



## An Invitation to Tender: Solace Women's Aid

### Project Background

The Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) are running a second themed grant round (GR2) - [Supportive Home: helping families to overcome challenges](#) to find out which approaches are most effective in creating a supportive home environment to reduce the likelihood of children and young people becoming involved in violence. In this grant round, six projects have progressed onto the next stage of the process, which entails running a competitive tendering process to appoint evaluators for each of the projects.

Typically, the YEF fund projects which are ready for a pilot or impact evaluation. However, in some cases, the YEF are keen to support projects which may be at an early stage of development. In the GR2 application process, Solace Women's Aid were identified as having a promising concept, which is in its early stages of development. As a result, the YEF are taking a different approach with this project. The project will need a period of programme development before progressing onto an early stage of evaluation.

The YEF aim to appoint a partner with relevant expertise to support this project through the period of development, with the aim to develop an approach which can be evaluated.

### Solace Women's Aid

Solace exists to end harm done through gender-based violence. They are one of the largest providers of women's services in the UK, operating 22 refuges in 7 boroughs across London. As well as safe housing they offer support to help women and children recover and rebuild lives, 1:1 therapy, prevention programmes in schools and advocacy support at a national level.

The Solace team want to extend its therapeutic support to children who have witnessed domestic abuse and are at higher risk of poor life outcomes, including becoming involved in violence. They estimate there may be 100 children aged 6 – 18 living in their refuges at any given time for a duration of 6 – 8 months.

Solace's 'Head of Therapy Services' has been trained in an evidenced based therapeutic methodology from Yale university, that has been shown to reduce PTSD for children – the



model is named 'Child and Family Traumatic Stress Intervention'. The Solace team are interested in exploring if this intervention can be adapted to the London context and can be delivered to children staying in the refuges.

Although the Solace team have an idea of what programme they may want to deliver, the YEF are keen for experts to advise on the best approach and most appropriate programme for the target group within this context.

### **Proposed support needed and outputs**

The YEF have worked closely with Impetus to understand the support required for this project.

The project objectives would be to produce two main deliverables:

1. To identify and adapt a suitable intervention which is fit for purpose for the local context. This will include creating a theory of change suitable for the needs identified within the target population.
2. To develop a robust delivery plan to pilot the new service that meets the YEF requirements of a [feasibility study](#).

YEF would like to appoint an expert to lead on delivering structured working sessions with key staff from Solace to co-produce and then document the theory of change. A key element of this will be considering how the new programme could be integrated into the existing services Solace offer.

Once there is clarity on the theory of change, Solace will need support to develop a delivery plan. This will need to include the practicalities of how the programme will be delivered at the scale proportionate for a feasibility study, including recruitment of staff, which sites to deliver in, etc.

The appointed partner will need to be flexible their approach to meet the needs of the Solace team.

### **Timeline**

The YEF predict this support will take approximately 5 months – involving around 15 days of work. However, submissions with a different timeline and clear justification are welcomed.



Once an expert is appointed, we are interested in this work commencing as soon as possible.

### **How to apply**

YEF is interested in proposals from individuals/teams with expertise and knowledge of domestic abuse and child therapy, as well as experience in theory of change development.

Proposals should include no more than **2,500 words**. Proposals will be assessed on the following criteria:

- **Capability and relevant experience of the team/expert (40%)** – including demonstration of subject expertise and experience of working on similar projects within this context.
- **Approach (50%)** – A suitable approach which addresses how the objectives will be met, including key considerations being identified. This should also include the proposed timeline. Annex A shows an approach for facilitating structured workshops. This is just an example, so please submit your own approach.
- **Value for money (10%)** – A detailed budget and why this provides good value for money. Please use the YEF budget template – you may need to email the evaluation team inbox to get access to this.

You may attach **relevant** documents to support your application – this will not be included in the word count.

Please email your proposal to [evaluation@youthendowmentfund.org.uk](mailto:evaluation@youthendowmentfund.org.uk) by the **20<sup>th</sup> of June at 5pm**.

**Annex A** – An example approach for structuring workshops for the development and refinement of the intervention.

	Area of Focus	Critical questions	Example answers
- Workshop 1	- 'Who' is your target population	- What are the characteristics of the children you want to work with? - Who would you not be able to serve well?	- Age range 6-11, care experienced, recently experienced trauma - SEND, 6+ ACEs
- Workshop 2	- 'What' outcomes do you seek for them	- What is the long term outcome you seek for these children? - How do you define a successful completion of your program? - Do you have short term indicators of progress made in between therapy sessions?	- Avoiding exclusion, attachment to non-offending parent, avoiding youth justice - Not suffering from PTSD - Self concept, self regulation
- Workshop 3	- 'How' will you design the programme	- What type of therapy is delivered? - How much? - How often? - By whom? With what caseload?  - Where? - When?	- CBT - Total of 7 hours - Fortnightly - Trained childrens' therapists with a caseload of 10 with clear transitions with the family support worker - Within the first month of their trauma
- Workshop 4	- Performance Management	- What inputs, outputs, outcome KPIs do you need to track?	- How many children are enrolled with what characteristics, how many attend all sessions, what are their outcomes?