

Organisation Name		Reference code
The Daddyless Daughters Project		2024-05-YWG35
Organisation Address		
416 Kennington Road London SE11 4PT		
Website Address		
https://www.daddylessdaughters.co.uk		
Type of organisation? (tick all that apply and complete relevant details)		
Charity	Registered Charity Number	Date Registered
No		
Community Interest Company	Registered Companies House Number	Date Registered
Yes	13296207	2021
Social Enterprise	Social Enterprise Mark Awarded Yes/No	Date Awarded
Yes		
Grant Summary		
Sister Squad is a trauma-informed mentoring outreach program for girls and young women aged 11 -25 led by trained lived experience mentors across London. Our mentoring program offers comprehensive support intervention measures to address the unique challenges faced by fatherless girls and young women with complex needs, supporting them to sustain		
Please describe the specific needs of the young women and girls you work with that this project will address		
<p>The specific needs of the young women and girls we work are rooted in childhood trauma and are multifaceted and complex. They include being exposed to domestic abuse/violence and sexual abuse which has led them to being at risk of serious youth violence, grooming, and sexual/criminal exploitation whilst living in households where domestic abuse is present, or having experienced various forms of violence and abuse themselves.</p> <p>As well as looked after children or care leavers, lacking stable family environments. Some are in or leaving secure settings such as secure children's homes and prisons, while others are in or at risk of entering the criminal justice system due to various factors. Many of these young women and girls present with complex emotional and social needs, having experienced significant trauma and adversity in their lives. A substantial portion of the young women and girls we work with are not in education, employment, or training, which exacerbates their vulnerability to exploitation and marginalization.</p> <p>Our specialised outreach mentoring service, Sister Squad, is designed to address these complex needs implementing trauma informed and therapeutical approaches to addressing the behaviour patterns they have adopted due to their trauma. Through mentorship, guidance, and creative expression, we aim to support girls and young women to go on to build and sustain healthy behaviour patterns and coping mechanisms to deter them from being at risk and engaging with the criminal justice system.</p>		

Our Sister Squad program was designed in response to compelling research findings, including a study which we contributed to published in March 2022 by the Agenda Alliance & Young Women's Justice Project. This research sheds light on the overlapping themes and experiences of marginalized girls and young women engaging with the Criminal Justice System. It highlights the pervasive risks of exploitation and violence faced by this population, as well as the critical need for targeted support. In this study it was identified that 63% of young women aged 16 to 24 serving sentences in the community have experienced rape or domestic abuse in an intimate partner relationship. Between three quarters and 90% of girls in contact with the youth justice system may have experienced abuse from a family member or someone they trusted. In 2021-2022, 80% of young women (aged 25 and under) surveyed by HMIP reported having mental health problems. 57% of these young women had thought about harming themselves while in prison. Of these young women, less than one third said that they felt cared for by prison staff. 42% of young women surveyed by HMIP stated that they needed help to address their previous or ongoing trauma (e.g. domestic violence, sexual abuse, grooming & exploitation). Only 13% of young women reported that they are due to receive support for previous or ongoing trauma. Additionally, our program responds to findings from The Commission Young Lives and Manchester Metropolitan University, which reveal that up to 60,000 girls in England, often associated with gangs, face vulnerability to serious violence. Unfortunately, they remain largely invisible in existing gang prevention services, which primarily focus on boys. Sister Squad bridges this gap by providing much-needed support and intervention for vulnerable young women who are often overlooked and underrepresented in mainstream services.

We are currently in the process of expanding our services in partnership with Commonweal Housing developing a trauma-informed supported housing provision for care experiences girls and young women within South London. This housing service will offer a therapeutic trauma-informed housing framework for young women engaging with the criminal justice system or on the fringes of adopting a criminal lifestyle due to criminalisation and exploitation.

What are the key outcomes that you will be seeking to achieve for young women and girls either at risk of offending or who are already caught up in the criminal justice system?

