Waltham Forest
Safer Neighbourhood Board

Applications for project funding 2016/7

That Reading Thing with Young Offenders

1. Tell us about your group, and your position within it. Who will be responsible for achieving the project goals, and who will be accountable for the funding?

Worth Unlimited is a youth work charity focussing on supporting disadvantaged young people. This application is from the Waltham Forest branch, one of seven branches across the country. Each local branch is responsible for our own fundraising and the branch income/expenditure is listed separately on the accounts of the whole charity.
I, Claire Gannon, am part of the management team for the Waltham Forest Branch. I have lived and worked in the borough for eleven years and have been delivering 'That Reading Thing' for eight of those. I will be responsible for managing the project; setting and delivering goals, monitoring and evaluating and reporting back to the Safer Neighbourhood Board.

Worth Unlimited as a whole have a CEO; Tim Evans, and a national board of trustees who oversee the work and all funding.

For more information please see our website: www.worthunlimited.co.uk

2. What is the basis of your group's connection with the community you represent?

Worth Unlimited have worked with 11 – 19 year olds in Waltham Forest for 15 years. We have focussed our work around estates, particularly Priory Court and Beaumont Estates, delivering a range of projects and interventions for disadvantaged young people including youth clubs, a youth bus, relationships courses, cooking skills, residentials, mentoring and creative workshops. We also deliver educational projects including 'That Reading Thing' which is what we are applying for in this bid. This has been delivered all over the borough in schools and with young people outside of educational settings. We have run the programme in the Youth Offending Team in the past as well as Kelmscott School, Lammas, George Mitchell, Walthamstow School for Girls and Burnside Pupil Referral Unit. Young people with low literacy are referred to the project through the Y.O.T. or school or can refer themselves if they hear about us through our youth clubs or other projects.

3. Do you have a suitable bank account into which funding could be paid?

Yes. Details on request.

4. **Give us an outline of your project. What evidence is there of a need for the work you propose? What do you want to do? How will this address the need you have identified?**

We will improve the reading skills, spelling, confidence, self-esteem and aspiration of young people aged 11 to 19 in the Youth Offending team in Waltham Forest, thus having an impact on their likelihood to commit crime in the future. The young people are at a significant point in their lives where they have the opportunity to get back on track with some intensive support, rather than spiralling into a worse situation.

70% of pupils permanently excluded from school have difficulties in basic literacy skills. 25% of young offenders have reading skills below those of the average seven-year-old. 60% of the prison population is said to have difficulties in basic literacy skills. 'Literacy Changes Lives' 2008, National Literacy Trust.

We will deliver 'That Reading Thing' with young people whose poor literacy is creating a barrier for them to access education, work and social life and is contributing to frustration and involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour. That Reading Thing is a one-to-one programme delivered by a trained youth worker in a supportive, mentoring style. The course is based on phonics and we have seen excellent results over the last ten years. In 2014/15 the average increase in reading age in 26 students was 16 months (in an average of 15 weekly sessions).

We have run the programme at the YOT in the past and have also been working successfully at Burnside Pupil Referral Unit in Chingford. Our two students in 2015 increased their reading age by one year in 11 sessions, and 5 months in 18 sessions. The teachers commented that our support contributed to one getting a C grade in English GCSE.

I have spoken to Ellanora Clarke, one of the managers at the Rowan House YOT who said that literacy support is not something their team are providing at the moment and that it would be very helpful for some of the young people.

See also www.thatreadingthing.com

5. **Which of the three MOPAC stipulated objectives are you addressing? (Prevent crime, reduce crime, police/community engagement)**
Prevent Crime and Reduce Crime.

6. **Does your project address any of the priorities the SNB had identified?**
Young people - Including engagement and diversion from crime

7. **The SNB will want to monitor progress: what observable or measurable achievements do you expect to be able to report to us as your project is underway? (These are sometimes referred to as "out*puts*".) How will you monitor your progress?**

- We will work with 7 young people
- We will measure reading age in all students at the start and end of their programme using the 'Burt Test' and expect to see an average increase of at least 7 months.
- We will aim to work with each young person for a minimum of 10 sessions but this will depend on how long they are with the youth offending service for.
  If we are unable to do the 10 sessions with one young person (because they have moved on) we will use the hours to work with extra participants. We will keep a register.
- Each session will be between 30 minutes and 1 hour depending on the circumstances.
- We will use a questionnaire to measure how young people view their confidence in reading and spelling, self-esteem and aspiration. We expect to see at least 80% to increase.

