Detached Youth Work

Toolkit technical report

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January 2026

About National Children's Bureau

This report has been produced by the National Children's Bureau on behalf of the Youth Endowment Fund. The National Children's Bureau works collaboratively across the issues affecting children to influence policy and get services working together to deliver a better childhood. They were commissioned by the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) as their Toolkit Partner 2023-2026. The Toolkit partnership is managed on behalf of NCB by Dr. Ciara Keenan. Any queries relating to the methods should be directed to ckeenan@ncb.org.uk

About Youth Endowment Fund

The Youth Endowment Fund's mission is to prevent children and young people becoming involved in violence. They do this by finding out what works and building a movement to put this knowledge into practice. The fund was established in March 2019 by children's charity Impetus, with a £200m endowment and ten-year mandate from the Home Office. For more information, please visit www.youthendowmentfund.org.uk

Acknowledgements

Abstract/Plain Language Summary

Detached youth work is a targeted form of support for children and young people, delivered in a public space, with children and young people's engagement voluntary in nature. It tends to be conversation-led; focusing on engaging children and young people in dialogue to explore and reframe, where appropriate, any issues or concerns which are affecting them. This report reviewed the evidence on the implementation of detached youth work in reducing and/or preventing violence and offending involving children and young people.

Findings were informed by five implementation studies.

Key findings:

- Qualitative insights from process evaluations suggest that detached youth work can support a variety of positive outcomes for children and young people, ranging from reduced risky behaviour to improvements in confidence and mental health, as well as engagement in education and employment.
- Implementation evidence highlights the importance of building trusting relationships between children, young people and youth workers. To support this, youth workers need to be perceived as 'credible' by children and young people, meaning they are either from the area in which the intervention is taking place, have strong local knowledge of the area through sustained involvement with it and/or have specific lived experiences that enable them to engage in honest and authentic conversations with young people
- A commonly identified facilitator for implementation is when detached youth work is implemented flexibly in response to the needs of children, young people and local communities. This includes changing locations dependent on areas that are experiencing more crime amongst children and young people, as well as ensuring activities are of interest to children and young people participating at the time. In the case of the latter, this includes engaging in issues that the young people themselves bring forward.
- Detached youth work needs to have a consistent and sustainable funding model which enables sufficient staff numbers to ensure staff safety. This also enables the provision of frequent and regular sessions with children and young people that helps to keep them engaged.

- A single, low quality, cost-benefit analysis undertaken in the UK in 2024 suggests that detached youth work could be associated with up to £10,793.10 in cost savings per child and young person, based on increased social connections, confidence and self-esteem, reduced stress and anxiety, avoiding permanent exclusions and reduced alcohol misuse. However, further research is needed to confirm this given the study was rated as low quality using the YEF evidence quality appraisal tool. In addition, a significant limitation is that the modelled benefits are based on a hypothetical case study, not an economic evaluation of a real cohort. No studies reported the direct cost of delivering detached youth work.
- Children and young people placed high importance on being listened to and being able to trust their detached youth workers.

Conclusion

This review found no eligible causal studies of the effectiveness of detached youth work. As a result, its impact on children and young people's involvement in violence, crime and other associated outcomes remains unknown. Further robust research is needed, and these conclusions should be revisited as new evidence emerges.

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Preface on Terminology

This review draws on evidence spanning over half a century, during which language around personal characteristics has evolved significantly. At times, we may have to reproduce original terminology used in studies which we recognize today as being outdated and unacceptable offensive terms. This only occurs when the terminology is used in direct quotations or refers to an outcome that the author measured that remains relevant to our analysis. The wider narrative will adhere to current inclusive-language standards guided by the National Children's Bureau, Youth Endowment Fund and Race Equality Foundation. These guiding principles include using capitalisation to acknowledge shared identities (e.g., Black, Asian), whilst not capitalising white due to its association with white supremacy. The review also avoids deficit framing and respects individuals' self-identification. Person-first language will generally be used when referring to children and young people, except for Deaf and autistic communities, who widely prefer identity-first language. The team acknowledges limitations in terminology and strives for respectful and precise representation throughout. The full preface on terminology can be accessed here.

Objective and Approach

The objective of this report is to review the evidence on **detached youth work** in reducing and/or preventing violence and offending involving children and young people.

