

MEETING: 16/07/2014

Ref: 12169

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Resettlement and Rehabilitation of Offenders

Construction Youth Trust

Adv: Ciaran Rafferty

Base: Camden

Amount requested: £83,868

Benefit: London-wide

The Charity:

The Construction Youth Trust (CYT), a national charity, was established in 1961 by members of the construction industry, to support the teaching of related skills. It targets disadvantaged young people and provides activities ranging from individual bursaries and construction skills courses, to work placement schemes and careers guidance sessions. Turnover in recent years has been in the region of £1m -1.4m though it could be argued that its value as a charity goes beyond its financial scope, due to its direct connections to, and opportunities provided within, the construction and allied trades.

The Application:

CYT wishes to continue work originally supported with 3-year pilot funding from the Youth Justice Board and which targets young ex-offenders. The project will engage with them prior to, and on release from, prison and will offer them opportunities to learn construction-related skills. Up to 60 young Londoners per year will have better opportunities to secure employment and, thereby, reduce significantly the likelihood of their reoffending.

The Recommendation:

The Construction Youth Trust has long-established and meaningful connections to the construction industry and is perfectly placed to support young ex-offenders with the skills and opportunities to resettle successfully. This project, called *Toolkit for Life*, will offer a tailored package of support into education, training, or employment. The component costs of the project are calculated on a full-cost-recovery basis and are reasonable. A grant is advised as follows:

£84,000 over 3 years (£27,500; £28,000; £28,500) for the costs of the Toolkit for Life project for young Londoners.

Funding History

None

Background and detail of proposal

Although a national charity, a great deal of CYT's work is in London. It has a large training facility in Southwark where people can learn a wide range of skills, both through classroom and hands-on experience. In addition, it runs a mobile unit which can reach other areas of London from where young people would find it hard to access the Southwark facility.

This proposal continues a successful pilot funded by the Youth Justice Board, where young ex-offenders are the target audience. Research shows that the sooner that someone on release can be engaged in purposeful activity, the less likely they are to reoffend. The modus operandi, therefore, is to make contact with the young person

just before their release (the charity has very good connections with individual prisons in London), so that they can offer them a service as soon as possible. Links with other key agencies, including local authorities, help CYT to provide a holistic service where other elements of the young person's resettlement (eg accommodation) can be addressed.

The programme offered by CYT comprises: accredited short courses in industry-related skills; brokering opportunities with construction industry employers; partnering with training providers to enable access to education and training; mentoring and monitoring of young people to ensure they sustain their engagement in education, training or employment (ETE).

In keeping with the charity's *Women in Construction* campaign, this project will actively target young women, as they represent 5% of the prison population but only 1% of tradespeople. For this reason HMP Holloway will be one of the prioritised institutions.

Longer-term evaluation of the pilot project is due to be completed by September 2014, although early statistics show that 189 young offenders were placed in ETE, in excess of the original target of 138.

Financial Information

95% of the forecast income for 2014 has been confirmed as of 2nd July 2014. The deficit forecast for the current year is due to utilising income received in previous years. Although the level of free reserves anticipated at the end of the year is below the charity's target, it is not considered by your grants officer to be of concern.

Year-end at 31st December	2012 Audited/Examined £	2013 DRAFT £	2014 Current Year Forecast £
Income and Expenditure			
Income	1,197,733	1,454,380	1,242,595
Expenditure	1,156,931	1,352,333	1,411,700
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	44,168	70,173	(48,553)
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	(3,366)	31,874	(120,552)
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	40,802	102,047	(169,105)
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	3.4%	7.0%	(13.6%)
Generating funds as % of income	1.9%	1.7%	-
Free unrestricted reserves			
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	628,396	688,423	639,870
~ how many months' worth of expenditure	6.5	6.1	5.4
Reserves Policy target (£)	578,465	676,166	705,850
~ how many months' worth of expenditure	6	6	6
Free reserves over target / (under target)	49,931	12,257	(65,980)