

FEASIBILITY STUDY PLAN

# Feasibility of an impact evaluation for detached and outreach youth work

Centre for Evidence and Implementation,  
YMCA George Williams College and  
Bryson Purdon Social Research

Principal investigator: Jane Lewis

## Feasibility study plan

Centre for Evidence and Implementation, YMCA George Williams College, Bryson Purdon  
Social Research

Jane Lewis

<b>Project title</b>	<b>Feasibility of an impact evaluation for detached and outreach youth work</b>
<b>Developer (Institution)</b>	n/a
<b>Evaluator (Institution)</b>	Centre for Evidence and Implementation, YMCA George Williams College, Bryson Purdon Social Research
<b>Principal investigator(s)</b>	Jane Lewis
<b>Study plan author(s)</b>	Amy Hall, Jane Lewis, Bethia McNeil, Lydia Whitaker, Dr Susan Purdon, Caroline Bryson

## Study plan version history

Version	Date	Reason for revision
<b>1.0 [original]</b>	28/04/2023	

## Study rationale and background

Youth work practice that takes place outside of typical youth work settings and the parameters of programmatic provision is an important part of mainstream youth services, but can be difficult to evaluate using conventional impact evaluation approaches. There are a number of qualitative studies that have explored the nature of detached youth work and perceptions of its impacts<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>. However, there is little quantitative evidence about the effectiveness of these important services for young people, despite how highly this work is valued in the youth sector. Building the body of evidence about mainstream practices through rigorous evaluations is important to understand what is effective for young people, support sound investment decisions, understand what should be prioritised in policy and public spending and also to understand where practice needs to be adapted and strengthened.

Detached and outreach youth work (DOYW) raises particular challenges for evaluation. This study will explore the feasibility of evaluating the impact of DOYW by exploring:

- the models of DOYW that exist, and the commonalities and disparities between them,
- which practices or ‘business as usual’ activities DOYW could be compared to,
- the sector’s appetite for and concerns about evaluating DOYW,
- which research questions a robust evaluation would be able to answer,
- the research designs and methods that could be used,
- any risks in evaluating DOYW and potential mitigations.

Our working definition of DOYW is that it is youth work that takes place in the community in young people's spaces, for example it could be street-based, in parks, in cafes or in mobile provision such as a converted bus. Outreach work (aiming to engage young people with the services of the agency involved, or with other services) may be an element of this work for some organisations undertaking it. Outreach work is considered within the remit of the study only where it is part of detached youth work (recognising that outreach work also takes place in settings that are not part of detached youth work).

---

<sup>1</sup> Dowling, N. (2020). Detached Youth Work, A Critical Analysis of Theory and Practice, University of Gloucester, Gloucester;

<sup>2</sup> Crimmens, D. and Factor, F. and Jeffs, T. and Pitts, J. and Pugh, C. and Spence, J. and Turner, P. (2004) 'Reaching socially excluded young people : a national study of streetbased youth work.', Discussion Paper. National Youth Agency, Leicester.

<sup>3</sup> Tania de St Croix & Louise Doherty (2023) 'It's a great place to find where you belong': creating, curating and valuing place and space in open youth work, Children's Geographies, DOI: 10.1080/14733285.2023.2171770

<sup>4</sup> Evaluation of the Brighton Streets Project <https://www.trustdevcom.org.uk/what-we-do/young-people/brighton-streets-2/brighton-streets-evaluation/>

There are several key challenges to evaluating DOYW which this feasibility study will explore. Firstly, how young people could be reached. By the very nature of DOYW, the young people are considered 'hard to reach' and are often disengaged from other services and mistrusting of institutions. Relationships formed between youth workers and young people are central to ways of working but may be fragile<sup>5</sup>, making it difficult to introduce research requirements.

A further challenge is the variance in the context and background of the young people, and the aims or targeted outcomes of detached youth work, which will make it difficult to define it for evaluation by reference to the target or eligibility group or intended outcomes. We expect to find that some models and approaches are not well aligned with YEF's primary objective of reducing youth violence, and there may be resistance to framing DOYW with this aim, although there may be closer alignment with associated vulnerabilities and risk factors.

