YOUTH ENDOWMENT FUND

We're here to prevent children and young people becoming involved in violence

Reanalysis of YEF evaluation archive:

Call for proposals

Call open: 6 August 2025 to 26 September 2025

Summary

- The Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) securely stores the data collected through the evaluations we fund. The purpose is to allow for the future reanalysis of this data, with a particular view to conducting long-term follow-up on the outcomes of the participants in our funded projects.
- We're currently seeking a research team to be the first to access and use this data. This work will involve two phases: Phase 1 - initial testing of the process for accessing the data, the quality of the data archived and development a plan for reanalysis. Phase 2 - implementation of the plan for reanalysis.
- We expect Phase 1 of work to take between 9-12 months and the Phase 2, 12-18 months.
- The deadline for proposals is 5pm 26 September 2025. Interviews will be held week of the 13 October.

Section 1: Background to the YEF and our evaluation archive

At the YEF, our mission is 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. As part of this, we fund a range of research, including systematic reviews, evidence and gap maps, secondary data analysis and evaluations of the programs we fund. For more details on our strategy, see our website. This call for proposals focuses on the reanalysis of the data collected through our evaluations.

One of the main activities of the YEF is to fund and evaluate the impact of programmes and interventions (projects). These are run by a wide range of delivery partners across England and Wales. All the projects we fund are paired with an independent evaluator, who collects and evaluates data on the participants of those projects. The primary aim of our evaluations is to understand whether the projects we fund are effective at reducing offending and improving a range of other related outcomes.

At the end of our evaluations, data collected on project participants are stored in our evaluation data archive. This is a secure repository of pseudonymised[1] data, held with the Office of National Statistics' (ONS) in their Secure Research Service (SRS). In addition to the data collected during our evaluations, we've also linked these records to unique identifiers, that allow our project participants to be securely tracked in Department for Education (DfE) and Ministry of Justice (MoJ) records. For further details on how the process for archiving works and how data are submitted, see our guidance documents here and here.

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[1]Pseudonymised data is data for which all directly identifying information (e.g. names, addresses, dates-of-birth), have been removed and replaced with unique reference numbers. This allows the data to be held without revealing the identity of the children involved in each of our projects but still allows us to recombine this data with other records held by government departments (e.g. DfE and MoJ).

Overview of the YEF evaluation archiving process
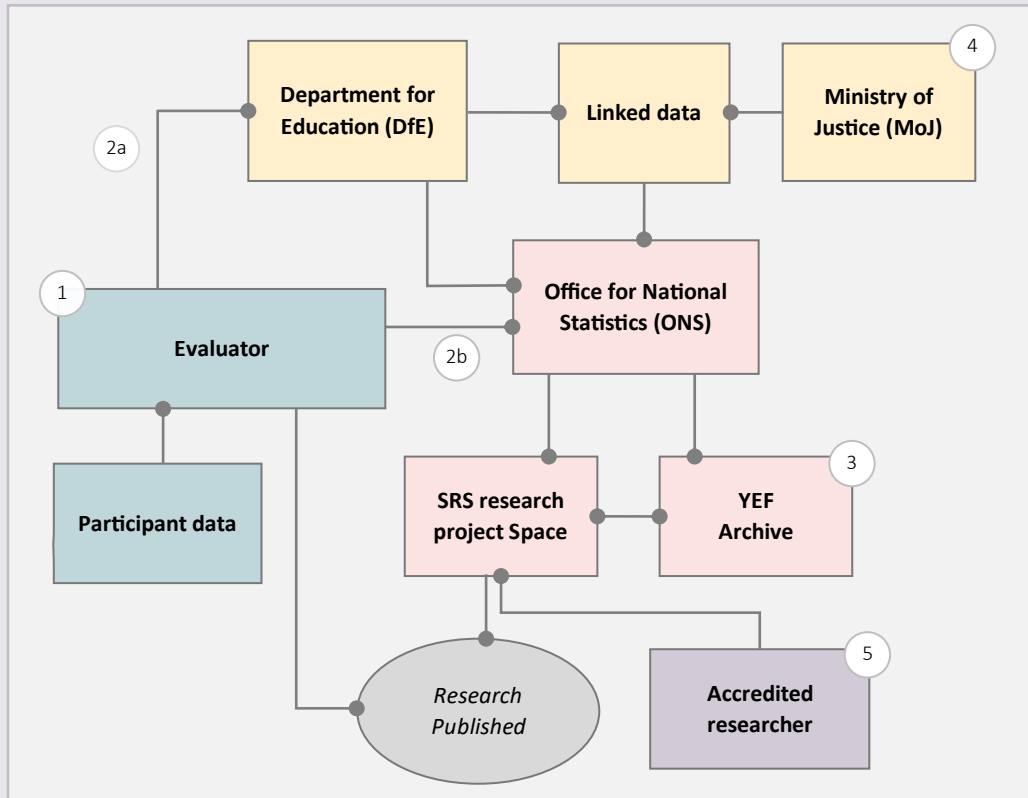
1. **Evaluation: -** Personal data is collected on project participants by the evaluator and analyzed.

