

IMAGO DEI PRISON MINISTRY – APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Executive Summary

This report deals with an application for grant funding received from Imago Dei Prison Ministry, a Christian Charity established to support men and women in prisons (HMP Downview, HMP East Sutton Park, HMP Send, HMP Highdown and HMP Wandsworth). The Charity has applied for funding for the coming year to assist with the costs of two courses to be run for the inmates of HMP Send.

The application before the Executive is seeking a contribution of £4,928 towards the costs of the Charity running courses – ‘Destined to Flourish’ and ‘Positive Parenting’ – at HM Prison Send. The funding of £4,928 would cover the costs of running two courses of the ‘Positive Parenting’ programme and two courses of the ‘Destined to Flourish’ programme, supporting some 70 individuals over the year.

The application does not make clear how many, if any, residents from Woking would benefit from the support. Whilst the work of the Charity is no doubt valued by both the prison service and those attending the courses, it cannot be shown that the funding requested from the Borough Council would support local residents. It is therefore recommended that the application is not supported.

Recommendations

The Executive is requested to:

RESOLVE That the application be not supported.

Reason for Decision

The application has not provided sufficient justification for the Council to award funding towards the work at HMP Send.

The Executive has authority to determine the above recommendation.

Background Papers:

2020/21 Application Form.

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1.0 Summary of Application	
1.1 Status and Aims	<p>Imago Dei Prison Ministry is a Christian charity established in 2016 and based in Tonbridge, Kent. The Charity runs ‘Free To Be’ courses in three women’s prisons in the South East, a course that seeks to address some of the causes of offending behaviour. The objective of the Charity is to reduce the re-offending rate, helping to equip women in prison to lead different, happier, crime free lives on release.</p> <p>The Charity has recently started working in men's prisons and is currently writing a course for men to be delivered later in the year.</p> <p>The Charity offers its courses and services to all, regardless of ethnicity, race, colour or faith, and includes the objectives of seeking:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To see all prisoners, regardless of faith empowered to change their lives with a new hope for the future. • To see all prisoners, regardless of faith successfully and productively re-integrated into society. • To see family life restored. • To see a lower re-offending rate. <p>The courses have Christian foundations but are not faith promoting.</p>
1.2 Employees	Three, comprising the Director (40 hours), the Development Manager (24 hours) and the PA to the Director (12 hours).
1.3 Volunteers	25, whose activities include admin support, course facilitators, prison visitors, resources co-ordinators and Trustees.
1.4 Clients/Users	<p>70*, comprising:</p> <p>0 male</p> <p>70 female. Further details of the users cannot be provided for security reasons.</p> <p>*Annual approximation for HMP Send.</p>
1.5 Members	None.
1.6 Sum Requested	£4,928 (Revenue)
1.7 Project	<p>The Charity has applied for funding of £4,928 to assist with the costs of running two courses at HMP Send – ‘Destined to Flourish’ and ‘Positive Parenting’ – during 2020/21.</p> <p>The reoffending rate for women on average is 54.5% and it costs around £35,000 per year to keep one woman in prison. There are currently over 3,800 women in prison in the UK which puts the reoffending cost at just under £72m per year.</p> <p><u>The ‘Positive Parenting’ Course</u></p> <p>A recent Prison Reform Trust report stated that around 17,000 children a year experience their mother being in jail. 31% of women in prison have come from the care system. They have no idea how to parent their children well but long to be the best mums they can be.</p>

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The Parenting Course has been written specifically for prisoners, and bears in mind the fact that these mothers have very limited contact with their children.

The course covers three different age groups, Early Years, Primary Years and Teenage Years over six sessions.

The ‘Destined to Flourish’ Course

FLOURISH is a course written by women for women. The course was written to show women that they have a purpose in life and that they can give back to the world. The course looks at identify, wholeness and destiny and includes:

- Who am I and how do I tick?
- What do I value in life?
- Why comparison is damaging.
- What does a “whole life” look like?
- Why are boundaries important in relationships?
- If my life has a purpose what is it?
- How can I live the life I want to?

1.8 Cost breakdown:

Project Budget - HMP Send Project

Total for all courses per year	No. of courses	Annual Costs	Average number of participants
HMP Send	7	£8,629	70

Positive Parenting Course

Three facilitators. An average of 10 participants per course. Six sessions per course, 3 courses per year.

