



Using data to inform local decision-making:



Area Leaders Programme

Summary

- YEF is seeking a team to provide bespoke consultancy support to nine local areas participating in the Area Leaders Programme (ALP)
- The commissioned team will support ALP areas to identify and develop priority data flows, strengthen multi-agency data-sharing and develop analytical capability.
- They will also support on the delivery of bespoke sessions on data for all nine ALP areas.
- The deadline for the bespoke consultancy support offer is Friday, 9th of January

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.

Data and analytics are frequently described as the building blocks of effective multi-agency responses to youth violence. No single partner holds a full picture of a child's needs, risks or protective factors. However, data sharing and data use remain significant barriers in many local areas. Partnerships often have only a partial understanding of what data exists, how it can be shared, and how it can be used to support decision-making.

It is imperative that the 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 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 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. It 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.

This commission **directly supports the Profile strand of the ALP** and will underpin delivery of both the bespoke data sessions offered to local partnerships and the core module on developing and using data. It will enable ALP areas to develop – at pace – a stronger local data profile; improving understanding of serious youth violence and helping to identify priorities for building and embedding integrated data within longer-term strategic decision-making.

The aim of this project

The Youth Endowment Fund is commissioning a team to deliver bespoke data consultancy support across our nine ALP areas, with the aim of:

- Identifying core datasets and data flows within each area
- Strengthening multi-agency data sharing, access and integration
- Supporting local analysts to use data proactively for violence prevention
- Preparing area-level insights and materials for the ALP data module

Self-assessments completed by local partnerships in each of our ALP areas highlight substantial variation in the use and availability of integrated data to understand local patterns and drivers of serious youth violence. Many areas have identified gaps and missing information in their local data profile and some do not have dedicated analytical capacity to ensure data is consistently shared with, and used by, strategic decision-making forums. In some areas, data sits regionally or across multiple agencies at the local authority level and is not routinely joined up.

The appointed team will work alongside local partners to build a clear picture of existing datasets, how they are being accessed and used, and the key gaps or opportunities for improvement. They will lead the development of more robust and comprehensive data profiles for each area.

Key questions

These questions are only indicative, and we encourage teams to propose amendments to them and/or additional questions that they think could help meet the aims of the project.

1. What datasets relevant to youth violence prevention currently exist in and across local partnerships?

2. To what extent are these datasets being used and shared for youth violence prevention purposes?
3. How can these datasets be used most effectively by local partners?
4. What data can be accessed rapidly within local areas, to inform local data profiles?
5. What policy and practice changes are needed to facilitate partners to share and use data?
6. What practical tools and guidance would help local areas to share and use partner data most effectively?
7. To what extent does the use of broader data (from across multi-agency partners) impact disparities affecting children from Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities, including Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children?

Required outputs

We expect the appointed team to deliver a bespoke package of support, agreed with the Youth Endowment Fund and tailored to each of the nine ALP areas. Provisionally, we expect this could draw from the following:

Analytical support

- Rapid analysis and synthesis of existing area-level datasets, profiles and dashboards; identifying patterns, disparities, hotspots, gaps and data quality issues
- Support to establish or improve data tools (e.g., dashboards, shared spreadsheets, structured monitoring tools), ensuring tools are accessible, updateable and usable by local teams
- Virtual problem-solving clinics ("data surgeries") for local analysts and relevant staff
- Training and development on data analysis

Strategic support

- Advice on connecting data to local decision-making, commissioning and strategic assessments
- Clear advice and recommendations for improving governance, data flows and strengthening local data profiles

Workshop design and facilitation

- Develop bespoke plans and materials for a data workshop with each ALP area, using local data profiles to play back key insights
- Facilitate partner reflection on embedding effective data use, and using data to inform local strategy and commissioning

Resource development for the ALP

- Templates to collect local insights (e.g., a youth safety questionnaire or topic guides for CYP)

Timeline

The deadline for proposals is Friday 9th of January 2026. We intend to have appointed the successful team by Thursday 29th of January 2026.

We expect **bespoke data sessions** to be delivered to our nine ALP areas **from the 16th of March – 20th of April 2026.**

Final deliverables will be agreed in advance and would be shared with the Youth Endowment Fund and ALP areas by Thursday 4th of June

Budget

We expect the project to cost up to £50,000. We would not expect VAT to be included in teams' budgets. Pass through VAT via sub-granting work to other organisations may in some circumstances be included. However, it is up to the bidding 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.

Appendix 1: Minimum Data Requirement

As part of this project, we would expect the appointed team to assess, where available, the following for each local area in order to strengthen their data profile.

Policing

- Police-recorded crime (youth violence, serious violence, weapons-enabled offences)
- Geographic patterns of violent incidents (ward / LSOA / CSP level)
- Stop and search data
- Arrests and disposals for children
- Street-level crime (police.uk)

Health

- Knife-related and violence-related hospital admissions
- Substance misuse-related hospital admissions
- Emergency department / ISTV data (where available)
- Ambulance call-out data (if shared locally)

Education

- Persistent absence
- Suspensions and permanent exclusions
- SEN support and EHCP status
- Free school meal eligibility
- Behavioural incidents and unauthorised absences

Children's social care

- Children in care
- Child in Need and Child Protection status
- Referrals and re-referrals
- Missing episodes
- Social worker contact

Youth justice

- Children cautioned or convicted
- Types of offences committed by children
- Youth offending / youth justice service caseload insights