The non-programmatic and highly youth-led nature of DOYW also raises challenges for evaluation, making it difficult to describe a consistent model of practice or to predict or measure dosage. DOYW workers engage with the young people who are present in the moment without working to a fixed frequency or duration of contact.

Finally, it is also challenging to determine what constitutes 'business as usual' in relation to the support or provision that young people access in the absence of DOYW, and what DOYW could therefore be compared with.

Since cuts to local authority funding, we have seen a dramatic decline in DOYW provision. Funding cuts and the dismantling of other aspects of infrastructure such as Ofsted inspections mean that currently few local authorities have an ongoing in-house youth service, and provision is fragmented and disparate in the UK. The funders of DOYW are varied (including trusts, foundations, the Home Office and CCG commissioning) and its aims similarly wide-ranging. Together these issues make it extremely difficult to build an accurate overview of how much DOYW is available for young people, where it is taking place, and the impact it has on young people's well-being. An understanding of these questions would enable local authorities and commissioners to make evidence-based decisions about where and how to fund DOYW.

---

<sup>5</sup> Golden S, Spielhofer T, Sims D, Aiston S and O'Donnell L (2002) Re-Engaging the Hardest-to-Help Young People: The role of the neighbourhood support fund London: Department for Education and Skills

## Intervention

Detached youth work is a very longstanding approach used to engage, support and create opportunities for so-called 'hard to reach' children and young people. The work was not documented until the late 1950's with ethnographic studies of gangs in New York.

The term DOYW covers a broad range of practice and provision for young people. The unifying feature is that the interaction between youth workers and young people does not take place in a building, but in the young person's own territory. Within this body of practice, there is significant diversity in terms of intention, activity, frequency/intensity, and the nature of the relationship between young people and youth workers. Dowling's typology below provides a useful overview of the different forms of DOYW.<sup>6</sup> This places the emphasis on the quality of the relationship with young people, often built on the youth worker's similarity and background, predicated on an asset-based model of working with young people.<sup>7,8</sup>