The program seeks to establish a strong trauma informed community of lived-experience mentors, systemic injustice and childhood trauma psychotherapists who understand the struggles faced by the girls, fostering safe spaces and mentoring sessions that are conducive to healing. The focus will be developing young women's emotional intelligence and supporting healthy coping mechanisms, whilst providing secondary support in areas such as education and employment. By providing criminalised young women with meaningful and expert support, they will be able to unpack traumatic life histories, address the the root causes of their offending, and prevent existing challenges from escalating. The key areas we will be focussing on are listed below.

Empowerment: Sister Squad will prioritise educating young women and girls on healthier ways to overcome adversity empowering them to shape and sharpen their identity, self image and emotional intelligence.

Lived-experience Mentoring: The program seeks to establish a strong community support network through trained lived-experience mentors who understand the struggles faced by the girls, offering representation and relatability of overcoming barriers and adversity providing offering encouragement, and a safe space for sharing their experiences.

Trauma-Informed Approach: Our program is centered on adopting a trauma-informed approach in all activities and practises. Mentoring sessions and girls group activities will consistently recognise the impact of trauma on the lives of the young women and

aims to provide a supportive and understanding environment that will promote healing and growth.

Building Positive Relationships: Sister Squad will strive to support our girls and young women to develop healthy and positive relationships within their families, communities, with their peers.

Social & Emotional Development: To equip young women with essential life skills, including emotional intelligence, communication, conflict resolution, and decision-making abilities and aims to emotionally and socially prepare them for independence and future success.

Preventing Criminal Involvement: The program aims to offer positive alternatives and support to steer girls and young women away from potential criminalisation, criminal exploitation and harmful situations reducing the risk and involvement of them engaging with the criminal justice system.

Cultural and Artistic Expression: To promote girls and young women adopting healthy coping mechanisms and various forms of self-expression and creativity through sports, culture, and arts (SCA) activities. The program recognises the therapeutic benefits of expression and encourages participants to explore alternative

Long-Term Impact: To achieve sustainable and long-term positive outcomes for young women and girls engaging or at risk of entering the criminal justice system. The program's ultimate goal is to empower young women and girls to lead fulfilling lives.

What are the key activities you will undertake with this funding to achieve this?

We would undertake various activities to support young women facing trauma and complex behaviours that lead to contact with the criminal justice system. These activities aim to provide holistic support, foster healing, and empower young women to overcome their trauma and thrive despite their challenges.

Firstly, our organisation will offer targeted & themed trauma-informed mentoring sessions tailored to the individual needs and circumstances of each young woman.

These sessions would address complex behaviours such as self-harm, substance misuse, hypersexuality, and involvement in harmful relationships. Our mentors, trained in trauma-informed practices, will deliver person-centered support to help young women navigate their trauma, develop healthier coping mechanisms, and build resilience.

In addition to mentoring, we will facilitate therapeutic girls group activities focused on sports, culture, and arts (SCA) on a monthly basis. These activities provide young women with the opportunity to explore healthy hobbies and interests, which can help them manage their trauma and triggers supporting them to engage in activities that steer them away from involvement in criminalised behaviour. Through participation in these sessions, young women can develop new skills, build confidence, and find healthy outlets for expression as well as forming healthier relationships with their peers under our supervision.

Furthermore, we will host quarterly community empowerment events aimed at addressing issues affecting vulnerable girls and women, including those involved in the criminal justice system. These events provide a platform for dialogue, education, and advocacy, fostering a stronger sense of community and support for our young women to share and articulate their experiences within the criminal justice system. By bringing together community members, stakeholders, and young women themselves, we will create opportunities for connection, learning, and empowerment.

Finally, all young women referred to our program would have the opportunity to participate in creative expression projects and productions. These projects offer avenues for self-expression, skill-building, and personal growth, while also providing valuable training and education within the creative industry. Through engagement with leading professionals within the creative industry, young women can explore their talents and obtain further opportunities gaining skills for education and employment envisioning positive futures beyond their past experiences.

