

Interim Practice Insights Guide on effective tracking of children and young people vulnerable to involvement in violence

Summary

- YEF is seeking an individual or team to produce an interim practice insights guide on effective tracking of children and young people vulnerable to involvement in violence and identified for support, but who do not currently meet thresholds for statutory services
- The interim practice guide will inform YEF's Area Leaders Programme module on understanding pathways, referrals and journey mapping, and will be further refined by YEF in 2026 and published as a stand-alone resource for wider multi-agency violence prevention partnerships.
- The deadline for proposals is **5pm 22 September 2025**. We intend to conduct interviews **29/30 September**.
- The deadline for the full draft report is **5 December 2025**.
- The deadline for revisions further to feedback is **19 December 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 (CYP) 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 CYP. 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 practice insights guide is to support the delivery of the YEF Area Leaders Programme (ALP). The ALP is a programme for multi-agency violence prevention 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 further cohort 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 complement 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 module partnerships are required to complete a local action plan, supported by a range of YEF guidance, and resources.

Project aim

The ALP pilot programme found that effective tracking of CYP vulnerable to involvement in violence, who are identified for support but who do not currently meet thresholds for statutory services, can be patchy or even non-existent. A child vulnerable to involvement in violence, may be identified as in need of early intervention and referred for support. However, the quality of that support may be unknown, and information about whether the child accessed and engaged with the support and whether the support had had a

positive impact, may be lacking. An effective process for tracking CYP enables the referrer to step back in to reassess and get the support the child needs at an earlier stage.

We have separately commissioned the production of an interim practice insights guide on effective case management and key working for children and young people who meet the criteria for case management (for example for youth justice services or child protection). This practice insights guide will be available in draft form by end September and finalised end October.

The focus of the project we are commissioning here will differ from that guidance by focusing on children *who do not currently meet criteria for statutory case management*. Even though not in receipt of statutory case management, we anticipate that there will be examples of good practice in working with this group, that provides effective oversight and accountability for children's participation in appropriate services and the tracking of outcomes. The Government's Turnaround Programme, for example, focuses on children on the cusp of the Criminal Justice System and we believe there may be relevant examples of effective local oversight and tracking of children's experiences and outcomes generated from this programme.

In addition to the Interim Practice Insights Guide for tracking Children and Young People Vulnerable to Involvement in Violence, there is an option to also provide the following:

- 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

The interim practice insights guide and accompanying materials will be used in workshops delivered by YEF with each local partnership. Following the workshop, sites will use the guidance to inform their local action plans focused on improving arrangements for overseeing and coordinating services for this group of CYP. These materials will also feed into the wider ALP evidence base and inform a final practice insights guide, to be published by YEF in 2026 and made available to multi-agency partnerships beyond the ALP.

We anticipate that the practice insights guide will also provide valuable learning for the Government's piloting of multi-agency Prevention Partnership Panels that are expected to proactively identify and refer vulnerable CYP – who may currently be falling through the net – to a range of different support services much earlier, including the Young Futures Hubs. The panels will benefit from understanding mechanisms for tracking progress, methods for overseeing children's wellbeing and outcomes as they navigate services, and systems for escalating service responses as required, across and within these multi-agency partnerships.

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

Key questions

These questions are intended as a starting point to produce the interim practice insights guide. This is not an exhaustive list of questions, and we welcome proposals that expand or adapt them.

Features of effective oversight

- Which agencies and which workers typically take responsibility for overseeing children and young people's access to and through relevant services?
- What processes and tools are most effective for assessing risk, identifying needs and planning support for this group of CYP?
- How do these agencies and workers keep in touch with CYP over time to ensure they participate in services as expected? How do they track outcomes for these children?
- What technological innovations are there that those looking to improve their oversight for this group might draw on?
- How do agencies / workers who are taking responsibility for oversight for this group of CYP effectively coordinate with other agencies?
- How do workers making referrals to services for this group of CYP know that these services are good quality? Are there systems in place to determine whether services are good quality / evidence based / learning organisations?

Escalation, governance and data

- What escalation mechanisms are in place to enable agencies to address any concerns that remain following a child's participation in services?
- What governance arrangements are in place that support coherent multi-agency working with this group of CYP that do not usually receive case management?
- What data and intelligence do agencies have to support them in making timely, effective interventions with members of this group of CYP?

Outcomes and benefits

- What evidence is there that positive and proactive oversight and provision for this group is benefiting them? (learning from evaluation of YJS implementation of MOJ's Turnaround Programme may be helpful here)
- How can pro-active approaches to oversight for this group of CYP actively challenge racial disparities and support equity in access to and outcomes from services?

Enabling staff

- What competencies, training and supervision structures are needed to support staff in agencies that are providing this kind of oversight of children's engagement with services?

Challenges and barriers

- What structural and operational barriers limit effective oversight for this group of CYP and how have they been overcome?

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 the majority of violence was committed by White children (70%) and most 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).¹

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 research methods with the appointed individual/team. However, we would expect the guidance to draw on:

- a. Desk based research:
- b. a rapid review of existing evidence.
- c. interviews with staff from relevant agencies
- d. any other methods suggested by the individual/team.

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

The interim Guidance report should include:

- a) An executive summary
- b) An introduction
- c) Methodology

- d) Up to 10 recommended actions for effective violence prevention multi-agency partnerships with details under each recommendation on how it may be implemented in practice
- e) Case studies illustrating promising practices in this area
- f) A bibliography

This should be submitted alongside supporting materials for delivery, 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 practice insights guide. YEF will pay and arrange for the peer review of the report.

Timeline

The deadline for proposals is **5pm 22 September 2025**. Interviews will take place **29/30 September 2025**.

The deadline for the full draft report is **5 December 2025** after which a peer review process will take place. The deadline for revisions further to feedback is **19 December 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 will consistently prioritise proposals that give good value for money and strongly discourage bidding teams using this figure as the sole driver of their costs.

We would not expect VAT to be included in 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 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.

Please email your application to

change.yef@youthendowmentfund.org.uk by 5pm on 22 September.

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

change.yef@youthendowmentfund.org.uk by 5pm on 15 September.

ⁱ <https://youthendowmentfund.org.uk/reports/children-violence-and-vulnerability-2024/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-responses-to-serious-youth-violence-working-together-to-support-and-protect-children/multi-agency-responses-to-serious-youth-violence-working-together-to-support-and-protect-children>

ⁱⁱⁱ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-serious-violence-a-multi-agency-approach/preventing-serious-violence-summary>