

Organisation Name		Reference code
Bright Futures NE		2024-10-YWG09
Organisation Address		
Community Hub, 459 John Williamson Street South Shields Tyne and Wear NE33 5HP Tyne and Wear		
Website Address		
https://brightfuturesne.co.uk		
How did you hear about the Triangle Trust?		
Grant Finder		
Please describe your organisation's purpose in one or two sentences.		
Bright Futures is a dedicated women and girls charity in South Tyneside delivering a range of services addressing multiple vulnerabilities.		
Type of organisation? (tick all that apply and complete relevant details)		
Charity	Registered Charity Number	Date Registered
Yes	1157578	2012
Community Interest Company	Registered Companies House Number	Date Registered
No		
Social Enterprise	Social Enterprise Mark Awarded Yes/No	Date Awarded
No	No	
Grant Summary		
We will deliver a 3-tiered programme of prevention, support and progression for young women aged 11-19 across South Tyneside who have a history of, or are at risk of, offending providing gender-specific, age-appropriate and trauma-informed services enabling them to move forward positively with their lives.		
Please describe the specific needs of the young women and girls you work with that this project will address		
Bright Futures have successfully been engaging young women up to the age of 25 across South Tyneside in the range of services for the last 12 years. Over this time we have built a sound evidence base of the multiple, complex and overlapping needs of young women we work with and that this project will address. We have extensive experience and a successful track record of delivering programmes that engage those who are experiencing social inequalities including violence and abuse, living in or leaving the care system, school exclusion and suspension, poor mental health, addiction, poverty, unstable housing, homelessness, and caring responsibilities. These challenges are often reinforced by structural inequalities linked to race, ethnicity, sexuality, immigration status, disability and poverty making it increasingly difficult for them to access the help they need. Furthermore, for many years youth provision was built around the lives, experiences and needs of young males meaning there was extremely limited knowledge, response and support to respond to young womens vulnerabilities. As a result, we now find ourselves facing the long-term impacts of disadvantage on young women that have become even more entrenched having found themselves increasingly marginalised and at a greater risk of entering the criminal justice system with their needs and vulnerabilities being ignored and inappropriate		

interventions being offered. We are committed to meeting these needs for young women through our delivery of a 3-tiered project of prevention, support and progression.

For young women accessing Bright Futures who have had their first brush with criminal activity resulting in involvement with youth justice services, social care and health, local neighbourhood police and either informal or formal out of court disposals, this project will allow us to provide positive interventions reducing their likelihood of embarking on a pathway of further offending. Having reflected further on the needs of these young women we have found that the majority report suffering domestic and sexual abuse, poor mental health, are on the edge of care or in care and are attending an alternative education system or have been excluded from school.

Many of the vulnerabilities and needs young women present at our service with are underpinned by rising rates of child poverty with economic need often influencing their likelihood of offending. South Tyneside suffers some of the highest rates of disadvantage in the UK, with high unemployment rates, poor housing and lack of opportunities, indeed 66% of households in our local area are deprived. Inevitably these high levels of poverty increase young womens vulnerability and contribute to their likelihood of offending or becoming a victim to offending.

From our experience of delivering a dedicated women and girls services we know the benefit and real life change that gender-specific, age-appropriate and trauma-informed services can have to address the range of vulnerabilities impacting young womens risk of offending. By taking into consideration past traumas, adverse experiences and recognising the whole life impact as well as young womens gendered life experiences and the impacts of any prejudicial treatment based on age, race, ethnicity, sexuality, disability, and other intersecting identities enables us to facilitate healing. In addition, practical support is key to address additional barriers including housing, benefits, domestic abuse, pregnancy, unemployment and poverty ensuring any changing and additional needs are identified and responded to, particularly at times of crisis.

The need for this project has emerged from our extensive work with young women across, specifically we are increasingly receiving requests to work with those who are risk of offending or who have already committed an offence to provide support around the range of vulnerabilities they face without actually focusing on the offending itself.

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?

