

Organisation Name		Reference code	
Basis Yorkshire		2024-10-YWG06	
Organisation Address			
Basis Yorkshire Leeds West Yorkshire LS27PN West Yorkshire			
Website Address			
www.basisyorkshire.org.uk			
How did you hear about the Triangle Trust?			
Funding newsletter			
Please describe your organisation's purpose in one or two sentences.			
Basis supports those who identify as women or are non-binary who work in the sex industry and women and young people who are sexually exploited. We aim to end stigma, create safety and empower people by offering information, support and options.			
Type of organisation? (tick all that apply and complete relevant details)			
Charity	Registered Charity Number	Date Registered	
Yes	1120350	2007	
Community Interest Company	Registered Companies House Number	Date Registered	
No	06192097		
Social Enterprise	Social Enterprise Mark Awarded Yes/No	Date Awarded	
No			
Grant Summary			
Providing preventative 1:1 work with 15 girls and young women/year (2 years in total) who are at risk of entering the CJS due to their association and links with known and emerging Urban Street Gangs/or members, whose risks are further compounded due to experience or risk of sexual abuse and exploitation.			
Please describe the specific needs of the young women and girls you work with that this project will address			
<p>The girls and young women accessing this service have historically fallen through the net, with the focus of many services being on serious youth violence amongst young men. There has been a history of not recognising when a girl might be involved with incidents of youth violence and therefore there is little data in Leeds on how many girls are at risk as very few are picked up by the Youth Justice Service. However, it is believed across the city that the data is not reflective of the issue and that many girls are being failed through this professional blind spot.</p> <p>Of the cases we have seen there are a number of factors that make girls vulnerable to involvement or association with serious youth violence and have highlighted the need for a gendered approach to support as issues of VAWG are weaved throughout their experiences, particularly the risk of experiencing sexual violence and/or exploitation. Girls and young women become involved through friends, relationships or may also be groomed into the gang. There are issues around "possession" of girls and young women and of gangs using girls and young women to use their sexuality to lure rival gang members to locations for the gang's benefit. This often places the girl in an extremely unsafe situations and little regard is taken for the risk she may be placed at</p>			

or the sexual violence that may occur toward her. Some may have already been cautioned/arrested where others are at high risk. Another considerable need comes from how young women are often seen as adults ("adultification") due to their behaviour; thereby leading services to assume they are less or no longer in need of child protection (particularly when over 16) and have agency to take these decisions. These girls and young women have often experienced trauma, deprivation, domestic abuse and anecdotal evidence suggests that many have undiagnosed neurodivergence. The girls can struggle to be in school due to these multiple unmet needs and can struggle to voice their needs in a constructive way, this can often result in using anger and violence as a form of communication. This can lead to estrangement from family and friends and exclusion from school and lack of engagement with other services. Their experiences of domestic abuse within the home has been highlighted in research about serious youth violence in West Yorkshire as a perpetuating factor in what their expectations and beliefs around healthy relationships. This project would seek to engage these girls and young women through assertive outreach (building trust through meeting where they are known to spend time and then progressing to meet 1 to 1 offering support with the aim of addressing their needs through a trauma informed approach through a bespoke mix of harm reduction, healthy relationship/self esteem work as well as psycho-education.

This would include

- access to sexual health and drug/alcohol support
- safety planning
- psycho-educational work around grounding and stabilisation.
- healthy relationships and expectations (friendships/family/romantic/)
- self esteem
- Sex and relationship work, including grooming and exploitation

The work would aim to empower the girls through helping them understand themselves more, understand their needs and build tools to help them become more emotionally regulated. The trusting, supportive relationship between the worker and the young person can also be transformative in helping demonstrate what healthy boundaries are. Many girls do not have a trusted, safe adult and this work would allow for that often restorative relationship to form. The worker can help advocate for the young person in professionals meetings, ensuring their voice is heard and their views are represented

What are the key outcomes 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?

With this funding, we would hope to support 15 young girls and women, of which at the end of their support, 75% would have;

- An Increased sense of safety
- Increased professional support for all girls and young women where there is risk or need for continued support)
- improved capacity to vocalise their aspirations and take steps towards achieving these
- increased school or college attendance
- greater feeling of confidence
- Improved relationships with family, community-for all girls and young women
- decreased number of mental health crisis- for those whom mental health is an issue

The girls and young women we would work with would be risk assessed as medium-high risk of sexual exploitation (meaning some are actively being exploited). We would expect their risk assessment at the end of support to be low-none.

We would hope to establish strong networks of support for the girls and young women, they often fall through the net as they are often of the periphery of a crime (being handed a weapon or drugs while the police focus is on the (young) men) although for

some this risk has already turned into reality. We would expect to see a rise in Risk Outside of The Home (ROTH) pathway referrals for these girls and young women to be able to establish co-ordinated responses to their needs and ensure diversion away from the CJS and a recognition of their vulnerability. This may see an increase initially in Social Care involvement.