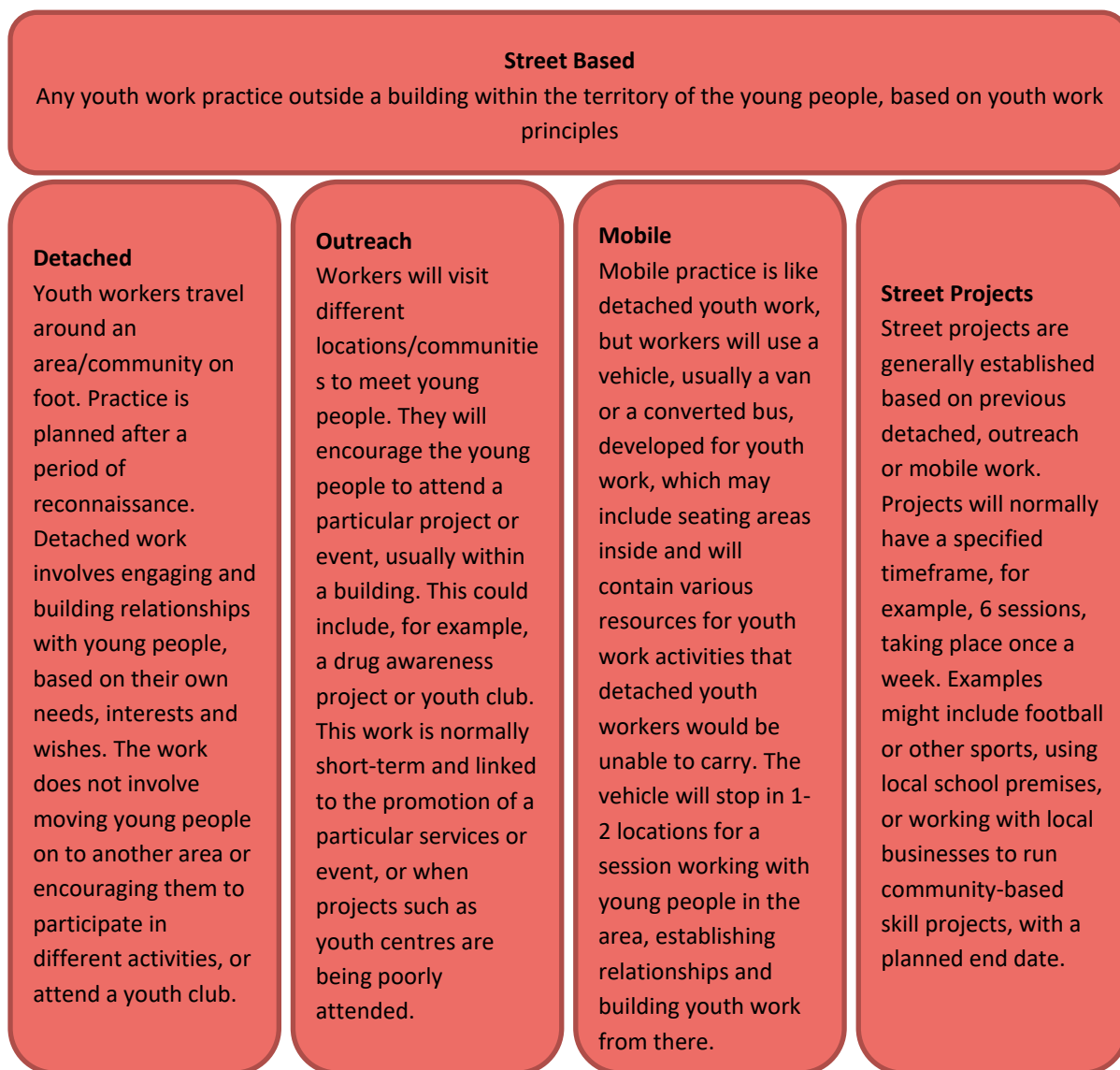
---

<sup>6</sup> Dowling, N. (2020). *Detached Youth Work, A Critical Analysis of Theory and Practice*, University of Gloucester, Gloucester.

<sup>7</sup> Sonneveld, J Metz, J, Schalk, R & Van Regenmortel, T. (2021). Professional youth work as a preventive service towards an integrated conceptual framework. *Journal of Adolescence and Youth*, 26:1, 340-355. DOI: 10.1080/02673843.2021.1942088

<sup>8</sup> Smith, M. K. (1996, 2005). 'Detached, street-based and project work with young people' in *The encyclopaedia of pedagogy and informal education*.

**Figure 1: Detached outreach youth work**



DOYW as a model of youth work practice is the focus of ongoing debate as to its purpose and function, and any future evaluation must be sensitive to these issues. For those youth work academics and practitioners coming from a traditionalist perspective, DOYW should be pedagogical: a fluid, open ended, process-driven relational model, which centres on the experiences of young people, whilst also holding a critical line that targeted, clinical, outcome-

based interventions lack youth work 'purity'.<sup>9,10</sup> On the other hand, the breadth of practice that sits under the DOYW banner has increased, to include community safety and criminal justice intervention. This has brought with it a much greater focus on pre-defined outcomes and 'intended impact', concepts with which parts of the DOYW system will be more comfortable. In addition, as noted earlier, even where there are pre-defined intended outcomes, these may not align with YEF's primary focus on reducing youth offending, although they may be better aligned with associated vulnerabilities and risk factors. The feasibility study needs to be cognisant of these different perspectives which are likely to influence considerations about which types of DOYW might be more or less evaluable and which parts of the system providing it might be more or less able to be involved in evaluation activity.

## Research questions and/or objectives

These issues, and the focus of the study, mean that the study needs to begin with a more exploratory approach to understanding DOYW than is the starting point for many YEF feasibility studies. The study is constructed in two stages, with a decision to be made after Stage 1 about whether to move to Stage 2.

