



## **The Youth Endowment Fund Head of Place-Based Evaluation**

Reports to: YEF Head of Evaluation  
Salary: £60,000 - £65,000 depending on experience  
Location: Central London

### **About the Youth Endowment Fund**

*The Youth Endowment Fund exists to prevent young people and children from becoming involved in violence.*

In recent years there has been a significant increase in violent crime. Homicides, assaults, robberies and offences involving weapons have all seen sustained growth. For children and young people, there have been particularly large increases in those who are both the perpetrators and victims of offences involving knives. This is a tragedy. Every child captured in these numbers is an important member of our community and society has a duty to protect them.

The Youth Endowment Fund is a charity with a £200m endowment and a mission that matters. Founded by youth charity Impetus and its partners the Early Intervention Foundation and the Social Investment Business, we exist to prevent children and young people from getting caught up in violent crime. Many organisations have this calling. Our unique role is to identify what works best and spread the good news. We do this by finding the very best ways to prevent youth violence, funding great initiatives and working to scale them up and spread great ideas.

Making this happen is a massive challenge. We will only succeed if we build a fantastic body of knowledge about youth violence and make it very accessible. Central to this is designing, commissioning and managing complex and rigorous impact evaluations with experts in the field, alongside working closely with key stakeholders and local areas to ensure that evidence changes policy and practice in a way that prevents young people from being caught up in crime.

A lot of our work will be place-based work. This will be of two types. Firstly, we want to know the best way to involve local residents when trying to reduce youth violence in specific neighbourhoods. Secondly, we want to identify where getting public sector bodies to work together will make the biggest difference. We can



only work all this out if we do fantastic evaluation. As the Head of Place-Based Evaluation, you will lead on overseeing and commissioning this pivotal evaluation work.

### **Key responsibilities**

We have set two medium-term objectives for our place-based work:

- To understand whether working with local residents to codesign approaches to addressing specific challenges can work. We want to test whether such approaches are feasible and promising and if they can identify the successful components to reduce local levels of youth violence. We call this work our 'Neighbourhood Fund'.
- To understand how agencies can better share data, power and information to prevent and reduce youth violence. We call this work our 'Agency Collaboration' work.

You will be responsible for making sure we evaluate both strands of this place-based work excellently, from developing our evaluation strategy to commissioning expert evaluation partners. You will make sure we fund work that best helps us learn what works to reduce youth violence and you will make sure our approach to evaluating place-based activity, including the principles, protocols and procedures we use, are excellent and highly respected.

As Head of Place-Based Evaluation, you will:

- Develop our place-based evaluation strategy, drawing on the best practice out there. You will work with our existing and overall Head of Evaluation to ensure the approach is consistent with YEF's overall evaluation strategy.
- Work with an expert partner to ensure each Neighbourhood Fund area has a strong evaluation plan which works to demonstrate change at a local level whilst aligning with our overall evaluation strategy and framework.
- Review recommendations on which Agency Collaboration applications for funding should be approved. Work closely with colleagues to make decisions about which proposals are sent to our Grants and Evaluation Governance Committee for approval and how they should be evaluated.
- Lead the design and delivery of our Place-Based evaluation work to ensure it produces quality learning about what works to prevent youth violence, including:
  - Tendering evaluations;
  - Assessing the feasibility, technical quality and deliverability of applications;

- Providing ongoing monitoring and quality assurance;
- Overseeing the publication of all reports.
- Manage an evaluation budget and ensure projects are delivered on time, on budget and to the highest quality.
- Serve as a senior member of the Youth Endowment Fund evaluation team and provide evaluation expertise and insight for the Fund. As a senior member of staff, you will often represent the work of our place-based evaluation at leadership meetings and governance meetings, making sure we make the best organisational decisions as a Fund and that the views and perspectives of your team are represented in those decisions.
- Assess the feasibility of conducting evaluations for all potential place-based opportunities for partnership for the Fund and make expert recommendations on which opportunities we pursue.