Detached youth work is typically a targeted form of provision delivered in public spaces (typically on the street, in parks and shopping centres) where children and young people choose to be and have a sense of control. Indeed, they can choose to leave the initiative at any time. According to Hall et al. (2024), the aims of detached youth work are varied and include:

- Building relationships between children, young people, and communities;
- Safeguarding vulnerable children and young people, supporting their mental health and wellbeing, and;
- Helping them to make positive choices.

To encourage engagement, youth workers tend to draw on their own similarities and shared experiences with children and young people to build meaningful relationships, whilst ensuring they are non-judgemental in their responses to children and young people (Sonneveld et al., 2021).

A key principle of detached youth work is to ensure young person-centred delivery which directly targets the needs and experiences of individual children and young people. The approach tends to be relational in nature, aiming to build trusting relationships between children, young people and youth workers (Rocket Science, 2024). The approach should also aim to support community integration, meaning youth workers need to have knowledge of the local area and be able to connect with other stakeholders (Hall et al., 2024). This knowledge should be sufficient to be able to signpost children and young people to other services that they need access to. Whilst community stakeholders, such as schools or police, may informally recommend detached youth work sessions to children and young people, engagement is not based on formal referrals (Clements et al., 2025). Therefore, participation should always be voluntary, with the sessions open to any child or young person within the target area.

Detached youth work practice tends to be conversation-led, focusing on engaging children and young people in dialogue that can aid them to explore and reframe any issues or concerns which are affecting them (Hall et al., 2024). Although primarily conversation-led, more structured activities, such as arts programmes, music programmes, sports or games, can also be provided (Clements et al., 2025).

Detached youth work practitioners support children and young people to attain a variety of outcomes. These include reducing behaviours perceived as antisocial, criminal or violent, improving positive relationships, supporting access to services, and reducing risk of exploitation and victimisation. At a community-level, detached youth work helps children, young people and other community members feel safer and more connected to the local area (Hall et al., 2024). In addition, detached youth workers model positive relationships, helping children and young people to develop skills to build effective relationships with their family, peers, school and community.

This technical report draws on a comprehensive systematic review methodology and includes:

- **Implementation insights from five studies.** All five studies were from England. They examined factors such as acceptability, fidelity, and sustainability.

The remainder of this report is structured as follows: First, the **Description of the Intervention** outlines the key components of detached youth work. Second, **Who Does it Work For?** examines evidence on the populations that benefit most from detached youth work. Third, **What Factors Affect Implementation?** explores key facilitators and barriers using Proctor's Implementation Outcomes Framework. Finally, the **Conclusion and Takeaway Messages** summarise key findings and recommendations, followed by **Appendices** detailing, amongst other things, characteristics of included research.

Description of the Intervention

In the following section details are provided on the interventions which inform this report, noting their key components, any equipment, materials, supplies or training required, the duration and intensity of interventions, who delivered the interventions, and where and how the interventions were delivered.

Features of the approach

A defining feature of detached youth work is the **community-based, voluntary nature of the model** where detached youth workers seek out local young people in public spaces where they choose to spend time. This might be for example schools, parks, shopping centres or housing estates. Detached youth workers typically engage children and young people in conversation, in some cases providing or signposting to positive activities. Speaking to the youth workers and participating in the activities is completely voluntary, and young people are free to choose whether and how they engage. Some detached youth workers might build relationships with children and young people over months and years, while other types of engagement could be a single conversation. Availability of detached youth workers to engage in activities is largely guided by the times that children and young people choose to socialise in a particular area. Therefore, activities might happen in the evenings or at weekends.

All studies included in the review that met eligibility criteria are from England (Clements et al., 2025; Fritz et al., 2016; Jones, 2014; Pinkney et al., 2018; Rocket Science, 2024).

Key components of detached youth work

The studies included in this review describe several models of detached youth work that share common features alongside variations in structure and focus. Some of the approaches described offering additional activities such as sports or volunteering, or signposting to positive activities (Clements et al., 2025; Jones, 2014).

The Youth Association (TYA) described by Jones (2014) also provided positive activities for children and young people to offer alternatives to antisocial pursuits. Activities could include sports, the arts, environmental work and volunteering. For example, detached youth work in in Brighton and Hove in Sussex, England, aimed to engage children and young people through dynamic sessions relevant to their interests, offering activities such as quizzes (Clements et al., 2025). The initiative included walk and talk sessions where youth workers walk around specific areas

and engage with children and young people who are there, detached youth workers near schools (i.e., being present near schools at specific times, such as when schools close for the day), occasional access to a bus which provided a space for children and young people to enter to play games or talk to youth workers, in-school sessions, , and joint one-off sessions with police or schools.

