

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
City Bridge Trust	7 <sup>th</sup> July 2018
<b>Subject:</b> Partnership with Prisoners Abroad (ref 14845)	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Chief Grants Officer (CGO) and Director of City Bridge Trust	<b>For Decision</b>
<b>Report author:</b> Jenny Field, Deputy Chief Grants Officer	

### Summary

This report requests funding to continue your current partnership with Prisoners Abroad (PA) for a further year from October 2018 through resettlement fund, supporting destitute British citizens returning to London after imprisonment overseas. This is one of two partnership programmes you have initiated to support individuals in need, the other being with Buttle UK to establish the Anchor Project to support families re-building their lives following domestic abuse.

### Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Approve a grant of £233,300 over one year for the continuation of the Prisoners Abroad's resettlement fund supporting destitute British citizens returning to London after imprisonment overseas.

### Background

1. In January 2014, you approved a grant of £330,000 over 18 months towards PA's resettlement programme supporting destitute British citizens returning to London following imprisonment overseas. Further grants of £330,000 and £350,000 were approved in July 2015 and March 2017 respectively. The last grant will end in October 2018, and the proposal before you is to continue the service from October 2018 until September 2019.
2. This is one of two partnership programmes you have initiated in order to support individuals in need, the other being with Buttle UK to support families rebuilding their lives following domestic abuse.

## About Prisoners Abroad

1. Prisoners Abroad (PA) is the only UK charity providing humanitarian aid, advice and emotional support to British prisoners held in foreign prisons, often in conditions that seriously threaten their physical and mental health. It supports them during their incarceration and when they return to the UK. It also supports family and friends.
2. It has three main areas of activity:
  - **Working with clients during prison sentences.** PA provides a vital link between prisoners detained overseas and various agencies both in the UK and in the country in which they are held. PA provides specialist advice to prisoners and their families, including information on foreign criminal justice systems, prisoners' rights, prison conditions, parole, remission and transfer to the UK. Last year, they supported 1,669 prisoners, including 539 new prisoners in 106 countries.
  - **Working with families and friends of those detained.** PA provides advice, support and information to friends and family about foreign prison conditions and criminal justice systems. It aims to aid communication between families and the imprisoned family member and to prevent family relationships from breaking down. It also has 23 family support groups in the UK, run by volunteers.
  - **Resettlement work following release from prison.** PA's resettlement service provides a range of services designed to prevent homelessness and destitution for Britons returning to the UK.
3. It provides free and confidential services on the basis of need. It does not campaign to get prisoners released and it cannot give legal advice, pay fines or visit prisoners overseas.

## Prisoners Abroad Resettlement Service

4. The majority of deportees have been out of the UK for many years and have built lives, with partners, children and jobs abroad before finding themselves with no choice but to leave it all behind. Around 60% of new returnees have been out of the UK for at least 10 years and around 20% of new returnees have been out of the UK for at least 40 years. As a result, 32% of the people that Prisoners Abroad help have no relative in the UK and those that do often have no contact with their relatives and cannot expect assistance. 78% have nowhere to stay on arrival at London's airports, 44% arrive in the UK with a health problem requiring medical attention (20% report mental health issues and 20% substance abuse issues). Often people arrive without their medication and so put themselves and others at risk.
5. Returnees are unable to access many homeless services without a link to a Borough and will find it impossible to afford deposits and agency fees for longer-term rented accommodation. It is also extremely difficult to access the welfare benefits to which they are entitled and the process normally takes four

to six weeks, leaving them destitute in the meantime. The resettlement fund exists to help people through this period.

### **Outputs/outcomes for 2017/18 for Hardship Fund**

6. During 2017/18, the resettlement fund has helped 170 people (20 more than estimated), as follows:
  - 108 people have been helped into emergency accommodation
  - 43 people have been helped with accommodation agency fees and deposits
  - 138 people have received subsistence grants
  - in addition, grants have been awarded towards travel, passports, mobile phones, basic necessities and starter-packs for those being re-housed.

### **Feedback on Prisoners Abroad**

7. Prisoners Abroad came second in the London Homelessness Awards in October 2017 in recognition of its innovation and effectiveness in working with homeless people.
8. One client recently stated, "It's very easy to give up in that situation. Give up on everything. If you've got no money, you might end up stealing to survive. You'd go back to prison."

### **Proposed outputs from October 2018**

- 90 people accommodated following their first few days/weeks return from abroad
- 115 people receive food grants of £5 per day
- 120 people receive travel grants
- 35 people receive passports
- 40 people supported into longer-term housing
- 60 people receive mobile phones
- 70 people receive basic necessity grants
- 75 people receive 'start-pack' grants following re-housing.

### **Improving services for particularly vulnerable returnees**

9. Prisoners Abroad has initiated a new pre-release form to improve its assessment of the needs of returnees before their arrival. This will particularly address the needs of older people, the under 25's and women.

