

Upcoming grant rounds from the Youth Endowment Fund February 2021

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1. About us

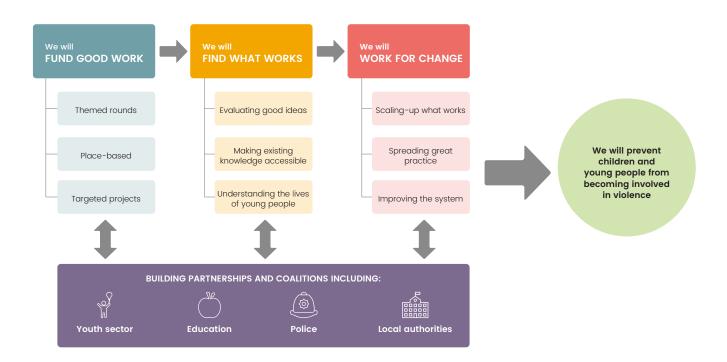
The Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) is a charity with a mission that matters. We exist to prevent children and young people becoming involved in violence. We do this by finding out what works and building a movement to put this knowledge into practice.

Children and young people at risk of becoming involved in violence deserve services that give them the best chance of a positive future. To make sure that happens, we'll fund promising projects and then use the very best evaluation to find out what works. Just as we benefit from robust trials in medicine, young people deserve support grounded in the evidence. Through our grant rounds, we'll build that knowledge.

And just as important is understanding children and young people's lives. Through our Youth Advisory Board and national network of peer researchers, we'll ensure they influence our work and we understand and are addressing their needs.

But none of this will make a difference if all we do is produce reports that stay on a shelf. Together we need to look at the evidence and agree what works, then build a movement to make sure that young people get the very best support possible.

Our <u>strategy</u> sets out how we'll do it. At its heart it says that we will fund good work, find what works and work for change. You can read it here.





We'll make sure that our staff, our partnerships, our governance and our funding reaches and represents the children we are here to serve. We will work to make sure that our work reaches young people from all backgrounds. We will also strive to make sure that charities led by Black, Asian and ethnic minority leaders access our funding and knowledge. To make absolutely sure of this, we will allocate £5 to 10 million over the next three years to fund Black, Asian and minority-ethnic led charities that are working to prevent children and young people becoming involved in violence.

We know that it's just a start, and there's more we will do. We're committed to continuing to work with you to make sure our funds, the knowledge we build and the changes we make together all work towards a society where every child can thrive.

For more information, you can read our Turning what we heard into action report.

in the youth justice system. We're

this inequality.

committed to understanding and addressing

2. Our prospectus

This prospectus is focused on the **themed grant rounds** part of our strategy. We're announcing that our next two grant rounds will be:



Another chance: diversion from the criminal justice system

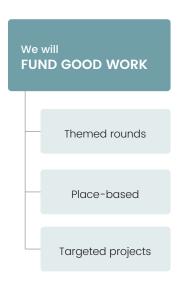


A supportive home: helping families to overcome challenges

What is a themed round?

Our <u>strategy</u> is to fund good work, find what works and work for change. It explains how we'll fund good work in three ways:

- 1 Theme rounds. We'll focus much of our funding on a series of themed rounds, one or two at any one time.
- Place-based. We'll focus on specific areas where violent crime is high. We'll build partnerships with local people and organisations through our Neighbourhood Fund to create and test approaches aimed at addressing local challenges. And we'll help local agencies to share power and information, through a dedicated Agency Collaboration Fund.
- 3 Targeted projects. If we identify practices that don't fit into the themed rounds or place-based funding but are widely used or promising with the potential to scale, we will provide the resources to fund, evaluate and learn from them.



What will this prospectus tell me?

This prospectus:

- sets out how our themes will make sure all of our work is centred on what children and young people need
- explains our approach to evidence and knowledge and what it means to be a YEF grantee
- gives you more detail on our next **themed grant rounds** on diversion and helping families, which we'll open for applications in April and then September 2021
- explains the ways you can get involved in our work including through our **place-based** or **targeted projects** funds, but also in our work to make lasting change for children and young people.