### Stage 1 research questions

The first stage of feasibility work will focus on the following Research Questions:

1. What models of DOYW exist, how widely are they used, and which are most likely to be relevant for this study?
2. What interventions or practices could DOYW be compared with? Is it distinct enough from other activities to be able to detect an impact?
3. What are delivery organisations' views on evaluating the impact of DOYW? What are the motivations and concerns of leaders and providers in the field?

### Stage 2 research questions

The second stage of feasibility work will focus on the Research Questions:

4. What research questions could a robust evaluation answer, including consideration of priority outcomes, mechanisms to be tested, sub-group effects and implementation factors?

---

<sup>9</sup> Crimmens, D et al. (2004, 2010). Reaching socially excluded young people -a national study of street-based youth work, National Youth Agency, Leicester [<https://dro.dur.ac.uk/6409/>. Retrieved 9/2/23]

<sup>10</sup> Tiffany, G (2007) Reconnecting Detached Youth Work: Standards and Guidelines for Excellence, Federation of Detached Youth Work: Leicester.

5. What methods could be used including
  - Scope for a cluster RCT or quasi-experimental design (QED), and if QED with what comparison group/s
  - How could data feasibly be collected?
  - What effect sizes are likely; what sample size will be needed to detect those effects?
6. What are the risks and how could they be mitigated?

## Progression

No formal success criteria or targets have been set. Progression from Stage 1 to Stage 2 will depend on whether Stage 1 identifies a clear practice model/s that would be evaluable. Progression from Stage 2 to a pilot trial will depend on whether a viable approach to a robust impact evaluation is identified.

## Methods

### Stage 1 research methods

#### *Initial desk research*

Stage 1 will begin with desk research to identify the range of organisations involved in DOYW and develop a sample to draw on in a survey as well as in qualitative interviews and workshops. The sampling will be approached in three ways:

- We will identify named contacts in organisations that provide or may provide (or commission, fund or otherwise support) DOYW, by reviewing the websites of a minimum of 50 local authorities (LAs), wider web searches, using information from the NYA Census and 360 Giving data available via GrantNav, and drawing on the YMCA GWC's contacts and regional impact networks.
- We will identify membership organisations and networks and ask the network manager or other gatekeeper to forward the survey link to their members
- We will encourage wider circulation of the survey link by those we reach in these ways, and through supportive social media messaging.

We will also draw on a literature review on DOYW being undertaken by Partnership for Young London for further information on the prevalence of DOYW and models of practice in use.



### *Primary data collection*

Primary data collection involving a short online survey and semi-structured interviews with individuals involved in the delivery and commissioning of DOYW (LAs that commission or conduct DOYW, voluntary sector organisations, other funders, sector lead organisations) will be used to provide further understanding of the prevalence and practice in England. We will explore the following issues:

- Nature and extent of their engagement with DOYW:
  - Organisations commissioned
  - Number of staff involved in direct delivery
  - Number of young people reached
- Models of DOYW practice, including:
  - Targeted young people: any established criteria and their profiles and characteristics (incl. age, risk factors and vulnerabilities, other services or agencies likely to be in their lives)
  - Targeted outcomes or objectives: explicit and implicit aims of engagement in DOYW
  - Staff involved in DOYW: numbers, backgrounds, training
  - Where and how young people are reached
  - Nature of interactions with young people: incl. intensity and frequency of contact, where it takes place, individual or group contexts, how relationships are developed, any specific content of relationships (e.g. befriending, mentoring, advising, signposting to or liaising with other agencies, violence disruption and liaison with any other agencies)
  - Variation in practice within their agency, across the sector
  - Hypotheses about the mechanisms of change at work
- Race equity issues:
  - Are minoritised ethnic groups (and other minoritised groups including LGBTQ+ and gypsy/Roma communities) targeted in their outreach work
  - How race (and other) inequity informs young people's circumstances and needs, and their work with young people
  - Any differential in their ability to reach or support minoritised groups
- Information collected by agencies on DOYW
  - What information is collected, by whom, in what form
  - How is DOYW overseen, evaluated or supported by the organisation
- Other relevant areas of practice:
  - Services in young people's lives in the absence of DOYW
  - What could DOYW be compared with

- How is DOYW distinct from these practices
- Views about an impact evaluation
  - Potential value to young people, their organisation, the sector
  - Concerns (practical, ethical, values-based, relating to race equity etc.) and how they could be addressed
  - Organisational interest in taking part, any conditionality.

