



Application guidance

Agency Collaboration Fund: A supportive home

MARCH 2023

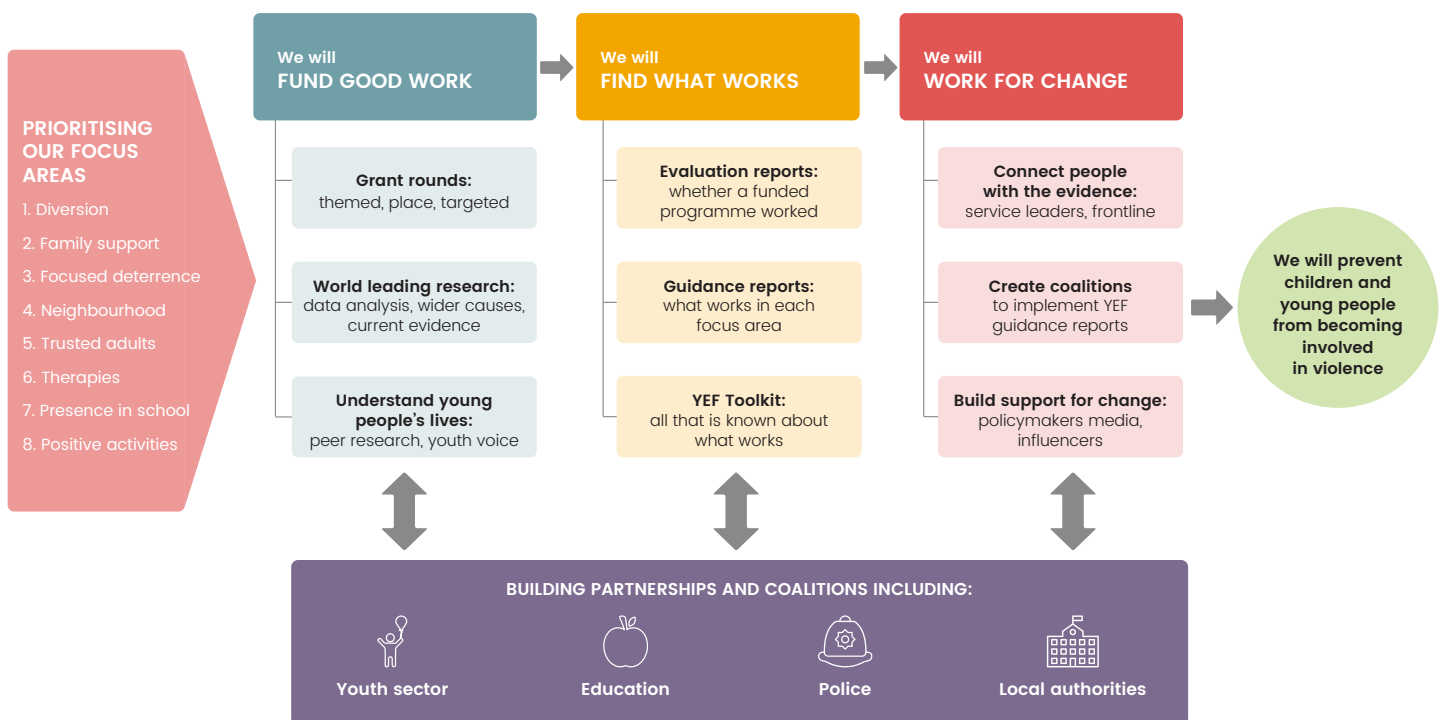
About the Youth Endowment Fund

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, children and 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 children and young people get the very best support possible.

Our strategy sets out how we'll do it.





Our focus areas – improving support for children and young people

We're here to prevent children and young people becoming involved in violence. To help us make the biggest difference over the ten years of our endowment, we've selected a set of focus areas where we'll concentrate our funding and learning.

We believe these focus areas present some of the biggest opportunities to improve support for children and young people who are at risk of becoming involved in violence. They were carefully selected after listening to the needs and experiences of young people, and the adults working to keep them safe.

Our focus areas are:



Family support

Whether it's through family therapy or better early help, 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.



Trusted adults

Not every child has someone in their family they can turn to for support and guidance. This area focuses on helping children and young people build trusted adult relationships – outside of their families – to keep them safe from violence, offending and exploitation.



Diversion

Sometimes things go wrong. If a young person gets into trouble or is arrested, programmes that divert them away from the court system are an effective way to reduce offending, which is better for the child and potential victims.



Therapies

If a child or young person is going through a tough time, talking through their worries with a skilled therapist can really help. It can give them the skills to manage negative thoughts or feelings and recover from experiences of trauma.



Focused deterrence

Focused deterrence is an approach to violence reduction that was developed in Boston (USA) in the mid-1990s. The strategy identifies the people most likely to be involved in violence and offers support and positive routes away from it. But if violent behaviour persists, swift sanctions are enforced. It's been effectively used abroad and in Scotland. We're learning whether it can make a difference in England and Wales.



Presence in schools

School absence – missed attendance, as well as fixed and permanent exclusion – not only impacts on pupils' attainment, but also the likelihood of them becoming involved in violence and crime. Schools need programmes, practices and policies that improve attendance, prevent unnecessary exclusions and create safe, positive places to learn.



Neighbourhoods

A lot of crime happens in very specific areas – a neighbourhood, a park, a row of shops or a few streets. One way to tackle this problem is to bring together local agencies, organisations and communities to plan and deliver targeted support to those children who are most at risk of becoming involved in crime and violence.



Positive activities

Structured sports, music, arts and outdoor activities can help young people develop social and emotional skills, which means they're better able to express their feelings in constructive ways – reducing any violence or harm to others. These activities can also be used as 'hooks' to engage children and young people in other beneficial services and support.

About BBC Children in Need and The Hunter Foundation



BBC Children in Need believe every child and young person deserves the opportunity to thrive and be the best they can be. BBC Children in Need's ambition is to create lasting, positive change across the UK for the children and young people who need it most. Together with the BBC and partners, BBC Children in Need aim to inspire the nation in support of their work.



