

**Multi-Site Trials (MSTs)  
of Interventions that aim to  
reduce youth violence**

CALL FOR PROPOSALS





The Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) invites members of the YEF Evaluation Panel to propose a multi-site trial of an intervention aiming to address children and young people at risk of becoming involved in crime and violence, or those already involved in the youth justice system.



## What do we mean by multi-site trial (MST)?

Multi-site trials - or 'aggregated trials' - involve identifying a group of organisations delivering a similar approach, aligning their approaches, running small concurrent evaluations (preferably Randomised Control Trials - RCTs) and aggregating the results. The benefit of this approach is that we can identify consistent elements of delivery (sometimes termed 'core components') that could be more widely adopted if found to be effective, and the collective evaluation provides scale to generate more reliable findings.

To date, YEF have undertaken a small number of multi-site trials: including those for [Hospital Navigators](#) and [mentoring](#). These have revealed the best management structure for effectively delivering this approach ([Diagram 1](#)). This involves partnering an independent umbrella organisation (who have sufficient connections to relevant delivery organisations) with an independent evaluator to design, manage and deliver a high-quality multi-site trial.



## Why are we funding multi-site trials?

Many of our evaluations work with individual organisations to assess the impact of the intervention that they solely own and deliver. One organisation will design, own, and deliver the programme, and may have the capacity alone to reach a large number of young people.

However, much of the provision for children and young people at risk of violence is not provided through one organisation delivering their intervention in isolation. Many initiatives, approaches and practices are delivered by a host of connected organisations. They may deliver the same core intervention, be underpinned by the same principles, and be aligned under an umbrella organisation; however, they are a collection of separate organisations, who may serve different populations of young people.

Together, networks of organisations may be able to deliver to a much larger scale than they otherwise would have been able to alone. Furthermore, these networks often comprise smaller 'grassroots' voluntary and community

organisations who can be uniquely placed to identify, engage and support young people at risk but may lack the scale and resources to engage in large impact evaluations that can generate robust results.

Such smaller organisations may also be established by Black, Asian or other racially minoritised leaders specifically set up to serve minoritised children and young people. We know that some children and young people are overrepresented in the youth justice system or struggle to access mainstream support services. We're particularly interested in projects which can show that they successfully and appropriately support these groups.