The MsUnderstood Partnership (Fritz et al., 2016), was intended to develop responses to address peer-on-peer abuse in public spaces. The detached youth workers first established relationships with the children and young people, their peer groups and wider communities, then began work to challenge behaviour and attitudes, build resilience and create safety plans. They worked to support children and young people to identify opportunities to disengage from certain behaviours and on occasion transform the risky situation itself (e.g., by addressing/defusing a conflict between children and young people).

Rocket Science (2024) evaluated detached youth work initiatives in seven areas in Essex, England, selected due to their high levels of violence involving children and young people. Meanwhile, Pinkney et al. (2018) explored professionals' experiences of detached youth work in general, described in the article as 'On Road', without focusing on a specific approach.

Equipment, materials or supplies

Most studies did not state the equipment, materials or supplies required. However, staff or volunteers can be assumed for all programmes, as well as transportation to attend the various locations children and young people congregate. Jones (2014) required devices for digital record keeping and resources for activities such as football. In the case of the digital devices, these were used to monitor every encounter that the detached youth worker had with each young person, including their age and gender, and whether the young people were involved in crime, substance misuse or anti-social behaviour. Sessions typically required additional materials such as food, drink and information about other services.

Who delivers detached youth work

The approaches described by Clements et al. (2025), Fritz et al. (2016), Jones (2014), Pinkney et al. (2018) and Rocket Science (2024) were all delivered by trained detached youth workers, although the training undertaken was not specified. Occasionally, detached youth workers from Sussex were joined by police officers (Clements et al., 2025).

How was the intervention delivered

All interventions were delivered face-to-face in outdoor settings. However, some studies described additional elements to the intervention. These included activities and volunteering opportunities for children and young people to engage with (Clements et al., 2025; Jones, 2014; Rocket Science, 2024). The detached youth work approach in Essex, England, noted that delivery was tailored to the needs of individuals and communities, with all engagements with young people based on their individual needs, whilst the model of delivery differed across communities depending on the needs identified within the area (Rocket Science, 2024).

Where detached youth work is delivered

By design, detached youth work is conducted in the community, in locations where children and young people socialise, such as estates, parks and shopping centres.

Training for the providers of detached youth work

Few of the studies reported on what type of specialist training was required for providers of detached youth work. Rocket Science (2024) referenced challenges recruiting and retaining detached youth workers, with one provider noting that while a training budget was held, availability of appropriate training was sparse. Meanwhile, Clements et al. (2025) noted that youth workers had at least a year's experience working with young people in the area. Jones (2014) also noted that there were opportunities to recruit and train local people, however, the project did not have the financial capacity to pursue this.

Duration of detached youth work

To establish trusting relationships with children and young people, regular detached youth work sessions need to be provided. This enables children and young people to know when detached youth workers are likely to be present in a given area, although no studies specified an 'ideal' frequency or dosage.

Rocket Science (2024) evaluated detached youth work that had been active for five years, whilst Jones (2014) evaluated an approach running for two years. The length of time that detached youth work had been running in Sussex was unknown, although sessions were delivered between four and seven times a week (Clements et al., 2025). The engagement of individual children and young people in detached youth work differed, with some participating regularly whilst others

took part in a single session. For the remaining studies, no timescale of delivery was provided.

How effective is the intervention?

This review identified no randomised or quasi-experimental evaluations of detached youth work that met the inclusion criteria (Appendix 1). As such, there is no causal evidence of effectiveness to report, and no findings are presented here.

Who does it work for?

This review is unable to determine the causal effectiveness of detached youth work for any demographic group. In addition, no studies offered narrative insights into equity related outcomes associated with detached youth work.

What factors affect implementation?

Five studies from England provided evidence related to implementation (Clements et al., 2025; Fritz et al., 2016; Jones, 2014; Pinkney et al., 2018; Rocket Science, 2024). One study was classed as moderate quality (Clements et al., 2025), three studies as low quality (Fritz et al., 2016; Pinkney et al., 2018; Rocket Science, 2024) and one as very low quality (Jones, 2014). Data for each individual study, regardless of quality, are available in Appendix 3.

