

Call for Proposals: Youth Justice Partnership

Clarification Questions

- 1. 'Build awareness and appetite for evidence across the sector' - do you have a specific definition for 'the sector' or is it broadly statutory and non-statutory organisations working in youth justice?**

Here we are referring to the Youth Justice sector and consider Youth Justice Services as the priority group to reach. However, we would be keen for voluntary and community organisations working in the youth justice sector to also be engaged through this level of activity.

- 2. Have you 30 specific youth justice services in mind or would you like us to suggest a criteria?**

We are expecting the successful provider to provide intensive support for ten youth justice services per year to adopt evidence-based approaches to supporting children at-risk of or involved in violence. We do not have specific Youth Justice Services in mind and are keen to hear from applicants about how they would select the services.

- 3. In relation to changing practice, have you a preference whether we engage front-line practitioners working directly, or policy leads who may cascade to colleagues more widely, or a combination according to context/need?**

We do not have a preference, but we imagine that intensive support within the ten youth justice services would include both frontline practitioners and senior leaders to influence change. In terms of the lighter touch training and support, we would like to hear applicants' ideas on how best to engage relevant youth justice professionals, e.g. running an online training session for each region in England and Wales or cascading training through existing channels/networks.

- 4. Would you like us to identify a named potential learning partner at this stage, or budget based on typical costs?**

We do not expect applicants to name a potential learning partner but would expect to see the costs factored into the budget.

- 5. In the outputs section, does 'sustainability plan' refer to ongoing sustainability of the project, ie resources, mechanisms; or an environmental sustainability plan regarding impact of the project e.g. use of public transport etc?**

The sustainability plan is referring to the sustainability of the tiered support to the youth justice sector.

6. In 'how to apply', do 'references excluded from word count' refer to academic sources (bracketed or in foot notes) or support from referees/names of referees?

'References excluded from word count' is referring to academic sources.

7. Have you preferences for which recommendations from 'Arrested Children' you would like this work to focus on, and is there a preference for all of them over 'at least two' in your scoring matrix? Or would you prefer a focus (eg 2 & 5)?

There is no preference for which recommendation to focus on or the applicant cover more than two.

8. Is there an expectation that an independent evaluator will be affiliated with a Higher Education Institution or accredited body (acknowledging the impact that this will have on the proposed overall budget)?

There is no expectation that the independent evaluator will be affiliated with Higher Education Institution or accredited body.

9. Could you please confirm whether or not the anticipated number of youth justice services that receives intensive support across the life of the grant is c.30 in total (ten per year?). Given the budget and the other deliverables within that remit, we would have expected this to be closer to 10 in total over the 3 years.

The expectation is that the successful organisations will work with ten youth justice services per year. We anticipate this being ten different youth justice services each year, although recognise that some services may require support beyond the first 12 months. Therefore it may mean that one or two of the youth justice services you work with in year two will be the same as the first year.

10. Can we have clarity over the scope/definition of 'evidence'? Does it need to be a certain standard of evidence to be in scope of the project?

When referring to building awareness and appetite for evidence, we are thinking about evidence in the broadest sense. For instance, this could include high-quality qualitative research evidence on the experience of young people who are arrested by the police. It could also include high-quality evaluations which show that particular evidence-based approaches – such as therapies – are proven to be effective at preventing children and young people from becoming involved in violence.

11. Can you clarify if the overall focus is solely for children and young people involved in violence, or is it for all/any children who are arrested?

The focus is on all/any children who are arrested.

12. Is there a specific cohort of children and young people in mind, or do you see this project attending to children of all ages?

The focus is on supporting the youth justice sector to improve responses to all/any children who are arrested with the aim of reducing offending/reoffending.

13. Can you clarify if there are any templates (e.g. budget template) that proposals should use?

There are no templates to use.

14. Are we able to include hyperlinks and diagrams and will they be included within the 4000 word limit?

Hyperlinks and diagrams can be included but screenshots of tables/images which contain substantial amounts of text are discouraged.

15. Can we have clarity of the factors relating to the decision to extend the project for further years, are there any KPIs that will determine this?

Specific KPIs to measure progress against each level of support will be agreed upon with the successful organisations and set out in the grant agreement.

16. Can you clarify whether the 'quarterly open access virtual learning events to build awareness of existing and emerging evidence on approaches, interventions or policy related to arrested children' are only intended to share YEF-produced/YEF-commissioned evidence or wider evidence?