## Supplementary funding

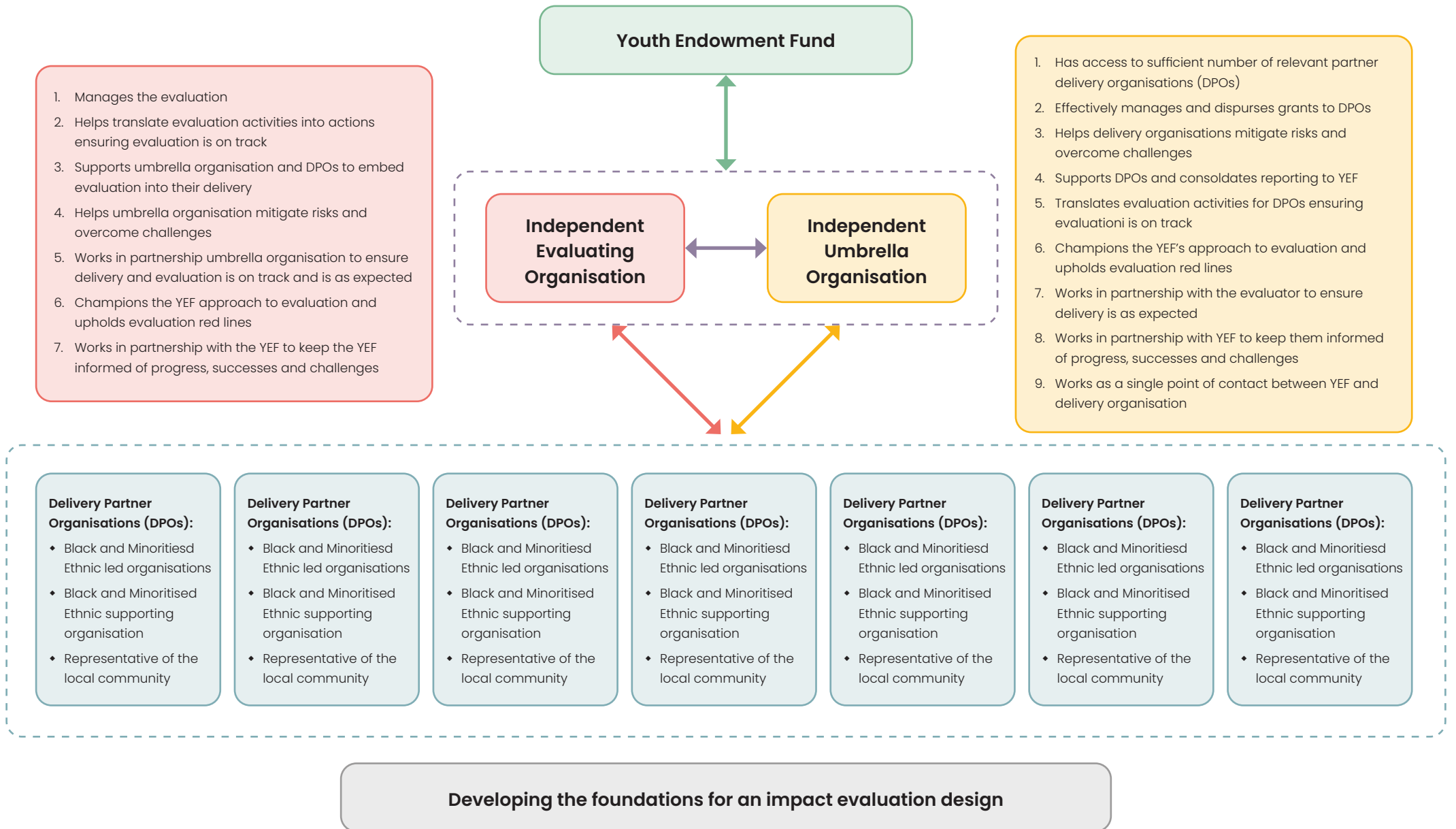
Evaluators are required to **contribute 10% of their budgeted costs through supplementary funding or in-kind support.**

Supplementary funding can include other grants or contributions you make through your unrestricted funding. In-kind support is an organisation's non-monetary contribution to deliver the project. This can include back-office staff costs (e.g. 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. You can find further details and examples of in-kind funding [here](#).

Umbrella organisations will also be expected to contribute up to 20% of their budgeted delivery costs.



**Diagram 1. The YEF's multi-site trial management structure**



1. Manages the evaluation
2. Helps translate evaluation activities into actions ensuring evaluation is on track
3. Supports umbrella organisation and DPOs to embed evaluation into their delivery
4. Helps umbrella organisation mitigate risks and overcome challenges
5. Works in partnership umbrella organisation to ensure delivery and evaluation is on track and is as expected
6. Champions the YEF approach to evaluation and upholds evaluation red lines
7. Works in partnership with the YEF to keep the YEF informed of progress, successes and challenges

1. Has access to sufficient number of relevant partner delivery organisations (DPOs)
2. Effectively manages and dispurses grants to DPOs
3. Helps delivery organisations mitigate risks and overcome challenges
4. Supports DPOs and consolidates reporting to YEF
5. Translates evaluation activities for DPOs ensuring evaluationi is on track
6. Champions the YEF's approach to evaluation and upholds evaluation red lines
7. Works in partnership with the evaluator to ensure delivery is as expected
8. Works in partnership with YEF to keep them informed of progress, successes and challenges
9. Works as a single point of contact between YEF and delivery organisation



# What sort of interventions are we hoping to evaluate?

Proposed interventions must sit within one of the following sectors:

## Youth Sector

Including Positive Activities, such as sports, music and employment programmes that aim to develop positive behaviours and provide a 'hook' to other support, and services that help children to build trusted relationships with non-family members, such as key workers or youth workers, to reduce children's involvement in crime and violence. More information can be found [here](#).