What the prospectus **won't** tell you is how to apply for funding. We'll publish full, detailed guidance in April to help you with this.

3. Our themes: working for children and young people

We're here to improve the lives of children and young people. We're building all of our work around a set of themes – the conditions that we think children and young people need in their lives to keep them safe from becoming involved in violence.

This set of themes provide a focus for the knowledge we want to build about what works to help put these conditions in place for every child and young person.

Each themed grant round will explore an area of interest linked to one of the themes.



Our first themed grant round will open for applications in April. The theme will be giving children and young people **another chance**. The specific area of interest for the round will be **diversion from the criminal justice system**.



In September we will open our second themed grant round. The theme will be making sure children have a supportive home. The specific area of interest will be helping families to overcome challenges.

What we learn from this work will guide the changes we make together to improve the lives of children and young people who are at risk of becoming involved in violence.





Young people need...



A supportive home

Whether it's through family therapy or parenting classes, we know that helping parents and carers can make a difference to children at risk of becoming involved in violence. This includes specific support for children in care.

A safe, positive place to learn

Keeping children engaged in their education helps to keep them safe from involvement in violence. We'll look at making sure schools, colleges, Pupil Referral Units and other forms of schooling have programmes in place to make sure they're safe, positive places to learn.

A safe neighbourhood

Having a strong friendship network and safe places to go in their neighbourhood means that children and young people can keep safe. That might include opportunities to take part in a sports team or the chance to make art or music. And it involves policing that that is effective, fair and trusted.

Social skills and good mental health

Children and young people need to develop social and emotional skills. If they can recognise and manage their feelings, they can build strong relationships with other people and overcome the challenges they face. The also need the best possible support, to improve their mental health and self-esteem.

Adults they trust

It might be a teacher, youth worker, sport coach, mentor or friend of the family. Children and young people need adults they can trust to talk through their problems and get help when they need it.

Opportunities

Young people need opportunities – whether it's employment, training or education. A bright future, with the chance to build their strengths and talents, can protect young people from becoming involved in violence.

Another chance

Sometimes things go wrong. If a young person gets into trouble, is arrested or convicted of a crime, they need a route to take an alternative path and avoid a cycle of re-offending.

A fair society

To make sure that every child gets the same chances in life, we need to work to make society fairer. That means tackling racism, discrimination and poverty.

The knowledge we build about what works in each of these themes will help us decide what needs to change to make sure every child has what they need to keep safe from violence. We'll look to change not just programmes and practice, but the policies and systems that let too many young people down.

How were these themes decided?

When we launched our strategy, we asked everyone working to keep children and young people safe to shape our future. Over 450 of you – including teachers, community and youth workers, police officers to social workers – shared your ideas and experiences. We made sure that we heard from young people too. Working with our partners at <u>Leaders Unlocked</u>, we spoke to young people with lived experience of violence and the youth justice system.

We also looked at the evidence, which shows us some of the things that can help to protect children from involvement in crime.

We know that, over time, evidence might change. And your views – and young people's – might not always stay the same. So, over the life of the fund, we'll keep revisiting these themes to make sure they're right. We'll keep listening to you and adapting. Because to get this right, we need to work together.

Find out more about how your feedback made a difference. Read our Turning what we heard into action report.





4. Themed grant rounds: being a YEF partner

Our commitment to finding out what works

The Youth Endowment Fund exists to prevent children and young people becoming involved in violence. We do this by finding out what works and building a movement to put this knowledge into practice.

To do this, we not only need to find and fund great approaches, we also need to evaluate them as rigorously as possible. In our **themed grant rounds**, we'll prioritise applications from projects that are already delivering, can show us some existing evidence that they work and will be ready for a robust type of evaluation (like a randomised control trial).

