

Organisation Name		Reference code (for office use only)
Street Teams		2026-05-YWG26
Organisation Address		
1 Butts Street Walsall West Midlands WS42BJ		
Website Address		
https://street-teams.org/		
How did you hear about the Triangle Trust		
Fundraising research		
Please describe your organisation's purpose in one to two sentences		
Street Teams is a specialist charity supporting children, young people and families affected by exploitation, violence and harms outside the home. We provide trauma-informed early intervention, targeted mentoring, family support, education and contextual safeguarding services to reduce risk, strengthen resilience and prevent criminal exploitation a		
Type of Organisation? (tick all that apply and complete relevant details)		
Charity	Registered Charity Number	Date Registered
Yes	1075862	1999
Community Interest Company	Registered Companies House Number	Date Registered
No	03758772	
Social Enterprise	Has your organisation been awarded the Social Enterprise Mark?	Year Awarded
No		
Grant Summary		
Funding will support a specialist trauma-informed programme for girls aged 11-18 at risk of criminal exploitation and justice involvement due to county lines, school exclusion, care experience and peer harm. The project will provide targeted mentoring, family support, advocacy and contextual safeguarding to reduce risk		
Please describe your principal beneficiaries.		
Street Teams primarily supports children, young people and families affected by exploitation, violence and harms outside the home. Our principal beneficiaries are vulnerable young people aged 8-25 experiencing, or at risk of, criminal exploitation, county lines involvement, peer violence, grooming, school exclusion and social marginalisation. We have significant experience supporting girls aged 11-18 at high risk of criminal justice involvement due to coercion, exploitation, trauma, care experience and poor engagement with education. Many are hidden victims whose behaviours are often misunderstood or criminalised. We are a specialist exploitation and contextual safeguarding organisation with expertise in trauma-informed intervention, family support and prevention, working closely with schools, social care, youth justice, police and community partners to reduce harm and improve safety.		
Please describe the specific local needs of the young women and girls you work with that this project will address		
<i>Maximum 4000 characters</i>		
Street Teams was founded through community outreach to women involved in street sex work in Walsall. Volunteers travelled the streets in a minibus, offering practical support,		

compassion and a listening ear. Through these relationships, it quickly became clear that many of the women had experienced significant trauma, abuse and exploitation during childhood and adolescence. Their involvement in sex work, criminal activity, harmful relationships and substance misuse was often not the problem itself, but the outcome of earlier experiences that had never been recognised, understood or addressed. This learning continues to shape our work today.

Over the last 25 years, we have supported children, young people and families affected by exploitation, violence and harms outside the home. Whilst we work with all young people, we recognise that girls and young women often experience exploitation differently. Their experiences can be hidden within relationships, peer groups, family contexts and online spaces, making them less visible to professionals and more difficult to identify.

Locally, we have seen a significant shift in referral patterns. In 2025-26, there were 208 referrals relating to criminal exploitation compared to 61 relating to sexual exploitation. Our own service data shows that 58% of the young people we supported were male and 42% were female. Whilst increased recognition of criminal exploitation is positive, we are concerned that girls affected by both criminal and sexual exploitation are becoming less visible within referral pathways.

Many of the girls we encounter have experienced trauma, abuse, neglect, domestic abuse, family instability, poverty, poor mental health, care experience or exclusion from education. These experiences can increase vulnerability to grooming, coercion and exploitation. However, we are concerned that girls are often not identified as victims of exploitation early enough. Instead, they frequently come to the attention of services because they have become involved in criminal activity, gone missing, disengaged from education, experienced violence or are already suffering significant harm.

We regularly work with girls who have been targeted through county lines activity, exploited within relationships, drawn into harmful peer networks or used to facilitate criminal activity. Many experience overlapping criminal and sexual exploitation, yet their experiences can be overlooked, misunderstood or viewed through a lens of choice rather than coercion. As a result, opportunities to safeguard girls earlier are missed, increasing the risk of ongoing exploitation, criminalisation and long-term harm.

National research highlights growing concerns that girls experiencing criminal exploitation can be overlooked because exploitation is often viewed through a male lens, whilst sexual exploitation remains significantly under identified. We believe there is a need to strengthen the identification, engagement and support of girls affected by exploitation, ensuring that they are recognised as victims and safeguarded appropriately. By identifying girls earlier and responding to their experiences through a trauma-informed and gender responsive approach, we can reduce the likelihood of exploitation escalating, prevent criminalisation and help girls build safer and more positive futures.

