1,836
Strategic Advisory Council 4 x 2hr meetings plus .5hr prep for 8 young people	800	816	832	2,448
Young Trainers Board - 4 x 2hr meetings for 6 young people	480	489	499	1,468
Training preparation - 19 sessions, 2hrs design by 6 young people, 4hrs rehearsal and delivery by 3 young people	4,560	4,651	4,744	13,955
Young Editors Board - 4 meetings of 3hrs for 8 young people	800	816	832	2,448
External trainers fees and facilities	10,000	10,200	10,404	30,604
Stationery and materials	250	250	250	750
Design costs - e-flyers for promoting and recruiting participants	200	200	200	600
Dedicated participation space (rent, rates, utilities)	19,000	19,380	19,768	58,148
15% towards support and overheads	13,723	14,158	14,585	42,466
TOTAL	91,488	94,387	97,233	283,108

What income has already been raised? (List amounts and main sources)

Source	Year 1 £	Year 2 £	Year 3 £	Total £
Working Links (Training preparation and dedicated space)	20,820			20,820
The Mark Leonard Trust (External trainers fees and facilities)	10,000	10,200	10,404	30,604
TOTAL	30,820	10,200	10,404	51,424

What other funders are currently considering the proposal?

Funder	£
Department for Education for Young Editors Board (part of a larger bid)	2,448
Santander Foundation (for young people on Boards)	10,000
TOTAL	12,448

19. Funding requested from the Trust

How much is requested from the Trust? (List main expenditure headings and amounts)

Expenditure heading	Year 1 £	Year 2 £	Year 3 £	Total £
Participation Workers salaries (40%) plus NIC and pension	25,075	26,495	27,849	79,419
Engagement Fund (travel, refreshments, child care etc)	16,000	16,320	16,646	48,966
Design costs - e-flyers for promoting and recruiting participants	200	200	200	600
Stationery and materials	250	250	250	750
15% towards support and overheads	7,328	7,635	7,931	22,894
TOTAL	48,853	50,900	52,876	152,629

20. Funding requested from the Trust (continued)

When will the funding be required?

01/07/2013

Is the activity to continue beyond the period for which funding is requested?
If so, how will it be resourced?

The Who Cares? Trust has two full time paid fundraisers who implement an ongoing fundraising programme with a range of income streams. This includes a timetable of identifying suitable Trusts funders and submitting targeted applications. Applications will be sent out towards the end of the grant period to secure further funding.

If any planning or other statutory consents are required for the project to proceed, what stage have the applications reached?

Declaration on behalf of applicant organisation

I, Clare Burke (your name)

am an authorised representative of

The Who Cares? Trust (your organisation)

within which I am Head of Fundraising (your position)

To the best of my knowledge, all the information that I have provided in this application form is correct

Signature CBurke Date 4 February 2013

Return the completed form to: The City Bridge Trust

City of London
PO Box 270
Guildhall
London EC2P 2EJ

Please

- do not send this application by fax or e-mail – unless applying online, applications must be posted to the Trust
- do send the information in the checklist – if items are missing, your application will be returned to you
- do send only the information in the checklist – if further information is required, we will contact you
- do ensure you have signed and dated this form – we cannot accept forms which have not been signed and dated
- do use the correct postage – the completed form and additional materials are likely to exceed 100g in weight