

Invitation to tender

Evidence and Gaps Map & Evidence Summaries: Call for proposals

The Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) wishes to commission an evidence and gaps map (EGM) focussing on the effectiveness of interventions on outcomes relating to youth delinquency, offending, aggression and related behavioural outcomes. We also require evidence summaries for a subset of mapped intervention types (to be agreed), which will form the basis of a future YEF toolkit.

The EGM and evidence summaries will be used to inform our initial perspectives on current knowledge about what works to reduce youth crime and violence. They will also be used internally to inform decisions about future grant rounds and subsequent commissioned research. The output will be published on the YEF's website and updated regularly.

Deadlines for delivery are 28 February 2020 for the EGM typology, 30 April 2020 for a preliminary version of the EGM and 30 October 2020, at the latest, for the final version of the EGM and the evidence summaries.

Background

The YEF is a bold attempt to put early intervention at the heart of efforts to tackle youth offending in England and Wales. Set up with a 10-year, £200m endowment from the Home Office, it selects and funds the most effective approaches to prevent at risk children, aged 10 to 14, from being drawn into crime and violence. The YEF does this by using the best available evidence and information to identify the most promising interventions, fund them and then robustly but proportionately evaluate each of the interventions as well. Using the outcomes of these evaluations and other insights, the YEF's other function is, as a What Works Centre, to act as a centre of expertise: generating, disseminating and promoting new knowledge and practice to transform local and national

responses to tackling serious violence. You can read more about the YEF here: <https://youthendowmentfund.org.uk/>

The YEF is delivered in partnership by Impetus, the Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) and the Social Investment Business. EIF leads on Evidence and Evaluation for YEF. EIF is itself a What Works Centre and has a diverse team that brings together evidence, research and policy expertise from a range of backgrounds and professions. EIF conducted a rapid evidence review in 2015 looking at international literature on effective and ineffective programmes for tackling youth violence, which is available here: <https://www.eif.org.uk/report/what-works-to-prevent-gang-involvement-youth-violence-and-crime-a-rapid-review-of-interventions-delivered-in-the-uk-and-abroad>

The project

As part of our effort to find out what works, we need to understand the current state of knowledge about what works in the UK and internationally. To this end, we wish to commission a research organisation (or partnership of research organisations) to conduct a search of eligible systematic reviews, meta-analyses and primary studies that have been produced (meeting an agreed quality threshold) in our areas of interest.

More information about the different approaches to producing EGMs is covered in a recent paper by the Campbell Collaboration available here: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/pdf/10.4073/cmdp.2018.2>

We use the following definitions of EGM component parts in this document:

- The “EGM grid” is the table structure which will contain all of the mapped studies/reviews
- An “EGM grid section” is an individual cell on the EGM grid, mapping one intervention type against one outcome type
- An “intervention type” is the grouping of interventions used in the EGM to cover a closely related set of interventions (e.g. mentoring interventions or teachable moment interventions)
- An “outcome type” is the grouping of outcomes used in the EGM to cover a closely related set of i outcomes (e.g. offending outcomes, aggression outcomes)

- The “EGM typology” is the row and column headers of the EGM grid. The x axis will be a list of outcome types and the y-axis, will be a list of intervention types.

Whilst the intervention types and outcome types that form the EGM typology will be subject to discussion and external consultation with key stakeholders and our Expert Panel, we envisage that the review will include information covering:

1. a wide range of individual, family, peer, school, community and secure estate-based interventions, including environmental as well as programmatic interventions
2. information regarding moderators, mechanisms and implementation issues that affect under what conditions, for whom and how interventions work
3. interventions with a treated population that includes YEF’s target population of 10–14-year olds
4. outcomes including aggression, anti-social behaviour, bullying, delinquency, offending (proven and self-reported) and/or youth violence more generally.

This list is not exhaustive and we are keen to hear bidders’ thoughts on other aspects that should be included and their reasons for inclusion.