Initial interviews with 4-6 individuals involved in DOYW will be used to scope the topic and shape the concepts and language to be used (as well providing an informal pilot of the interview guide).

A short online survey using Qualtrics will then be developed to collect factual and quantifiable information on topics noted above. It will require up to around 15-20 minutes for completion, and will be piloted with contacts within YMCA GWC's regional networks. It will be distributed by email to organisations and contacts identified during the initial desk research (LAs that commission or conduct DOYW, voluntary sector organisations, other funders, sector lead organisation). Recipients will be asked to forward the survey link to other organisations and individual. It would not be possible to establish a fixed sample in advance of the survey, and this snowballing approach is therefore a reasonable approach to maximising participation. The survey will be open for three weeks, and follow up emails will be sent weekly to the initial sample contacted.

Responses from multiple individuals per organisation will be accepted but will ask respondents to specify the name of their organisation. Participants will also be asked to provide their contact details if they would be like to be involved in the study further, particularly in interviews and workshops.

Following the survey we will undertake a further 14-16 semi-structured interviews. Interview participants will be purposively selected for diversity in:

- roles: to include practitioners, delivery managers, organisation leaders, sector umbrella organisations, funders and commissioners. We will also include interviews with 2 or 3 academics active in research on and evaluation of youth services
- region: to ensure diversity across England and Wales
- forms of practice described (e.g. nature and scale of activity, target population and outcomes including issues relating to race equity)

These semi-structured interviews will be conducted using an online videocall platform (Zoom, Teams) by researchers from CEI and YMCA GWC using a discussion guide, and last up to 60 minutes. An interview guide will be developed to ensure consistency in coverage where appropriate, although coverage, question style and probes will depend on participants'

contexts and involvement in DOYW. Interviews will be audio recorded and transcribed verbatim.

This data will be synthesised to yield a picture of the range of models in use in England, which are most prevalent, and the core features of a model of practice that could be linked with reducing involvement in youth violence.

### *Workshops and co-production of practice models*

The next stage will involve further desk-based work and a series of workshops to expand on initial findings with leaders in the sector, develop one or more shared practice models, and explore potential evaluation approaches in more detail. A shared practice model and associated theory of change will be developed in parallel through this work. The evaluation team will develop an initial framework based on the findings from the survey and interviews. This will then be revised iteratively with workshop participants and the research team.

This stage will involve:

- Workshop 1 with sector leaders to share our findings and agree the range of DOYW models to explore and their alignment with the objectives of this project
- Workshop 2 to identify key components of one or more shared practice models
- Desk-based refinement of the agreed practice models and proposed ToC/s
- Workshop 3 to refine and agree the practice model/s and theory/ies of change, and to discuss possible evaluation approaches

Workshops will involve 8-10 invitees, last for 2-3 hours, and include small group work to explore specific issues in depth. They will be online, with one face-to-face. The workshops will be kept intentionally small in order to encourage focused engagement, provide space for conflicting perspectives, surface and discuss areas of variation, empower smaller organisations in unfamiliar territory, and work towards consensus.

The aim in developing the practice model/s will be to define a form of DOYW that is sufficiently consistent and bounded to be evaluable, and that is as close as possible to at least part of the mainstream DOYW currently in action. It will also incorporate evidence about quality and effectiveness so far as possible, and allow some flexibility in implementation. We anticipate that this may include only some current DOYW practice, incorporating approaches that are most obviously oriented to preventing involvement in youth violence and that are evaluable including for impact measurement. Likely key dimensions of the practice model are:

- Targeted outcomes
- Targeted youth population
- Location and timing

- Intensity and duration of contact, and whether one-to-one or group-based
- Aspects of relationship building and interaction content
- Training and support for youth workers
- Other key aspects of practice and quality e.g. confidentiality, multi-agency working, and ending relationships.

