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**The Bond Board Homeless Charity. Invitation to tender**

**Seeking the design and delivery of a creative service user community arts project.**

**What is The Bond Board?**

The Bond Board is a Greater Manchester homeless charity that works to reduce homelessness by finding homes in the private rented sector for people on low incomes. We provide Bond Guarantees for tenancies which take the place of cash deposits and provide security for landlords. Additionally, we offer a range of 1-1 and group support services for tenants and landlords designed to help people to avoid a repeat cycle of homelessness and to make progress with their plans for the future.

We work with some of the most excluded and marginalised people in our communities who need support to find accommodation or maintain a tenancy. Common support issues include homelessness, housing, benefits, money management, physical/mental health problems, offending, fleeing violence and issues around leaving care/prison and supported accommodation. In 2019/20 we supported **1737** homeless and low income households to get housed or maintain their tenancies.

We have been operating in Rochdale and Bolton since 1993. Increasingly, we are joining initiatives across Greater Manchester. Our funders include The National Lottery Community Fund, Lloyds Bank Foundation, Nationwide Foundation, Rochdale and Bolton Councils and Greater Manchester Housing First.

**Covid 19**

As a result of Covid 19, we established a ‘Homeless Network Partnership Project’ which has been delivering emergency food parcels to households in need, for which there has been a large demand. However, the majority of Bond Board services are currently being delivered by phone and group activities have been suspended. This is concerning because many service users rely on The Bond Board, not only for 1-1 advice and support but also as a means of decreasing their social isolation and gaining a sense of community with others via group events.

We want to reach out to service users of The Bond Board to find out about their lives during Covid 19. We want to hear how they have been coping and offer them the opportunity to engage in a community arts project which helps to decrease their social isolation and enables them to share their experiences.

**The Brief**

The Bond Board is looking to commission an individual, group of individuals or an organisation who can design and deliver a creative/innovative community arts project to provide opportunities for our service users to share their personal stories of life during Covid 19, express their needs and have their voices heard within the wider community and by local policy makers.

We are interested in ideas that move away from traditional methods and focus on enabling service users to express themselves creatively, be that via forms of storytelling, artwork, film, social media or any other creative medium. Our priority is for service users to engage with and find value in the process itself, rather than any particular expectation about the creative medium itself.

The proposal will need to take into account any social distancing measures imposed as a result of Covid 19, whilst still being as inclusive and open as possible to encourage isolated households to take part. The proposal may be for a series of one-off events or a sequence of events.

We anticipate a maximum of 30 people may wish to participate. The project should be appropriate for and sensitive to the needs of individuals with a range of vulnerabilities, including financial hardship, poor mental health, low levels of literacy and digital inclusion and for those who are social excluded and not regularly engaging with mainstream services. As such, you may wish to propose more than one method of delivery e.g. in person (if permitted) and/or digitally, so as to create more opportunities for people to engage with the process.

**The aim**

The proposed community arts project should be designed and delivered to meet these aims;

To provide engaging yet non-threatening new opportunities for service users to learn about themselves and each other and to decrease their social isolation during Covid 19.

To empower vulnerable private sector tenants who have experience of homelessness to express, share and document their stories and thoughts about their lives, their current situation during Covid 19 and their hopes for the future.

To provide activities which enable a wide range of voices and experiences to be heard, focusing on the whole person, their strengths and their resilience, not only their ‘issues’ and ‘needs’.

To provide a means for these unheard stories and voices to be heard amongst the wider community and by funders and policy makers, thereby enhancing community cohesion and ensuring those in receipt of services have influence in decisions made about them.

The Bond Board will also recruit an embedded researcher to work alongside the artist(s). Their role will be to provide a written analysis and evaluation of the project, pulling together emerging themes, conclusions and lessons to be learned for The Bond Board, funders and policy makers.

**Funding**

The proposed community arts project should be delivered in its entirety for a cost of no more than £15,000, including materials.

Value for money will be a key consideration in assessing the merits of each proposal.

**Time frame**

The project should be completed by the **26th July 2021**

**Process**

**Stage 1**

The Bond Board is open to accepting outline proposals to deliver this project by the **12pm on the** **15th February 2021.** Applicants should submit a written proposal of no more than 1500 words along with a video to explain the project to potential participants (no more than 2 minutes long).

**Written proposals should contain the following information:**

1. Key contact details (name, address, phone and email) of the lead proposer.
2. Information about the organisation (where relevant).
3. An outline of the proposed project including method(s) of delivery, plans to engage with people and encourage participation and frequency of contact with service users.
4. Details of how you intend to capture what is experienced/created with participants.
5. Details of any previous experience delivering similar work with examples of successfully completed projects.
6. An estimated overview of the costs of delivering the project (further details will be required at a later date).
7. Details of any relevant insurance or certification, e.g. public liability, Data and Barring Service Checks.

**Video**

The video should be no more than 2 minutes long and be aimed at participants. It can be in any format of your choosing and should give potential participants a clear idea of what they can expect to be involved in if they choose your proposal.

Written proposals and a link to the video should be sent via email to the Chief Officer of The Bond Board, Andrew Beeput at: [abeeput@thebondboard.org.uk](mailto:abeeput@thebondboard.org.uk)

Shortlisting of stage 1 applications will be completed by the **19th February 2021**.

**Stage 2**

3 proposals will be shortlisted for further consideration by our service users. The Bond Board will then share the applicant’s videos with our service users. This will primarily be done via social media (including Facebook, Twitter, Tik Tok, Instagram), enabling them to provide feedback and vote on the proposal they wish to take part in.

Stage 2 applicants will be notified of the decision by the **8th March 2021.**

All proposals will be acknowledged via email and stored confidentially at The Bond Board.. All records relating to unsuccessful applicants will be confidentially destroyed after 12 months.

**Further information about The Bond Board is available via our website:**

[www.thebondboard.org.uk](http://www.thebondboard.org.uk)

or via phone call to the Chief Officer, Andrew Beeput on 07918699692 or Alison Eastwood, Bond Board Development Manager 07918703681