This doesn't mean that we won't consider applications at an earlier stage of evaluation, but we will look for projects that would be ready for a robust trial within two years.

What do we mean by needing existing evidence?

When we talk about prioritising projects where you can show us evidence, we mean:

- You can clearly explain what your project involves and how it leads to the change you want to see for the children you work with. This is sometimes called a theory of change, which is a method to help you describe your long-term goals and maps backwards to explain how your intervention will get you there.
- You've already done some evaluation of your project. This doesn't need to be a large trial our funding is here to develop that level of evidence. What we would like to see is some evidence that your project:
 - can be successfully implemented
 - leads to positive outcomes for children and young people (for example, it reduces school absences)

Through our next grant round, we're ideally looking for programmes that are **already being delivered**. The number of children a project needs to be working with will depend on the design of the evaluation, but we'd expect most projects to be delivering to at least a hundred children per year after two years of working with us.

What about programmes that haven't been evaluated? Or smaller programmes?

In our **themed grant rounds**, we'll prioritise programmes that are already delivering and can show some evidence of their outcomes because it helps us to undertake more robust kinds of evaluation (like randomised control trials). That's important, because children deserve services that we've tested and that have been proven to work well. By investing in evidence, we can build our knowledge and make sure we're offering every child the best support possible.

Our focus on larger programmes doesn't mean we want to miss finding out about the work of smaller, community organisations.

We know that we can only build up a full picture about what works if we understand the programmes those organisations are delivering too. Right now, we're working out the best ways to do that, from piloting new ways of running large trials to flexible learning projects. It's also why we're ringfencing £5 to 10 million for Black, Asian and minority ethnic-led charities working with young people at risk of becoming involved in violence.

You can read more about our plans in Section 5: other ways to work with YEF.

What would evaluation mean for me?

As a partner, we'll work with you to evaluate your project to find out if and how it works. We'll appoint an evaluator to help you by co-designing the research elements of the project, to make sure the evaluation works for your programme.

One of the most robust ways to do that is through a randomised controlled trial (RCT)¹. This helps us to test programmes and approaches, so that we can make sure the programmes we're providing for our most vulnerable young people have the best possible chance of making a difference.

What is a randomised controlled trial (RCT)?

In an RCT, one group receives the intervention while the other group doesn't. By looking at both groups before and after you work to support young people, we can see the impact your programme has made.

How would the evaluation of my programme be designed?

We don't expect you to have a clear idea of how your programme could be evaluated when you apply. But you will have to work with us to shape your project so that it can be robustly evaluated by one of our approved evaluation partners.

Designing an evaluation normally requires your proposed project plan to be adapted in some way. This may involve, for instance, adjusting some elements of delivery, or delivering your programme on a larger scale than you initially proposed. We have an extensive co-design process, which may take up to three months, to support this. When we open our **themed grant round** in April, we'll provide more detail about what to expect so that you can decide if this grant round is right for you.

We're looking to work with partners who are committed to understanding more about their programme, and who are keen to work with us and an independent evaluator in this way. It's important that everyone's happy with the agreed project and evaluation design before any delivery starts. We wouldn't be able to go ahead with the project otherwise.

¹ We won't only be funding RCTs; we'll also fund pilot studies and might use other designs to understand what would have happened if a child hadn't received your intervention. The exact evaluation design will depend on the nature of the programme being tested.



We will also try to understand how your programme works. Alongside the impact evaluation, the independent evaluation team will conduct a detailed process evaluation. This usually involves speaking to participants in depth, conducting surveys, interviews, and case studies to learn as much as possible about your approach.

Understanding the difference you make in the long term

Right now, we just don't know enough about the policies, programmes and approaches that successfully protect children from becoming involved in violence in the long term.

To find out what works, we need to understand the difference a project makes over time. That means we need to collect and store information so that we can follow the future progress of the children who've been supported by our projects. In the future, this will help researchers see how the projects we fund have changed young people's lives over the years that follow their participation.