### **Budget for the Resettlement Service**

10. A detailed budget for the service has been provided, as set out in the table overleaf.

	<b>Resettlement Service budget for 12 months</b>	<b>Requested Contribution from City Bridge</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE:</b>		
<b>Direct Charitable Expenditure:</b>		
<b>Grants Paid Directly to Clients</b>		
Resettlement emergency housing grants	100,000	100,000
Resettlement subsistence/food grants	25,300	25,300
Resettlement travel grants	26,400	26,400
Resettlement housing access fees/ deposits	37,300	37,300
	<b>189,000</b>	<b>189,000</b>
<b>Other Direct Charitable Project Costs</b>		
UK passports fees	2,600	2,600
Mobile phones	1,200	1,200
Basic necessities (clothes, toiletries, etc)	2,000	2,000
Housing starter packs	4,500	4,500
Monitoring and evaluation costs	14,000	6,000
Preparation for work project costs	12,000	
Resettlement support group costs	1,000	
Printing - handbooks and Induction packs sent to clients	1,000	
Client 'Rebuild' magazine - 2 issues	2,000	
Resettlement housing project	10,000	
Misc. other costs (vetting, volunteers, etc)	2,900	
	<b>53,200</b>	<b>16,300</b>
<b>Staff Costs &amp; overheads</b>		
Service delivery staff and allocation of management and support	290,000	
Rent, Resettlement Unit, rates, electricity	87,800	28,000
	<b>377,800</b>	<b>28,000</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>620,000</b>	<b>233,300</b>

## Financial Information

11. The deficit in 2016-17 was planned and was due to two exceptional circumstances. It was decided to move premises, to provide more room for the increased number of clients at the resettlement centre and a high turnover of staff in the fundraising department. The work on the new centre is now complete and the staffing issue resolved. A surplus is forecast for 2017-18 and it is hoped that fundraising during 2018-19 will help to reduce or eliminate the projected deficit in 2018-9.

Year end as at 31 March	2017	2018	2019
	Audited Accounts	Draft	Budget
	£	£	£
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	1,526,552	1,772,403	1,737,000
- % of Income confirmed as at 7th June 2018	n/a	n/a	63%
Expenditure	(1,712,459)	(1,722,363)	(1,762,000)
Total surplus/(deficit)	(185,907)	50,040	(25,000)
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	(9,342)	16,874	0
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	(176,565)	33,166	(25,000)
	(185,907)	50,040	(25,000)
Cost of Raising Funds	320,123	314,097	317,000
- % of Income	21.0%	17.7%	18.2%
Operating expenditure (unrestricted funds)	874,122	846,528	783,234
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	205,950	260,887	235,887
No of months of operating expenditure	2.8	3.7	3.6
Reserves policy target	300,000	300,000	300,000
No of months of operating expenditure	4.1	4.3	4.6
Free reserves over/(under) target	(94,050)	(39,113)	(64,113)

## Conclusion

12. Prisoners Abroad works with a highly vulnerable client group for whom the resettlement service is a lifeline. Arriving in London without basics such as a travel card, and often no family or friends, is traumatic and it would be all too easy for these individuals to become suicidal, drift into substance abuse or re-offend and/or become street homeless. PA is able to provide the practical and emotional support to aid their successful resettlement.
13. If funding is approved for a further year, it is proposed that discussions commence regarding an exit strategy for the Trust.

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<b>FILTERS</b>	
<b><i>Will The pro-active grant:</i></b>	
Further the Trust's Vision and Mission (a fairer London & tackling disadvantage)?	<b>Y</b>
Support work within one of existing Investing in Londoners programmes (IIL)?	<b>N</b>
Or, meet a clear need that has arisen since( IIL) were agreed?	<b>Y</b>
Have the potential for impact beyond that of an individual reactive grant or number of individual grants?	<b>Y</b>
Be affordable within the agreed annual budget (from the Trust alone or in combination with other funders) and, looking forward, leave sufficient budget to meet anticipated pro-active grants for the remainder of the financial year?	<b>Y</b>
Be made to an organisation(s) that conforms to the Trust's eligibility criteria and has the capacity and expertise to deliver the work?	<b>Y</b>

<b>PRIORITISATION GUIDANCE</b>	
<b>Evidence</b>	
Is there external and/or internal research and information that supports the need for the proposed grant?	<b>Y</b>
Is there external and/or internal research and information that indicates the approach proposed in the grant will be successful?	<b>Y</b>
Is there evidence that indicates the work will be hard to fund from other sources?	<b>Y</b>
<b>Impact</b>	
Will the grant tackle a root cause(s), or positively influence policy or practice?	<b>Y</b>
Will the work/approach funded be replicable?	<b>Y</b>
Does the grant provide an opportunity to strengthen Civil Society in London?	<b>Y</b>
Is the work sustainable beyond the period of the grant?	<b>Potentially</b>
Can the impact of the work be measured through evaluation?	<b>Y</b>