

Open Call for Delivery Organisations - Frequently Asked Questions

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1. Scope Overview

Who can apply?

1. Organisations who deliver interventions or services (and meet eligibility criteria) applying on behalf of themselves
2. Organisations who deliver interventions or services (and meet eligibility criteria) applying on behalf of themselves and partner delivery organisations – the applicant must be the Lead partner
3. As above, applying on behalf of themselves, and/or partner delivery organisations, and a suggested evaluator from the [YEF Evaluator Panel](#). Note that any suggested evaluators will be considered, but will be assessed and awarded separately to the delivery organisation. In these cases the evaluator should not apply until invited to.

What can applicants apply for?

1. For an intervention to be evaluated, either as a single organisation or a partnership.
2. For a multi-site trial where the applicant would be the umbrella organisation. You can see more about Multi Site Trials [here](#), though delivery organisations must apply through the [delivery open call form](#).

What types of intervention are we interested in?

1. Any intervention which:
 - a. Sits within our sectors – which can be seen in [the guidance](#) and on the [website](#).
 - b. Delivers at least one of the following primary outcomes:
 - i. Reducing Violent Offending
 - ii. Reducing Non-Violent Offending
 - iii. Reducing victimisation of crime
 - iv. Reducing behavioural difficulties
 - v. Reducing drug and alcohol use
 - vi. Reducing sexually violent offending
 - vii. Reducing bullying perpetration
 - viii. Criminal peers
 - c. Is secondary or tertiary, i.e. not universal interventions aimed at all children, but rather for those who are at risk of crime or violence and/or already involved in the youth justice system
 - d. Is primarily aimed at 10-18 year olds

Are there any exclusions?

There are no absolute exclusions except primary interventions, i.e. those which deliver to all young people. However, applicants are asked to look at our [current portfolio](#) on the website first, and if they are proposing an intervention or approach that looks similar to something already funded, they must be clear on how their approach is different and why it will provide new evidence that existing projects may not. For instance, we have funded a large number of mentoring projects, and to fund a further such project we would need a clear understanding that it fills a distinct and meaningful gap that the existing projects do not.

2. Application questions

Do you have a word/downloadable copy of the application form to help complete the application?

No, but all questions can be found in the guidance. The application form can be saved and returned to as required.

3. Budget

Is there a minimum or maximum amount of funding that an organisation can apply for?

We do not offer indicative grant sizes. Instead we ask grantees to consider the costs per head balancing resourcing, capacity and delivery needs to ensure the project can be delivered well within the context of value for money. Additionally we are aware budgets submitted at this stage are indicative and if the applicant progresses budgets will be reviewed again during the Co-design phase.

How much money is a typical grant worth? And is there an upper limit on the grants?

The amount we award to each project will depend on the type of programme that's being delivered and the kind of evaluation we need to run to find out if it works. There is no cap on the amount we'll spend. Previous grant amounts can be seen on our [website](#).

We're prepared to make some quite large grants. That's because, we'll prioritise projects that are:

- already delivering their programme to young people
- ready for robust evaluation

Do you have a % allocation requirement per budget line?

No, YEF doesn't specify any % allocations as this will be individual to each project. We ask for a high level budget in the initial application, which will then be refined during co-design. To get an idea of high-level budgets, take a look at our previously funded projects on our website.

Is funding solely to cover our costs for the evaluation and/or delivery costs which will enable us to scale up the project to meet the required evaluation numbers?

YEF grants are used to fund delivery to the young people being evaluated for the duration of the evaluation, where this would not otherwise be funded. This may include scale up and development of existing delivery in some circumstances. It can also be used to collect consent and evaluation support for both the intervention and control group.

Is there any scope to use some of the budget to enable the delivery of the intervention to the control group at a later date?

As we can only fund work which is being evaluated, we're unable to fund delivery of the service to the control group later on. However, if we are unable to randomise it may be possible to set up the trial as a QED instead of an RCT, where you don't have to randomise individually, and we would instead compare the recipients to other groups. This isn't our preferred method, and would not be used just because an organisation didn't want to randomise, but we would consider this if it was sufficiently valuable in other ways and possible in the circumstance.

4. Supplementary Funding

Is the 20% supplementary funding absolutely essential? What does in-kind funding include?

Yes this is essential but this can be funding or in-kind support. It can include other grants or contributions you make through your unrestricted funding. In-kind support is non-financial contributions e.g. back-office staff costs (the time of your CEO, admin support, financial or legal assistance), staff time from other organisations supporting delivery, pro-bono support or the use of organisational facilities, such as meeting rooms. There is further information here:

<https://youthendowmentfund.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/In-Kind-Funding-Guidance-for-Grantees-and-Evaluators-for-external-use.pdf>

The only exception to this may be if your organisation is led by representatives of Black and/or racially minoritised communities, where we strongly encourage you to apply, even if you're unable to meet our 20% supplementary and in-kind target. In certain cases, we may consider supporting or waiving this requirement if projects can demonstrate their ability to reach and support groups that are overrepresented in the youth justice system.