## **Stage 2 research methods**

Stage 2 will begin with a brief and pragmatic desk review of previous relevant studies, to identify the approaches taken to recruitment and data collection with similar groups of young people to those involved in DOYW, who are typically 'hard to reach' and engage in research. Existing systematic reviews will be identified via Google Scholar, with scope to widen the search and consult methods experts as required. Key search words will include both generic terms (e.g. 'hard to reach') and example population groups (e.g. 'care leavers', 'rough sleepers') and will include search terms for known innovative methodologies which may be appropriate for young people involved in DOYW (e.g. snapshot surveys using smartphones, or embedded and/or lived experience researchers).

Based on this desk research and Stage 1, we will develop and document an initial set of options for an impact evaluation, to be discussed further with DOYW provider organisations (selected from those involved in Stage 1, with additional outreach to other providers if identified in, but not directly participating in, Stage 1). This will include consideration of how a counterfactual could be designed (including feasibility of a cluster RCT or design of comparison groups for a QED) and options for data collection (including training researchers with lived experience to conduct interviews and making use of technology to collect snapshot data at multiple time-points. Our analysis will also include whether and how different design approaches might impact disproportionately on the ability to include young people from minoritised groups.

Up to 15 organisations considered potential participants in an evaluation will be selected and invited to take part in a semi-structured interview to options for evaluation approaches, anticipated challenges and how they could be addressed, and alternative feasible approaches. These will be used to further refine the design options.

The final element of Stage 2 will be a workshop with these organisations, where the shortlisted evaluation design(s) will be presented and discussed in more detail. The focus of this workshop will be to talk through each element (e.g., recruitment, randomisation, baseline and follow up data collection), to provide a full understanding of how the proposed approach could work in practice, to identify any disproportionality or inequity in the population groups (particularly minoritised ethnic groups) that would be reached, and to refine and modify the evaluation design.

The final options and recommended evaluation design will be set out in full in a report. If a cluster RCT is considered a viable evaluation design for further exploration, the report will include consideration of the unit of allocation and the mechanisms of the randomisation. The report will also explore the potential for a QED design, outlining where the comparison group and data might be drawn from. For each design deemed appropriate, the report will also set out the potential methods of data collection, with an open discussion of the challenges involved and initial proposed solutions. Key data collection options and considerations will be outlined, such as training researchers with lived experience to conduct interviews and making use of technology to collect snapshot data at multiple time-points. We will consider any particular approaches needed to ensure that the evaluation reaches and includes young people from minoritised ethnic groups, and comment on the feasibility of analysing outcomes for them.

We will also consider the potential for using theory-based evaluation approaches (e.g. contribution analysis), ideally alongside quantitative estimates of impact or, if we cannot identify a feasible quantitative impact measurement approach, in place of this.

A summary of the data collection across Stages 1 and 2 is shown in Table 1.

**Table 1 Summary of data collection**

Data collection methods	Participants/ data sources (type, number)	Data analysis methods	Research questions addressed
<b>Online survey (Stage 1)</b>	Representatives of organisations identified through desk research as involved in delivery, commissioning and funding of DOYW and umbrella sector organisations. It not possible to quantify the sample at this stage.	Descriptive statistics	1, 2, 3
<b>Semi-structured interviews (Stage 1)</b>	Representatives of organisations identified through desk research as involved in delivery, commissioning and funding of DOYW and umbrella sector organisations ( <i>n</i> = 20)	Thematic analysis	1, 2, 3

<b>Co-production workshops (Stage 1)</b>	Three workshops of up to 12 organisations involved in delivery, commissioning and funding of DOYW and umbrella sector organisations (2 online, 1 in person)	Thematic analysis	1, 2, 3
<b>Semi-structured interviews (Stage 2)</b>	Representatives of organisations that deliver DOYW and are potential participants in a future evaluation ( $n = 15$ )	Thematic analysis	4, 5, 6
<b>Co-production workshop (Stage 2)</b>	One workshop of up to 12 representatives of organisations that deliver DOYW and are potential participants in a future evaluation	Thematic analysis	4, 5, 6

## Data analysis

Data from interviews and workshops in Stages 1 and 2 will be analysed using the Framework thematic analysis method,<sup>11</sup> which involves identifying analytical themes inductively and deductively, and summarising data across sources within the relevant theme and sub-theme.