2. **Data submitted for archiving: -** Two data sets are created and shared separately with the DfE and ONS:

    A. **Children's identifying data** (e.g. names, addresses, dates-of-birth) and a unique project specific reference number: This is submitted to the DfE and 'pseudonymized' – the personal identifying data is removed and replaced with DfE's pupil matching reference numbers (PMRs). These are then shared with the ONS.

    B. All the remaining **evaluation data** and the project specific reference numbers: This is submitted directly to the ONS by the evaluator, along with other documentation about the data.

3. **Secure storage:** - Both datasets are held securely in the YEF archive by the ONS.

4. **Data-linking:** - The DfE and MoJ routinely link together education and crime records – with children being identified using their PMRs. On request, this can be made available in the ONS secure research service.

5. **Reanalysis of the YEF archive (the phase this call relates to): -** Accredited ONS researchers may apply to access YEF data via the ONS secure research service. They may also apply to the DfE and MoJ to access the linked NPD-PNC data and matched to YEF project participants using their PMRs.

Archiving the data from our evaluations allows us to:

- Perform quality checks, methodological exploration and further detailed analysis (e.g. by subgroups) on the **published results from our original evaluations**.
- Provide descriptive analysis of the data pooled across our projects to **better understand the populations at risk of violence.**
- Conduct **follow-up evaluation on the future outcomes** of project participants. The pseudonymised reference numbers stored alongside the evaluation data would allow us to link the participants' records to administrative education (DfE) and offending (MoJ) outcomes.

The archive currently has submitted data from 10 projects. However, over the next couple of years we expect the number of successfully archived projects to increase significantly – with 10 more anticipated for the rest of 2025/26 and 15 in 2026/27. Our [website](#) details the datasets submitted to the archive so far (see 'YEF data archive log').

Section 2: About this call

As the first work we are commissioning to explore and use our archive, we propose two phases:

Phase 1: To explore the process for accessing and reanalysing the data; the quality and consistency in the data archived across the evaluations; the success of the pseudonymisation process (e.g. match- rate); and, the feasibility of conducting follow-up analysis of matching to DfE and MoJ administrative records and other forms of reanalysis.

Phase 2: To conduct reanalysis on the archived data based on the scoping work undertaken during Phase 1, potentially including: replication and subgroup analysis from the existing published evaluations; descriptive analysis of populations of interest across pooled evaluation data; and, follow-up evaluations using combined DfE and MoJ data, including offending and relevant educational outcomes (e.g. attendance, exclusion, attainment).

Further details for each phase are provided below.

Phase 1 (Indicative timing: 9-12 months)

The main activity during this phase will include:

A. <u>Testing the process of gaining access to the data</u>

Working with the YEF the successful applicant will test the process for applying for accessing data in YEF's evaluation archive. We have already agreed on the broad structure of the application process to access the archive data, including submitting an application to both the ONS and YEF. As the first to apply to use this data, the applicant will help inform the design of the application material and test their use with the YEF and ONS.

To apply for and use the data within the ONS-SRS, the applicant will need to be [accredited](#) with the ONS. During this initial phase of work, if the applicant does not have it already for all relevant team members, they will need to obtain accreditation.

B. Checking the quality and consistency of the data archived to date

Once access to the data has been secured, the applicant will undertake the first phase of analysis. This will include:

- Reviewing the quality of data captured from individual projects, the consistency in how the data have been recorded and encoded between projects, and the extent to which the data align with the documentation provided.
- Comparing how successfully the data have been pseudonymised, in particular, the extent to which PMRs have been successfully matched for individual project participants.
- During this phase, there may be some work to recreate the published results from a limited number of evaluations – with a focus on reviewing how well the analysis has been documented and ease of recreating the results.