Bright Futures will utilise a range of methods to measure the key outcomes we are seeking to achieve for young women both at risk of offending and those who are already caught up in the criminal justice system. Our outcomes are based on the activities that we will deliver for this project, recognising and responding to young womens distinct needs and experiences ensuring we make a real difference to their lives:

1. Young women at risk of offending will report that as a result of the preventative interventions and projects they have engaged with they have built trusted and positive relationships with Bright Futures staff enabling them to focus on changing their behaviour and have avoided receiving a criminal conviction.
2. Young women will report that as a result of education they have received they have increased their knowledge and skills, to make healthier and safer choices in their lives through utilising new trauma informed coping strategies to cope with issues and problems affecting their daily lives and impacting their likelihood of offending and entering the criminal justice system.
3. Young women will report that as a result of the age appropriate, gender and trauma informed support they have received they have increased their safety, improved their wellbeing and have been empowered to become more independent to move forward in their recovery from social and structural inequalities that have impacted their risk of

offending.

4. Young women will have the opportunity to co-produce the support services we deliver, we will embed meaningful consultation which will be used as part of the Triangle Trust learning programme and with our wider partners to influence further change in the young women and girls and criminal justice sectors, for example The Young Womens Trust and Agenda Alliance.

5. Young women will report that as a result of being involved in decision making throughout the process of their individual care and support, including multi-agency interventions they are no longer reliving their offending and experiences of the criminal justice system multiple times which can trigger further trauma and they feel in control and empowered to seek support to move forward.

6. Young women will report that they have been supported to smoothly access and transition into additional support services as and when they feel comfortable to do so, these services will have assisted in improving their overall health and wellbeing around complex issues including substance misuse and housing.

7. Young women will report that the 3-tiered project they have engaged with has not been time limited, provided them with longer term, in-depth support ensuring the best possible outcomes for them. Young women will have identified the issues and barriers that they feel are at the heart of their offending or risk of offending and have been provided with practical support and opportunities in helping them to make positive changes.

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

Bright Futures will deliver a 3-tiered project of prevention, support and progression ensuring we successfully meet the outcomes we are seeking to achieve for young women. We will co-produce and deliver high-quality, age-appropriate, gender-specific, trauma informed support addressing the multiple disadvantages, complex and overlapping needs of young women involved in the criminal justice system or those at high risk of entering it.

Prevention - We will deliver a range of preventative interventions alongside young women at risk of committing a first offence and for those who may have received an out of court disposal order, be in contact with a Youth Offending Team, known to the Police, be in the care system or who are on the edge of or excluded from school. We will utilise a range of youth work practices including outreach and detached work to identify young women and build voluntary, trusted, positive relationships. We will specifically focus on providing a safe space, that is confidential and non-stigmatising promoting self-esteem, confidence, empowerment, assertiveness and coping skills.

Support - We will work alongside partners to identify those young women most in need of support. A thorough needs assessment will ensure an individual and tailored support plan is implemented. Strong emphasis will be placed on supporting young women in identifying the positive influences, support factors and strengths they already have available to them, and we will continue to build upon those strengths throughout the course of their journey. Young women will be able to access support services appropriate to their needs, including one-to-one, peer support groups, drop-ins, lifeskills, development and employment courses, educational, creative and holistic activities, sports and fitness and opportunities to volunteer. Support will be flexible, not time-limited and delivered in accordance with their ongoing and changing journey. Young women will be supported to better understand their emotions, take control of their situation and feel more confident. We will create opportunities for young women to feel cared for, listened to, believed and validated. Young women will also have the option of support from our IDVA and ISVAs if required.

Progression - As young women move forward they will be supported to access further programmes delivered by Bright Futures and other community-based programmes relevant to their needs and interests so they can build positive social connections with others. We will provide opportunities for young women to join a network of Peer

Supporters who will use their lived experiences to support others and work alongside us in developing this project further.
As this is a pilot project, we will work alongside the young women we engage to develop and test new ideas and approaches ensuring their voices and experiences are represented in building an evidence base of what works for young women caught up in the criminal justice system.

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.