The Hunter Foundation (THF) is a proactive venture philanthropy that seeks to invest in determining model solutions, in partnership with others, to troubling systemic issues relating to poverty reduction and educational enablement. However, it is their strong belief that those geographical factors can be overcome to afford every child an equal opportunity to succeed regardless of location.

BBC Children in Need and The Hunter Foundation have partnered with the Youth Endowment Fund to positively impact the lives of children, young people and families at risk of being affected by violence, supporting them to thrive.



Agency Collaboration Fund

We know that many children and young people at risk of becoming involved in violence are known to local statutory agencies, such as police services, GP practices, schools, colleges and children's services. 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 effectively to better prevent children and young people becoming involved in violence are sometimes missed.

To help understand where those opportunities are, we're investing in our Agency Collaboration Fund. We want to understand if, how and when effective collaboration between agencies (and sometimes within agencies) can prevent children and young people from involvement in violence.

Further information about the Agency Collaboration Fund can be found [here](#).



Agency Collaboration Fund: *A supportive home*

Why are the Youth Endowment Fund and BBC Children in Need in partnership with The Hunter Foundation, investing in this round?

Children and young people vulnerable to - or experiencing - harm outside the home often have complex needs that require support from different professional services, from mental health to youth justice services. Yet there is very little evidence on what an effective multi-agency approach looks like, or the services they should provide.

Overlapping professionals often operate in a fragmented and difficult to navigate process of referrals and assessments, with barriers to service access and engagement for families. Children, young people, and their families often report that they don't feel listened to, and children and young people report feeling less safe in places with less adult supervision, including parks and on the streets¹. All too often, no-one has the full picture of the child's life, is trusted, or has the time or resources to do anything about it, meaning they and their family don't get the support they need when they need it. This can be exacerbated by children, young people and their families feeling stigmatised when involved in services.

These problems sit within the context of a child protection and care system that are not designed to effectively manage risk relating to extra-familial harm² or cope with the continued level and complexity of risk many young people face when transitioning to adulthood. Under The Children Act 2004, statutory services can offer support to young people over 18 to improve well-being, but too many young people turn 18 and all support is withdrawn. Despite recent additions to statutory guidance there's limited policy or practice to safeguard children in extra-familial contexts. This can have significant implications for the child and family, including:

1. Children, Violence & Vulnerability, *Youth Endowment Fund* (2022)
2. Risks to the welfare of children that arise within the community or peer group, including sexual and criminal exploitation.

- ◆ Professionals lack the tools, systems and partnerships they need to make spaces or peer groups safe.
- ◆ Families mistrust and feel stigmatised by the child protection process.
- ◆ Missed opportunities to protect children and young people who may be experiencing harm due to criminal exploitation.

Local approaches to support this group of children and young people vary substantially with little evidence of what's effective and why. Our *A supportive home* funding round aims to add value by building concrete, actionable evidence of what works for children, young people and families at risk of extra-familial harm.

The round aims to break down some of the structural barriers which prevent children, young people and their families from accessing timely, welcome support – including children in need of additional support and those on the edge of care. It will bring promising practice and guidance together with the principles and practice recommendations set out in the Independent Review of Children's Social Care for England. This round will complement the Department for Education's (DfE) plans to deliver and evaluate a pathfinder programme to support and prepare for implementation of the Review's recommendations.

Our *A supportive home* round is open to applications from **both England and Wales**. Whilst the recommendations from the Independent Review of Children's Social Care are not applicable to Wales, consultation with colleagues in Wales found that this approach will build on existing practice and support plans to build stronger evidence of what works for children and young people at risk of involvement in violence or criminal exploitation.



Programme overview

A supportive home will test specialist multi-agency and multi-disciplinary teams located in neighbourhoods to support children, young people and their families/carers who are vulnerable to – or experiencing – violence or criminal exploitation outside the home. A high-level programme Theory of Change can be found [here](#).

We will fund up to **five partnerships**. Each successful partnership application will test a multi-agency team approach in **two different neighbourhoods/localities** within one local authority area. This will enable us to test if and how different contexts, systems and conditions make a difference to implementation, generating learnings and evidence to inform policy and practice for children and young people at risk of extra-familial harm, including reforms to children's social care.

Each partnership will be made up of **both statutory and Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE)** organisations. There is a strong emphasis on children and young people and parents/carers as partners in service design, delivery and review.

Independent Review of Children's Social Care

The model will test recommendations set out in the Independent Review of Children's Social Care for England for Family Help Teams, including:

- ◆ Being delivered by skilled professionals from a range of disciplines who have the time and capability to build trusting and supportive relationships.
- ◆ Locating teams in trusted community settings
- ◆ Combining work currently done at 'targeted early help' (Level 2), 'child in need' (Level 3) and 'child protection' and 'in care' (Level 4), and transitional safeguarding support for young adults aged 18-20 by preventative and statutory services for young people over 18 years.
- ◆ Embedding as core principles, parents/carers as partners in service design, delivery and review; and children and young people actively involved in service design, delivery and review planning.

Teams should draw on a range of useful tools to develop their delivery models – including DfE Practice Principles to inform local responses to child exploitation and extra-familial harm and practice guides; upcoming revised Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance; and, National Children's Social Care Framework. The delivery framework is set out in [Appendix 1](#).

Successful applicants will be supported through both the preparation and implementation phases of the programme by a YEF appointed Co-Design Partner. During the preparation phase, partnerships will spend up to six months preparing for implementation, including recruiting the delivery teams.

Preparation phase activity will include:

- ◆ Development of local systems maps
- ◆ Development of a local Theory of Change
- ◆ Development of a partnership delivery model and associated policies
- ◆ Development of a local evaluation plan (co-designed with the programme evaluator)

The partnership delivery model will meet a set of common criteria as set out in the delivery framework (please see [Appendix 1](#)), whilst also taking account of local needs and building on local strengths.





Our commitment to equity

Children and young people from marginalised backgrounds (including children and young people from Black, Asian and other minority backgrounds, as well as young people and children who've been in care) are significantly overrepresented in the youth justice system. At the same time, children and young people from Black, Asian and other minority backgrounds, are underrepresented in early help services, with research showing that minority ethnic families seeking help do not always receive it until things have reached 'breaking point'.