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?

(Maximum 3000 characters)

Our overall aim is to improve safety, wellbeing and life opportunities for girls who are vulnerable to, experiencing, or already impacted by criminal and sexual exploitation. We want girls to feel safer, more connected and better supported within their families, peer groups, schools and communities. By strengthening the relationships and networks around them, we aim to reduce vulnerability to exploitation and create environments where girls can thrive.

A key outcome will be reducing girls exposure to exploitation within relationships, peer groups, gangs, county lines networks and other harmful environments. Through direct

support, advocacy and contextual safeguarding, we aim to increase protection, disrupt exploitation and strengthen the networks around girls that keep them safe. As a result, we expect girls to experience fewer indicators associated with exploitation, including missing episodes, contact with risky individuals, exposure to violence and experiences of criminal or sexual exploitation.

For girls already involved in the criminal justice system, we aim to reduce the impact this involvement has on their wellbeing, opportunities and future outcomes. Through advocacy and partnership working, we will help ensure that exploitation, trauma and coercion are recognised and considered within professional decision making, helping girls access appropriate support and opportunities for positive change. We want girls to be seen as children who may have been harmed and exploited, rather than being defined solely by their behaviour or involvement in offending.

We also want girls to experience improved emotional wellbeing, increased self esteem, confidence and a stronger sense of belonging. Through trusted relationships and consistent support, girls will develop resilience, healthier relationships and positive aspirations for their future.

Whilst this project will focus on direct support for girls, it will be strengthened by our wider contextual and family based approach. We already work alongside parents, carers, siblings, trusted adults and community partners to strengthen protective networks around young people. This enables girls to access positive relationships, trusted support and our wider programme of community based wellbeing and positive activities. These opportunities help girls build confidence, develop healthy peer relationships, increase their sense of belonging and provide positive alternatives to harmful or exploitative networks. We expect engagement with education, training, employment or other positive opportunities will improve, increasing aspirations, stability and future prospects. We also aim to improve the way professionals recognise and respond to girls affected by exploitation, helping to ensure they are identified, safeguarded and supported earlier. Ultimately, we want girls to experience less harm, be less likely to be criminalised because of abuse, coercion or exploitation, and be better equipped to thrive.

How will you track the impact you are making?

(Maximum 3000 characters)

we know that some of the most significant changes in a girl's life are not always the easiest to measure. A girl who begins to trust an adult again, feels safer in her community, reconnects with education, begins to move away from an exploitative relationship or asks for help for the first time may have taken a huge step forward. We believe these changes matter just as much as the statistics, so our approach to measuring impact combines robust data with the lived experiences and voices of the girls we support.

At the start of support, we will work alongside each girl to complete an outcomes tool that helps us understand her strengths, challenges, support networks and aspirations. This provides a baseline across areas including safety, wellbeing, relationships, education and vulnerability to exploitation. Progress will be reviewed regularly throughout support and again at closure, enabling us to measure change over time and understand the outcomes achieved.

As a specialist exploitation service, we assess both individual and contextual factors that influence a girl's safety and wellbeing. We monitor indicators such as missing episodes, engagement with education, exposure to harmful relationships or exploitative networks, involvement with youth justice services and progress towards goals identified by the girl herself.

However, numbers only tell part of the story. We place significant value on the voices and experiences of girls. Through regular reviews, feedback, creative tools, outcome discussions and reflective conversations, girls will help us understand what is making a difference in their lives and what support they need next.

We will also gather feedback from parents, carers and professionals to understand wider changes within families, support networks and safeguarding responses. Case studies, outcome stories and reflective practice sessions will help us identify themes, understand what works and continuously improve our delivery.

Ultimately, we will know the project is making a difference when girls tell us they feel safer, more supported and more hopeful about their futures, alongside evidence of reduced exploitation, stronger support networks, improved wellbeing and a reduced likelihood of criminalisation.

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

(Maximum 3000 characters)

Funding will enable Street Teams to provide specialist, trauma-informed support to girls aged 11-18 who are being targeted for, experiencing, or vulnerable to criminal and sexual exploitation.