For our partners, this means that we'll need you to help us collect relevant information about the children you work with. We have robust systems and protocols to ensure we're keeping their information safe, from the point it's collected, to when it's accessed by future researchers. We use a secure data archive for all data. You can read more about it here.

While the main responsibility for conducting research and storing personal information will be the independent evaluators, it's important that you're happy to support them.

What happens to the findings of the evaluation?

The collective aim of both the YEF and our evaluation partners is to give each programme the best possible chance of success. We want to make sure we're learning as much as we possibly can.

We might not always find that a programme has a positive effect on those children and young people most at risk of becoming involved in violence. But that's still helpful knowledge, which contributes to our collective understanding. That's why we're committed to publishing the results from every project that we fund, even if it turns out that a programme didn't have the impact we expected.

5. Other ways to work with YEF

We know that some organisations won't be ready to be partners in our **themed grant rounds**, because we'll prioritise projects that can be evaluated using methods like randomised control trials (RCTs) within two years. But our **theme grant rounds** aren't the only way we'll try to make a difference to children and young people.

There are several other ways you could work with us to help us build knowledge of what works to prevent children becoming involved in violence and help put it into practice.

Multi-site trials

Some of the most robust types of evaluation (like randomised control trials) only work if there are a lot of children participating in your project. This can make it hard for smaller organisations to take part.

That's why we're working on a way to work with groups of smaller organisations who are delivering the same approach (for example, a certain type of mentoring scheme), to run multi-site trials that can test the impact of a common practice. There are challenges with running this kind of trial, but we're working hard to overcome them. We'll be able to share more news soon.

Funding for Black, Asian and minority ethnic-led organisations

We're allocating £5 to 10 million over the next three years for Black, Asian and minority ethnic-led organisations working with children and young people at risk of becoming involved in violence. We'll be able to share more information about it soon.

Young people's experiences

To make sure that our work meaningfully reflects what young people need, we're making sure we're listening to them and involving them in our work – especially those with experience of violence. We've partnered with <u>Leaders Unlocked</u> to set up a Youth Advisory Board which will give young people a stake in our decision-making.

We're working to set up a national network of young peer researchers. They'll build our understanding of young people's experiences and opinions which, together with other research, will influence the choices we make and guidance that we develop.

Later this year, there'll be the opportunity to join us a delivery partner, recruiting and supporting our peer researchers.

YEF Toolkit

There is already quite a bit of existing knowledge about what works in this area, but it's really difficult to find. In June 2021, we'll publish the first version of our Toolkit. In a single, accessible online resource, the YEF Toolkit will bring together existing information on the effectiveness of different approaches that aim to prevent children becoming involved in violence.

Neighbourhood Fund

We know that a high proportion of violence happens in very specific local areas. The YEF **Neighbourhood Fund** will help us to better understand the challenges these communities are facing, then co-design, test and evaluate solutions that respond to their local needs. Investing in different approaches to community engagement will help us to understand how, where and why local people can work most effectively to keep children safe from violence

We will launch the Fund this year, partnering with five local neighbourhoods where our data analysis has shown that there are high levels of serious youth violence. Over time, we'll look to partner with more local areas where there's the most need.

Agency Collaboration Fund

We know that many children and young people at risk of becoming involved in violence are known to local agencies. Yet this knowledge is often fragmented across multiple organisations, with different people holding different pieces of the puzzle. Opportunities where agencies could and should work together are missed.

To help understand where those opportunities are, we're investing in our **Agency Collaboration Fund**. We'll run evaluations to find out the most effective ways agencies can work together to identify and support the children most at risk. We'll launch our first call for proposals in early 2022.

Targeted projects

By focusing on themes, we might sometimes miss out on great opportunities for funding and evaluating a project that could make a big difference to young people.