In summary, our organisation's activities are designed to provide comprehensive support to young women facing trauma and complex behaviours leading to involvement in the criminal justice system. By addressing their individual needs, fostering healing, and empowering them to overcome challenges, we aim to help these young women build brighter futures and break the cycle of trauma and incarceration.

Does your proposed project already exist or is this a new piece of work?

Our proposed project, Sister Squad, is already operating as a trauma-informed mentoring outreach program. To date, we have worked with over 150 young women and girls, providing comprehensive support and intervention measures to address their unique challenges in partnership with local authorities and children's homes providers. Additionally, to date, we have accumulated a waiting list of 100 self-referred young women who are eager to engage with our service.

This funding opportunity would allow us to build on what we have achieved so far. With this funding, we plan to enhance and expand our existing program in several key ways. Firstly, we aim to increase the number of trained lived experience mentors to provide further support our work with young women. This will allow us to reach more young women and girls and provide them with access to our one to one mentoring service. Additionally, we intend to broaden our outreach efforts to engage with more vulnerable individuals who may not have accessed our services previously. This would involve developing more referral pathways and partnerships with local community organisations, PRU's, and youth offending services to ensure that our support reaches those who need it most.

Furthermore, we recognise the need for ongoing training and capacity-building initiatives for our mentors to ensure they are equipped with the latest knowledge and training to effectively support our young women. This funding will enable us to invest in training programs and resources to continuously improve the quality of our services.

Lastly, we see an opportunity to strengthen our program by incorporating new elements, such as group workshops or therapeutic activities, to complement our one-on-one mentoring sessions. These additional offerings will provide further avenues for stronger support and empowerment for the young women and girls we work with.

What expertise and track record do you have to be able to deliver this work successfully?

The Daddyless Daughters CIC was founded by Aliyah Ali, a care leaver and prison leaver from South East London, who experienced family breakdown, abuse, and adversity herself, leading to her being groomed and exploited and receiving a 4 year custodial sentence. Aliyah also uses her personal and professional experiences to highlight the issues faced by girls and young women engaging within the criminal justice system today by delivering trauma-informed training to develop external organisations such as police officers, YOT and probation offers, mental health practitioners and social services.

Our senior team brings over a decade of combined personal and professional experience, having worked extensively with vulnerable young people across diverse settings such as children's homes, therapeutic-supported living, youth work, schools, and prisons. This depth of experience positions us to comprehend and tackle the unique challenges faced by women and girls through tailored, informed interventions. As a pan-London organisation, we have supported over 150 girls and trained more than 1000 practitioners and professionals nationwide. Through collaborations with esteemed organisations like Solace Women's Aid, Agenda Alliance, Clinks, National Women's Justice Coalition and Active Community Network, we deliver multi-agency projects and programs, fostering a collaborative approach to our work. Our specialised community programs, grounded in trauma-informed approaches and research, offer comprehensive support and intervention measures customised to the specific needs of

young women grappling with complex social and emotional challenges, all through the lens of lived experience.

Lived experience is a potent and invaluable asset that profoundly enriches the ethos, approach, and impact of The Daddyless Daughters Project CIC. Lived Experience mentors who have navigated challenges similar to those we aim to address bring an unmatched authenticity to our programs. Their first-hand understanding ensures that our interventions are grounded in real-life experiences, making them more relatable and resonant for the women we serve. Our lived experience mentors and women advisory panel offer nuanced insights that might elude others. They possess an innate understanding of the intricacies, triggers, and nuances of the challenges at hand. This depth of understanding ensures that our strategies are both relevant and effective, addressing the root causes and not just the symptoms.

For many of our women, witnessing individuals who have overcome similar adversities can be a beacon of hope. Those with lived experience serve as tangible proof of resilience, recovery, and transformation. Their stories inspire, motivate, and instill a sense of possibility among the women we aim to uplift.