8. **The SNB will want to evaluate the overall benefit to the community achieved by your project (sometimes referred to as "out*comes*"). What evidence might be helpful in making our evaluation? How will you gauge your success?**

We believe that increasing a person's basic skills will make them more employable and help them to function better in society. It will also improve their confidence and self-esteem. All of these things increase the likelihood of a person choosing not to engage in crime. The outcomes of this for the community are widespread. In such a short programme we will not experience the long term effects first hand and the budget would be too expensive to follow these young people over the coming years. However, we can interview them as they finish the programme, to find out how they feel about themselves and their futures as a result of taking part. We will also be able to get comments from their case workers on any difference they think the programme has had on the behaviour and attitudes of the young people.

In 2012 I interviewed a 19 year old who did 'That Reading Thing' for a year and he said:

Qu: Has doing TRT affected your behaviour?
'I remember when I was in one class and a teacher asked me to read a book or something and I read it bad and at lunchtime the other students they took the piss out of me for it. I had a fight and got excluded for about 2 weeks. People used to pick on me when someone would ask me to read. It happened 2 or 3 times a week.
Now I try to avoid fights with people. I've grown up now – there's no point in fighting. The change came when I started getting used to reading. It was partly the job and partly 'cos I could read. I don't hardly get angry now at all. I don't really get frustrated anymore. Now I know I can ask for help from family and friends. That's as a result of working with Lindsay (That Reading Thing volunteer)

Qu: What would you say to someone who can't read?
Have a go 'cos if you're keen and you're dedicated to read it does work.'

9. **What roles will there be in your team? Who will occupy those roles? Will you need to bring in new people to help you? If so, how will you recruit and select them?**

The project will be delivered by one of our qualified youth workers, myself or my colleague. I will manage, monitor and evaluate it. No one else is required.

10. **If you will be working with members of the community who are not part of your team (e.g. interviewees, clients, "subjects" etc) how will you identify suitable contacts?**

I have already spoken to one of the managers at the YOT in Leytonstone, Ellanora Clarke. If our bid is successful we will meet to arrange the logistics and the YOT will refer the young people for us to work with. We will meet with them in Cecil House and report progress back to their case worker.

11. What considerations need to be made regarding the safety of everyone involved?

The young people are vulnerable and their safety is our number one priority. All Worth Unlimited staff are trained youth workers with DBS checks and child protection training. For this particular project we will only use our most experienced youth workers. Sessions will take place in Cecil House in Leytonstone where there are other staff on hand in the building and a clear checking in and out system. Any other issues that come up during conversations will be passed on to the young person's key worker and this will be made clear to each young person as they begin the programme. Due to the mentoring nature of the sessions this is quite likely to occur and young people may feel they can make disclosures they haven't made before. Worth Unlimited staff will follow the Youth Offending Service's policy regarding this.

Safety of staff is another factor which again is addressed by the use of Cecil House and the support of other YOS staff in the building. Staff will follow the advice of the YOS staff and will not arrange to meet the young people other than at Cecil house for this project.

Please supply a breakdown of the anticipated costs to be met by the project funding.

Total cost of project £4,200

That Reading Thing costs £600 per young person.

We will work with 7 young people for a minimum of 10 weeks each. (see above)

This cost includes the following:

	For 1 young person	**For 7 young people**
Project manager / lead deliverer of That Reading Thing	480	3,360
Materials	15	105
I.T., travel, phone	15	105
Management Fee (insurance, staff recruitment, training, office costs, DBS etc)	90	630
Total	**£600**	**£4,200**

12. **Have you considered whether the work you plan to do might be considered to be the responsibility of some other body or agency?**

    Yes, I have spoken to Ellanora Clarke about this and literacy support is not something that the YOT deliver.

13. **Have you considered whether you can offer a range of project "packages" in the event that the SNB was able to offer only a reduced level of funding? (If so, you may like to consider making multiple applications. Alternatively, you may like to respond to these questions indicating options where appropriate.)**

    Please see the above budget. It costs £600 to work with one young person for a minimum of 10 weeks.

    We can be flexible and work with fewer or more than 7 young people. The amounts would be:

1	£600	6	£3,600
2	£1,200	7	£4,200
3	£1,800	8	£4,800
4	£2,400	9	£5,400
5	£3,000	10	£6,000

14. **Will your project depend on obtaining permission or approval from any other body?**

    We already have verbal approval from the Youth Offending team and we have worked there before.

15. **Is any other funding body providing support to this or similar concurrent projects?**

    London Over the Border currently funds 13 students per year across Waltham Forest, Barking and Dagenham. These are mainly from schools and one PRU.
    L&Q Housing currently provide funding for Worth Unlimited to work with 16 students in Edmonton and Enfield.

16. **Can you give us a tentative timeline of the main stages of your project?**

    We would start in September 2016 and work with 2 students per term depending on need. (one hour each) This would mean that the project would take a year to complete if each student did 10 sessions.

17. **Is there anything else we need to know?**

    We would hope that this project, once started, could expand and develop and that a long term partnership between Worth Unlimited and the Youth Offending Service could be maintained, empowering many more young people in the future.

    Thank you for taking the time to read this application. I look forward to hearing from you.