Survey data will be analysed with descriptive statistics.

The data from various sources will be triangulated, identifying areas of difference and reinforcement, and using different data sources to substantiate and explain findings. We will identify where there are diverse views within data sources (for example, among interviewees or among survey participants) and where there are inconsistencies between data sources (for example, between interview and survey data) and where possible provide potential explanations for these differences. These might relate to differences in the nature of data collection (for example, the potential for more detailed description or explanation in interviews compared with closed survey options), or differences in the populations involved in different study components.

## Outputs

### Stage 1

---

<sup>11</sup> Spencer, L., Ritchie, J., O'Connor, W., Morrell, G. & Ormston, R. (2014). 'Analysis in Practice' in Ritchie J, Lewis J, McNaughton Nicholls C and Ormston R (eds) *Qualitative Research Practice: A guide for social science students and researchers*. Sage, London.

The output of Stage 1 will be a scoping report to document the findings so far and facilitate a decision about whether to progress to Stage 2. This report will outline our findings in relation to research questions 1, 2, and 3. The report will provide an overview of current DOYW models in use in the UK, how commonly they are used. The report will describe one or more shared practice model/s and theory/ies of change developed with DOYW organisations. We will also identify comparable interventions and practices or “business as usual”. The report will set out the perspectives of the youth sector on whether and how an impact evaluation would be received and describe their concerns and how they might be mitigated. Finally, we will provide a recommendation about the viability of proceeding to Stage 2.

## **Stage 2**

At the completion of work for Stage 2, a full final report will be produced which will summarise the work carried out and learning from Stages 1 and 2. The report will also include a draft evaluation protocol for a future evaluation, providing recommendations for the practice model/s and theory/ies of change to evaluate, proposed impact research questions and methodology, proposed implementation research questions and methodology, appropriate and interested delivery organisations to include and the level and type of support they would need, and anticipated timelines, risks and mitigations.

## **Ethics and registration**

With the agreement of the YEF, we are not applying for formal ethics approval. We have conducted an internal assessment of the ethical implications of this study and found it low risk, as all participants are service professionals. All research activity will be conducted following the Social Research Association ethical guidelines.<sup>12</sup>

Key ethical considerations are:

*Informed consent:* The purpose of the survey and interviews will be set out clearly including who is funding and undertaking it and its purpose. This will be incorporated into invitation emails and the survey instrument, given that it will not be possible to distribute a separate participant information sheet within the snowballing sample approach. Participants will be informed that data will be shared between CEI, YMCA GWC and BPSR (including organisational names).

*Voluntary participation:* This text will make clear that participation is voluntary; participants can choose not to answer questions or end their participation at any time up to the analysis stage by notifying CEI or YMCA GWC.

---

<sup>12</sup> <https://the-sra.org.uk/SRA/SRA/Ethics/Research-Ethics-Guidance.aspx>

*Confidentiality and anonymity:* We will ensure that participants are aware that findings will be reported without attribution to individuals or organisations, and that we would like to name the organisations who supported the study (at least those involved in interviews and workshops). Participants will be told that the study report may contain short quotes but these will not be identifiable or attributed to any individual or organisation. All data will be kept securely and only accessible by the research team under the terms of the GDPR; participants will be provided with CEI's data privacy notice. Participants will provide verbal consent to be audio recorded.

*Equity in participation:* We will aim to reach services working with young people with different characteristics, including minoritised ethnic groups, girls and young women, care experienced young people, LGBTQ+, gypsy/Roma communities, and disabled or neuro-diverse people.

## **Data protection**

A Data Protection Impact Assessment is being undertaken.

CEI, BPSR and YMCA GWC will be joint data controllers. The lawful basis relied on for all data purposes is the legitimate interest of the Data Controller. Data is being collected and shared in order to conduct the feasibility study. The processing of data collected is expected to have clear social benefits for understanding how to undertake this type of research, with a limited privacy impact on the individual.