5. Business as Usual

What is meant by business as usual?

Business as usual is determined in partnership with the evaluator. The key here is understanding what is delivered in the absence of the project to young people i.e., what services would be available to them.

Will the business as usual benefit from being involved in the evaluation process around the control group, e.g., will the YEF evaluator provide them with the data set around their pre and post SDQ and SRDS scores, and anything else? (In case there are any particular incentives to them getting involved in the RCT evaluation process).

It is possible that this can happen but would need to be agreed with an evaluator if the project is progressed to the Co-design stage, alongside what is shared and how it is shared.

6. Capital costs

Can the ask include capital development to improve facilities for engagement to be increased?

This is likely to be a no if this concerns an improvement of a building for instance. However, this would be considered for funding of equipment. This would very much be dependent on costs from a capital perspective.

7. Eligibility

Type of organisation

We are a registered organisation, however a private provider. Are we able to bid? Even if we are part of a bid with a YOT, Charity or VRU.

Yes, a private company is eligible, all we ask is that the company is registered. We require organisations to be already working with children and young people, and having done so for at least long enough to have reached the 150 previous recipients of the proposed intervention.

As an applicant would this project be delivered with a local context or more widely? We work across various local authorities and across different parts of the country.

To reach the numbers required and mitigate potential risks of not reaching the required numbers, the team would then look at working across a broader area rather than just a local outlook.

According to your guidance organisations must be a registered charity, company, statutory body or a CIC. We are a charitable Community Benefit Society that is also an exempt charity. As per the Charity Commission guidance, Charitable Community Benefit Societies are exempt from registering with the Charity Commission as they are registered with and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Would we be eligible as an exempt charity?

Yes, you would be eligible for our funding.

Type of programme/activity

We concluded delivering this project last year with legacy funding but have strong evidence of impact and would like to scale it. Would it be eligible even if we haven't delivered it in the last year?

Yes, as long as other eligibility criteria are met (e.g. number of CYP previously delivered to) and the delivery capability largely remains in place

Type of proposal

Would you consider a proposal that can reach the necessary numbers of young people but is geographically quite localised e.g., a London borough?

If the numbers can be reached that is ok.

Is the funding only for projects that are already in implementation phase? We have not begun the project, as we would need grant funding to administer the intervention.

We cannot fund projects in a pilot or efficacy stage. We require organisations to have a proven record of ability to recruiting children and young people, and delivering the programme to a high standard.

Children and young people

The guidance document states that projects must be supporting children and young people aged 10-18. Our charity works with X year-olds, and we deliver multiple projects that reach different age groups within that range. Can you clarify?

To clarify, the recipients of the intervention must be primarily those 10-18 years. Ultimately we would like all children and young people in the age bracket where possible.

There may be cases where a child or young person started the intervention at 18 and turned 19 during the course of delivery, or are 9 years old and turn 10 during the delivery - we would expect these numbers to be reasonably small but do take this into account so as not to disadvantage children and young people. While there is some leeway with this, we will be looking for projects who can best support the children and young people we are most interested in.

Do you accept applications for programmes previously run that were targeted towards a specific demographic of young people, such as young women and girls?

Yes, we would accept applications for programmes previously run. Beyond the age range, we don't outline who the specific demographic needs to be, that is for the project to decide.

8. Applying for multiple grants

Are there any restrictions on applying for (or holding) multiple grants from the Youth Endowment Fund at any given time?

You are welcome to apply for more than one grant. Please note you would need to demonstrate that your project is able to show capacity, ability and no risk to existing funded projects.

If we previously received funding from YEF would we be able to apply for this round to upscale and enhance quality of the same programme?

Yes you can reapply for funding for this project as long as we aren't currently funding that exact work i.e. as long as there is no risk of duplication of funding.

We will fund projects looking to scale, expand or explore different modes of delivery, as long as they can demonstrate the expertise and experience to facilitate this.

9. Partnership proposals

Does YEF hold a list of providers that are looking to submit a joint application? Do you provide support to help applicants find potential partners?

We don't have a list of potential partners to share that could help submit a joint proposal.

If you do decide to go this route you will need to be able to explain in the application how the partnership will work, that they will have robust controls in place for decision making and in ensuring consistency of delivery of the intervention across the different organisations. Additionally, one

organisation will need to be the lead partner who would submit the application, hold the grant agreement with YEF if successful, and be accountable for the delivery of their partners.

What counts as a partnership and would it be a problem if the same partner appears on a number of applications?

In terms of a partnership, we don't have a definition for this beyond a collaboration of some kind with someone the project would work with or, a supportive relationship in some way. It would certainly be fine for a partner to be part of more than one application.