The primary activity will be intensive 1:1 support delivered by a dedicated specialist worker. Support will be tailored to the needs of each girl and may include relationship-based mentoring, safety planning, advocacy, emotional wellbeing support, practical interventions, education support and work to strengthen protective factors. We will work with girls across the continuum of need, from early intervention through to those experiencing significant harm through criminal or sexual exploitation. This includes girls whose experiences of exploitation, coercion or grooming have contributed to offending behaviours, association with county lines activity or involvement with the criminal justice system.

Alongside direct work, we will undertake contextual safeguarding activity to better understand and respond to the relationships, peer groups, locations and wider environments influencing a girl's safety and wellbeing. This may include multi-agency planning, professional challenge, advocacy, disruption activity and coordinated safeguarding responses designed to reduce exposure to exploitation and harm. Where appropriate, we will work alongside parents, carers and trusted adults to strengthen protective relationships around girls, improve understanding of exploitation and increase the confidence of those supporting them. We will also advocate on behalf of girls to ensure their experiences of exploitation, coercion and trauma are recognised within professional decision-making and responses.

Girls supported through the project will also benefit from Street Teams' wider contextual and community-based offer. This includes access to positive activities, wellbeing opportunities and trusted community relationships that help build confidence, increase belonging and provide alternatives to harmful or exploitative networks. Where appropriate and when they feel ready, girls will also be encouraged to become involved in the wider work of Street Teams. This may include helping to shape services, volunteering, becoming peer mentors or supporting positive community activities. These opportunities help girls develop confidence, skills, positive relationships and a sense of belonging, whilst ensuring that young women's voices help influence the support available to others.

Through the

se activities, we will increase safety, reduce exposure to exploitation, strengthen protective relationships, improve wellbeing and help ensure girls are recognised and safeguarded before harm escalates or exploitation leads to criminalisation.

How many girls will you be working over the course of the grant?

120

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

If this project is already operating, please describe how you will 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.

(Maximum 3000 characters)

This project builds on work that Street Teams is already delivering, but it would enable us to do something that feels deeply important to our organisation and our history. Street Teams was founded by local people who spent evenings driving around Walsall in a minibus, offering support, compassion and a listening ear to women involved in street sex work. Through those conversations, it became impossible to ignore the stories that sat behind the lives of many of the women they met. Time and again, they heard about childhood trauma, abuse, exploitation, coercion and missed opportunities for support. Those experiences became the foundation on which Street Teams was built. Today, we continue to support girls affected by criminal and sexual exploitation through our existing services. However, we have become increasingly concerned that girls experiences are becoming less visible. Whilst awareness of criminal exploitation has rightly increased, we know from our practice that girls continue to experience exploitation in ways that are often hidden, misunderstood or recognised only once significant harm has occurred.

This funding would allow us to create dedicated capacity to focus specifically on girls and young women, ensuring they do not become overlooked within wider systems and services. It would enable us to provide more intensive support, advocacy and intervention, whilst creating opportunities for girls to shape services, build confidence, develop positive relationships and become involved in their communities.

For us, this is about more than expanding a service. It is about returning to our roots and investing in a group whose experiences have shaped our organisation from the very beginning. We want to ensure that girls affected by exploitation are recognised earlier, heard more clearly and given the support, opportunities and relationships they need to build safer and more positive futures.

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.

(Maximum 3000 characters)

Our expertise comes from many years of standing alongside children, young people and families affected by exploitation, violence and harms outside the home. Throughout that time, we have seen how trauma, abuse, poverty, inequality, family adversity and harmful relationships can shape a girl's life long before she comes to the attention of services. We understand that girls experiences are often hidden in plain sight. They may be viewed as making poor choices, engaging in risky behaviour or becoming involved in offending, when in reality they are navigating trauma, coercion, exploitation, unhealthy relationships and circumstances beyond their control. This understanding sits at the heart of our work. Our approach is both trauma informed and gender responsive. We recognise that behaviour often tells only part of the story and that meaningful change happens when girls feel safe, understood and listened to rather than judged. We focus on building trusted relationships, understanding the contexts surrounding a girl's life and working alongside her to identify strengths, increase safety and create opportunities for positive change.