Factors that influenced the implementation of detached youth work are organised using Proctor et al.'s (2011) Implementation Outcomes Framework[1]. Appendix 4 highlights the availability of evidence according to each of Proctor's implementation outcomes. Where studies reported on the experiences or perspectives of children and young people, these views are summarised with appropriate direct quotations from primary studies, where available.

To briefly summarise, key themes from this section highlight that for detached youth work to be most effective and accepted within the community, the following should be established during implementation:

- Detached youth workers should either be from the area in which the intervention is taking place or have strong knowledge built up of the area through sustained involvement with it.
- Credibility and strong bonds of trust between the youth worker and young people are critical to developing open and productive relationships.

[1] Authors do not explicitly refer to the implementation outcomes in their reports. Instead, we organise findings according to Proctor et al.'s (2011) framework.

Detached youth workers' knowledge of the community was strongly linked to the development of credibility. In addition, credibility also involved detached youth workers showing a willingness to engage authentically whilst also aligning with community values.

- Detached youth work is more successful when it is responsive to community needs (e.g., local children and young people, residents, businesses), including adjusting locations and times of provision to ensure they match when and where children and young people are most likely to be in public places.
- To improve engagement, children and young people should be involved in developing activities that can be undertaken as part of detached youth work.
- Being able to engage with children and young people in their own natural environment makes this an appropriate intervention to enhance their safety and transform what would otherwise be risky environments for the children and young people. Examples of how detached youth workers help create safety for and around children and young people, include: supporting children and young people to identify opportunities to disengage from risky or harmful behaviours, creating safety plans, building resilience to risk, and challenging behaviour and attitudes through dialogue.
- Local stakeholders, such as police and schools, need to be made aware of the detached youth workers, which will enable them to signpost children and young people to the intervention.
- Consistent funding which enables sufficient staff numbers to ensure safety, whilst also allowing frequent and regular sessions, is necessary for children and young people to continue to engage and access detached youth work.

Acceptability

Acceptability explores aspects of the intervention or change that children and young people find agreeable, palatable, or satisfactory. Five studies examined aspects of acceptability of detached youth work (Clements et al., 2025; Fritz et al., 2016; Jones, 2014; Pinkney et al., 2018; Rocket Science, 2024).

The importance of building trust and having credibility were mentioned as factors strongly tied to acceptability (Fritz et al., 2016; Pinkney et al., 2018; Rocket Science, 2024). Fritz et al. (2016) discussed the importance of building strong and trusting relationships as the basis for children and young people being able to confide in them and discuss sensitive topics and experiences that they would otherwise not

tell others. Indeed, Rocket Science (2024) found that youth workers in Essex, England, perceived the development of the trusted relationship as the single most important outcome from detached youth work. Rocket Science (2024) explored the impact of detached youth work in-depth with a young female. Through discussions with project staff they found that continued visits to the area enabled a trusting relationship to grow, which gradually broke down her barriers to engagement. According to project workers, she started to enjoy engaging in the activities and began opening up to youth workers about her life, disclosing that she was struggling with school and her mental health. This enabled youth workers to put support in place, including accessing in-school mentoring. As a result of engaging with the youth workers, the young person experienced significant positive change in her life. According to project workers, she is no longer at risk of school exclusion, is more confident, has a wider social circle and is developing leadership skills.

Trusting relationships tend to be built by youth workers being perceived by children and young people as 'credible'. Credibility refers to the extent to which youth workers are viewed as authentic and have shared lived experiences with the children and young people that they work with. Credibility is organically developed given that many lived in, or came from, the areas that they serve. This was important as detached youth workers could engage with children and young people in ways that outsiders might find challenging and therefore need to spend many years building up. Pinkney et al. (2018) described being viewed as credible as the 'VIP pass' allowing initial access to children and young people, with this continuing to grow over time, in line with detached youth workers greater presence and visibility in the community. To be viewed as credible initially, Pinkney et al. (2018) highlight the importance of youth workers using 'insider communication' (i.e., words, dialects, slang and body language used by children and young people), knowledge of the local area (including dominant people residing there, links with local families, elders, shop owners and faith leaders, and awareness of community perceptions about the role of detached youth work). Getting involved in a range of community events, volunteering for credible youth organisations, and becoming more familiar with the community were given as examples of how credibility could continue to grow over time.