C. Develop a plan for reanalysis

Working with the YEF, the successful applicant will develop a plan for reanalysis, factoring in how many projects are in the archive and how this will build up over time, and what's feasible given the time lags between when evaluations end and when new administrative data will become available. As a reminder, the main areas of reanalysis the YEF is interested in, include:

- Performing quality checks, methodological exploration and further detailed analysis (e.g. by subgroups) on the **published results from YEF's original evaluations**.
- Provide descriptive analysis of the data pooled across our projects to **better understand the populations at risk of violence.**
- Conduct **follow-up evaluation on the future outcomes** of project participants. This involves using the pseudonymised reference numbers stored alongside the evaluation data, which would allow us to link the participants' records to administrative education (DfE) and offending (MoJ) outcomes.

Applicants should consider the work already undertaken to reanalyse trial data linked to administrative data (see for example work by Sutherland et al. [2022][2] to reanalyse trial data in the Education Endowment Foundation's archive).

We would welcome other potential research questions or forms of analysis from applicants, in order to maximise the value of the data we hold.

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[2] https://www.adruk.org/fileadmin/uploads/adruk/Documents/Behavioural-Insights-Team-EEF-report.pdf

Phase 2 (Indicative timing: 12-18 months)

During the second phase, the successful applicant will implement the plan for reanalysis as set out and agreed in the first scoping phase above.

During this phase the applicant will need to renew any agreements for accessing YEF data, as well as apply for access to data held by the DfE and MoJ (e.g. linked National Pupil Database [NPD] and Police National Computer [PNC] offending records[3]).

Section 3: Required outputs

For Phase 1, the required output is a written report for the YEF setting out:

- Guidance for accessing and using the YEF archive via the ONS-SRS.
- The outcome of the quality checks performed on the data (e.g. consistency checks, missing data, alignment with documentation, ability to recreate published research findings, the match-rate between evaluation participants and DfE PMRs). This should include recommendations for the YEF to improve the way in which the data are archived and documented.
- A detailed plan for reanalysis, including timelines and alternative options.

For Phase 2, the required outputs include:

- A peer reviewed analysis plan, based on the final agreed approach with YEF
- An interim report, on initial progress towards addressing the research questions.
- A final peer reviewed research report, which includes all analysis to address agreed research questions.

Section 4: Assessment criteria

Details of the assessment criteria are provided below. All applications need to be submitted via the online form. For details on the questions asked, see the annex.

Criteria	What's assessed?	Scoring Weighting
Research questions	A clear and detailed description of the aims and research questions across phases 1 and 2.	10%
Data and methodology	Credibility and feasibility of approach and methodology in addressing the aims and research question(s), the extent uncertainties are identified, a strong plan in place to clarify during the initial phases of analysis, and risks and mitigations. Demonstrated understanding of and experience with evaluation data , DfE and MoJ administrative datasets, processes for accessing and linking datasets and handling of data projection.	30%

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[3] https://www.adruk.org/fileadmin/uploads/adruk/Documents/Data_Explained/Will-Cook-Data-Explained.pdf

Project team and relevant experience	The extent to which the research team has relevant knowledge and experience of the types of data, analysis and research methodologies required to address the research questions.	30%
Timeline and budget	A credible timeline (including an articulation of the risks to delivering milestones on time and proposed mitigations) and breakdown and justification for the costs incurred.	20%
Race equity	How will race equity considerations be factored into your project? Will the research generate findings split by ethnicity? How will sources of bias be accounted for in the analysis and interpretation of findings?	10%

Section 5: Race equity

In addition to the above criteria, at the YEF, we have a particular focus on race equity (for more information, see details on our race equity commitments). This includes conducting research (1) that sheds light on the experiences of children and young people from Black, Asian and other minority backgrounds; and (2) in a way that accounts for potential sources of bias in the data, methods used and the interpretation of the findings.

In this project, we expect applicants to consider race equity in (but not limited to) the following ways:

- **Subgroup analysis**: Wherever possible, projects should be able to produce results by ethnicity. Where subgroup analysis isn't possible teams will need to provide a strong justification as to why not.
- **Sources of bias**: Applicants should consider how and from whom the data were collected, the nature of the data or variables used, and their modelling assumptions, in terms of how these may lead to bias in the results.
- **Interpretation**: Project teams should reflect on how they will consult a sufficiently broad and diverse set of viewpoints throughout the project, to ensure the racialised context of their research and findings are fully accounted for.

