

MEETING: 22/09/2016

Ref: 13252

ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Resettlement and Rehabilitation of Offenders

Chaos Theory

Adv: Sandra Jones

Base: Waltham Forest

Amount requested: £99,687

Benefit: Waltham Forest

Amount recommended: £99,700

The Charity

Chaos Theory (CT) is a relatively new organisation set up in January 2011 working intensively with those most affected by community violence. Using a model developed in Chicago the charity has a 'Violence Interruption Project' which targets individuals at high risk of being perpetrators and/or victims of violence and assists them in finding alternative ways of settling disputes without resorting to violence. During the past five years CT has been building a reputation for effective intervention and works closely with the Probation Services, Prisons and Ministry of Justice, attracting onto the Board two QC barristers, and a Dr in forensic psychology.

The Application

CT seeks three year funding for a full time Outreach Worker to provide advice and support to individuals involved in violence who are in custody. The post will work on long-term resettlement plans with those due to be released that will promote clients independence and help reduce offending behaviour. Clients are drawn from those most affected by violence and are considered high risk. This post has been funded on a part time basis by Lloyds TSB Foundation and the funding ceases at the end of September 2016.

The Recommendation

The Outreach Worker will provide a Resettlement Support Service for prisoners, focusing on the high risk individuals rather than early intervention / prevention. 99% of the charity's clients have been persistent offenders since the age of 12 years plus, most of who are in their early 20's and still heavily entrenched. The level of demand for the service warrants a full time post.

£99,700 over three years (£32,400; £33,200; £34,100) for a full time Outreach Worker and associated running costs and overheads.

Funding History

None

Background and detail of proposal

Targeting those affected by violence, the service works with disadvantaged young adults (18-30 years) in their homes, community, and custody to support them in their efforts to live independently and successfully. This is achieved through mentoring, advising and guiding participants through difficult stages in their life, encouraging them to develop a range of strategies to deal with social disadvantage and crime.

To support this work, the charity provides a resettlement service for young adults who are serving custodial sentences, assisting with access to education and training whilst incarcerated, offering housing and legal advocacy. This is done in partnership

with HMP/YOIs across the country where CTs clients are detained. Work with prisoners ensures a smooth transition into the community on release to prevent them going back to their negative behaviours and lifestyles. It is this that CT wish to expand by employing an full time Outreach Officer. The work covers preparing resettlement support plans whilst in custody (undertaking monthly visits throughout the sentence) and giving long term support to achieve these plans to avoid reoffending. On release the offender is collected and given intensive support around benefits, housing, welfare and guiding into training or employment. Where relevant the charity seeks donations to enable the client to undertake training that might be needed (e.g. fork lift training) in order to obtain employment. The charity has developed partnerships with a range of housing providers, and in 2015/16 has managed to house 9 young adults in supported housing out of the area away from their previous negative lifestyles and influential peers and 14 clients in employment or full time training.

Financial Information

Forecast income in 2016/17 is £239,085 of which £129,081 (54%) was secured as at 31st July 2016. The increase in income of £90,811 (61%) compared to the prior year is expected to be raised largely through grant funding including the one from City Bridge Trust.

The free unrestricted reserves target is set at 3 months' worth of expenditure. Free reserves held at 31 March 2016 were substantially below target at £7,153, equating to less than 3 weeks' worth of expenditure. To increase its holding, the charity has plans to raise earned unrestricted income through selling training and a toolkit which has almost been completed and should be ready in the autumn. They have already provided training to firms of barristers and have had interest from more firms for both the training and toolkit. The cost of generating funds is low, which the charity explains is due to Board Members undertaking the majority of fundraising alongside one day per month of the chief officers time.

Year end at 31 August	2014/15 Independently examined Accounts £	2015/16 Independently examined Accounts £	2016/17 Current Year Budget £
Income and Expenditure			
Income	111,976	148,274	239,085
Expenditure	108,302	126,534	227,329
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	3,674	606	8,000
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	0	21,134	3,756
Total Surplus / (Deficit)	3,674	21,740	11,756
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	3.3%	14.7%	4.9%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	3,031 (2.7%)	3,031 (2%)	3,031(1.3%)
Free unrestricted reserves			
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	6,547	7,153	15,153
How many months' worth of expenditure	0.7	0.68	0.8
Reserves Policy target	27,076	31,634	56,832
How many months' worth of expenditure	3	3	3
Free reserves over/(under) target	(20,529)	(24,481)	(41,679)