Staff costs (£12 per hour for 5 hours). Covers the course, travel and preparation time	£360
Travel expenses (45p per mile for staff/volunteers).	£580
A proportion of training costs provided to staff and facilitators across 3 prisons to include: Bi-monthly group supervision with a counsellor (1.5 hrs 6 times per year). Prison provided training on topics such as security, safeguarding and trauma awareness (2 per year) Internal training (3 per year)	£167
Resources / Stationary - handouts, paper, printing costs, etc.	£180
Total	£1,287

Destined to Flourish Course

Three sessions per course, three hours per session. Three facilitators required. An average of 10 participants per course, with four courses per year.

Staff costs (£12 per hour for 10 hours). Includes course, travel and preparation time.	£360
Travel expenses (45p per mile for staff and volunteers).	£425
Training costs to put on ID Prison Ministry	£167

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	specific and security training for facilitators.	
	Resources / Stationary - gifts, handouts, paper, printing costs, etc.	£240
	Total	£1,192
<p>The overall costs of the training programme at HMP Send is therefore as follows:</p> <p>Positive Parenting Course – 3 courses at £1,287 (£3,861)</p> <p>Destined to Flourish Course – 4 courses at £1,192 (£4,768)</p>		
1.9 Community Benefit	<p>The applicant has advised that HMP Send holds around 280 women. These women can often appear to be forgotten and overlooked once they go behind the prison walls. The Charity wants not only to address the issue of crime, but the causes behind the crimes, and the history behind the life of the offender, on the basis that no-one should be defined by their past or even their current circumstances. The Charity provides practical care, meeting women at their point of need, helping to equip them to lead different lives on release.</p> <p>On average, 70 women per year attend the courses provided by the Charity across the year. By teaching a woman that her past doesn't need to define her and that she can bring all her skills and talents to the benefit of society, the Charity seeks to provide individuals with the confidence to become a positive addition to society. The key objectives of the courses are to provide inmates with the skills and confidence to positively affect her children and her children's children to tackle the causes of crime, and to reduce the re-offending rate.</p>	

2.0 Financial Background	
2.1 Budget	<p>At the time of the application, the Group held £29,738 in the bank. The Charity's reserves policy states that three months reserves will be maintained in the bank (£9,600 in the 2017 Reserves).</p> <p>In addition, the Charity has been awarded £20,000 per year for 3 years from the Jerusalem Trust (part of the Sainsbury's group of trusts) specifically for the Development Manager's role to enable the Charity to grow.</p> <p>The Group has submitted indications of expenditure over 2019, 2020 and 2021 which show anticipated expenditure of £148,393 in 2019, £182,930 in 2020 and £196,530 in 2021. The income for the three years is based on monthly donations (£3,780 in 2019, £8,500 in 2020 and £17,000 in 2021) with additional funding received through funding bids, details of which are set out below. No further income has been identified beyond 2019/20.</p> <p>Income from grants for the current year is so far £56,728 in addition to the anticipated income through donations (£3,780), giving an income of £60,508 against an anticipated expenditure of £148,393, resulting in an anticipated deficit of £87,885. It should be noted, however, that the Charity has outstanding bids for funding with a number of funders which would bring in funding of £57,362.</p>

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Items of expenditure in 2019 include salary (£28,000), sessional salaries (£75,000), travel expenses (£15,700), training (£3,000), office costs (£6,400), fundraising costs (£1,200), and (charitable giving (£8,000).

Funds received from May 2018 to April 2019 are:

Funders Name	Money received so far in 2019
Jerusalem Trust (part of the Sainsbury's group of trusts)	£20,000
Goodnews Evangelical Mission	£18,000
Colyer Fergusson Charitable Trust	£7,338
Allen Lane Foundation	£5,000
Community Foundation for Surrey	£3,890
1772 Debtors Relief Fund Charity	£2,500

The outcomes of the following funding bids are awaited.

Kent Community Foundation - The Brook Trust Fund for Kent	£4,488
Seedfield Trust	£5,486
Hilden Charitable Fund	£5,000
Lawson Endowment Fund	£4,488

Fundraising undertaken during 2018/19 included:

Bricks of Hope Campaign - individual donors – currently £315 per month - £3,780 annually

Three sponsored runs and a sponsored Dragon Boat Race - £2,882

For 2020 the Charity is planning a large fundraising event in the early Spring. In addition, the Charity intends to hold a further sponsored Dragon Boat Race in September 2020.

