



The Youth Endowment Fund Research Lead

Reports to: Assistant Director of Research

Salary: £55,000

Contract: 2 years fixed term

Location: Central London, Hybrid*

Closing date: September 10th 12 pm

Interviews: 22nd September 2025

About the Youth Endowment Fund

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.

Last year, 244 people in England and Wales tragically died after being assaulted with a knife. Of these, 32 were children. Every child captured in these numbers is an important member of our community and society has a duty to protect them. Even when violence doesn't strike directly, we know that the fear of violence has a terrible effect on children's lives.

At the Youth Endowment Fund, we are working to create lasting change. To succeed, we must build a world-leading body of knowledge on the violence that affects young people and how it can be stopped. This means producing rigorous, relevant evidence — through synthesis, data analysis and in-depth research into young people's lives. But knowledge alone isn't enough. We must make it accessible and actionable: showing what works, how services need to change, and how the systems around them must adapt. And we must partner with the people who can make change happen — across policy, practice and local systems — to turn evidence into impact.

About the role

The Research Lead will lead our interpretation and communication of YEF's evaluation reports. **This is at the very core of YEF's mission and strategy.** The majority of YEF's £200m endowment has been spent on funding and evaluating interventions designed to protect children from involvement in violence. YEF have

already [published 54 independent evaluations](#) of these interventions, and we expect to publish a further 36 over the next two years alone, the majority of which will be impact evaluations.

The Research Lead will play a leading role in ensuring that the findings from these evaluations make an impact on policy and practice. Specifically, the Research Lead will lead YEF's thinking on interpreting these results and will write (and support other colleagues to write) executive summaries, website commentaries, and presentations on evaluation findings. They will work through knotty interpretation challenges; consider what the results mean for our understanding of violence prevention; ensure our interpretation is accurate, robust and clear; and expertly communicate findings to internal and external audiences (including government departments). This requires in-depth knowledge of evaluation methods, high quality written work, the ability to simplify and clarify complex and challenging findings, and close collaboration with academics, front-line practitioners, YEF colleagues and government departments.

The Research Lead will also commission and manage research projects that will underpin YEF Guidance Reports. YEF plans to publish practice and systems guidance across all of our seven sectors (see, for instance our [Education Practice](#) and [Education Systems Guidance](#)). This guidance synthesises the best available evidence on what works to advise practitioners and policy makers on how they can best protect children from involvement in violence. The Research Lead will commission and manage research projects that support the production of guidance in these sectors. This is a fantastic opportunity to lead on using YEF's endowment to fund high quality, impactful research.

In addition, the Research Lead will act as the YEF Research Team's methodological lead. They will train the team to improve understanding of research methods, and on how to commission high quality quantitative and qualitative research.

The Research Lead will also respond to ad hoc internal and external requests to work on a range of projects that require an in-depth knowledge of violence reduction and research methods.

The Research Lead will be part of YEF's Research team. The Research team is at the heart of our efforts to learn what works and put it into practice. We do this by developing the YEF's funding strategy and creating free, highly accessible research summaries and actionable recommendations for policy makers, commissioners and practitioners. We're a high-performing team which values intellectual rigour and getting to the truth, compassion for children, ambition about what we can achieve and humility about what we know. We love to discuss the latest developments in research methods, but we're not just interested in research for its own sake. We want research to lead to actual changes in outcomes for children.

Key responsibilities

The Research Lead will develop a portfolio of impactful projects. You will:

- **Lead on YEF's reporting of evaluation reports.** You'll ensure all our evaluation reports are clearly and accurately communicated and have the maximum possible impact. Specifically:
 - You will liaise closely with evaluators, grantees, internal colleagues and government departments to produce rigorous yet accessible and usable summaries of the evidence.
 - You'll lead on resolving knotty interpretation challenges, will make judgements on what YEF evaluation results mean for our target sectors, and ensure that findings are effectively communicated to policy makers and practitioners.
 - You'll provide matrix management to support colleagues to write executive summaries and website commentaries for YEF-funded RCTs, pilots and feasibility studies. You will also write many of these outputs yourself.
 - You'll conduct final accuracy and robustness checks on YEF evaluation reports prior to publication.
 - You'll present findings to internal and external colleagues (including practitioners and policy makers).