We will not collect special category data for participating individuals. Voluntary informed verbal consent will be gathered for all participants in the research, and this will be regarded as a sufficient safeguard for the processing of personal data up to the point of analysis, at which point participants can no longer withdraw consent.

A Data Sharing Agreements will be in place between evaluation partners.

Personal data will be stored on a secure drive, only accessible to the evaluation team. Data will not be shared, stored, or accessed outside the UK or EU. The evaluation team will collect the minimum necessary data required to carry out each task.

There may be scenarios where we are subject to a legal obligation to disclose or share personal data, such as with law enforcement agencies, regulatory bodies, or public authorities in order to prevent or detect crime. The evaluation team will only ever disclose personal data to these third parties to the extent required by law.

The evaluation team will securely destroy their data sets two years after completion of the final report.



## Personnel

### Centre for Evidence and Implementation

- Jane Lewis: Project Director
- Amy Hall: undertake engagement with youth agencies
- India Thompson: Project Officer providing support throughout

### YMCA George Williams College

- Bethia McNeil: Co-lead sector engagement
- Simon Frost: Co-lead sector engagement and practice model development
- Lydia Whitaker: undertake engagement with youth agencies
- Charles Smith: provide advice on quality dimensions of practice model

### Bryson Purdon Social Research

- Caroline Bryson: Co-lead impact study design
- Susan Purdon: Co-lead impact study design

## Risks

**Table 2. Risks and mitigation**

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigation
DOYW difficult to define given breadth of field, limited data, contested terms	Medium	Medium: Will complicate development of practice model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong relationships with sector agencies / umbrella bodies will enable wide participation in study</li> <li>• Desk research, semi-structured interviews, survey and workshops used to explore range of practice</li> <li>• Emphasise co-design / core components approach</li> </ul>
Sector concerns about youth justice alignment and impacts on relational practice	Medium	Medium: Limits sector engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strong relationships with sector will support engagement</li> <li>• Provide opportunities to hear and learn from concerns</li> <li>• Emphasise co-design approach and need for an evaluation approach that is feasible for the sector</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognise some practice may be excluded from potential evaluation</li> </ul>
Informal / unstructured nature of DOYW	High	Medium: Makes evaluation design challenging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Team highly experienced in evaluation co-design</li> <li>Flexible, pragmatic and creative approach will need to be taken in reviewing evaluation design options</li> <li>Detailed consideration of options with sector representatives</li> </ul>
Absence of accepted models / eligibility criteria, low research capacity, unclear BAU	Medium	High: Evaluability challenging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extensive experience of creative methods e.g., practitioner observations, tech-enabled, quality assessment</li> <li>Pragmatic impact evaluation design approach will be essential</li> <li>Use evaluability as criterion in practice / agency eligibility</li> <li>Team experienced in supporting community organisations in evaluations</li> </ul>

## Timeline

**Table 3. Timeline**

Dates	Activity	Staff responsible/ leading
<b>Preparation</b>		
<b>March-April 2023</b>	Project initiation, development of protocol	CEI
<b>Feasibility Stage 1: Scoping</b>		
<b>March-April 2023</b>	Desk research and development of sample	GWC
<b>May 2023</b>	Survey	CEI
<b>June 2023</b>	Qualitative interviews	CEI, GWC
<b>July 2023</b>	Workshops, development of practice model/s	GWC
<b>August-Sept 2023</b>	Report	CEI, GWC, BPSR
<b>Sept 2023</b>	YEF decision on progressing	YEF
<b>Feasibility Stage 2: Evaluation methods</b>		
<b>October 2023</b>	Development of initial options	BPSR
<b>November 2023</b>	Interviews and workshop	CEI and GWC
<b>December 2023</b>	Report and draft evaluation protocol	CEI, GWC, BPSR



[youthendowmentfund.org.uk](https://youthendowmentfund.org.uk)



[hello@youthendowmentfund.org.uk](mailto:hello@youthendowmentfund.org.uk)



[@YouthEndowFund](https://twitter.com/YouthEndowFund)

The Youth Endowment Fund Charitable Trust

Registered Charity Number: 1185413

---