Through our early research and consultation, we know this is an area that lacks evidence. We want to help change this. We believe by investing in high-quality research and sharing what we learn with practitioners, policy makers and commissioners, we can help children and young people get support that has the best chance of making a difference. If we truly are going to make a difference, we need to make sure that our funding is used in a way that reaches and represents the children we are here to serve.

Through the Agency Collaboration Fund, we're aiming to build evidence on if, how and when effective collaboration between agencies (and sometimes within agencies) can prevent children and young people from becoming involved in violence. Therefore, we're particularly interested in receiving proposals from local authorities who work closely with organisations that are either led by leaders from Black, Asian or other minority backgrounds, and whose work has a particular focus on ultimately benefitting young people from Black, Asian and other minority backgrounds, within their neighbourhoods and wider communities.

Who we're looking to support

Our *A supportive home* round will focus on supporting children and young people (and their families/carers) who are primarily aged between 10 and 20 years old and who are involved in – or at risk of involvement in – violence outside the home and/or criminal exploitation. Violence or criminal exploitation may be identified as a primary or secondary risk.

The cohort is likely to include – though not exclusively – children and young people with one of more of the following characteristics or needs:

- ◆ Care experienced.
- ◆ Known to local authority 'early help', child in need, child protection services, specialist exploitation services or specialist VCFSE organisations.
- ◆ Offending or involved in anti-social behaviour, including with peers
- ◆ Permanently excluded from school, in receipt of regular fixed term exclusions, 'off-rolling' or poor school attendance.
- ◆ Regularly going missing.
- ◆ Disabilities/SEND.
- ◆ Misuse of substances.
- ◆ Parents or siblings involved in crime.
- ◆ Homeless, or in independent or semi-independent accommodation – especially older adolescents or young adults.
- ◆ Experiences of structural and institutional racism.

**An element of flexibility will be built into grant agreements to take account of local context.*

Each delivery team will provide multi-agency and multi-disciplinary support for the above cohort of children and young people across a spectrum of need – from Level 2 (targeted early help) through to Level 4 (statutory/child protection). For young people over 18 years old, this includes both preventative and statutory services.

Each delivery team will be based in a neighbourhood/locality of around 30,000 people, with approximately 700 families and 1,500 children³. The number of children and young people at risk of involvement of violence outside the home or criminal exploitation, who are eligible for support by each team will be in the hundreds.

3. This figure is taken from the Independent Review of Children's Social Care, page 32. <https://childrensocialcare.independent-review.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/The-independent-review-of-childrens-social-care-Final-report.pdf>



Children and young people out of scope for this round

- ◆ Children under 10 years old and young people over 20 years old.
- ◆ Children and young people at risk of other categories of extra-familial harm (EFH) – but children and young people at risk of violence or criminal exploitation AND another form of extra familial harm, are in scope for this round.
- ◆ Children and young people who access universal services and are not in need of additional support.
- ◆ Children and young people who are victims of violence where there are no other risk factors.

What we're looking to fund

We will fund and evaluate up to **five local authority area partnerships in England and/or Wales**.

We seek applications from local authority area partnerships where the **lead partner is the local authority**. As a minimum, partnerships must include:

- ◆ Local authority – inclusive of early help; children's social care; Youth Offending Team; education; youth work (where delivered by the local authority); relevant services to support young adults.
- ◆ Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) delivery partners – these may be large specialist organisations and/or local specialist grassroots organisations who are known and trusted by the communities.
- ◆ The police.
- ◆ Probation.
- ◆ Mental health professionals for both children and young adults.
- ◆ Education, (if not part of the local authority) including schools.

This list is not exhaustive, and partnerships can include other relevant organisations. Letters of support will be required from senior officers in each required organisation at application. As the agency with lead responsibility for children's social care, the lead applicant should be the local authority. If VCFSE organisations have not been identified at application stage due to local authority procurement policy, applicants are required to state this and the process the local authority will put in place to identify suitable VCFSE partners – including expectations around knowledge of the neighbourhoods of focus and existing relationships.

Please note, applicants can partner with other local authority areas to meet required numbers if a decision is made to progress to scale-up and an impact evaluation following feasibility.

We're interested in applications which meet the following criteria:

CRITERIA	EXPECTATION	RATIONALE	HOW WE ASSESS
1. Levels of youth violence and/or youth offending.	High rates of youth violence and/or offending by children across the local authority as a whole. High violence and/or offending count and rate for neighbourhoods of focus. Applicants must also demonstrate that there are at least two additional neighbourhoods within the local authority area with potential for project scale up OR that they are able to partner with another local authority area to scale up.	To give us the best chance to understand the programme's impact on offending, we need to focus on areas with high levels of youth violence and/or youth offending.	Applicants will be required to demonstrate through recent local datasets (last three years).

CRITERIA	EXPECTATION	RATIONALE	HOW WE ASSESS
2. Number of children and young people at risk of experiencing or causing violence or criminal exploitation outside the home – including victims of violence and those who instigate violence.	<p>Number of children in scope for each neighbourhood team should be in the hundreds.</p> <p>Applicants must also demonstrate that there are at least two additional neighbourhoods/ localities with potential for project scale up within the local authority area OR that they are able to partner with another local authority area to scale up.</p>	We need to have enough children in scope for each neighbourhood to evaluate effectively.	Applicants will be required to demonstrate through recent local datasets that there are hundreds of children and young people in scope within at least two neighbourhoods in the local authority; and potential to scale up to at least four neighbourhoods OR that they are able to partner with another local authority area to scale up.
3. Partnership maturity.	<p>Applicants should be in a good state of readiness to deliver. We expect to see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A multi-agency strategy on support for children at risk of Extra Familial Harm. • A level of multi-agency team working for this cohort already in place (it may not be at locality level or cover the full spectrum of need required). • Data-sharing protocols between all partnership organisations already in place. (with the exception of VCFSE organisations if not yet commissioned). • Ofsted ratings: good or outstanding to ensure capacity and leadership capability to make reforms without risking quality/safety of service, and one which creates a culture and environment which enables positive change. <p>We're also interested in applicants who have already delivered multi-agency support for this cohort (e.g. were a contextual safeguarding scale up site; a Social Care Innovation Fund site for this cohort; or have developed a multi-agency offer without additional funding).</p>	This will give us the best chance of get to impact for this round.	Demonstrated through application process at application and interview stages.