Detached youth workers' knowledge of the community was strongly linked to the development of credibility. Fritz et al. (2016) discussed the importance of detached youth workers being able to observe power dynamics in the community they serve. This critical aspect of detached youth work helps to give them a fuller picture of the community context in which they work leading to greater

understanding of young people's backgrounds and how this might feed into their behaviours. Pinkney et al. (2018) highlighted the importance of detached youth workers gaining 'sound knowledge' of the community that they work in. Like Fritz et al. (2016), Pinkney et al. (2018) point to the importance of understanding power dynamics and relationships in the community and existing links with the families of the children and young people they work with. In addition, Pinkney et al. (2018) suggested that detached youth workers should have a strong grasp of the perceptions that local community members hold about and the practitioners and their work as the basis for further cementing credibility.

Jones (2014) highlighted that the voluntary nature of engagement is valued by children and young people, encouraging their engagement with detached youth workers. Furthermore, detached youth work in Brighton, England, was perceived as particularly acceptable due to an increased sense of safety felt by children and young people and the wider community when youth workers were present in the area. Stakeholders (including detached youth work providers, police and community members) emphasised the reduced harm from crime and antisocial behaviour seen in the target areas because of detached youth work. Particularly beneficial to the local area was the responsive nature of detached youth work, with the approach deployed to areas struggling with crime and antisocial behaviour amongst children and young people.

Adoption

Adoption concerns the decision or action to employ an intervention or implementation target. It also refers to the uptake of an intervention provided by services, schools, communities, or individuals (including children and young people). No studies examined the adoption of detached youth work.

Appropriateness

Appropriateness refers to the perceived fit or relevance of an intervention to the given context or problem. It can include discussion of adaptations that are made to improve the intervention's fit with the context and the perceived usefulness of the intervention. Four of the studies explored the appropriateness of detached youth work (Fritz et al., 2016; Jones, 2014; Pinkney et al., 2018; Rocket Science, 2024).

Fritz et al. (2016) highlighted that engaging with children and young people in their natural environment is critical to developing strong and positive relationships with youth workers. This was perceived as particularly important to enhancing the safety of children and young people and transforming risky environments. Specifically, Fritz et al. (2016) suggest that detached youth workers

help create safety for, and around, children and young people by challenging negative behaviours and attitudes, creating safety plans, building resilience to risk, identifying and supporting with opportunities to disengage from risky or harmful behaviours, and transforming the risky environment itself. Examples of transforming the risky environment include bringing young people experiencing inter-neighbourhood tensions to engage in fun activities together and co-designing activities to occupy young people's time in constructive ways.

Whilst Jones (2014) also flagged the importance of developing trusting relationships as key to the acceptability of detached youth work, they highlighted the tension youth workers felt between delivering to their traditional professional skills, values and knowledge while also meeting specific project targets. Specifically, detached youth workers were given ambitious targets for meeting high numbers of 'new' young people, which some staff felt threatened the focus on building ongoing and enduring relationships with children and young people. Indeed, some staff believed that by detached youth workers focusing on building enduring relationships with a smaller number of children and young people, and providing deeper and more meaningful activities, this helped to ensure that the intervention was most appropriate for their young people. Furthermore, Jones (2014) emphasised the importance of giving children and young people a voice on the range of activities that are delivered, as well as prioritising detached youth work at times when other services are less likely to be available (e.g., on Friday and Saturday nights).

Pinkney et al. (2018) viewed detached youth work as being particularly appropriate in inner cities where there are challenges relating to violence, extremism and gangs and where there is a history of intergenerational violence. Rocket Science (2024) noted that detached youth work interactions can act as a launch point for a variety of outcomes ranging from reduced risky behaviour to improvements in education and employment outcomes. Detached youth work was identified as an appropriate intervention, particularly as the areas targeted had little to offer children and young people in terms of safe, supervised activities. Some children and young people were involved in antisocial behaviour or vandalism and the report noted that, over time, they moved away from engaging in these behaviours, instead partaking in activities the youth workers were running. The study also referred to the benefit of detached youth work when local tensions are high, with children and young people able to tell youth workers about upcoming fights, with the knowledge that their identity will be protected, allowing the fights to be prevented or de-escalated before they begin. To support this, detached youth workers can use their discretion to anonymously alert police to

emerging problems (e.g., upcoming fights) or support young people to decide what they should do, including alerting police themselves or sharing information with school

Feasibility

Feasibility concerns the extent to which the intervention can be successfully implemented in a specific setting. This is fundamentally about the practicality or ability to deliver the intervention in the target environment. Two studies explored feasibility of the intervention in the community environments that they worked in (Clements et al., 2025; Fritz et al., 2016).