Embracing lived experience means valuing continuous learning. By integrating the insights and feedback from those with first-hand experience.

Explain how the grant will be spent

A grant awarded to The Daddyless Daughters Project CIC would be primarily spent on expanding and enhancing our services to better support vulnerable young women and girls who are engaging with or at risk of entering the criminal justice system. Here's how we would allocate the funds:

Program Expansion: We would use a significant portion of the grant to expand our mentoring program, allocating funds to widen our recruitment capacity and attract more lived experience mentors. This would enable us to support more young women and provide them with the personalized support they need to overcome their challenges.

Training and Capacity Building: We would invest in further trauma-informed training programs and resources to further enhance the skills and knowledge of our mentors, ensuring they are equipped to effectively support our participants. This may include specific trauma-informed training such as mental health first aid, motivational interviewing, Trauma-informed CARE and mentoring skills development, as well as other relevant capacity-building initiatives.

Outreach and Awareness: We would allocate funds to expand our outreach efforts and raise awareness of our services among vulnerable communities through partnership with external organisations. This could involve developing marketing materials, hosting community events, and engaging with local schools, social services, and other organizations to reach those in need.

Program Evaluation and Monitoring: We would invest in monitoring and evaluation activities to assess the impact of our programs and ensure they are achieving their intended outcomes with the intention to share practice and learnt lessons. This may include hiring external evaluators, collecting data, and implementing feedback mechanisms to continuously improve our services and widen our impact.

Administrative and Operational Costs: A portion of the grant would cover administrative and operational costs, such as staff salaries, office rent, utilities, and other overhead expenses necessary to run our organization effectively.

Technology and Infrastructure: We would invest in technology and infrastructure upgrades to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our operations and reporting. This may include upgrading our IT systems, purchasing software tools, and improving our website and online presence.

Overall, the grant would be used to expand our reach, enhance our services, and ultimately have a greater impact on the lives of the young women and girls we support as well as contributing the practices of external organisations.

<p>Who will be responsible for overseeing and delivering this work?</p>
<p>The responsibility for overseeing the work funded by the grant would primarily fall on the leadership team of The Daddyless Daughters Project CIC, including:</p> <p>Founder and CEO: Aliyah Ali, who has firsthand experience and a deep understanding of the challenges faced by the young women and girls we serve, would provide overall strategic direction and leadership.</p> <p>Senior Management Team: This team, consisting of experienced professionals with backgrounds in social work, youth work, and related fields, would be responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the organisation and ensuring that the grant funds are used effectively and efficiently.</p> <p>Program Manager: Sister Squad has a dedicated program manager responsible for overseeing its implementation, monitoring progress, and evaluating outcomes.</p> <p>Lived Experience Mentors: Our trained mentors have play a crucial role in delivering the support and interventions funded by the grant, ensuring that they are relevant and effective.</p> <p>Board of Directors: The organisation's board of directors would provide oversight and governance, ensuring that the grant funds are used in accordance with the organization's mission and values.</p>
<p>How do you plan to continue this work once the grant ends?</p>
<p>To ensure the continuity of our work once the funding is complete, we would implement several strategies:</p> <p>Diversification of Funding Sources: We would actively seek out other sources of funding, including grants from government agencies, foundations, corporate sponsors, and individual donors. By diversifying our funding sources, we reduce reliance on any single source and ensure financial sustainability.</p> <p>Fee-for-Service Model: We may explore opportunities to generate revenue through fee-for-service models, such as offering training programs or consultancy services to other organisations. This would provide additional income to support our core programs and services.</p> <p>Partnerships and Collaborations: We would continue to cultivate partnerships and collaborations with other organisations, both within the nonprofit sector and beyond. By working together on joint projects and initiatives, we can leverage resources and expertise to maximise impact and reduce costs.</p> <p>Community Fundraising and Events: We would engage with our community through fundraising events, campaigns, and activities to raise awareness and generate financial support. This could include organizing charity runs or online crowdfunding campaigns.</p> <p>Grant Writing and Fundraising: We would continue to actively pursue grant opportunities by regularly submitting proposals to relevant funding bodies. This would involve ongoing research, networking, and relationship-building to identify new funding opportunities.</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation: We would continue to monitor and evaluate the impact of our programs to demonstrate their effectiveness to funders and stakeholders. This evidence-based approach helps to build credibility and attract ongoing support. By implementing these strategies, we can ensure the sustainability of our work and continue to deliver impactful programs and services to support vulnerable young women and girls in the long term.</p>
<p>Does your organisation only work with women and girls?</p>
<p>The Daddyless Daughters Project (CIC) is a social justice initiative, devoted to supporting and inspiring marginalised girls and young women, aged 11-25. Our aim is to support the most at-risk girls and young women to build healthy lifestyles and relationships free from the impact of childhood trauma and complex behavioural patterns. We are based in South London but provide pan-London support for the most at-risk girls and young women.</p>