- **Scope, commission, and appoint research teams to deliver YEF research projects** including reviews of practice in YEF's priority sector areas. This is a fantastic opportunity to use YEF's endowment to fund high quality and impactful research.
- **Act as the Research Team's Methodological Lead** and lead training for the YEF Research Team on a range of topics including research methods.
- **Develop great relationships with experts and represent YEF in external meetings and events.** You'll promote evidence-based policy and practice by speaking at conferences and events. This will likely include close liaison with a range of government departments.
- **Work with our Comms team** to advise on how we can interpret YEF results, and what the key media messages may be. You may also speak directly to media outlets to share our findings and promote YEF results.
- **Respond to ad hoc requests** as and when needed to support the Research Team and YEF on a range of projects.

About You

You are this sort of person:

- **You want to play a significant part in reducing the level of violence affecting young people.** You care about having an impact. This might mean you've worked directly with young people at risk of becoming involved in crime, for organisations that fund or deliver relevant programmes, or have conducted research on this topic.
- **You share our belief that an evidence-based approach is our best hope of preventing violence.** You're fascinated by research, but you're not just interested in research for its own sake. You want to achieve actual changes in outcomes for children.
- **You're a confident reader of research and have strong critical appraisal skills.** You know when research can be trusted and when it can't and can confidently articulate your views on the strength of research. You might have gained this expertise through your academic studies, research or professional experience.

- **You bring significant experience (typically at least three years) of working in a role that requires you to think about research.** This could include a range of roles in policy, academia, funding or practice.
- **You have delivered, or commissioned, high quality research projects.** You are confident in appraising the quality of research bids, and understand different stages of research projects. You are comfortable appraising the quality of different qualitative and quantitative research methods.
- **You write in a way that people easily understand.** You have that rare skill of writing in plain English. You have experience of translating complex research findings into plain writing that everyone can understand.
- **You have excellent project and time management skills.** You can work independently, quickly and to a high standard. You have experience of managing contractors or budgets.
- **You are good with people.** You're comfortable working with a wide range of people, including senior academics and other research experts, practitioners and policy makers. You're able to provide constructive challenges when required.
- **You learn fast but remain humble.** You like learning. You're very good at synthesising information. You know how much you don't know and that you can always learn more.
- **You work well in a team.** You care more that good things happen than who gets the credit. You support your colleagues to produce excellent work.
- **You're committed to equality, diversity and inclusion.** You believe and act in a way that celebrates and encourages a range of experiences, views and values.

While it's not a criterion, we're especially interested to hear from applicants who have lived experience of youth violence.

It's also important to us that the people we hire do not discriminate. We believe in being inclusive and giving everyone an equal chance to succeed. Applications are welcome from all regardless of age, sex, gender identity, disability, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief, race, sexual orientation, transgender status or social economic background.

Hybrid Working Details

The office is based in Central London. Those living in and around London are expected to be in the office for a minimum of 2 days per week. If you live outside of London and work remotely, you'll be expected to work from the London office 2 days per month.

As part of our commitment to flexible working, we will consider a range of options for the successful applicant. All options can be discussed at interview stage.

To Apply

To apply, please send a CV, a cover letter and complete the monitoring form. You can submit your application by clicking on the "Apply for this" button by **12:00pm Wednesday 10th September**.

When applying for this role, please ensure that your cover letter, within a maximum of 1000 words, covers the following:

1. A clear example of when you have translated complex research findings into actionable and usable, yet robust summaries or guidance for policy makers or practitioners
2. A clear example of a research project you have delivered or commissioned, and explain how you ensured its quality

Interview Process

Interviews will take place on 22nd September.

There will be a task to prepare for in advance.

PLEASE NOTE: We do not sponsor work permits and you will be required to provide proof of your eligibility to work in the UK.

Benefits Include

- £1,000 professional development budget annually
- 25 days holiday plus, 3 days end of year closure, plus Bank Holidays
- Four half days for volunteering activities
- Employee Assistance Programme – 24hr phone line for free confidential support
- Death in service – 4 times annual salary

- Flexible hours. Core office hours 10am – 4pm
- Financial support including travel and hardship loans
- Employer contributed pension of 5%

Personal Data

Your personal data will be shared for the purposes of the recruitment exercise. This includes our HR team, interviewers (who may include other partners in the project and independent advisors), relevant team managers and our IT service provider if access to the data is necessary for performance of their roles. We do not share your data with other third parties, unless your application for employment is successful and we make you an offer of employment. We will then share your data with former employers to obtain references for you. We do not transfer your data outside the European Economic Area.