

Call for Proposals: Barriers and Facilitators to Implementing Diversion Effectively

Background

The Youth Endowment Fund exists to prevent children from becoming involved in violence. One of the ways we seek to achieve this mission is improving support for children when they are arrested. This includes diverting them from formal youth justice processes like appearing at court. This is a critical moment where effective support can change a child's life and keep them safe.

Research indicates that effective diversion reduces reoffending, enhances safety, and provides better outcomes for children and communities. However, the effectiveness of diversion schemes relies on how well they are implemented.

We're looking to commission a project using the **Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR)** to explore barriers and facilitators to implementing effective diversion for children and young people, and to propose a plan for change. In particular, we want this project to focus on:

- the use of Outcome 22 for arrested children.
- the use of evidence-based support by youth justice services. See YEF's [Toolkit](#) for a summary of these interventions and approaches.

Project objectives

We are looking to partner with an organisation to identify the facilitators and barriers to the effective delivery of Outcome 22 and evidence-based support for arrested children using the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR). The CFIR is a comprehensive framework designed to help researchers and practitioners systematically evaluate and guide the implementation of interventions in different settings. It provides a structured approach to understanding the factors that influence the success or failure of implementation efforts.

Here is a summary of the five domains and their key elements within the CFIR:

- **Outer Setting:** External factors, including policies, incentives, and stakeholder needs, that impact how the intervention is received and adopted.
- **Inner Setting:** Characteristics of the implementing organisation (e.g. police force or youth justice service), such as culture, communication channels, and readiness for change.
- **Intervention Characteristics:** Attributes of the intervention itself, such as its complexity, evidence base, and cost, that influence its implementation.

- **Characteristics of Individuals:** Traits of those involved in implementation, including their knowledge, motivations, and capabilities.
- **Process:** Steps taken during implementation, such as planning, engaging stakeholders, and evaluating.

The project's objectives are:

- To identify the organisational, intervention, individual and process facilitators to implementing Outcome 22 and evidence-based support for arrested children effectively.
- To identify the organisational, intervention, individual and process barriers to implementing Outcome 22 and evidence-based support for arrested children effectively.
- To explore the role that YEF's outputs (e.g. toolkit, practice guidance, implementation resources and events) play in supporting implementation of Outcome 22 and evidence-based support for arrested children.
- To develop a plan for change to improve the adoption, fidelity and sustainability of Outcome 22 and evidence-based support for arrested children.

Budget

We expect bids for up to £50,000 for this project.

Please note that these funds will be issued in the form of a grant, and as such will not be considered for any taxable supply for VAT purposes by the successful Grantee to YEF. The YEF obligation will not extend to paying the Grantee any amounts in respect of VAT in addition to the Grant, and that the Grant made by YEF is deemed to be inclusive of VAT if applicable.

Approach

We invite bidders to propose an appropriate methodology for gaining a detailed understanding of the barriers and facilitators to the effective delivery of Outcome 22 and evidence-based support for arrested children. This should, however, include:

- A case study approach – work with two police force areas and the local youth justice services to collect data across the most relevant domains (e.g. organisational, intervention, individual and process factors).
 - This should include a diverse range of stakeholders including senior leaders, those involved in implementing diversion, and beneficiaries where possible.
- Interviews with police officers and youth justice staff – these could be individual or group-based and should focus on perceptions and use of YEF's outputs to support

implementation, and opportunities for the development of new implementation resources to support delivery.

Proposals will be expected to outline how they intend to maximise engagement with the police forces, youth justice services and other relevant organisations (such as Police & Crime Commissioners and local authorities where relevant).

Outputs and timeframe

Final outputs will be agreed with the appointed team, but at a minimum are expected to include:

1. A slide deck and presentation summarising key insights.
2. A plan for change which includes recommended actions and identifies implementation resources to support police forces and youth justice services to deliver Outcome 22.
3. A plan for change which includes recommended actions and implementation resources to support youth justice services to adopt evidence-based interventions.

We expect the plans for change to include specific and tangible actions and recommendations for implementation resources. The plans should cover (but are not limited to):

- a. What outputs should YEF produce to support police forces and youth justice services to use Outcome 22 and adopt evidence-based interventions?
 - i. This should consider a breadth of resources such as visual aids (e.g. posters, infographics), guidance documents, interactive tools, events, videos, podcasts, and events to name some examples.
- b. What key messages do we need to get across in these outputs?
- c. How can we tailor outputs to appeal to different audiences (e.g. frontline or senior leaders)?

The final outputs will be reviewed by the YEF as well as independent peer reviewers.

Timelines are provisionally outlined below:

Activity	Expected time frame
Proposal deadline	14 th March 2025
Questions accepted until	28 th February 2025

Preferred bidder appointed (including all contractual work and kick off completed)	31 st March 2025
Work delivered	31 st July 2025

How to apply

We invite bidders to prepare proposals of no more than 3,000 words, excluding references and are aiming to notify bidders on 21st March 2025.

In the proposal, we expect bidders to include the following:

- Objectives of the project, including the rationale for why these are important.
- Your proposed approach to conducting the project.
- The relevant experience of the team. Specifically, your credentials for undertaking the project, your knowledge in the subject matter and expertise in the proposed approach.
- A detailed budget with justification for time spent.

Bidders have until 14th March 2025 to prepare their proposals and will be able to submit questions until 28th February 2025. All proposals will be reviewed by the YEF, using the criteria provided in Appendix 1.

The YEF is happy to consider bids from consortiums, as long as consideration is given to communication and how the teams will work well together. The YEF would expect to contract with one lead member of the consortium.

Please send proposals and / or any questions to change.yef@youthendowmentfund.org.uk .

Appendix 1: YEF scoring criteria

1. Relevant experience of core project team and understanding of topic area (30%)

- a) The extent to which the applicant demonstrates expertise and understanding of the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research and/or youth diversion.
- b) The extent to which the proposed team demonstrates a track record of delivering high quality projects, particularly in relation to implementation research.
- c) The extent to which the proposal considers how race and other diversity and inclusion considerations can be incorporated into the design and execution of the project
- d) The extent to which the proposed team demonstrate an understanding and track record of good project management and robust quality assurance procedures

2. Approach (50%)

- a) Suitability of the approach to deliver against the project objectives, balancing the need to provide robust insights, and flexibility / tailoring with the need to be proportionate, targeted, and low burden.
- b) Suitability of proposed strategies to access participant groups and maximise participation rates, especially senior leaders, frontline practitioners and beneficiaries where relevant.
- c) Suitability of the proposed techniques to use insights and wider evidence to produce the plan for change and/or implementation resources.

3. Value for Money (20%)

- a) Detailed cost of your proposal and how this demonstrates value for money.

Scoring criteria	
0	Totally fails to meet the requirement - information not available
1	Meets some of the requirements with limited supporting information
2	Meets some of the requirements with reasonable explanation
3	Fully meets the requirements with detailed explanation and evidence
4	Exceeds the requirements with extensive explanation and evidence