Bright Futures will be responsible for overseeing and delivering this work, this includes our Trustees, staff team, volunteers and peer mentors.
Bright Futures Board of Trustees have responsibility for the governance and strategic direction of the organisation ensuring the long-term objectives are achieved, the charity is effectively and properly run. Our Trustees have a diverse range of skills, knowledge, qualities and experience, this includes financial, human resources and legal knowledge as well as effective teamwork, coaching and mentoring. Collectively our Trustees have worked in the social care, education, health, youth and community work fields for many years in a wide range of setting and posts, their skills include a Charity Fundraiser, Adult and Children's Safeguarding Trainer, HR Specialist, Social Worker, Youth and Community Worker and a local Councillor. Furthermore, the Trustees have lived experiences of the young women and communities we support meaning they bring a greater insight, new perspectives and informed voice when decision making.
Bright Futures staff team are led by women from our local community who are all highly qualified, trained and skilled to meet the current and changing needs of young women. For example, all staff are Advanced Practitioners through the National Working Group for Child Sexual Exploitation; two members of staff are Mental Health First Aiders; two member of staff are CEOP Ambassador providing information to professionals and young people on how to report and respond to offending behaviours; two members of staff are trained in the Solihull Approach supporting young mums with their emotional health and wellbeing, two members of staff are qualified Independent Sexual Violence Advisors and one member of staff is a qualified Independent Domestic Violence Advisor. In 2020 Bright Futures were awarded North East Charity of the Year.
Bright Futures actively engage volunteers from our community, we understand the importance of providing increased opportunities for women and girls to participate in regular volunteering providing access to opportunities that will help to improve their wellbeing and confidence as well as improving their social connections and tackling their loneliness. We will utilise the skills of our volunteers in the delivery of this work as well as recruit new volunteers to this project.
Funding from the Triangle Trust will meet the salary costs of a dedicated, qualified Young Womens Criminal Justice Support Worker, a specific job description and specification will details the role and skills needed to fulfil the post. They will be responsible to the Bright Futures Manager who will support them in their day to day role and oversee the progress towards the set outcomes, they will also be embedded into the wider staff team ensuring they can signpost young women to the additional services and projects Bright Futures deliver based on an assessment of young womens needs.

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.

Bright Futures is a dynamic, inspiring women-led organisation providing essential holistic support to young women. We pride ourselves on our comprehensive approach, recognising issues faced by young women are often complex and multifaceted. Our

programs are designed to address the root causes of those issues and our long-term, flexible support is tailored to meet the unique needs of each individual. Our team is made up of highly skilled and experienced professionals who are passionate about making a positive difference in the lives of young women. We have a successful track record of delivering high-quality, consistent programs that are trusted by young women and their communities. Our bespoke packages of wrap-around support, community support, and preventive community programs have helped young women break cycles and achieve their full potential. Additionally, we have worked as part of the Northumbria Police Complex Abuse Hubs for the last 9 years, providing in-depth, long-term support for young women using trauma-informed approaches. We take a human-centred approach that is cooperative and empowering, recognising the whole life impact of past traumas and adverse experiences, the impact of any prejudicial treatment based on age, race, sexuality, disability, and other social and structural inequalities that are often barriers to healing. Our support is practical, addressing additional barriers, including housing, benefits, domestic abuse, pregnancy, unemployment, and poverty. We are committed to ensuring that any changing and additional needs are identified and responded to quickly, particularly at times of crisis. Young women have the opportunity to access our ISVA and IDVA services, providing them with confidential, practical, and emotional support, including Criminal Justice System support and guidance. We are proud of our work and our ability to inspire and empower young women, helping them overcome obstacles and achieve their full potential.

We understand young women face a range of challenges making accessing support difficult and use a variety of methods, including detached youth work, group sessions, and one-to-one support, to connect with those who may need our help. Focusing on providing support to those who may have traditionally been overlooked due to their risk of issues such as child sexual exploitation, substance misuse, anti-social behaviour and crime. We recognise that building trusting relationships is crucial to providing effective support. Our approach allows us to engage with young women on their terms, at their pace, and in safe spaces where they feel comfortable and at ease. Our ultimate goal is to provide support at the earliest opportunity, making a real difference in the lives of young women who may have traditionally fallen through the gaps in accessing support. We are committed to continuing our work and ensuring that every young woman has access to the support they need to thrive.

Please explain how the grant will be spent

Bright Futures are requesting funding over 2 years to support our approach to deliver our 3-tiered project of prevention, support and progression to successfully meet the outcomes we are seeking to achieve for young women and to ultimately transform the response the criminal justice system takes to young women, reducing their reoffending rates and first time offences are avoided.