## Children's Services

Interventions and services which help families deal with challenging situations, including parenting programmes, family therapy, domestic abuse interventions, family support and support for children at risk outside the home. More information can be found [here](#).

## Youth Justice

How we support and respond to arrested children, including activities to divert children from formal criminal justice processes, knife crime education, trauma informed programmes, restorative justice and so on. More information can be found [here](#).

## Neighbourhoods

Place-based interventions that can help neighbourhoods and communities deal with local violence and reduce young people's involvement in crime and violence. This may include Community Safety Partnerships, neighbourhood and community engagement teams, neighbourhood policing, housing, local charities, community leaders and others. More information can be found [here](#).

## Health

Therapeutic support to help children deal with challenges and protect them from becoming involved in violence. More information can be found [here](#).

## Education

Activities targeted at outcomes associated with offending such as improving school attendance, preventing unnecessary exclusions and helping children to get the most out of school. More information can be found [here](#).

## Policing

Violence prevention strategies that involve the police and focus on the individuals most likely to be involved in serious violence. More information can be found [here](#).





## The young people we are trying to reach

We aim to support children and young people aged primarily aged 10 - 18, who are at risk of crime or violence and/or already involved in the youth justice system. Children and young people outside this age range may be included, but should not be the primary focus.

## Outcomes and types of prevention

We are interested in programmes which are commonly referred to as **secondary or tertiary prevention**. By this we mean children and young people who are at risk of involvement in youth offending, or have been affected by, and involved in, violence, offending and/or exploitation. Please note that YEF are not presently interested in funding universal interventions delivering to all children

The intervention must have a strong and clear Theory of Change, supported by evidence, with a primary outcome that is included in the following primary outcomes from our [YEF Outcomes Framework](#)

- ◆ Reducing Violent Offending
- ◆ Reducing Non-Violent Offending
- ◆ Reducing victimisation of crime
- ◆ Reducing behavioural difficulties
- ◆ Reducing drug and alcohol use
- ◆ Reducing sexually violent offending
- ◆ Reducing bullying perpetration
- ◆ Reducing Influence of Criminal Peers



## Application Process

Applicants are asked to apply through the Evaluator Open Call application form. Guidance for completing that form can be found here. This is a two-stage application:

- ♦ **Part One** – A high level summary of the proposed intervention and some description of how this might be evaluated
- ♦ **Part Two** – Further detail on delivery of the intervention, plus details on your areas of expertise and suggested methodology

If the application successfully meets the criteria for part one, you will be contacted with a link to the second part. Following completion of the second part, you are likely to be invited to participate in an interview. More detailed criteria will be shared with interviewees ahead of this step.

If the YEF then chooses to proceed with the proposal, the applicant will be engaged to confirm the suitability and participation of

the delivery organisation. Once a delivery organisation has been secured you will be asked to enter a 'Co-design' phase in order to produce a final joint proposal. It is expected that the co-design phase would include the refinement or development of 1) the shared practice model and 2) the approach to evaluation, once signed off this would be followed by a period of piloting (both the model and evaluation procedures), before proceeding to deliver MST efficacy study. The length of this 'co-design' phase will depend on the nature of the evaluation and the intervention.

Once you submit your final proposal, we will send it to our Grant and Evaluation Committee who will make the final decision on whether or not to award the grant and the evaluation. Length of delivery will be determined during co-design period, but it is possible for the project to span 12-24 months. Although these are indicative timelines.

Questions can be sent to [evaluation@youthendowmentfund.org.uk](mailto:evaluation@youthendowmentfund.org.uk).







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

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

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