We anticipate the quarterly open access virtual learning events to share a wide range of research and evaluation evidence and not just YEF-produced outputs.

17. Can you clarify whether the 'monthly bulletins' are also intended to focus only on arrested children? And if these bulletins are only intended to share YEF-produced/YEF-commissioned evidence or wider evidence?

We do not expect the monthly bulletins to focus solely on arrested children or on YEF-produced/commissioned evidence.

18. Regarding the 'intensive support for ten youth justice services to adopt evidence-based approaches to supporting children at-risk of or involved in violence' – is this only for children at risk of violence, or should this support be relevant to any and all children and young people being supported by YJS?

The focus here is on supporting youth justice services to improve responses to children and young people who are at risk of or involved in violence. However, involvement in anti-social behaviour or low-level offending can be a risk factor for future involvement in violence. Also, it's likely that the support provided to youth

justice services will benefit all children and young people being supported by that service.

19. Is there a view/preference in relation to the selection of YOTs to include? Is the emphasis to be a more straightforward mobilisation or richer learning?

We do not have specific Youth Justice Services in mind and are keen to hear from applicants about how they would select the services to support in changing practice.

20. What is the expected level of preparedness of agreement with the YOTs prior to proposal submission? Agreement in principle or something more established?

We do not expect applicants to have an established agreement or agreement in principle with youth justice services. However, we are looking to partner with an organisation who has an established network and connections across the youth justice sector to support mobilisation of the partnership.

21. Please clarify whether the evidence-based approaches being promoted through this intensive support refers only to YEF-produced/YEF-commissioned evidence, or wider evidence?

We do not expect that the evidence-based approaches will focus solely on YEF-produced/YEF-commissioned evidence. However, we encourage applicants to share examples of the types of evidence-based approaches they'd be supporting youth justice services to adopt to demonstrate their knowledge of the evidence base.

22. Will the successful provider be supplied with information on Youth Justice services and their needs, or will we have to source this information ourselves? If provided, please could you give examples of the type of information available?

The successful provider will be expected to source information about policies, practices and processes used by the youth justice service.

23. Please clarify whether the reference to 'hands-on' support means that YEF envisage this support would be delivered face to face?

We anticipate that some of the support will be provided in-person.

24. What is the expectation in relation to the balance between in person and virtual engagement?

We are looking for applicants to draw upon their knowledge and experience of engaging with the youth justice sector to propose the best way of delivering intensive support with the aim of improving the adoption of evidence-based approaches.

- 25. Regarding the 'lighter touch training and support on the effective use of formal and informal out of court disposals for young people' – please can you clarify if this is intended only to focus on children at risk of violence, or is this about *all* children for whom Out of Court disposals would be relevant?**

The focus is on all children who receive or are considered appropriate for out of court disposals.

- 26. Is Out of Court disposals the *only* focus of this lighter touch training or would YEF envisage a broader focus on supporting 'Youth Justice Services to improve practice and do what works' – as set out at the start of the call.**

Initially, the focus of the lighter touch training will be on formal and informal out of court disposals. However, we will work with the successful provider to agree the delivery plan for year two and three.

- 27. Please can you clarify whether this activity needs to be undertaken by an external organisation for it to be considered independent, or if it can be undertaken by a separate team in the same organisation/s delivering the work provided there is appropriate methodology to ensure objectivity?**

We expect the successful organisation to commission a learning partner who can conduct an independent evaluation. We do not expect applicants to name a potential learning partner at this stage but would expect to see the costs factored into the budget.

- 28. Where it refers to 10 YJP's per year of the 3-year grant, does this mean 30 different partnerships across the 3 years, or could the same 10 be engaged across the 3 years?**

We are expecting the successful organisation to provide intensive support to ten youth justice services per year. We do not have specific Youth Justice Services in mind and are keen to hear from applicants about how they would select the services. We anticipate this being ten different youth justice services each year, although recognise that some services may require support beyond the first 12 months.

- 29. It refers to intensive support for the partnerships – is there any sort of benchmark for what YEF considers intensive? To give an idea, our proposal might include a peer review (4-day onsite – so intensive whilst in place, with some preparation and follow up), coaching or mentoring and manager training.**

We are looking for applicants to draw upon their knowledge and experience of engaging with the youth justice sector to propose the best way of delivering supporting services to adopt evidence-based approaches for children at-risk of or involved in violence. The length and type of support may vary depending on the needs of the service. However, it's anticipated that ongoing support will be while



the youth justice service is transitioning to/embedding new approaches or processes.