Funding will meet the salary costs for a dedicated, qualified Young Womens Criminal Justice Support Worker who will lead on this project to co-produce services alongside young women, providing direct support to them, as well as contribute to the monitoring and evaluating of the work, networking, advocacy/campaigning activities and sharing this good practice across the sector. The Young Womens Criminal Justice Support Worker will work alongside current staff ensuring the project is embedded into the wider support services we deliver to young women. Funding will also meet additional costs to cover travel, administration and the costs associated with creative and holistic activities, sports and fitness sessions.

Who will be responsible for overseeing and delivering this work?

Bright Futures will be responsible for overseeing and delivering this work, this includes our Trustees, staff team, volunteers and peer mentors.

Bright Futures Board of Trustees have responsibility for the governance and strategic direction of the organisation ensuring the long-term objectives are achieved, the charity

is effectively and properly run. Our Trustees have a diverse range of skills, knowledge, qualities and experience, this includes financial, human resources and legal knowledge as well as effective teamwork, coaching and mentoring. Collectively our Trustees have worked in the social care, education, health, youth and community work fields for many years in a wide range of setting and posts, their skills include a Charity Fundraiser, Adult and Children's Safeguarding Trainer, HR Specialist, Social Worker, Youth and Community Worker and a local Councillor. Furthermore, the Trustees have lived experiences of the young women and communities we support meaning they bring a greater insight, new perspectives and informed voice when decision making. Bright Futures staff team are led by women from our local community who are all highly qualified, trained and skilled to meet the current and changing needs of young women. For example, all staff are Advanced Practitioners through the National Working Group for Child Sexual Exploitation; two members of staff are Mental Health First Aiders; two member of staff are CEOP Ambassador providing information to professionals and young people on how to report and respond to offending behaviours; two members of staff are trained in the Solihull Approach supporting young mums with their emotional health and wellbeing, two members of staff are qualified Independent Sexual Violence Advisors and one member of staff is a qualified Independent Domestic Violence Advisor. In 2020 Bright Futures were awarded North East Charity of the Year. Bright Futures actively engage volunteers from our community, we understand the importance of providing increased opportunities for women and girls to participate in regular volunteering providing access to opportunities that will help to improve their wellbeing and confidence as well as improving their social connections and tackling their loneliness. We will utilise the skills of our volunteers in the delivery of this work as well as recruit new volunteers to this project. Funding from the Triangle Trust will meet the salary costs of a dedicated, qualified Young Womens Criminal Justice Support Worker, a specific job description and specification will details the role and skills needed to fulfil the post. They will be responsible to the Bright Futures Manager who will support them in their day to day role and oversee the progress towards the set outcomes, they will also be embedded into the wider staff team ensuring they can signpost young women to the additional services and projects Bright Futures deliver based on an assessment of young womens needs.

How do you plan to continue this work once the grant ends?

Bright Futures are committed to developing and sustaining the services we deliver for young women in South Tyneside beyond Triangle Trust funding. As discussed we are committed to continuing to learn from this project to develop it further so that more people can benefit and will seek further funding to continue this. We hope that through the delivery of this project we will gain a greater understanding and evidence to demonstrate the need for and positive impact that high quality, age appropriate, gender specific support for young women at risk of offending or those who already have a history of offending. Furthermore, will use our learning to demonstrate the need for more investment in supporting third sector organisations, like ourselves, identifying suitable commissioning opportunities to continue to deliver this project. We will ensure that we are committed to the Triangle Trusts learning programme, by fully participating in these, as well as developing our partnerships with other grantees we can continue to learn and share best practices further embedding them into our work. We are extremely proud of our achievements over the 12 years and the opportunities we have had to engage with young women in our communities, gaining a real understanding and learning of the issues that affect them and using this learning to ensure continuous improvement both within our organisation and with our peers. It is embedded within our service to not only collect data and evidence from young women and partners but also to process this data allowing us to reflect on our work, provide an

insight into what is missing and what is working so that best practice can be adopted and shared. Importantly, we have adapted and improved our service and our delivery styles helping us to become more efficient and effective in achieving our aims and ambitions.