2.2 Accounts

The Group has submitted draft accounts for 2018 which show an income of £48,909 (£59,465 in 2017) against expenditure of £65,679 (£43,025 in 2017), resulting in a deficit of £16,770 (a surplus of £16,440 in 2017). The sum of £11,368 was carried forward at the end of the 2018 year.

2.3 Support over the past five years

New Application.

3.0 Assessment of Application

3.1 Key Information

<input type="radio"/> Constitution	Yes
<input type="radio"/> Registered Charity	Yes
<input type="radio"/> VAT Registered	No
<input type="radio"/> Equal Opportunities Policy	No*

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safeguarding Policy ○ Reserves Policy ○ Quality Mark ○ Other funding sources pursued ○ Other support by the Council ○ Fundraising ○ Two quotes ○ Regular monitoring provided previously <p>*Currently being developed. Once adopted, the policy will be reviewed annually.</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>No</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>3.2 Consultee Comments</p>	<p><u>Adam Thomas, Family Support Manager</u></p> <p>Imago Dei are requesting £4,928 in revenue funds to support the delivery of their Positive Parenting and Destined to Flourish courses at HMP Send. It is unclear from the application how this will directly benefit Woking families and therefore I do not feel in a position to support this at this time.</p> <p><u>Camilla Edmiston, Community Safety Manager</u></p> <p>The ethos of Imago Dei’s courses supports the preventative work that we encourage in trying to reduce offending by understanding and changing behaviours, helping traumatised women to gain self-worth and an understanding of other ways to deal with the abuse they have suffered. However very few women at Send Prison are from Woking and we aim to offer similar support locally at the Surrey Women’s Support Centre. With our limited funding it is difficult to advise supporting this worthwhile charity at this point.</p>	
<p>3.3 Assessment</p>	<p>The Imago Dei Prison Ministry is a Christian Charity established to support men and women in prisons (HMP Downview, HMP East Sutton Park, HMP Send, HMP Highdown and HMP Wandsworth). The Charity has applied for funding for the coming year to assist with the costs of two courses to be run for the inmates of HMP Send. It is estimated that approximately 70 individuals would participate in the training.</p> <p>The applicant has drawn attention to the strains placed on the prison service through funding cuts and year-on-year increases in the general prison population. Prison staff are overstretched and incidents of self-harm are rising across the prison estate, with 52,814 incidents of self-harm in the 12 months to September 2018, a 23% increase from the previous year.</p> <p>The Charity seeks to reduce the re-offending rate (currently around 54.5% for women) through its work alongside Prison Management, Internal Probation and other departments such as Health Care. Several courses have been developed to help women for which no charge is made. To monitor how are courses are working, the Charity asks women to complete a Before and After Survey. This data shows if they themselves feel they have gained from the teaching.</p> <p>The course material is reviewed regularly and staff are consulted on what needs are not currently being met at the prison. For example, the Charity has been asked to write an Anger Management course,</p>	

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work on which will start in the coming year.

The Charity is exploring opportunities to provide accommodation for women who leave prison with no safe housing and no help finding work. It is a part of Charity's long-term vision to set up accommodation for women being released from prison, empowering women through the training programmes and by offering them ongoing support upon their release. The aim is to have up to 12 women staying with the Charity for a period of around 4 months to 2 years.

The application before the Executive is seeking a contribution towards the costs of the Charity running courses – 'Destined to Flourish' and 'Positive Parenting' – at HM Prison Send. HMP Send currently operates as a closed Female Training Prison south of Ripley near to Send in Surrey. The Prison's Education Department runs Key Skills courses and NVQs in Business Administration. The Farms and Gardens department offers Floristry NVQs, and the Works Department run an industrial workshop and painting party. Prisoners held in the Resettlement Unit can also do voluntary work, attend College courses and Work Placements in the outside community.

The application is for funding of £4,928 for the 2020/21 financial year; based on the cost breakdowns provided, the funding would cover the costs of running two courses of the 'Positive Parenting' programme (six sessions in each course with an average of 10 participants per course) and two courses of the 'Destined to Flourish' programme (three sessions in each course with an average of 10 participants per course).

The application does not make clear how many, if any, residents from Woking would benefit from the support. Whilst the work of the Charity is no doubt valued by both the prison service and those attending the courses, it cannot be shown that the funding requested from the Borough Council would support local residents. It is therefore recommended that the application is not supported.

REPORT ENDS