### About you

#### You are this sort of person:

- **You are committed to reducing youth violence:** You are passionate about the impact of prevention and early intervention. You don't want your days to pass without making a difference.
- **You are experienced in evaluation and research:** You have at least 5 years' experience working in a senior research and evidence role in a related sector and a strong knowledge and technical expertise in evaluation methodologies. This includes the ability to critically appraise the design of more than one area of evaluation (e.g. randomised control trials, quasi experimental designs, evaluations of public health approaches, evaluations of complex multi-component evaluations, etc). You have significant experience of carrying out or commissioning large scale research and evaluation and have experience carrying out applied research methods including both quantitative and qualitative approaches.

- ***You have a post-graduate (Masters or PhD) qualification or equivalent experience.*** This is in a relevant field such social science, social policy, public health, health services or other field, with a significant quantitative component, or relevant experience equivalent to a Masters qualification.
- ***You bring the best out of your colleagues:*** You have experience building and leading teams and have developed others to manage their workload to achieve amazing results. You are collaborative and a team player, able to build strong relationships across the whole organisation.
- ***You really know what makes great research and quality evidence:*** You can design and draft high-quality research proposals including the sample, measurement and analysis. You are confident in assessing the quality of evidence that underpins interventions and can guide decisions on grant applications.
- ***You are an excellent communicator.*** You can produce technical documents that accurately report methodological and statistical information. You will combine this with experience of communicating complex evidence and analysis in a simple and accessible format to non-experts.
- ***You are responsible, motivated and thrive in a fast-paced environment:*** You take personal responsibility for critical decisions and have experience working in a fast-paced and rapidly evolving environment. You are extremely motivated and have a track record of delivery highly technical research and evidence work on time, on budget and to a high quality.
- ***You are committed to equality, diversity and inclusion.*** You believe and act in a way that celebrates and encourages a range of experiences, views and values.

**You may have, but they are not essential:**

- ***Good knowledge and understanding of crime, serious violence or other relevant areas:*** This could include areas such as child development, parenting or children’s mental health from fields such as psychology, neuroscience or education research. You know the facts, the risk and protective factors that impact youth criminality, understand the issues,

know the key people and can discuss the theories. You are knowledgeable on this topic and very at ease discussing it with experts.

- ***First-hand experience of evaluating either neighbourhood or inter-agency evaluations:*** this could include work within a Local Authority evaluating how different agencies work together, work with violence reduction units as well as evaluations of public health approaches.
- ***Great quantitative analysis skills:*** This includes experience of using advanced analytical software such as R, Stata or SPSS. Experience of using this software in the context of quasi-experimental evaluations would also be an advantage.
- ***Knowledge and experience of evidence synthesis:*** You know the different approaches and have carried out your own evidence synthesis projects.
- ***An understanding of the public policy and delivery context of youth crime and early intervention***

While it is not a criterion, we are especially interested to hear from applicants who have lived experience of youth violence.

It is also important to us that the people we hire do not discriminate. We believe in being inclusive and giving everyone an equal chance to succeed. Applications are welcome from all regardless of age, sex, gender identity, disability, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief, race, sexual orientation, transgender status or social economic background.

### **To apply**

To apply please go to

<https://youthendowmentfund.applytojob.com/apply/ikRyP9WYL0/Head-Of-PlaceBased-Evaluation> and submit your application by midnight, 3rd January 2021.

You will be required to provide proof of your eligibility to work in the UK. As part of our commitment to flexible working we will consider a range of options for the successful applicant. All options can be discussed at the interview stage.

First round interviews will take place in the week commencing 4th January 2021.

Second round interviews will take place in the week commencing 11th January 2021.



Your personal data will be shared for the purposes of the recruitment exercise. This includes our HR team, interviewers (who may include other partners in the project and independent advisors), relevant team managers and our IT service provider if access to the data is necessary for performance of their roles. We do not share your data with other third parties, unless your application for employment is successful and we make you an offer of employment. We will then share your data with former employers to obtain references for you. We do not transfer your data outside the European Economic Area.