Our team brings expertise from social work, safeguarding, exploitation services, youth work and education. We work closely with Youth Justice Services, police, social care, schools and safeguarding partners and have extensive experience supporting young people whose experiences of exploitation have contributed to criminalisation, offending behaviours and involvement with the criminal justice system.

Most importantly, we know our approach works. Last year girls receiving support through our exploitation services reported significant improvements across key outcome areas. 68% improved their personal agency, 68% felt that there was improvements in their safety and security, 75% believed their knowledge of online safety had improved and 66% felt that there had been improvements in their relationships.

The impact of our work is best reflected by those we support. One girl told us, "You never gave up on me, even when I gave up on myself, you saved my life actually." A parent shared, "For the first time in my life I feel safe, safe to talk, safe to be heard, knowing I am not being judged, Words cannot express how grateful I am for your help."

We believe girls deserve to be seen, heard and understood before harm escalates. Combined with our specialist knowledge, established partnerships and proven outcomes, we are well placed to deliver effective support for girls affected by exploitation and criminalisation and help ensure they receive the opportunities, advocacy and support they need to thrive.

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

(Maximum 3000 characters)

Whilst we are primarily a specialist exploitation and contextual safeguarding organisation rather than a criminal justice service, we have significant experience working with children and young people whose experiences of exploitation, coercion and harm have brought them into contact with the criminal justice system.

We have supported children, young people and families affected by criminal and sexual exploitation, violence and harms outside the home since our founding in 1992 (registered as a charity in 1999). Our work regularly involves supporting young people who have been arrested, are involved with Youth Justice Services, are at risk of offending, have been associated with county lines activity, or whose exploitation has contributed to criminalised behaviour.

We recognise that many children and young people involved in the criminal justice system have experienced significant trauma, abuse, neglect, exploitation and adversity. As a result, our approach focuses on understanding the factors that sit behind behaviour and ensuring that vulnerability, coercion and exploitation are recognised within professional decision making.

We work closely with a wide range of partners including Youth Justice Services, police, children's social care, schools, alternative provisions, safeguarding teams and exploitation panels. We regularly contribute to multi-agency meetings, safety planning, contextual safeguarding responses, disruption activity and risk management processes for young people affected by exploitation.

Our staff bring extensive experience from safeguarding, social work, youth work, education and exploitation services. This includes experience supporting young people affected by county lines activity, serious youth violence, harmful peer groups and criminal exploitation. We also advocate on behalf of young people to ensure that exploitation and trauma are recognised when assessing risk, need and appropriate interventions.

Importantly, we understand that girls can experience the criminal justice system differently. Their experiences of exploitation are often less visible, and there can be a tendency for behaviour to be viewed through a lens of choice rather than coercion. Through our work, we seek to ensure that girls are recognised as children who may have been harmed and exploited, whilst supporting them to reduce risk, increase safety and access positive opportunities.

This combination of exploitation expertise, contextual safeguarding practice and established partnerships across safeguarding and criminal justice systems places us in a strong position to deliver this work.

Please explain how the grant will be spent and include a topline budget with brief explanations

(Maximum 3000 characters)

This grant would enable us to invest in something we believe is hugely needed, dedicated capacity focused specifically on girls and young women affected by exploitation. Throughout this application, we have described our concern that girls experiences of criminal and sexual exploitation have become less visible, less understood and identified later than those of their male peers. Whilst we already support girls through our existing services, this funding would allow us to create dedicated capacity to ensure girls do not become overlooked within wider systems and responses.

The grant would primarily contribute towards the salary and associated costs of a dedicated full time specialist female worker. More than simply delivering support, this worker would become a consistent, trusted adult for girls who may have experienced trauma, coercion, exploitation and criminalisation. She would provide intensive 1:1 support, advocacy, safety planning and contextual safeguarding interventions, whilst helping girls build confidence, strengthen relationships and access opportunities that support long-term change.

Importantly, this role would also help Street Teams strengthen and develop our gender responsive practice. The worker would champion the experiences of girls and young women across our organisation and wider partnerships, helping to improve identification, challenge assumptions and ensure girls affected by exploitation are recognised, heard and responded to appropriately.

The funding would also support specialist training, travel, resources and participation opportunities. This would enable girls to access positive activities, volunteering and peer mentoring opportunities that help build confidence, increase belonging and provide alternatives to harmful or exploitative networks.