We would aim to link the girls and young women in with community based activities and support and help them gain confidence in accessing these independently. which would increase their sense of safety, belonging and support within their communities. School and college attendance is often low in this cohort, either with being on very reduced timetables, in alternative provision or truanting. Targeted support (outlined in following section) to the young person and advocacy for their needs with the school is required to help the schools understand the behaviour and presentation of the young people is a language and that they are trying to communicate their needs or experiences. We have found that taking on this role with education providers alongside young people increases their likelihood to attend school and have better outcomes as their individual needs are understood and met. This is the same with relationships with family and other key figures or services involved.

For many girls and young women services may first become aware of their needs due to presentation at A&E due to a mental health crisis. This is often due to feelings of isolation, experience of trauma that they have yet to disclose or feelings of pressure/trapped in situations. Having 1:1 support that is centred around their needs and provides them with a safe space to talk and work things through is vital in bringing down the risk of further mental health crisis.

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

This project would seek to engage these girls and young women through assertive outreach with partner agencies such as the city centre youth work team (statutory) who do detached youth work and regularly meet girls on the cusp of entering the CJS/associated with USGs.

The direct work would aim to address their needs through a trauma informed, strength based and person centred approach

This would include

- access to sexual health - Basis have a clinic room and have colleagues from Leeds Sexual Health attending the service once a week, we work in close partnership to provide a person centred approach to sexual health, taking into account the trauma that can be related to sexual health for many we support due to experiences of sexual violence. Through this work we are able to provide successful harm reduction through ensuring girls and women have effective contraception and access to regular testing and smear tests. All young people staff are also trained in delivering the C-Card scheme which enables them to provide testing and contraception at their weekly sessions if needed.

Drug and alcohol support: Basis work with women and young people who often experience substance misuse issues. This can be even more prevalent in those associated with gangs. We provide information and support and will work closely with local drug and alcohol services to ensure wraparound support,

- safety planning

- psycho-educational work around grounding and stabilisation-. Basis have developed a 6 week grounding and stabilisation course which can be run on a 1:1 basis or within a group, depending on the persons needs. Psycho-education forms the foundation of much of our interventions as it aims to shift blame from the young person and to help them understand their experiences through a trauma-informed lens.

- 1:1 and group work covering; healthy relationships and expectations

(friendships/family/romantic/);Sex and relationship work, including grooming and exploitation; Self esteem and confidence. This work forms the bulk of activities carried

out with young people. Many have either experienced sexual abuse/exploitation or are at high risk of this. This form of intervention is person led and is tailored to the needs and experiences of the young people. The sessions can be structured or unstructured/conversational, depending on the preference and learning needs of the young person.

Does your proposed project already exist or is this a new piece of work? If this project is already operating, please describe to us how you will use this as an opportunity to build on what you have achieved to date. If this is a new piece of work, please explain what this funding will enable you to do differently.

This post would be delivered under the Basis Young People's Service. This role would be recruited to as it is a new role.

The post holder would be responsible for delivering the 1:1 work and would work in partnership with other members of the Young People's Service to run groups and drop ins for the cohort.

The post holder would be responsible to attending professionals meetings relating to the young people and for liaising with professionals regarding the young person, including acting upon safeguarding procedures.

The post holder would be held responsible by the Young People's Service Delivery Manager who also holds the role of organisational Safeguarding Lead. The SDM would be responsible to carrying out monthly supervisions to ensure the quality of support and that all safeguarding actions are carried out. The SDM would also be responsible for helping establish and build upon the strong partnership connections related to the post. The SDM is responsible for taking the learning from the project and disseminating it to partner agencies, in particular the Girls and Gangs working group which comprises of Social care, Police, youth service, Youth justice, health services and Third Sector services to ensure the learning from the post informs policy and practice across the city.

What expertise and track record do you have to be able to deliver this work successfully? Please specifically mention your expertise linked to gender and trauma informed approaches.

This work will likely entail working with women and girls who have experienced high levels of trauma either in their early childhood (making them more vulnerable) or as a consequence of their involvement with gangs. Basis have been supporting women and girls for nearly 30 years as a charity; throughout all this time the vast majority of our work has been with women and girls. All the women and girls we support have experienced trauma, almost all of the most severe nature and often ongoing.

Given the high levels of trauma experienced by the people we support we have developed extensive experience of trauma and gender informed approaches. This includes recognizing and responding to trauma effectively; including recognizing less obvious trauma responses (aggression, avoidant, non-engaging etc.). This also includes preventing or mitigating the risk and impact of reliving of trauma including through improved needs and risk assessment by ourselves and other agencies and appropriate locations to meet, ensuring staff are supported to prevent and recognise vicarious trauma (incl. through internal and external supervision) and having trauma-informed spaces in our offices. We also empower the women and girls supported to recognise their own behaviour as trauma responses (as opposed to blaming themselves for their behaviour). Our experience has also been documented and shared with others in a number of publications and conferences.