CRITERIA	EXPECTATION	RATIONALE	HOW WE ASSESS
4. Geography.	<p>We welcome applications from any local authority area partnership in England and Wales.</p> <p>However, we especially welcome applications from local authority areas which are not currently delivering a large-scale impact evaluation involving children and young people who are at risk of involvement or criminal exploitation, including YEF funded programmes.</p>	<p>Concern that we could inadvertently disrupt control groups if a second Randomised Control Trial/Quasi Experimental Design is underway; concern that some areas delivering large-scale programmes will become over-stretched in terms of leadership capacity and ability to recruit suitable staff.</p>	<p>Demonstrated through application process at application and interview stages.</p>
5. Commitment to YEF core requirements.	<p>We expect to see:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to racial equity. • Commitment to parents as partners and strong children and young people engagement. • Commitment to age range requirements. • Commitment to accommodating two locality based multi-agency teams in trusted neighbourhood settings. • Commitment to YEF evaluation approach; data sharing; and data archive; willingness to measure violence outcomes. 	<p>Aligned to round core requirements.</p> <p>Aligned to YEF grantee requirements.</p>	<p>Demonstrated through application process at application and interview stages.</p>



Duration of project delivery and funding

Projects will be initially **funded for 18 months**. This includes up to six months preparation, including recruitment, and a 12-month implementation phase. Implementation will be evaluated through a feasibility study.

Subject to positive feasibility study findings, projects will then be funded for a further two or three years during which an impact evaluation will be undertaken. Applicants will need to demonstrate willingness to engage in both feasibility and impact evaluations as part of the application process.

Applicants will also need to demonstrate a willingness and ability to replicate the model in additional neighbourhoods within the local authority area and possibly beyond in neighbouring authorities – following the feasibility study. This is needed to reach the number of children and young people required to run an impact evaluation (in line with evaluator's recommendations).

For the feasibility phase, the YEF in partnership with BBC Children in Need and The Hunter Foundation, will invest up to £500,000 per partnership for delivery costs and between £85,000 and £110,000 per partnership for evaluation. Please note that this is an indicative budget, which may increase depending on findings during the project preparation phase. Applicants for this round are not required to secure an evaluation partner, as the evaluation partner will be commissioned separately by YEF. Applicants will be expected to contribute 10% budget in cash or in-kind.

What we hope to achieve

The primary aims of the feasibility study will be to:

- ◆ Develop a strong hypothesis for how the partnership model should be implemented in different contexts.
- ◆ Generate lessons on the effective implementation of a multi-agency family help team to support children and young people (primarily aged between 10 and 20 years old) vulnerable to - or experiencing - violence outside of the home and/or criminal exploitation.
- ◆ Explore the feasibility and present an options analysis of a thorough impact evaluation of a multi-agency family help team to support children and young people (primarily aged between 10 and 20 years old) vulnerable to - or experiencing - violence outside of the home and/or criminal exploitation.

The primary aim of the impact study would be:

- ◆ To understand if, how and when the multi-agency family help model [or a specific aspect of the approach] reduces involvement in crime and violence among children and young people (primarily aged between 10 and 20 years old) who are vulnerable to - or experiencing - violence outside of the home and/or criminal exploitation as victim or instigator.
- ◆ We will also be interested in measuring a range of medium-term outcomes that will cover outcomes for children and young people (e.g. wellbeing and family relationships), outcomes for families and carers and outcomes for communities and systems.

It may be that we want to focus on specific aspect(s) of the multi-agency approach, in which case the primary aim will be revised. This is something we will explore further during feasibility.

Outcomes of interest

The evaluation partner will explore the feasibility of measuring an offending outcome using robust impact evaluation methods in the feasibility phase of the evaluation. This will be supplemented by a range of medium-term outcomes spanning outcomes for children and young people, outcomes for families and carers, and outcomes for the community and local systems. At present, we have identified a long list of potential outcomes and expect this to be narrowed down during the preparation phase, in line with local Theories of Change.

The current long list for the long-term outcome(s) for the impact study:

OUTCOME	DEFINITION
Criminal peers	Having a close group of people who take part in and promote criminal behaviour – criminal behaviour may be an important part of the group's identity.
Victim of crime	Having experience, or being a victim, of different types of crime.
Offending behaviour – violent crime	Criminal acts involving harm against another person (e.g. assault, robbery using threat or force, homicide).
Offending behaviour – non-violent crime	Criminal behaviours that do not directly involve violence against another person (e.g. shoplifting, graffiti, using/selling illegal drugs).

The current long list of medium-term outcome(s) for the impact study:

OUTCOME	DEFINITION
Outcomes for children and young people	
Children's emotional wellbeing and mental health	Reducing the effects of distress or traumatic life experiences and improving awareness of and ability to manage feelings and emotions.
Meaningful relationships	Having someone in your life who understands you and is there for you. Here, relationships are with people who want the best for you – someone who does not want you to be involved in criminal activities.
Happiness	Positive wellbeing, enjoying things, and feeling good about yourself and your life.
Self-esteem	Viewing yourself positively, including confidence in your abilities, appearance and self-worth.
Behavioural difficulties	Behaviours that are generally categorised as disruptive and aggressive.
Number of children being referred to/entering the care system.	The number of children and young people referred to the care system. The number of children and young people entering the care system.
School engagement: attending school and school exclusions	Amount of time being at school. Suspensions (fixed-term exclusion) or expulsions (permanent exclusion) and informal exclusions (off-rolling).