So each year we'll make a small number of grants through our **targeted projects** programme. We'll prioritise programmes that are likely to be able to conduct a large-scale evaluation (either a randomised controlled trial or experimental design) within two years. And we'll look to work with projects that have already secured match funding. We'll focus on two areas:

- We will fund and evaluate **popular and commonly used interventions** to better understand their effectiveness.
- 2 We will fund and evaluate **promising interventions** which draw on good evidence and have the potential for impact at scale.

From 2023-24 we'll expand this funding to scale-up programmes and practices that have been proven to be effective through a YEF-funded trial.

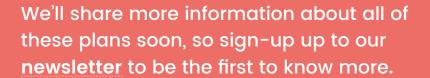
Funding will be available for programme and evaluation costs. We won't normally make significant investment into programme costs where there is little existing evidence.

Working for change

None of our work will matter if we end with a lot of interesting reports that stay sitting on a shelf. That's why we want to help build a movement to make change happen. As our strategy says, we'll do that by:

- Scaling up what works. When an activity is shown to be effective, we'll help expand it. We'll help organisations strengthen their internal structures and capacity, so they're ready to scale up their work. That could include expanding their existing provision or replicating programmes in new locations across their networks.
- 2 Spreading great practice. When a practice is shown to be effective, we'll work with others to spread it. We'll build networks and coalitions of people and organisations who are passionate about spreading ideas that work. We'll provide the best possible evidence on what does work and then work together to spread great practice.
- Improving the system. Sometimes what will be needed are changes to the system itself. We will need to work together to change the structures, processes or institutional biases that decide how and where resources are directed and how children and their families are supported. Where there's evidence that change is needed, we'll work with others to make that happen. Sometimes this will be hard, sometimes it may make us unpopular, but we'll always put children and young people first and ask what is needed to keep them safe.

To make sure we're doing all of this, we're building a network of people who are passionate about protecting the children most at risk and want their decisions to be based on the best available evidence. They'll help us to set our change objectives and get them implemented.





6. Our April 2021 grant round - Another chance: diversion from the criminal justice system

Diversion – our first themed grant round

We know that sometimes, children need **another chance**: alternatives to arrest, conviction and custody. Diversion programmes offer that, whether it's through mental health support, whole family interventions or mentoring (for example). They all tend to offer support at key turning points; that might be at point of arrest, before court action is taken and when a child sustains a serious injury because they've been involved in a violent assault.

The question we're aiming to answer

Which diversion approaches work best at preventing 10 to 17-year-olds from becoming involved in violence?

What we're aiming to invest in

We'll aim to identify around 10-20 programmes that are ready for robust impact evaluation or could be supported to reach this point within two years. We will look to spend between £10 million and £20 million depending on the quality of the applications.

Scope of programmes we'll fund in this round

	IN SCOPE	OUT OF SCOPE
CONTEXT OF CHILDREN SUPPORTED	Children identified at one of four turning point moments before court action is taken for a crime: a) Not yet arrested but identified by police or other statutory bodies as at high risk of becoming involved in crime b) At point of injury due to a violent incident c) At point of arrest d) Prior to court action (for example within out of court disposals or deferred prosecution)	Children identified with low or moderate risk of becoming involved in crime. Support programmes to prevent reoffending after conviction.
ACTIVITIES	Diversionary programmes that provide: a) Family and parenting support b) Mental health and therapeutic support c) Restorative justice d) Other approaches if they can demonstrate scale and evidence of impact on an outcome strongly associated with later involvement in violence (for example, aggression). For more information on factors associated with increased risk of or protection from involvement in violence, you can read our What Works briefing.	Other approaches where evidence of an impact on a primary outcome associated with children's involvement in violence is weak or does not exist.
AGE OF CHILDREN	10 to 17-year-olds	Anyone outside this age range.
DELIVERY ORGANISATIONS	Programmes will involve a referral by a relevant statutory body, for example: • Police • Violence Reduction Unit • Local Authority Youth Offending Team • Acute healthcare trust But programmes may be provided by charities, public services, or private sector organisations. Programmes must support children in England and/or Wales.	Any programmes that do not involve a statutory service referral.
TYPE OF EVALUATION	Programmes that have sufficient scale and evidence of impact to run a large-scale efficacy and/or effectiveness evaluation, through a randomised control trial or quasi-experimental design method. Programmes that require a pilot study, but that could be ready for an efficacy and/or effectiveness trial within two years.	Programmes that have no existing theory of change or evidence base. Programmes that do not have sufficient scale and are not likely to be ready within two years to enable a robust evaluation.