Our gender informed approach has meant we recognise the impact of gender on how women and girls's needs are recognised and differ from men; over the past few years we have advocated for specific gender informed approaches in youth violence (as above), roughsleeping (incl. facilitating the Women's Census on Roughsleeping in Leeds) and homelessness and mental health services within the statutory and

voluntary sector.
Please explain how the grant will be spent
<p>The majority of the fund would be spent on a staff member working 4 days /week (28 hours) with a caseload of 8 at any one time, hoping to reach 15 girls and women throughout the year as well as supporting workshops in the community to improve understanding. We would hope to receive the following:</p> <p>Year 1: Staff salary, NI & Pension (28 hrs/week): 26,656 Staff recruitment, training, supervision & Travel: £2195 Laptop: £750 (incl. installation) Client service user cost: £250 Marketing and Publicity: £500 Overhead allocations (insurance, premises, printing, IT & Communications): £4562 Management (line management, CEO and Admin contribution): £4,984</p> <p>Year 2: 3% inflation Staff salary, NI & Pension (28 hrs/week): £27,456 Staff Training, supervision & Travel: £1875 Client service user cost: £258 Marketing and Publicity: £500 Overhead allocations (insurance, premises, printing, IT & Communications): £4699 Management (line management, CEO and Admin contribution): £5134</p>
Who will be responsible for overseeing and delivering this work?
<p>This post would be delivered under the Basis Young People's Service. This role would be recruited to as it is a new role.</p> <p>The post holder would be responsible for delivering the 1:1 work and would work in partnership with other members of the Young People's Service to run groups and drop ins for the cohort.</p> <p>The post holder would be responsible to attending professionals meetings relating to the young people and for liaising with professionals regarding the young person, including acting upon safeguarding procedures.</p> <p>The post holder would be held responsible by the Young People's Service Delivery Manager who also holds the role of organisational Safeguarding Lead. The SDM would be responsible to carrying out monthly supervisions to ensure the quality of support and that all safeguarding actions are carried out. The SDM would also be responsible for helping establish and build upon the strong partnership connections related to the post. The SDM is responsible for taking the learning from the project and disseminating it to partner agencies, in particular the Girls and Gangs working group which comprises of Social care, Police, youth service, Youth justice, health services and Third Sector services to ensure the learning from the post informs policy and practice across the city.</p>
How do you plan to continue this work once the grant ends?
<p>Basis have worked with girls and young women at risk of entering the Criminal Justice System since the mid 90s, this work has allowed us to establish ourselves as a key service in Leeds. Our hope through having this dedicated role will be to collect data and gain a more in depth understanding of the needs and experiences of girls and young women who are associated with USGs. With this information we hope to influence change in how Leeds as a city recognise and respond to girls in these situations which will ensure more girls and young women are supported across the city and across all organisations.</p> <p>Subject to ongoing funding Basis will continue to offer specialist support to all girls and young women at medium-high risk of exploitation which will include those associated with USGs. We would expect to see increases in referrals for this cohort during and following the funding period as we would expect other agencies ability to recognise</p>

<p>those at risk would improve. The time given by this fund to hone in on this particular issue will strengthen the service going forward enabling staff to grow their knowledge and expertise further. We would also seek to create a training course as a legacy for this funding as the majority of training around youth violence and county lines is focussed on boys and we would want to use our expertise to create a gender informed training on the subject.</p>	
<p>Are 80% of your beneficiaries women and girls? Please provide a breakdown of your beneficiary numbers for the last two years.</p>	
<p>Yes: Sep 23 -24; 88% Sep 22 - 23: 89%</p>	
<p>Does your organisation have existing knowledge and expertise working across the criminal justice system?</p>	
<p>Basis have worked with women and girls who are at risk of entering or are involved with the criminal justice system since the late 1980s (mid 90s for girls). We operate on a person centred basis, taking a harm reduction approach and recognise that many women and girls who are either at risk of or involved with the CJS are in their position due to gendered inequalities. We have a long track record of advocating for the rights of women and girls who are often marginalised and experience additional stigma such as women who sex work, those who are homeless or who live with multiple unmet needs. Often the women and girls we support have also been victims of crimes themselves but due to their experiences with the CJS are reluctant to seek justice themselves. We recognise this and work in a trauma informed way to help those who want to access justice to do so in a way that is safe for them.</p> <p>Across the service, both with adults and young people we have established strong working relationships with police, probation and others professionals who may be linked to the CJS. This has allowed us to advocate for better responses and compassionate approaches to women and girls who may otherwise be criminalised, helping professionals understand the trauma responses of the woman or girl and understand the context in which a crime or criminal activity may have taken place. We work closely with partners and women/girls to gain trust to complete NRM referrals which can help shape the responses of authorities and help foster positive relationships between women and girls with the police and other services.</p> <p>Our Young people's service often work with young people in secure units and with young people who may be viewed as preparators/ peer recruiters or whom may be involved with county lines.</p>	
<p>Will you be receiving funding from any other sources for this project?</p>	
<p>No</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>£80000</p>	
Proposed grant start date	Proposed grant duration in months
5/1/2025	24
<p>How much funding is required each year?</p>	
Year 1	Year 2
£39897	£39920
What was your organisation's expenditure in the most recent	What was your organisation's annual income in the most recent financial year?

financial year?	
£970443	£996875
What value of unrestricted reserves did your organisation have at the end of the most recent financial year?	
£48958	