OUTCOME	DEFINITION
Stable provision of health, social care, financial, speech and language and education services	Reliable provision of services that meet a person's individual needs, enabling all children and young people to receive the necessary resources and opportunities to thrive.
Positive and prosocial identity	Viewing yourself as someone who engages in positive and meaningful activities and not in criminal activities.
Reduced drug and alcohol use	Problematic use of drugs and/or alcohol that results in negative and harmful consequences to the self or others.
Provision of activities that have a positive impact	Access to positive activities.
Child criminal exploitation	An individual or group with greater power who coerces, manipulates or deceives a child or young person under 18 to engage in criminal activity.
Maltreatment and abuse	Experience of physical or emotional neglect, or physical, emotional, or sexual abuse.
Outcomes for families and carers	
Reduced drug and alcohol use	Problematic use of drugs and/or alcohol that results in negative and harmful consequences to the self or others.
Improved family relationships and support	Positive and supportive relationships with family members.
Increased family stability and resilience	Contexts and resources that enable some children and young people and families/carers to thrive despite experiencing difficult circumstances.
Increased participation in the planning of interventions and solutions	Involvement of children, young people, families and carers in the planning of local solutions.
Reduced anxiety	Persistent worry, distress or restlessness, often accompanied by physical symptoms, that occur for several weeks or months.
Improved housing problems	Housing problems include for example overcrowding, temporary accommodation, residential mobility and unsafe/unsuitable housing conditions.
Increased employment	Opportunities for families and carers to thrive through employment.
Outcomes for the community	
Provision of activities that have a positive impact	Access to positive activities for children and young people in the community (e.g. youth centres, mobile services, art spaces, religious centres).
Increased participation in the planning of interventions and solutions	Involvement of children, young people, families and carers in the planning of local solutions.

OUTCOME	DEFINITION
Feeling safer and happier about their neighbourhood	Families and carers feeling safer within their local area. Families and carers feeling happier about the local area where they reside.
Increased community cohesion and empowerment	Feeling connected to one's community can look like identifying as a member of the community, trusting others in the community, having personal needs met by the community and engaging in community activities.
Outcomes for local systems	
Joined up services	Also called 'multisystemic collaboration'. Professionals from a range of services working together to support children, young people and families to achieve positive outcomes (e.g. education, health, youth justice, social care).
Stable provision of health, social care, financial, speech and language and education services,	Also called 'continuity of care'. This refers to the reliable provision of services that meet a person's individual needs, enabling all children and young people to receive the necessary resources and opportunities to thrive.
Simplified experience of the system for children and families and carers,	Children, young people, their families or carers find it easy to access, navigate and exit systems of support.
Number of children being referred to/entering the care system.	The number of children and young people referred to the care system. The number of children and young people entering the care system.



Timeline



Application guidance

The remainder of this guidance is broken down into five sections:

- 1 Finding out about what works**
This section explains how our assigned evaluator will work with you to design the best possible evaluation to find out if, how and why your approach works.
- 2 How we'll assess your application**
This section outlines the criteria we'll use to assess your application.
- 3 How to apply: using our online portal**
This part of the guidance explains how to set up your application form and explains how to use it.
- 4 How to apply: how to respond to our questions – a step-by-step guide**
This section explains how we'll assess your application and what we're looking for in your answer to each of the questions in the online form.
- 5 What happens next**
We explain what to expect when you've submitted your application.





1. Finding out about what works

Being a YEF partner is a big commitment. It's important that you're aware of what we'll need from you to make the partnership work for everyone. If your application is successful, your assigned evaluator will work with you to co-design the best possible evaluation to find out if, how and why your approach works. We'll be working as a team and ensure that you're supported throughout the evaluation process. To find out more about the process you can watch this [video explaining our approach to evaluation](#) and read through our [guidance](#) explaining the relationship with the evaluator and your role and responsibilities. In addition, YEF have commissioned a Co-Design Partner who will be working with you closely to support you through the preparation and implementation phases of the project.

To find out what we mean when we're talking about different types of evaluations, you can read our [guidance for evaluators](#). Early Intervention Foundation's [10 Steps for Evaluation Success](#) might be helpful too.

Please note that we don't expect successful applicants to have any technical expertise or knowledge of evaluation techniques. We only expect that you'll commit to be independently evaluated and work closely with the evaluator throughout the project, including set-up and design stage, delivery, data collection and reporting.

2. How we'll assess your application

We'll have a team of assessors who'll review your application and score it based on five things we're looking for.

We'll use these scores to shortlist applications for further assessment, which will include an interview and input from young people who have helped shape this grant round.

The six criteria we'll score your application on are:

1 A worthwhile outcome

We're trying to assess, if you deliver your project well, whether the outcome(s) we plan to achieve will prevent children and young people from becoming involved in violence.

To make that assessment, we're interested in understanding which of our medium-term and longer-term outcomes (listed on p19) are important to you for this project, and whether you are interested in any other outcomes which aren't listed. We also require you to submit a draft high-level Theory of Change for your project where you identify the change you want to make and the activities you plan to undertake to get there. This should be aligned with the draft programme level theory of change above.

2 If delivered well, likely to achieve the outcome

We want to understand your current multi-agency approach to support children and young people at risk of extra-familial harm – including those affected by violence or criminal exploitation. We want to understand your governance and strategic arrangements for this cohort of young people, as well as to understand who is supported and how they are supported at multi-agency operational level. We want to understand any gaps you have currently in your services for these children, young people and their families and carers, and whether you identify any barriers or risks to delivering this project.

We'll look at your track record of quality engagement with young people affected by serious youth violence; the strength of your existing partnership work with this cohort of children and young people; and the skillset and capacity of your proposed delivery team in work with both children and young people.