<p>Our specialist programs offer comprehensive support and intervention measures to address the unique challenges faced by girls and young women with complex social and emotional needs through a lived experience lens, based on trauma-informed approaches. To achieve this, we provide safe spaces for those who have been affected by family breakdown and abuse and who are at risk of further violence and/or criminal exploitation. Girls and young women receive individual and group mentoring and can participate in creative expression projects. As part of our "Sister Squad" outreach services, we have thus far provided 150 looked-after girls and young women with targeted one-to-one mentoring programmes</p>	
<p>Does your organisation have existing knowledge and expertise working across the criminal justice system?</p>	
<p>As part of our "Sister Squad" outreach services, we have thus far provided 150 looked-after girls and young women with targeted one-to-one mentoring programmes. In addition, Daddyless Daughters delivers community events, educational workshops, and trauma informed training. To date, we have trained over 1,000 practitioners and professionals across the UK. Our training improves professional understandings about the ways in which trauma underpins the behaviour of girls and young women, supporting systems to become more age-, gender, trauma-, and culturally-responsive. We have previously partnered with organisations such as NHS, Solace Women's Aid, Agenda Alliance, and Active Community Network to deliver projects and programmes, using a networked and multi-agency approach to deliver our objectives. Our drive to deliver positive change for young women and girls is rooted in our expertise and lived experience. All staff and volunteers within our organisation bring their own life histories to their roles, creating a robust network of support for the young women we serve. We are led by two remarkable BME women with profound personal and professional experiences of family breakdown, domestic abuse, and violence against women and girls. We have a combination of both personal and professional experience working with vulnerable young people for over 10 years in multiple settings, including children's homes, therapeutic supported living, youth work settings, schools, and prisons. Our team's lived experience enables us to understand the complexities associated with these issues, build close connections with girls and young women, and ensure that our services are tailored to their individual needs. Prior to establishing Daddyless Daughters, the two Directors accrued over a decade of collective experience working in various settings such as therapeutic children's homes , the police service , prisons and womens organisations. In 2017 they set out to establish the daddyless daughters project.</p>	
<p>Will you be receiving funding from any other sources for this project?</p>	
<p>Yes</p>	
<p>Do all staff have enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks? If no please state why.</p>	
<p>Yes</p>	
<p>Reason why not all staff have DBS checks.</p>	
<p></p>	
<p>Total funding requested in this application (£10,000 to £80,000 with a maximum of £40,000 in one year)</p>	
<p>£40000</p>	
<p>Proposed grant start date</p>	<p>Proposed grant duration in months</p>
<p>11/1/2024</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>How much funding is required each year?</p>	
<p>Year 1</p>	<p>Year 2</p>
<p>£20000</p>	<p>£20000</p>
<p>What was your organisation's</p>	<p>What was your organisation's annual</p>

expenditure in the most recent financial year?	income in the most recent financial year?
£20248	£48874
What value of unrestricted reserves did your organisation have at the end of the most recent financial year?	
£8325	