

Guidance on Effective Multi-Agency Partnerships for Supporting Children & Young People Vulnerable to Involvement in Violence

Summary

- YEF is seeking an individual or team to produce interim guidance on effective multi-agency partnerships for children & young people vulnerable to involvement in violence
- The interim guidance will inform YEF's Area Leaders Programme partnerships module, and will be further refined and finalised by YEF in 2026 and published as a stand-alone resource for wider multi-agency violence prevention partnerships
- The deadline for proposals is **5pm 10 June 2025**. We intend to conduct interviews **18/19 June** and to appoint the successful team **by the end of June 2025**.
- The deadline for the full draft report is **30 September 2025**.
- The deadline for revisions further to feedback is **15 October 2025**

Background

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 fund promising projects and then use the very best evaluations to find out what works. We also synthesise the best available evidence from across the world and then aim to mobilise what we learn across various sectors to make a change to the lives of children.

It is also imperative that YEF fully understands the context in which children live, and in which services operate to support them. Only then can we make evidence-based recommendations on how best to reduce serious violence amongst children and young people. Alongside our programme funding, and evidence synthesis work, we fund a wide range of research projects (including data analysis, youth understanding work, and practice reviews) to better understand young people's lives, and the systems and services that surround them.

The Area Leaders Programme

The primary purpose of this interim guidance is to support the delivery of the YEF Area Leaders Programme (ALP). The ALP is a programme for multi-agency violence reduction partnerships in local authority areas. The programme aims to equip area leaders with the knowledge, tools and partnerships needed to deliver effective, evidence-informed violence prevention strategies focused on people, places, and practice.

In 2024/25, we piloted the programme in four local authority areas. In 2025/26, we are expanding to ten more areas, followed by a second group of ten in 2026/27.

Following partnership recruitment, each partnership will complete a self-assessment framework to identify local strengths and areas for development. Successful partnerships will then take part in a 12-month development programme from Autumn 2025. This will include a core set of modules for all sites, alongside tailored support to address site-specific priorities identified through the self-assessment. The programme is designed to align with the government's Young Futures Prevention Partnership programme and meet the requirements of the Serious Violence Duty.

Our programme hypothesis is that areas are more effective at preventing children's involvement in violence if they do five things well:

- **Partnerships:** Build strong, accountable partnerships with clear roles, governance, and measurable goals.
- **Profile:** Understand the local drivers, context, and patterns of serious violence.
- **People:** Identify the children most at risk and ensure they get the right support at the right time.
- **Places:** Pinpoint high-risk locations and take action to make them safer.
- **Practice:** Share and apply best practice consistently across all key agencies.

The programme modules are designed around these five key areas. Following completion of each module¹ partnerships are required to complete a local action plan, supported by a range of YEF guidance, tools and resources. The resource will be published on the YEF website for wider use.

The aim of this project

Effective strategic multi-agency partnership working is essential for addressing the complex issue of children's involvement in violence. It enables local authority areas to draw on a range of expertise, resources, and perspectives to tackle challenges that no single agency can address alone. When done well, it leads to shared understanding, improved information sharing, greater system accountability and better outcomes for children vulnerable to violence.

This project aims to support the development of the ALP 'Partnerships module'. Specifically, we are commissioning the production of Guidance on effective strategic partnerships, along with supporting materials for local delivery, including:

- A structured workshop outline for use with delivery partnerships;
- Workshop slide content;
- Facilitator prompts or practical delivery notes;
- And, where appropriate, additional tools or resources to help local partnerships reflect, self-assess and take action.

¹ [DRAFT ALP TOC May 2025.docx](#)

This Guidance and accompanying materials will be used in workshops delivered by YEF with each local partnership. Following the workshop, sites will use the guidance to develop their own local action plans to improve partnership working. The materials will also form part of a wider evidence base to inform final guidance published in 2026, which will be made available to all multi-agency violence prevention partnerships beyond the ALP.

We welcome proposals to deliver the full package (guidance, workshop design and tools). However, bidders may also propose to deliver only the interim guidance. In this case, they should ensure the guidance aligns clearly with the structure and aims of the ALP module and provides a foundation for effective workshop delivery. Budgets should be adjusted accordingly.

Key questions

These questions are intended as a starting point to guide the focus of the guidance project. They are not exhaustive, and we welcome proposals that expand or adapt them.

Partnership design and governance

- What governance structures and accountability mechanisms support the most effective multi-agency partnerships for preventing children's involvement in violence?
- How do effective partnerships develop and maintain a shared vision for change?
- How are goals and measures used to drive collective accountability and track progress?

Data sharing and intelligence use

- What enables effective data and intelligence sharing between agencies and how is this data used to inform decisions and allocate resources?

Community and youth voice

- How do partnerships meaningfully involve young people, families and community organisations in strategic planning and delivery?

Equity, race and inclusion

- How are partnerships embedding race equity in how they prioritise needs, design responses and measure success?