3 Aiming to reach the right type of children and young people

We're trying to assess if the children and young people you're planning to work with are in most need of support. In this grant round that will include children and young people who are primarily aged 10 to 20 years old and who have been or are at high-risk of being affected by violence, offending and/or exploitation, to prevent recurrence and reduce long-term harm. That might include children who are:

- ♦ Care experienced
- ♦ Known to local authority 'early help', child in need, child protection services, specialist exploitation services; or specialist VCF organisations.
- ♦ Offending or involved in anti-social behaviour, including with peers
- ♦ Permanently excluded from school, in receipt of regular fixed term exclusions, 'off-rolling' or poor school attendance
- ♦ Regularly going missing
- ♦ Disabilities/SEND

- ♦ Misuse of substances
- ♦ Parents or siblings involved in crime
- ♦ Homeless, or in independent or semi-independent accommodation – especially older adolescents or young adults
- ♦ Experiences of structural and institutional racism

We know that some children and young people are over-represented in the youth justice system or struggle to access – or are excluded – from mainstream support services. We're particularly interested in projects which can show that they successfully and appropriately support these young people. This includes children and young people from Black, Asian and other racially or ethnically minoritised groups and children who've been in care, as well as young women and girls.

We're also trying to assess if you've got experience of reaching the type of children you're hoping to work with and if you have inclusive, racially equitable, plausible and realistic methods for engaging them in your project.

4 Likely to lead to future change

A core part of YEF's strategy is scaling the projects we find work. When a project is shown to be effective, we'll look to expand it. That could include expanding the existing provision or replicating projects in new locations across their networks.

We're trying to assess whether you can work with enough children, young people and families, initially in two neighbourhoods for the feasibility study; and a further minimum two to three neighbourhoods for the impact study if we decide to proceed to the second stage of the evaluation. This means we'll assess whether you are a) able to evidence high numbers (in the hundreds) of children and young people within our defined cohort for two neighbourhoods and b) willing and able to replicate the model in a minimum of two to three further neighbourhoods, with the required numbers of children and young people to sufficiently power an impact evaluation (again, likely to be in the hundreds). For scale-up for an impact evaluation, you may partner with one or more other local authority areas if required.

Throughout the evaluation period, we'll share lessons with government departments to inform police and practice for children at risk of extra-familial harm – including the Home Office, Ministry of Justice, Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities and the Department of Education, to feed into their plans to deliver and evaluate a pathfinder programme which tests innovations recommended by the Review of Children's Social Care to support future implementation.

5 Able to deliver

We're trying to assess how likely it is you'll be able to deliver your proposal. To do this, we'll look at your previous experience, the support, training and supervision you provide to delivery staff, and your understanding of the various risks to project delivery and how to mitigate them. We're also trying to assess whether you're able to provide the required amount of match funding.

6 Evaluable

We're trying to assess whether we can properly evaluate what you do. This is partly about ensuring that you'll be able to reach and engage a large enough group of children that will allow us to conduct a randomised control trial (or another robust evaluation). It will also be about making sure you're willing to engage with an independent evaluator. Overall, we'll prioritise projects that are willing and ready for these types of evaluation as soon as possible.

3. How to apply: using our online portal

When you've thought about the evidence and the scope of this grant round, you can start your application online.

Important application tip

We'd recommend writing your responses in a document that you regularly save and then copy your responses into our form when you're happy with them. That way, if there are any technical issues, you won't have lost your work.

Step one: find the form

Click this [link](#) which will take you to our online portal. We recommend using Google Chrome as your browser if you can.

Step two: enter your information

Start filling in the information. We've got step-by-step guidance on how to respond to each question in this guidance – see [How to apply: how to respond to our questions – a step-by-step guide](#).

When you're writing, please don't use the forward and back buttons on your browser, as you could lose your work. Instead, use the Next and Previous buttons to move through the form.

Step three: save and come back to your work

Save as you go along. You can save your work at any stage and return to it later, by clicking the Save button on each page. When you save, you'll be sent an email that includes a password. You can use the password to return to the form and pick up where you left off. It's really important that you make sure that the email you have provided is correct and that you make a note of the password.

Step four: send us your application

When you've completed the form, **don't forget to click Submit!** If you don't, we won't receive your application.

When you've sent us your finished form, you'll receive a confirmation email from us. You'll also be able to save and download your application, so you can use it for your personal records. Please make sure to check your spam folder.



Data and privacy

If you want to know how we store and use the data in your form, you can read our [data privacy policy](#). If you want to learn more about data sharing between grantees and evaluators, you can read the [guidance on our secure data archive](#).

Get in touch

If you're struggling to use our online form, or have any questions, please get in touch. Email grants@youthendowmentfund.org.uk specifying 'A supportive home query' in the subject line of your email.

4. How to apply: how to respond to our questions – a step-by-step guide

About the application form

There are two stages to our application form.

Stage one: a quick eligibility check

We want to make sure this funding is right for you. We know that organisations invest a lot of time and resources in developing proposals and applying for funding. That's why the first section of our application form will check you meet all of the eligibility criteria before we ask you to fill out the full application.

If you're going through this first section and you think the system is wrongly classing your application as ineligible, you can email grants@youthendowmentfund.org.uk to ask a question and get help from us.

Otherwise, please [sign up](#) to our newsletter to look out for future opportunities with the Youth Endowment Fund that might be right for you.

Stage two: the full application

There are six parts to the full application process. Some of the sections are there to help us understand more about you as the applicant (such as details of your organisation and any organisations you're applying with), while other sections provide information that will help us to assess the strength of your application.

In this guidance, we'll be clear which sections we're using to help us assess your application, what we'll be assessing you on and the information we're looking for you to provide in response to each question.

Stage one: Checking whether this funding is right for you (eligibility screening questions)

Questions:

1. **Is your partnership application led by the local authority (the local authority must be the lead partner) and are you able to provide a letter of endorsement signed by mandatory partners?**

As a minimum, partnerships should include the local authority – including the Youth Justice Service and Social Care, the police, mental health, education, probation and the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sectors. A letter of endorsement signed by all mandatory partners must be included in your application. N.B. this can exclude VCFSE partners if they have not yet been identified, but with a narrative on how you plan to recruit them.

2. **Are you requesting funding for work that will be delivered in England and / or Wales?**

At the Youth Endowment Fund, we only provide grants to organisations operating in England and Wales. We can't provide funding for an organisation or any activity happening outside of England and Wales.

3. **Do you believe your planned work, will reduce the likelihood and impact of young people being at risk of or affected by violence?**

Do you believe your planned work, will reduce the likelihood and impact of young people entering statutory services later in life (e.g. entering the care system or receiving family support)?