We are committed to achieving sustainability ensuring that the positive impact of our project will extend beyond its immediate beneficiaries. The project has been approached and designed with the specific intention of achieving sustainable impact by not only continuing to work collaboratively through our peer networks but also forming new collaborations within the womens and girls sector allowing us to further build on existing evidence of the value of age and gender appropriate support for young women involved or at risk of becoming involved in the criminal justice system, ultimately working towards bringing about changes to policy and practice.

Both regionally and nationally we will work collaboratively with our partners, sharing our good practice and expertise, championing fair and equal access to support services for young women to influence key stakeholders and decision makers. We are committed to any further learning opportunities provided by the Triangle Trust to share our experience and learn from others within the network of grant holders.

Are 80% of your beneficiaries women and girls? Please provide a breakdown of your beneficiary numbers for the last two years.

Bright Futures is a young women and girls organisation, 100% of our beneficiaries are women and girls, we exist solely to support their safety, health and wellbeing, furthermore we are the only specific service in our area working with young women aged 11-19. We know that young women are disproportionately affected by the social and structural inequalities discussed throughout this application and therefore their needs are complex and overlapping and we need to take an age appropriate and gender specific approach to respond to their specific needs.

We have ensured that our 2 Community Hubs based in South Tyneside are safe, women-only spaces that are easily accessible and welcoming where young women can build a rapport with staff and feel listened to increasing their confidence, self esteem and motivation to engage in our project and take away any perceived stigmas young women may have around engaging in support services aimed at reducing their likelihood of entering the criminal justice system or reoffending.

Furthermore, by being a dedicated woman only space we provide young women with the opportunity to build new social connections, increase peer support networks, learn new skills, increase their confidence and self-esteem, feel empowered, gain a greater independence and reduce their feelings of loneliness.

Does your organisation have existing knowledge and expertise working across the criminal justice system?

As evidenced, Bright Futures has existing knowledge and expertise of working across the criminal justice system with young women, indeed all services we deliver are open to all young women however specifically we have also developed and deliver projects that are aimed at supporting young women at risk of offending and those who may already be involved with the criminal justice system and the associated high risk vulnerabilities and needs that they face. Examples of these include our work alongside Northumbria Police, playing a key role in their Complex Abuse Hubs, receiving referrals to support high-risk victims of sexual abuse and exploitation; our work alongside Northumbria Police Designated Liaison Officers to support women involved in the sex work industry to respond to sex work-related crimes to safeguard and protect women; through our detached youth work working alongside neighbourhood police teams to target high risk areas where young women are at risk of becoming victims of crime and also where they may be likely to take part in offending behaviours; our dedicated ISVA and IDVA service providing practical and long term support to young women

<p>throughout their involvement with the criminal justice system; our delivery of our SheLeads Mental Health Support project providing trauma informed approaches to improve young womens mental health and wellbeing and specifically focusing on bridging the gap of young women moving from childrens to adults mental health support ensuring they do not slip through the gap of receiving support; and our EmpoweEd alternative education programme supporting young women on the verge of school exclusion to continue to engage with mainstream services and reduce their likelihood of engaging with offending behaviours.</p> <p>All of the services we deliver require us to have robust policies and procedures and referral pathways in place to ensure safeguarding is paramount in our day to day work. We already have a number of Information Sharing and Referral Pathways established with the organisations that we would specifically be working alongside on this new project including Northumbria Police, Youth Justice, Social Care and Health, Sexual Health, drug and alcohol services and housing support projects.</p>	
Will you be receiving funding from any other sources for this project?	
No	
Do all staff have enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks? If no please state why.	
Yes	
Reason why not all staff have DBS checks.	
Total funding requested in this application (£10,000 to £80,000 with a maximum of £40,000 in one year)	
£78604	
Proposed grant start date	Proposed grant duration in months
5/1/2025	24
How much funding is required each year?	
Year 1	Year 2
£39302	£39302
What was your organisation's expenditure in the most recent financial year?	What was your organisation's annual income in the most recent financial year?
£427988	£407727
What value of unrestricted reserves did your organisation have at the end of the most recent financial year?	
£140719	