

Monitoring Visit Report: Depaul UK (11140)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION		
1.1 Date of visit 30/10/14	1.2 Name of visiting Grants Officer Joy Beishon	1.3 People met with Mark Crow (Trusts & Foundations Manager) Brian Smith (Area Director)
1.5 Programme Area: Positive Transitions to Independent Living: resettlement of ex-offenders leaving custody		
1.6 Grant value £100,000 over 3 years (£10,000; £40,000; £50,000)	1.7 What is the grant funding? The salary and related costs of a London Regional Manager. (funding awarded in October 2012)	
1.8 Purpose of the award To create a new care-leaver service for young offenders providing employability support and support prevent homelessness. To increase housing advice and information services in Rochester and ISIS young offender institutions.		
MONITORING INFORMATION		
2.1 Project Outcome 1: To increase employability skills and debt management training for care leavers.		
Progress made: The funding has led to a significant increase in service provision. The charity offers employability skills, mentoring, workshops, CV support, work opportunities, sports, social activities, volunteering and corporate mentoring to everyone in Depaul supported housing and those using 'through the gate' provision. In addition, 500 young offenders a year (10 – 12 a week) are offered Depaul services 3 months before release. Engagement with a 'through the gate' worker lasts for a few months until release for most (almost 20% need more than 3 months support), but no long term follow-up is done. As a result of this work, more Depaul staff based in prisons and all young offenders have access to the services on offer. Depaul has measured positive changes in levels of individual debt and improvements in basic financial skills amongst the project beneficiaries. Since funding was awarded, Depaul estimate that 50 – 75% of its clients have been supported from a NEET status to find employment, education or training.		

2.2 Project Outcome 2: To ensure that young people leaving custody can find accommodation on release

Progress made: Homelessness is a contributory factor in re-offending rates, and so Depaul assesses accommodation needs with eligible clients in the target young offenders' institutions prior to release. Supported accommodation for 100 young offenders is available for up to two years for those that need it. Depaul has also registered as a social landlord and is able to offer a limited amount of 'move on' accommodation for those needing further support after two years. However, long-term housing is not currently available. Depaul has also introduced a programme called "Night Stop" where volunteers offer one night's accommodation to a homeless client in need of support. 2,000 bed nights a year are offered through the Night Stop scheme.

2.3 Project Outcome 3: To explore partnership opportunities with key offender organisations

Progress made: Depaul has reshaped its services in response to available funding, particularly where policy change has led to some contracting-out of rehabilitation services. The charity has built good relationships across the sector and in a number of London boroughs (notably Brent) where there is interest in replicating the support model developed.

GRANT OFFICER COMMENTS

Although difficult to separate the impact of the Trust's grant on activities delivered (funding was for a management post), it is clear that the role funded through this award has been essential to Depaul's work. Overall, this is a very well run project able to show high quality quantitative and qualitative success measures demonstrating the value of the work delivered. Depaul has expanded and redesigned existing services for young offenders with their model being held up as one to follow in the sector more widely.

The work is on track to achieve all objectives agreed at the time when funding was awarded.

The charity does, however, note that the way it works requires good partnership working and reflects this is usually always more complex and time-consuming than anticipated.

The charity has expressed interest in any funder plus services which the Trust might be able to provide. It is expected that a programme will be launched during 2015 and details will be shared with Depaul UK in due course.