The mission of the Youth Endowment Fund is to prevent children and young people becoming involved in violence. With this round of funding, we're aiming to understand if, how and when the multi-agency family help model [or a specific aspect of the approach] leads to reductions in violence among children and young people (primarily aged 10-20 years) who are most at risk of involvement in violence outside of the home and/or criminal exploitation and if it leads to reductions in young people entering statutory services later in life.

It's critical that you believe that your project will help us to achieve these aims.

4. **Successful applicants will need to meet the following criteria:**

- ◆ We're interested in applicants who can demonstrate high levels of youth violence and/or offending in their local authority area and in their localities of focus.
- ◆ Applicants must be able to demonstrate that the number of children and young people in scope for support from the two multi-agency teams are in the hundreds. They must also be able to demonstrate that there are at least two other localities within the local authority area which would have the numbers of children and young people in scope for potential project scale-up following the feasibility study.
- ◆ We welcome applications from all parts of England and Wales. However, it's important that if the children and young people in scope are already involved in an impact evaluation – either funded by YEF or by another funder – that we have details of it.

5. Is the project you describe different to the statutory care that young people always receive?

For us to be able to evaluate your project it needs to be different to what children and young people always receive as part of statutory duties. This is because we need to be able to compare the impact of your project to the support that all young people receive. We will set up a 'control group' to do this.

For example, all young people who are in a foster care placement are also assigned a social worker. Although a social worker could be an example of a key worker, we wouldn't be able to fund a local authority to pay social workers to continue their usual work of supporting children in foster care.

6. Every YEF funded project is independently evaluated to enable us to learn more about what does and doesn't work to reduce youth violence. You will need to work with an evaluation partner throughout this project. Please watch [our video on evaluation](#).

- ♦ Have you watched our video?
- ♦ Have you shared this information with key decision makers in your organisation and with your proposed project partners?
- ♦ Does your organisation and any project partners agree to work with an independent evaluator?
- ♦ If you select yes, we will assume for the remainder of the application process that you will comply with our approach, this is something YEF are unable to compromise on so please ensure the relevant members of your organisation have read, understood and agreed to our approach.

Being a YEF partner is a big commitment; to help us achieve our mission to find out what works, you'll need to work closely with your evaluator. If you aren't willing to be independently evaluated, our funding isn't right for you.

Make sure you've read all the resources we've shared in the application form, so you know what an independent evaluation involves. For even more detailed information you can also find [resources aimed at our evaluation partners](#) on our website.

7. The Youth Endowment Fund exists to find what works to prevent children and young people from becoming involved in violence. We want young people to get the best possible support at the right time. This means we need to conduct the most robust types of research. That way, more young people will get the evidence-led services they deserve. This means that we'll run evaluations that have a 'control group' of children and young people who don't take part in an activity. In many cases, it is necessary to allocate young people to this 'control group' randomly otherwise it is impossible to know if something really works. Please select 'yes' to confirm that you understand that this is how we work or 'no' if you don't want to help us do this.

Please read more about why we are committed to rigorous evaluations that include a [control group](#). We want to fund robust evaluations, like randomised control trials. In these evaluations, one group takes part in a project while the other group doesn't. By looking at both groups before and after you work to support young people, we can clearly see what the impact of your project has been. If you aren't willing to take part in an evaluation that includes a randomised control group, our funding isn't right for you.

8. About our evaluation data archive - we want to avoid promoting work that looks great but doesn't make a long-term difference. To avoid this, it is a requirement for YEF funded projects to agree to our approach to collecting and storing data to enable long-term follow-up through our data archive. The data archive means we'll be able to learn more about what does and doesn't work to reduce youth violence over the long-term. You will not be able to progress with

our funding unless you, your organisation(s) and where appropriate project partners have read, understood, and agreed to our data archive. Please read the information on our [website](#) and watch our video explainer.

- ♦ Have you read the supporting information and watched our video?
- ♦ Have you shared this information with key decision makers and / or relevant data leads in you organisation and with your proposed project partners?
- ♦ Does your organisation and where appropriate project partners agree to the data archive?
- ♦ If you select yes, we will assume for the remainder of the application process that you will comply with our approach, this is something YEF are unable to compromise on so please ensure the relevant members of your organisation have read, understood, and agreed to the Data Archive.

If you have any questions or queries, please contact grants@youthendowmentfund.org.uk.

To make sure we can understand what works, we need to collect and store data so that we can follow the future progress of the children and young people who've been supported by our projects. To find out more about the data we'll collect, how we'll store it and how we'll keep it safe, make sure you've read and watched all the resources on our website.

All data we collect is securely stored so that a child or young person's identity will never be able to be traced by researchers accessing the data in the future. If you're unwilling or unable to collect the personal data of the participants in your project, our funding isn't right for you.

9. We are interested in exploring the impact that projects might have on child and young person outcomes.

Outcomes are the changes you'd hope to see your project make for the children and young people you work with. At present, we have identified a long list of potential outcomes and expect this to be narrowed down during the preparation phase, in line with local Theories of Change ([see Outcomes of Interest section](#)).

To make sure we're gathering high quality evidence, we'll need you to measure things that help us to understand whether your project is helping children in the ways you'd expect. For example, we might ask you to measure whether there have been improvements in children's behaviour or a reduction in offending behaviours. That's because it'll help us to find out if taking part in your project makes a difference to the children and young people you work with over time.

Please confirm this is something you are willing and able to do.

If you aren't willing to work with your evaluator help us measure the impact of your project, our funding isn't right for you.

10. Have you read the accompanying YEF guidance documents?

Our guidance documents are here to help you make the best decision about whether funding from the Youth Endowment Fund is right for you.

Our aim is to make sure that you know what to expect as a YEF partner. That means you'll need to make sure that you've read the guidance document for this round, (information on our evaluations, and our guidance on our data archive).