Street Teams will contribute management oversight, supervision, organisational infrastructure and access to our wider family, community and education programmes. This means the project will be strengthened by the wider contextual and community based support already embedded within our organisation.

Topline Budget (24 months)

Contribution towards specialist female worker salary and on-costs: £75,000

Training and professional development: £2,000

Travel and outreach costs: £2,000

Resources, activities and participation opportunities: £6,000

Total Request: £85,000

Year 1: £42,500

Year 2: £42,500

For us, this funding is about more than creating a post. It is about creating the capacity to better recognise, understand and respond to girls affected by exploitation, ensuring they receive the support, advocacy and opportunities they need before harm escalates and their experiences become defined by crisis, exploitation or criminalisation.

Who will be responsible for overseeing and delivering this work?

(Maximum 3000 characters)

The project will be delivered by a dedicated full time specialist female worker with experience of supporting vulnerable children and young people affected by exploitation, trauma and harms outside the home. The worker will provide direct support to girls, undertake advocacy, coordinate interventions and work alongside families, schools and professionals to strengthen safety and wellbeing.

The worker will receive regular supervision, safeguarding oversight and ongoing professional development to ensure they are equipped to respond to the complex and evolving needs of girls affected by exploitation and criminalisation.

Overall responsibility for the project will sit with our Chief Executive Officer, Jade Brown, a qualified Social Worker with more than 15 years experience working with children, young people and families and over 12 years specialising in child exploitation and missing children. Prior to joining our organisation, Jade worked as Walsall's Exploitation and Missing Coordinator, leading multi-agency responses to exploitation across the borough.

The project will also benefit from the expertise of our wider team, which includes specialist practitioners with backgrounds in exploitation, safeguarding, family support, education and youth work. Together, they bring extensive experience of supporting children and young people affected by criminal and sexual exploitation, contextual harm and vulnerability. Regular supervision, management oversight, safeguarding audits and trustee reporting will ensure the project remains safe, effective and focused on achieving positive outcomes for girls.

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

(Maximum 3000 characters)

We are committed to ensuring that the learning, expertise and relationships developed through this project continue beyond the life of the grant.

A key objective of the project is not only to improve outcomes for individual girls, but also to strengthen our organisational and local response to girls affected by exploitation and criminalisation. Through the dedicated worker, we will develop specialist knowledge, gender responsive approaches and evidence of what works when supporting girls whose experiences of exploitation place them at risk of harm and involvement in the criminal justice system. This learning will be embedded across our wider team, helping to ensure that improved practice continues beyond the grant period.

The project will also strengthen our ability to identify and engage girls at an earlier stage, creating stronger pathways into support and helping to ensure that girls remain visible within local safeguarding and partnership arrangements. We will share learning with partner agencies and contribute to improving professional understanding of girls experiences of exploitation, helping to create longer term change across the wider system. We have a strong track record of securing funding from a range of trusts, foundations and statutory partners and will use the outcomes, evidence and learning generated through the project to seek future investment. By the end of the grant period, we expect to have developed a robust evidence base demonstrating both the need for and impact of dedicated support for girls, strengthening our ability to attract ongoing funding.

Importantly, the project will not operate in isolation. Girls supported through the grant will be connected to our wider services, community based wellbeing activities, volunteering opportunities and peer mentoring pathways. These relationships and opportunities will continue to be available beyond the life of the grant, helping to sustain positive outcomes and support long term resilience.

Our ambition is that this funding will act as a catalyst for lasting change. We want to ensure that girls affected by exploitation are better recognised, better understood and better supported not only during the grant period, but long after it has ended.

Will you be receiving funding from any other sources for this project?

(Maximum 3000 characters)

We receive commissioned funding from Walsall Council towards our wider exploitation service. We continue to secure support from charitable trusts and foundations, repeat funders and actively fundraise

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 (£30,000 to £100,000 with a maximum of £50,000 in one year)

£85000

Proposed grant start date

10/1/2026

Proposed grant duration in months

24

How much funding is required each year?

Year 1

£42500

Year 2

£42500

Year 3

£

What was your organisation's expenditure in the most recent financial year?

£473551

What was your organisation's annual income in the most recent financial year?

£365499

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

£431914