

**MEETING: 22/09/2016**

**Ref: 13368**

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY - Resettlement and Rehabilitation of Offenders**

**St Giles Trust**

**Adv: Shegufta Rahman**

**Base: Southwark**

**Amount requested: £163,738**

**Benefit: Several SE London**

**Amount recommended: £150,270**

**The Charity**

St Giles Trust (SGT) aims to 'break the cycle of offending', with a vision to create safer communities by turning lives around and working to ensure children of offenders do not become the next generation involved in the Criminal Justice System (CJS). Originally set up over 50 years ago to support homeless people, the charity has developed services delivering award winning training, employment, rehabilitation and resettlement support to ex-offenders, vulnerable women leaving custody, disadvantaged children and families, young people at risk of offending and other socially excluded groups. SGT supports 15,000 people each year across England and Wales.

**The Application**

SGT is seeking funding for its Women's Information and Resettlement of Ex-Offenders (WIRE) project, which supports the most chaotic and vulnerable female prison leavers returning to London. You are asked to fund the salary of a full-time WIRE Complex Needs Support Worker and associated project running costs.

**The Recommendation**

The charity has been delivering the WIRE services for over six years, offering rehabilitation and resettlement support to women with long histories of offending, mental health, substance misuse and other complex support needs. The WIRE Support Worker provides consistent engagement to guide the women through the complex network of service provision, or supports those that slip through gaps in statutory and voluntary support networks altogether because they do not meet a specific needs assessment criteria. The amount recommended is at a reduced rate as there is scope within the reserves of the charity to contribute towards the project.

***£150,270 over three years (£44,470, £52,100, £53,700) for the salary of the f/t WIRE Complex Needs Support Worker and associated project costs.***

**Funding History**

Meeting Date	Decision
31/10/2012	£82,000 for a further and final two years (2 x £41,000) for the salary of F/T Employment Support Worker plus associated costs.
02/07/2009	£123,000 over three years (3 x £41,000) for the salary and support costs of a full-time Employment Support Worker in London.

**Background and detail of proposal**

The WIRE Support Worker will complete a comprehensive needs assessment with each woman referred to the service. This assessment will be the basis of formulating a realistic action plan of addressing each issue identified. In addition to mental health, each woman will present at least one additional support need such as

homelessness/housing support, substance misuse, sexual violence and domestic abuse, prostitution, children and families, and/or money and debt. Referrals come from HMP's Bronzefield, Downvue and Send – the three prisons in closest proximity to London, as well as London-based partner agencies working with female prison leavers in the community. The Support Worker will: meet female prison leavers at the gate and provide practical 'first day' support; ensure they are promptly referred to mental health and other specialist community support service (e.g. detox programmes); and provide integrated resettlement support services addressing the complex and multifaceted support needs of female prison leavers.

SGT has also delivered specialist mental health support to women in and recently released from HMP Holloway for the last two years. These women suffer from personality disorders, autistic traits, and/or other mental health problems. Funding for this was secured as a direct result of the WIRE service highlighting the significant number of women leaving the CJS with undiagnosed mental health problems.

An evaluation by The Social Impact Partnership in 2012 found that the re-offending rate of a cohort of 165 women, with an average of 32 convictions each, dropped by over half from the national average of 88% to 42% following engagement with the WIRE service. SGT continuously recruits women with 'lived experience' of the CJS, training them to work alongside the WIRE support worker, providing a peer-to-peer support model that enables more women returning to London to overcome their complex support needs and break the once seemingly inexorable cycle of offending.

#### Financial Information

Of the forecast income of £7,678,700, £2,149,000 (28%) had been confirmed by 31 July 2016.

Unrestricted free reserves are on target. The charity as part of its strategy is to utilise this reserve to help deliver its services in areas where funding is not otherwise available.

The draft Trustees' Report for 2015/16 notes that the increase in income from £7.6million to £8.5million is due to the receipt of a number of restricted grants received late in the year which increased the carry forward restricted funds at 31 March 2016. Expenditure increased for the same reason in this year.

Year end at 31 March	2014-15 Audited Accounts	2015-16 Draft Accounts	2016-17 Budget
	£	£	£
<b>Income and Expenditure</b>			
Income	7,605,819	8,532,012	7,678,700
Expenditure	7,211,245	7,816,266	7,496,300
Unrestricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	319,799	482,418	363,100
Restricted Funds Surplus / (Deficit)	74,775	233,328	(180,700)
<b>Total Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>394,574</b>	<b>715,746</b>	<b>182,400</b>
Surplus / (Deficit) as a % of turnover	5.2%	8.4%	2.4%
Cost of Generating funds (% of income)	362,902 (4.8%)	343,411 (4%)	337,900 (4.4%)
<b>Free unrestricted reserves</b>			
Unrestricted free reserves held at Year End	1,716,322	2,037,439	2,400,539
How many months' worth of expenditure	2.9	3.1	3.8
Reserves Policy target	1,802,811	1,954,065	1,874,076
How many months' worth of expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	(86,489)	83,374	526,463