Section 6: Budget and timeline

We have not set an upper ceiling on the total amount we're prepared to fund for this work. We expect the total budget costs to be between £200,000 to £250,000 for both Phases 1 and 2 combined. We expect Phase 1 to take between 9-12 months following agreements being signed and Phase 2 to take between 12-18 months.

Applicants will need to complete a detailed budget template with an accompanying narrative. The template and additional guidance are provided here.

We recognise that the scale and cost of activity in Phase 2 will partly depend on the outcome of the scoping work from Phase 1. We request that applicants submit a combined budget separating out Phases 1 and 2, recognising that the budget for Phase 2 will be more uncertain. This will be reviewed and updated, and the grant agreement varied, upon successful completion of Phase 1.

The expected timeframe for the application process is:

Activity	Date
Application deadline	5pm 26 September 2025
YEF internal shortlisting	w/c 29 September 2025
Interviews with shortlisted applicants	w/c 13 October 2025
Applicants informed of outcome of interviews	w/c 27 October 2025
Agreement signed	By w/c 24 November 2025
Work commences	By w/c 5 January 2026

Section 7: Submitting applications

To apply, you'll need to submit an online application. For details on the questions asked, see the annex.

You'll also need to submit a completed budget template (downloadable here) which can be attached to the online application. **We will not accept applications or budget templates submitted via email**. Proposals should not exceed 3,000 words.

Shortlisted proposals will then be invited to interview between 13 and 24 October 2025. We plan to confirm who the successful application is by the week commencing 27 October 2025, and for the work to commence by early January 2026.

Further questions can be directed to Claryn Kung: claryn.kung@youthendowmentfund.org.uk, copying in data@youthendowmentfund.org.uk.

Annex: Application Form

Below is provided a copy of the questions asked in the online application. You may use this when drafting your submission. However, all **submissions must be submitted online,** along with the completed budget template, **via the online application form**. We will not accept applications sent via email.

Organisation name(s)	
Named lead contact: i) Name ii) Job title	
Telephone number:	
Email address of lead contact	
Secondary contact i) Name ii) Job Title	
Telephone number:	
Email address of secondary contact	

Criteria 1: What are the aims of the work and the research question(s) your work will answer? Why are these important to address?

- *Please set out your understanding of the YEF archive, how it works, and the primary aims of the research.*
- *What are the research questions you'd seek to address across phases 1 and 2?*

(max 300 words)

Criteria 2: Outline your plans in detail for each phase and subphase to address the aims and research questions.

This may include but is not limited to providing:

- *An understanding how to apply for and use data within the ONS-SRS.*
- *The specific checks that will be performed to analyse the consistency, accuracy and quality of the data stored in the YEF archive.*
- *The steps you'll go through in developing a plan for reanalysis and the criteria you'll use to assess what is or isn't feasible. This should include a discussion of the potential methodologies you'll use in analysing the data and their pros and cons.*
- *The potential risks and uncertainties and how these will be managed.*

(max 1000 words)

Criteria 3: Provide details of the project team. Note: <u>You do not need to submit CVs.</u>

- *Please provide relevant experience of the team as a whole, and each individual researcher including their role within the team. Please justify the time allocated to team members and the specific contribution they will be making.*
- *Please indicate how you might respond to any unforeseen changes in staff resourcing (i.e., team members leaving the project early), to ensure the project remains on track.*

(max 800 words)

Criteria 4: Provide a detailed timeline for the work. There is a separate budget template. Complete the budget template ([downloadable here](#)) and attach it with your [application form](#) when you submit.

For budgeting and timeline purposes, the main areas of activity should include:

<u>Phase 1</u>

- *testing the process of gaining access to the data and producing a guidance for accessing and using the YEF archive via the ONS-SRS*
- *checking the quality and consistency of the data archived to date and producing a report on the outcome of these checks, including recommendations for improvements*
- *developing a plan for reanalysis, including timelines and alternative options*

<u>Phase 2</u>

- *producing a full research protocol and securing access to your data;*
- *completing an initial interim report, reporting initial descriptive analysis of the dataset and any methodological exploration or feasibility testing;*
- *producing a final report, which includes all analysis to address the research questions.*

(max 600 words)

Criteria 5: How will race equity considerations be factored into your project?

- *To what extent will the findings be broken down by ethnicity?*
- *What sources of bias exist in the data and how will these be addressed?*
- *How will you ensure that the racialised context of your findings will be fully accounted for?*

(max 300 words)