Why we're investing in diversion

Diversion is an important area we want to explore as part of our theme, another chance.

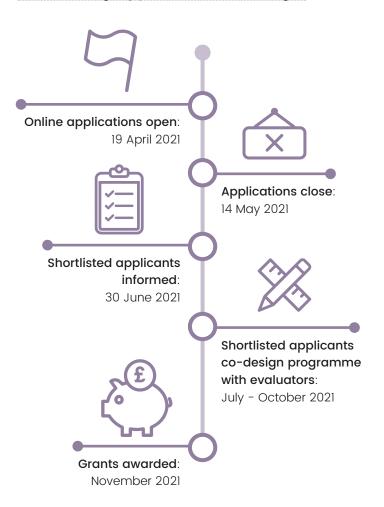
Through our conversations with stakeholders, you were clear that we should learn more about what makes a diversion programme effective. And there's promising evidence that these approaches are effective at preventing reoffending and reducing the risk of involvement in violence. However, the evidence is mainly from the United States and more is needed on programmes run in the UK.

Timeline for applications

Grant round workshops: March - April 2021

We'll run a series of online workshops for organisations interested in becoming a YEF partner in this grant round. Members of the YEF team will be available to provide more information and answer questions on what we're aiming to fund in this grant round, the application process and what it's like to work with us to build the evidence of what works in preventing children and young people from becoming involved in violence.

More information on workshops is available <u>here</u>. You can also contact antoinette.kwegen@youthendowmentfund.org.uk





7. Our September 2021 grant round – A supportive home: helping families to overcome challenges

We're running this grant round in partnership with Comic Relief.

Helping families – our second themed grant round

Having a **supportive home** helps to keep children safe from involvement in violence. Where children live in homes where there's conflict or domestic abuse, alcohol or substance misuse or where other family members are involved in crime, they're at higher risk.

That's why we want to invest in programmes that support families. And that includes building our understanding of what works for children in the care system, who are significantly overrepresented in the youth justice system.

The question we're aiming to answer

Which approaches are most effective in helping families and carers to create a supportive home environment for 6 to 14 year-old children (including looked-after children), reducing the likelihood of them becoming involved in violence?

What we're aiming to invest in

We'll aim to identify around 10-20 programmes that are ready for robust impact evaluation or could be supported to reach this point within two years. We will look to spend between £10 million and £20 million depending on the quality of the applications.

Scope of programmes we'll fund in this round

We are likely to be interested in funding and evaluating programmes where the evidence of positive impacts on children is promising. This may include activities like:

- Family counselling
- Therapy approaches
- Workshops for the whole family
- Support programmes for parents
- Support programmes for foster families and looked-after children

Working with you to make the right decisions

With our partners Comic Relief, we'll be involving young people with lived experience of crime and violence to help us co-design this **themed grant round**. We'll also be talking to people working with children and families, people who commission services for families and experts on family-focused programmes.

Alongside further research, speaking to you will help us make sure that we develop the right criteria for this round. We'll publish more information in August 2021.

Why we're focusing on this area

Our conversations with people working to keep children safe – and young people themselves – made it clear that we should focus on helping families.

There's also clear evidence that family support could be effective. But lots of the evidence is international rather than UK-based, and many of the underlying studies have limitations. By funding programmes in England and Wales, we can build our knowledge of how best to support families, foster carers and children's homes so that children have **a supportive home**.