A delivery partnership will be assessed and awarded via the lead organisation, who should complete the application. In a partnership with an evaluator, we will assess the delivery application first and, if it is successful, invite the evaluator to apply. They should not complete an application until requested.

We are considering an application where we would be the lead provider, but have also been approached to become a partner in a separate potential application – would this be acceptable?

Yes this is fine.

Is there any guidance on the number of partners YEF would ideally see projects limited to.

There's no specific limit on number of partners.

I'm applying in partnership with other charities. Should we provide collective figures for the activities in the last year?

This will depend on the section being referenced. Questions about the organisation in Part Two of the application (like Leadership) concern the lead partner. Questions about the potential, or previous reach of an intervention would include all partners involved in the proposed project.

If we were to partner with a delivery organisation so that our organisation delivered the evaluation/analysis of the delivery organisation's intervention, would we be eligible for funding as part of this round?

As part of this call we will accept proposals for partnerships between an organisation delivering an evaluable intervention/service and an independent evaluator. However, the evaluator will need to be part of the YEF Evaluator Panel to be eligible, where organisations will competitively bid to be partnered with the project if it progresses to this part of the application process.

10. Intervention

If the nature of a project is that children receive 1-to-1 interventions with the opportunity to progress into a group therapy where safe and appropriate and their choice, but some might not – would this still meet the criteria for the YEF evaluation, as some children will only receive 1-to-1 support and others both the 1-to-1 and group work.

You would need uniformity in approach i.e. all children would receive 1-1 interventions only or all receive 1-1 followed by group work. Group work or individual sessions are acceptable but the work must focus on the individual child, not whole family therapy etc.

11. Engagement during delivery

Do the CYP need to be involved for the duration of the project or just have been supported for a period of time - if a period of time, how long is reasonable?

The young people need to be involved for the length of your intervention. For instance, if your project runs for 12 weeks, we would expect young people to be involved for 12 weeks, although we might be funding your project for around 12 months. The length of funding is designed to support projects to deliver enough cycles of their intervention to achieve the number of young people required.

Is there a minimum period of consistent engagement you would like to consider impact over? I.e., do you need each CYP to have completed the same amount of time on a project to compare like for like?

Yes, we would want consistency in the length of the intervention and intensity of each session comprising a similar amount of time.

12. Length of project

How long does the project need to last?

We expect the maximum project delivery time to be 24 months and are keen to hear from projects that can deliver within a shorter period. **You must be able to reach the numbers needed for a robust impact evaluation in a maximum of two years delivery.**

13. Evaluation Process

Would it be possible to see a copy of the Strength and Difficulties questionnaire, and the Self Report Delinquency Scale.

Please see on our YEF website guidance for both the [Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire](#) and [Self-Reported Delinquency Scale](#). Appendices at the end of each document list the questions asked in each.

Minimum duration for delivery – is there a sense at this stage of what time point(s) the evaluators want to measure outcomes? And how attrition is defined timewise?

There is no set requirement so it is up to you to specify why the delivery length is the most optimal. Whatever the time period, the independent evaluator would ensure measures are taken before randomisation, during the project delivery (around half-way) and after the project has ended.

Evaluation questionnaires to be used

All YEF evaluations must use reliable, externally validated questionnaires (usually either the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire or Self-Reported Delinquency Scale). The specific questionnaires used will depend on the primary outcome of your intervention, and the age of

participants. The context and way in which questionnaires are administered is something your independent evaluator would help you plan so that it is appropriate in terms of setting and timing.

You can view guidance related to the questionnaires YEF uses in our evaluations [on our website here](#).

What do you mean by being ready for an evaluation?

See the Readiness for Evaluation section in the Application Guidance.

What counts as existing evidence of effectiveness?

Projects that have engaged in a Randomised Control Trial or other impact designs may give us a greater indication that the project is ready to be robustly evaluated through a YEF commissioned impact evaluation. However, it is not a requirement for projects to have been evaluated through a Randomised Control Trial.

We encourage you to ensure that your application clearly outlines the existing evidence base for the project drawing on the evaluations that have been conducted. We recognise the merit of all existing evidence on the project, even when randomisation hasn't been used. This information will enable us to understand how ready the project is for a robust impact evaluation. Evidence may include studies from abroad.

All evidence should be data driven; anecdotal evidence, case studies or references to news articles will not be sufficient on their own.

How would co-design work if a programme is already being delivered?

During co-design, the grantee and evaluator work together to set up the project evaluation plan, which includes evaluation design, Theory of Change, project blueprint, Logic Model, and budget. This usually involves some refinement of the project's delivery model, referral pathways, and integration of the evaluation into everyday delivery to ensure that the impact of the project can be robustly evaluated.