As a What Works Centre, the YEF’s evidence must be accessible to our key stakeholders (these include local authorities, youth services, youth offending teams, the police and criminal justice system, schools, the community and voluntary sector and others). To ensure that any search for evidence is accessible to our key stakeholders – a principally non-academic audience – we want the contractor to write brief summaries of each identified study or review; summaries of evidence findings for approximately 10–15 agreed intervention types and brief headline summaries for a subset of grid sections from the EGM. The results will be used to feed into a range of other outputs, including any YEF toolkits, guidance reports, checklists and briefings.

Future work by the YEF will examine other areas including effective approaches to tackling youth crime, implementation barriers and enablers for relevant intervention types. We will also continue to develop and update this EGM.

Our requirements

We envisage that the successful bidder(s) will need to carry out the following core activities, though we are interested in considering alternative, well-justified approaches from bidders:

1. Consulting with agreed key stakeholders (e.g. academics, practitioners and commissioners) to feed into the production of the EGM, with a focus on securing stakeholder buy-in to the EGM grid setting out which intervention types and outcomes feature on the EGM
2. Agreement of protocol including search methodology, inclusion criteria and broader preliminary evidence standards
3. Complete EGM on EPPI-Reviewer or another appropriate platform with agreed filters
4. Summaries of each identified study/review (approximately 50-100 words)
5. Evidence summaries of evidence mapped for an agreed subset (approximately 10-15) of the intervention types (approximately 400-800 words)
6. Brief headline summaries (approximately 50 words) of evidence mapped for an agreed subset of EGM grid sections
7. Co-authorship (with YEF) of a summary report covering overall EGM exercise.

The successful bidder will work very closely with the YEF Evidence & Evaluation team including regular updates and progress checks and YEF will have final sign off on all outputs. Bidders are actively encouraged to highlight their willingness and ability to support partnership working with YEF and to give examples of successful partnership working with other commissioners.

We are not commissioning EGM updates as part of this invitation to tender but the outputs of this exercise will be shared in full and retained by YEF to support future updates to the EGM and evidence summaries.

Timeline

Below is the planned timeline for tendering and commencement of the work:

Date	Activity
6 December 2019	Call issued
6 January 2020	Deadline for receipt of applications
By 7 January 2020	YEF clarification with applicants if needed
By 8 January 2020	Assessment of applications
10 January 2020	Interviews of shortlisted applicants (if required)
13 January 2020	Notification of decision
By 17 January 2020	Set up meeting with YEF

How to apply

Contractors are requested to send a detailed proposal in the template for provided covering:

- Supplier details and main contact information
- An executive summary of max 1 page of A4
- Understanding of the project brief
- An proposal setting out how the work will be delivered, including
 - proposed methodology
 - approach to project management
 - partnership working
 - project limitations and how these might be addressed
 - timeline and key milestones
 - key risks and mitigating actions
 - tasks by team member with day allocations and
 - any suggestions that add value to the project and its delivery
 - Expertise and past experience of the proposed delivery team (full CVs should be appended to responses)
- Examples of previous deliverables, in particular of producing EGMs and evidence summaries
- Named references from up to three major recent contracts that you have been awarded
- Proposed overall budget for this work (inclusive of VAT) and a breakdown of your costs for delivering this work, including day rates per role and any other charges.

We are particularly interested in approaches that are collaborative and that incorporate substantive engagement with our key stakeholders, particularly in the development of the EGM grid and evidence summaries.

We are open to and welcome joint applications.

Decisions will be made based on YEF's assessment of how well the proposal meets our requirements in each of the areas highlighted above and the value for money that the proposal represents.

Any queries should be addressed to peter.babudu@eif.org.uk.

The deadline for receipt of proposals is **Monday 6 January 2020**. Applications received after the deadline will not be reviewed.

Please note tenderers will not be entitled to claim from the YEF any costs or expenses which may be incurred in participating in the tender process, including those associated with preparing and submitting the tender, clarification meetings, etc, whether or not the tender is successful.