Appendix 1: The multi-agency model

AREA OF DELIVERY	WHAT THIS WILL LOOK LIKE FOR THE SPECIALIST MULTI-AGENCY TEAM MODEL	
Service model	Professionals which make up the team	<p>Teams will be made up of a multi-disciplinary workforce with the time, skills and autonomy to give children, young people and their families and carers the support they need. These teams of skilled professionals will 'case hold' and directly support children, young people, their families and carers. It's likely they will include family support workers, youth workers, youth justice workers, child substance misuse workers, educational psychologist and/ or other mental health and alternative practitioners, social workers and police officers.</p> <p>Teams should also note the new Child Protection Lead Practitioner role and consider how this can be incorporated into the delivery model.</p> <p>Projects should be led by the local authority with teams involving staff from both statutory and VCFSE organisations. Teams should draw on the strengths and services offered by the VCFSE sector, which may include access to specialist intervention support workers or mentors with lived experience. Statutory sector workers may also have lived experience.</p> <p>The exact help on offer in each area should be determined based on the needs of children and families, and local resources. This should build on useful insights from Joint Strategic Needs Assessments or Population Needs Assessments in Wales, making sure this data is turned into insight.</p> <p>This team will coordinate support through other practitioners too, including teachers, GPs, school nurses and VCFSE partners, amongst others.</p> <p>Teams will involve both parents/carers and children and young people in service design, delivery and review.</p>
	Key worker role	<p>The most appropriate lead (based on the needs of the child or young person and family or carer) will build a trusted and supportive relationship with the child, young person and family or carer. Children and young people at child in need level should be held, where appropriate, by the wider multi-disciplinary team with social work supervision.</p> <p>Where the level of need reaches that of a child protection plan, that child or young person would be held by a qualified social worker in the specialist team and co-worked by a child protection social worker who's responsible for making key decisions.</p>
	Oversight of team	<p>This team will be overseen by a council's children's services department or Children's Trust.</p>
	Where located	<p>Teams will be visible and located within neighbourhoods. They will be physically based out of community settings such as schools, health centres, youth centres and new Family Hubs.</p>
	How the team is situated	<p>The team will be co-located together, with professionals seconded into this team from different services.</p>

AREA OF DELIVERY		WHAT THIS WILL LOOK LIKE FOR THE SPECIALIST MULTI-AGENCY TEAM MODEL
	Scale of team	Team will serve a locally defined neighbourhood footprint. Likely teams will service an area of around 30,000–50,000 people with around 700 families and 1,500 children. The number of children and young people in scope for each team should be in the hundreds.
	Caseloads	Small caseloads which provide skilled professionals the time and capability to build trusting and supportive relationships.
	Referral pathways	Services should be designed to enable families and practitioners to have a conversation about their concerns, as opposed to 'a mechanical referral'. With families who are not eligible, they should be supported to access universal support services in the community settings where teams are based. Children, young people and families should be able to self-refer, and services should be highly accessible.
	Data systems	Care Review points to the requirement of a robust and deep understanding of local needs and unmet need to inform the make-up of the team and the services that team will draw from. This could be developed and tested across all areas as part of this project.
	Working pattern	The team should meet the needs of children and young people accessing the service. Working pattern is therefore likely to include evening and weekend working.
Methods	Intervention	<p>The key worker will get to know the family and support them to navigate and coordinate the help on offer through the Team, community and other commissioned services. This is likely to include a range of specialist, evidence-based interventions. The exact offer may be further developed and refined with the support of the Co-Design partner.</p> <p>Staff and/or volunteers may be skilled, trained and (where relevant) clinically supervised to deliver specialist interventions directly to the child and family. For example, using Functional Family Therapy to work with young people involved in serious anti-social behaviour and/or substance misuse.</p>
	Practice tools	Group and reflective supervision led by a suitably qualified professional. Whole team core training and specialist training for individual professionals – including anti-racist training and supervision for staff with lived experience where there could be conflicts of interest and/or vicarious trauma, racial trauma or other experiences of harm.
	Community-led support	Teams will build deep relationships with children, young people, families and carers, and the communities they live in. Teams will be required to 'harness the power of communities', building on capabilities in neighbourhoods and communities to effectively meet families' needs. Teams will be expected to ensure buy-in from local VCFSE organisations, and ensure that project activity does not displace any activity currently delivered by local VCFSE organisations.
	Parent-led support	Teams will be required to (where appropriate) consider parents and carers as partners with the multi-agency team – including co-design, training, support and responsibilities

AREA OF DELIVERY		WHAT THIS WILL LOOK LIKE FOR THE SPECIALIST MULTI-AGENCY TEAM MODEL
	Young people's engagement	Teams will be required to co-design elements of their service with families and communities and with children and young people and to engage children and young people service planning and design.
Tools – projects may draw on a range of tools available for work with this cohort	Identifying and understanding need	For example, an integrated Asset Plus and Child in Need assessment process.
	Risk management plans and approach	For example, ROTH (Risk Outside the Home) screening and assessment tool for children at risk of significant harm outside the home. <u>Planning Meetings Contextual Safeguarding</u> Families and schools as active partners in safety planning and implementation. Joint approach between families and practitioners which prioritises building relationships, whole family work and a non-judgemental approach. Education as safeguarding partners.
	Flexible budgets	For example, to consider introducing an activities and resources budget which keyworkers can access to help a family and address material deprivation.
Strategic framework	Guidance and supporting tools to develop strategic approaches to tackling complex issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ <u>Joining the Dots</u> ♦ <u>Child Exploitation Disruption Toolkit</u> ♦ <u>Contextual Safeguarding Toolkit</u> ♦ Working Together to Safeguard Children (to be updated 2023) ♦ National Children's Social Care Framework (to be published 2023) <p>NB This list is not exhaustive.</p>
Guiding principles	Broad principles that guide practice, management, supervision, strategic leadership, commissioning and inspection	<p>Practice principles and practice guides (2023) – developed by Tackling Child Exploitation programme on behalf of DfE specifically in relation to extra familial harm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ <u>It was Hard to Escape</u> ♦ <u>Police Response to Adult & Child Vulnerability</u>

The diagram below provides a broad overview of how each multi-agency support team could look on the ground. The exact make-up of the teams may slightly differ depending on the specific needs and context of the local area.