Operational practice

- How do partnerships translate strategy into coordinated frontline delivery that reaches the right children at the right time?
- What mechanisms support consistent practice across agencies (e.g. joint training, shared frameworks, secondments)?

Barriers and enablers

- What are the most common barriers to partnership effectiveness (e.g. siloed working, resource competition) and how have areas overcome them?

Race equity

There are significant racial disparities in children's experience of violence and youth justice. For instance, 26% of children in Youth Custody are Black, compared to 6% in the population in England and Wales aged 10–18. Our 2023 survey of 7,500 children found that while most of the violence was committed by White children (70%) and the majority of victims were White (72%), Black teenage children were, on average, more likely to be vulnerable as both victims (21%) and perpetrators (22%) compared to White children (16% and 14%, respectively).²

The Youth Endowment Fund's mission is to prevent children and young people from becoming involved in violence. We can't achieve this mission if we do not challenge this racial inequity. Addressing these disparities is an important aspect of our work, and race equity should be considered in the response to this call for proposals, and in the final interim guidance.

Required outputs and suggested methodology

We encourage bidders to propose amendments/additions that they think could help meet the aims of the project. We would expect to finalise the detailed outputs and methods with the appointed individual/team. However:

We would expect to see a detailed written discussion that draws from:

- a. Desk based research:
 - a rapid review of existing evidence.
 - good practice case studies
- b. Additional methods suggested by the individual/team.

N.B. we have provided links to some useful background papers³⁴⁵

The interim Guidance report should include:

- a. An executive summary
- b. An introduction
- c. Methodology
- d. Up to 10 recommended actions for effective violence reduction multi-agency partnerships with details under each recommendation on how it may be implemented in practice
- e. Best practice case studies
- f. A bibliography

² [Children, violence and vulnerability 2023](#)

³ [Multi-Agency Responses to Serious Youth Violence: Working Together to Support & Protect Children](#)

⁴ [Preventing Serious Violence: Summary](#)

⁵ [A review of the literature on how the systems of support available to young people & their families work to prevent serious violence](#)

This should be submitted alongside supporting materials for delivery⁶, including:

- A structured workshop outline.
- Workshop slide content.
- Facilitator prompts or practical delivery notes.
- And, where appropriate, additional tools or resources to help local partnerships review, reflect on and strengthen their practice.

Upon sharing the final report with us, we would expect the individual/team to provide a short presentation to the YEF team on the interim guidance. YEF will pay for the peer review of the report.

Timeline

The deadline for proposals is 5pm 10 June. We intend to have appointed the successful team by the end of June. Interviews will take place 18/19 June.

The deadline for the full draft report is 30 September 2025, after which a peer review process will take place. The deadline for revisions further to feedback is 15 October 2025

Budget

We expect the project to cost between £35,000 and 50,000. We will be judging bids on value for money rather than absolute cost and will consistently prioritise proposals that give good value for money and strongly discourage evaluators using this figure as the sole driver of their costs.

We are not able to pay additional VAT and expect VAT to be included in proposed budgets. Pass through VAT via sub-granting work to other organisations may in some circumstances be included. However, it is up to the individual/team to decide if they need to include VAT, and any charges must be covered within the total grant amount.

We do not require budgets to use a specific template in proposals. Any approach that enables us to see total cost, the cost of project components, day rates, and number of days assigned to each team member is sufficient.

How to apply

YEF will judge applications using the following criteria:

- **Subject expertise (25%).** How much expertise does the team have relating to violence reduction partnerships and effective multi-agency partnership working?
- **Project experience (25%).** How much experience does the individual/team have in delivering similar projects?
- **Proposed methodological approach (30%).** What methodology has the individual/team suggested, and does it match our needs? Does the proposed

⁶ Unless you are proposing to deliver only the interim guidance. In this case, bidders should ensure the guidance aligns clearly with the structure and aims of the ALP module and provides a foundation for effective workshop delivery. Budgets should be adjusted accordingly.

approach demonstrate an understanding of how to embed race equity throughout the research design, data collection, analysis, and reporting?

- **Value for money (20%).** Does the bid represent value for money?

Where individuals/teams may be weak in any of the above areas, we encourage applicants to seek expert consultants and partnerships to supplement their bid. Proposals should be no longer than 2,500 words, and should set out the individual/team's expertise, experience, methodological approach, and budget. You may attach relevant documents to support your application – this will not be included in the word count.

As noted above, we are open to individuals/teams suggesting their own approaches, and/or suggesting improvements and amendments to our own. You are welcome to apply for multiple projects, particularly if there are opportunities to streamline methods or reporting for greater efficiency.

Please email your application to

**gail.gibbons@youthendowmentfund.org.uk and
catherine.fayers@youthendowmentfund.org.uk by 5pm on 10 June.**

If you have any questions regarding the project, please email these to

**gail.gibbons@youthendowmentfund.org.uk and
catherine.fayers@youthendowmentfund.org.uk by 5pm on 3 June.**