Partnership with Comic Relief

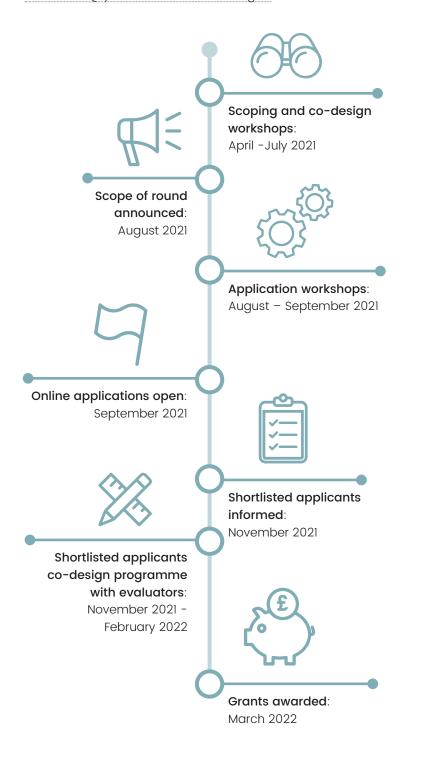
Comic Relief are investing £2 million into a partnership with YEF to co-design a programme with young people, which will focus on how high-quality family support can help prevent youth violence.

We want to thank Comic Relief for supporting this important area of work.

Timeline for applications

We'll run a series of online workshops with people and organisations working in this area and with young people with experience of crime and violence.

If you'd like to know more about how you can take part in these discussions, email lesha at iesha.small@youthendowmentfund.org.uk



More information on the application process and guidance will be available when we publish the final scope of this round in August 2021.

8. How we'll assess applications

When we're making decisions about which applications to fund as part of our **theme grant rounds**, we'll use eight criteria to help us choose projects that have a great plan and strong capability to deliver it.

WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR	WHAT THIS MEANS TO US	DESCRIPTION IN MORE DETAIL
A GREAT PLAN	A worthwhile outcome	You are aiming to change things that are likely to ultimately reduce the risk of young people becoming involved in violence
	If delivered well, likely to achieve the outcome	You are delivering an intervention that is likely to achieve the outcomes you are aiming at
	Aiming to reach the right type of young people	You are aiming to reach the young people who are most likely to be at risk of becoming involved in youth violence
	Likely to lead to change	If what you deliver is shown to be effective, it is believable that it could reach many more young people (either through you scaling up, others learning from what you do or a change in the system)
STRONG CAPABILITY TO DELIVER	Likely to reach the right type of young people	You are likely to be able to reach and work with the type of young people you aim to work with
THE PLAN	Able to deliver	You are likely to be able to deliver the plan you have laid out
	Evaluable	We can evaluate what you do. This is partly about ensuring that by the end of two years of funding you will be able to work with a large enough group of young people that we could evaluate what you do through a Randomised Control Trial
	Able to deliver at the required scale	You will be able to deliver at the size that you propose

We'll use an application form (released in April) to ask for your answers to these questions. We'll also release detailed guidance to help you fill it in.

Sign-up up to our <u>newsletter</u> to be the first to know more.

9. Get involved

We like people being able to contact a person or our teams directly - not just a generic email address. If you want to find out more about our work and how you could get involved, get in touch with us:

For questions about:

- our upcoming workshops on the grant rounds, email Antoinette: antoinette.kwegan@youthendowmentfund.org.uk
- our Another chance: diversion from the criminal justice system grant round, email Caleb: caleb.jackson@youthendowmentfund.org.uk
- our A supportive home: helping families to overcome challenges grant round, email lesha: iesha.small@youthendowmentfund.org.uk
- our Toolkit, email Pete: peter.henderson@youthendowmentfund.org.uk
- our evaluations, email Daniel: daniel.aquah@youthendowmentfund.org.uk
- our change work, email Paul: paul.twocock@youthendowmentfund.org.uk
- our place-based work, email Gail: gail.gibbons@youthendowmentfund.org.uk
- anything else, email us at hello@youthendowmentfund.org.uk

