14. Referral/Recruitment of CYP

What is the referral process and how are CYP recruited onto the programme

You would have control over how this process works and YEF would support and advise to help you reach the minimum numbers required for the grant. If you already have strong referral systems in place that you know work for the communities you serve, that's great.

Who is responsible for allocating CYP from your referral pipeline into either the 'control' condition (i.e., some other form of statutory support, or project elsewhere) or the project you are delivering?

Random allocation would be managed by the evaluator after the children and young people have completed the baseline questionnaire data. The independent evaluator you would be partnered with would support you with this process to ensure the control condition is some other form of support that is suitable for CYP, and allows comparison against your project.

What if we can't recruit the number of young people set out in the guidance?

We are looking for projects that are able to recruit and support a large enough group of children and young people to be robustly evaluated. The minimum number of children and young people you will need to recruit for the evaluation depends on the type of outcomes you are measuring. Definitions of the different types of outcomes we are interested in for this grant round can be found in the guidance.

Whilst the exact sample size will be worked out with the evaluator, it will need to be close to what is set out in the guidance. If there are recruitment problems, we will always work with the delivery organisation and the evaluator to see if they can be resolved. However if a situation occurs where we do not believe sufficient participants can be recruited, we may choose to end the project early. In these cases, grantees will be paid for all costs incurred to that date.

15. Randomised Control Trials (RCTs)

For the RCT, would all the children have to want to access the project but not receive an intervention. Otherwise can the control group include children who meet the YEF criteria, but as it happens aren't interested in that project and wouldn't have chosen to access the project anyway?

In theory yes, but you wouldn't actively seek these young people to form a control group in and of itself.

Are participants for an RCT sought by the applicant and form part of the numbers (rather than separately by the evaluator)?

Correct, the Grantee is responsible for ensuring the minimum number of CYP required, depending on the outcomes being measured. The evaluator is then responsible for randomly allocating CYP to the project or an alternative service/business as usual. However, the grantee is responsible for ensuring the provision of an alternative service/business as usual is available to refer half the CYP to.

Control Group

Could young people that do not meet the eligibility criteria be considered as the control group or would they need to be from young people that would be eligible for the programme?

Those in the control group must meet the same criteria as those receiving the intervention. In Randomised Controlled Trials, the young people are randomly allocated to the control group after they have been referred to the project based on the eligibility criteria and after they have completed baseline questionnaire data.

The young people in the control group would need to be offered some other suitable form of support (business as usual), enabling a comparison against your project. The independent evaluator you would be partnered with would support you with this process. Therefore, you would not be able to select young people who are not eligible for the project to be in the control group - the young people in the control group would be those who meet the eligibility criteria for your project and allocation to either intervention or the control group would be random and independent.

How would the control group operate? Would the project essentially refuse 50% of referrals, and if they then get referred to an alternative range of providers as “business as usual”/“supported in some form” services, will they all be expected to engage as a control group organisation for data collection/evaluation purposes?

YEF’s approach is not to deprive or ‘refuse’ children and young people of any service they would usually have been able to receive, were it not for the funding being provided. This means that some sort of support or statutory service that is already being provided continues to be provided for children randomised to the control group. Exactly what this offer for the control group looks like is refined during codesign when applicants are partnered with an independent evaluator.

Children in the control group would need to be engaged in the same evaluation activities (i.e., self-report questionnaires or data linking) as children randomised to the project, to allow a comparison.

Sample size

If you run a shorter project, say 1 year, do you need to reach half the number of CYP or the same?

The sample size would remain the same.

16. Theory of Change

When discussing, “a strong and clear theory of change”, by theory do you mean an academic theory, for instance from a sociological/psychological discipline, or a theory from our own organisation?

This would be a theory from the organisation about why your intervention or service is necessary and what it aims to achieve. We would recommend reading this information:

<https://evaluationhub.eif.org.uk/theory-of-change/>.

We don't have a theory of change at present. Do we need to create a theory of change to apply?

For an application to be considered, the intervention's theory of change needs to align with our key outcomes of interest, for preventing children and young people becoming involved in violence.

Further to this the intervention must have a strong and clear theory of change - a clear and consistent approach which means it could be picked up and delivered easily by others (i.e. it's formally or informally manualised), and a clear approach to supporting and managing delivery staff. You would not need to describe this in detail at this point where it would be refined during the Codesign process.

17. Grant Round – General

Will there be another X round in the future?

While there won't be another identical grant round in the future, there may be similar or related opportunities. Please do keep an eye on our website.

In the meantime, you can sign up to our newsletter so that you receive details of any future funding rounds when they are launched. You can do that here:

<https://youthendowmentfund.org.uk/newsletter/>

How many projects do you intend to fund?

There is no set number, but our requirements are demanding and we recognise that it is not for everyone, so only a limited number of applicants should expect to be successful.