

## Research for Change

### Empowering charities to make a greater impact

**Changing Ideas** is a charity founded by philanthropist David Graham to achieve lasting social change and improve the lives of the most vulnerable within society.

**How:** One way we can do this is by funding rigorous research (conducted in-house or by external academics and consultants) into new ideas and best practice methodologies to help UK-based charities to be as effective and cost effective as possible.

**Why:** We are convinced that giving charities the resources and space to conduct timely research can have transformative results for the people they serve. Such research enables charities to learn from others, validate their work and achieve the best possible value for public and philanthropic money.

**Who:** We support small charities which focus on the wellbeing of people both in the UK and/or overseas. Our plan is to help charities providing frontline services who are working directly with beneficiaries. We do not intend to fund medical research.

**What:** We provide charitable grants to fund research that will enable charities to have the most compelling answers to questions such as:

- What is the best practice in our field in the UK and/or globally?
- Is there a better or different way to deliver our services?
- Are we doing the best we can for the people we help?
- Can we improve our current interventions?
- Could services be delivered more effectively across sectors?

Research projects funded by Changing Ideas could help charities to:

- **Understand** the scale of a problem and seek lower-cost, high impact solutions at scale.
- **Validate** a new idea by assessing whether it is working.
- **Enable** out of the box ideas which could result in radical new approaches being tested.
- **Identify** opportunities to develop and/or share best practice with other organisations.

We will prioritise research projects that aim to:

- Find low-cost interventions that can be delivered at a 'ground roots' level.
- Trial solutions which identify scalable models which can be implemented within a measurable time window.
- Foster collaboration and shared learning by demonstrating how a proposed programme directly impacts upon a wider charitable eco-system.
- Consider how to effectively and ethically apply new technologies and digital tools to improve delivery of services.

### Grants

- Several grants of c£25,000 will be given annually from either solicited applications or introductions from other funders.
- Grants will be made towards project costs, but applicants can include an allocation of charity costs that are required to set up, run and manage the project.

- Projects should have a clear timetable and agreed outcomes, which will form part of the signed agreement if a grant is awarded.
- During the period of research, we intend to have appropriately timed catch-ups to enable us to help partners break any logjams and capture learning along the way.
- We aim to be flexible wherever possible to give charities the space to deliver their work, without jeopardizing the purpose for which the funds were granted.

### **Funder plus**

- We will explore ways to convene similar organisations and/or organisations with similar approaches to share learnings, discourse, and move to greater effectiveness through best practices, insights across the sector etc.
- We will also support convenings to help charities determine how to change the way services are delivered and routes to more impact.
- We will consider second stage funding and/or larger grants for organisations working together.

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### Examples of previous grants

Here are several examples of grants that we have made which have demonstrated the value of such funding and provide examples to potential applicants of the type and range of grants that interest us.

#### **Disability and mental health - cost effective mental health solutions for people with spinal cord injuries.**

In 2020, a Changing Ideas grant to the [Spinal Injury Association](#) (SIA) examined the prevalence of mental health issues amongst the spinal cord injury community to find cost effective solutions. The [research](#) highlighted that 47% of spinal cord injured respondents had mental health issues and 28% had suicidal thoughts. The research found cost effective ways to provide support and has led to increased funding from the NHS Southeast region for counselling services. SIA has been able to gain a deeper understanding of the scale of the problem, validate its new professional peer-led counselling service and identify new approaches to help more people with mental health challenges.

#### **Early year education in refugee camps: validation of a new idea through research exploration**

In 2022, a Changing Ideas research grant enabled [Children on the Edge](#) to devote staff resources to researching and assessing the effectiveness of their model of early learning education to children in refugee camps in Uganda. This model was pioneered during the COVID pandemic. The model appeared cheap, effective, and scalable and therefore potentially a world class innovation that can reach some of the millions of children currently not receiving early year education in refugee camps and elsewhere. The research is now enabling Children on the Edge to learn about other practices and collaborate with other charities to advance best practice.

#### **Increasing patient recruitment success for clinical trials: Building a framework for researchers**

In 2022, Changing Ideas provided a research grant to [Live UTI Free](#), a patient research and advocacy organisation with a focus on recurrent and chronic urinary tract infection (UTI). Although recurrent UTI has high prevalence and is at the centre of the antimicrobial resistance crisis, clinical trials for new treatments are subject to failure due to insufficient patient recruitment. Early success has already been achieved in improving patient recruitment in this space. In 2022 a six-month digital campaign was implemented to recruit participants to a clinical trial for the first new UTI antibiotic in two decades. The trial was closed early for efficacy, overall timelines for market availability of the study therapeutic were reduced, and UTI patients will likely have access to this new treatment option as early as the second half of 2023.

### **Human trafficking: an exploration of the effectiveness of partnership models in improving the identification of victims of human trafficking in Scotland.**

Human trafficking in Scotland is vastly under identified and reported, resulting in devastating effects for individuals, communities and significant cost to the public purse. A Changing Ideas grant in 2022-23 is enabling [Survivors of Human Trafficking in Scotland](#) (SOHTIS) to pilot a model of improved identification of victims of human trafficking first developed in Greater Manchester, England. The results from this pilot have the potential to provide an evidence base for systemic change in the approach taken to anti-human trafficking policy and practice across Scotland. Early evidence has demonstrated an increase in the number of victims of trafficking being identified and brought to safety.

### **An innovative prosthetics programme responding to the severe lack of comfortable, affordable prosthetics for people with disability in northern Syria**

At least 86,000 people have lost a limb in the Syrian war, many of whom are children and do not have access to any cost-effective, comfortable and functional prostheses. We made a grant in 2021/22 to [Hands Up Foundation](#) to launch a pilot programme to respond to this lack. Working with a new type of prosthetic, this grant helped lay the foundations for an innovative and potentially long-term solution for one of Syria's most vulnerable groups. It is hoped to scale up the programme in 2023-24, reaching more people and bringing the cost per prosthetic down.