Two of the studies focused on the professional and personal attributes needed by youth workers when based in risky and often dangerous environments. Fritz et al. (2016) discussed the importance of youth workers providing the necessary support for children and young people to feel safe while simultaneously challenging risky behaviours and attitudes through ongoing dialogue. To ensure feasibility in implementing this, Fritz et al. (2016) pointed to the development of trusting relationships between children, young people and youth workers, as well as the use of practical activities (e.g., a mechanics course) to bring rival groups together safely. In the former case, this was a necessary pre-requisite for successful implementation as, without this, children and young people would be unlikely to engage in the intervention or tap into other services which they are signposted to.

Clements et al. (2025) highlighted that detached youth work could be negatively affected by poor weather conditions, as well as reduced engagement over the winter months. Stakeholders emphasised that having access to an indoors site can be beneficial for continued engagement when there is poor weather and enabling private and sensitive conversations to take place with children and young people. To enable this, detached youth workers had access to an adapted bus for some (but not all) sessions, where children and young people could go in to play games or talk to youth workers.

Fidelity

Fidelity refers to the degree to which an intervention was delivered as intended. Detached youth work by its very nature is intended to be responsive to the needs of children and young people, meaning delivery of activities should be flexible. Two studies examined whether detached youth work was able to be flexible and responsive in nature, which we refer to as fidelity (Clements et al., 2025; Fritz et al., 2016). Fritz et al. (2016) highlighted that fidelity was challenged by local authority

funding cuts which often fell hardest on those interventions not considered to be core services. This meant that because of under-funding and resourcing, detached youth work had to be delivered in ways not consistent with the intended and preferred model of practice. Specifically, Fritz et al. (2016) provides an account of detached teams working within larger 'targeted youth work' which aims to identify the needs of vulnerable children and young people, provide early access to support, and is a preventative approach in nature. However, this targeted approach led to some professionals believing that there was a dilution of detached youth work values. Specifically, there was less flexibility for detached youth workers to work on issues identified by the children and young people themselves as being important. Indeed, in some locations, detached youth workers were expected to try to achieve pre-determined outcomes (e.g., getting young people into education or employment), which prevented them from having the flexibility to work on issues raised directly by children and young people.

Comparatively, Clements et al. (2025) found that detached youth workers in Sussex, England, were able to implement the approach in a flexible and responsive nature, as intended. Clements et al. (2025) undertook observations of detached youth work in practice, with staff praised for being flexible and able to respond to the specific needs of children and young people. This was supported by consistency in staffing and scheduling of sessions; when staff are "there regularly... they become trusted" by children and young people, enabling detached youth workers to develop an understanding of the needs of the young people and respond flexibly and responsively.

Reach and Penetration

Reach and penetration refer to the extent to which the intervention has been integrated or reached eligible recipients. Two studies examined the reach of detached youth work (Clements et al., 2025; Rocket Science, 2024).

Clements et al. (2025) assessed the reach of detached youth work in Brighton, England, through calculating the number of unique children and young people that youth workers engaged with. The authors generated both conservative and optimistic estimates of 92 and 175 unique engagements with individual children and young people respectively across a three-month period. In this period, 484 interactions with children and young people were recorded, meaning that between 19-36 per cent of engagements are likely to have been unique (i.e., interactions with a new child or young person, previously not engaged with). This demonstrates that youth workers are frequently able to engage new children and young people as part of the intervention. Stakeholders interviewed suggested that

the reach of this approach could be increased if knowledge of the detached youth workers presence in the community was raised amongst front line providers, such as schools and the police. Stakeholders suggested that this would enable them to informally signpost children and young people to where and when they could find the detached youth workers.

From interviews with those delivering detached youth work, Rocket Science (2024) found that that this approach was able to reach a diverse group of children and young people, in terms of age, race, gender, and sexuality. Although, reach differed dependent on locations, for example in one location boys were mostly encountered by detached youth workers, whilst in others it was primarily girls or an equal gender split. In addition, detached youth workers suggested that the approach was well suited to reaching children and young people with multiple, complex needs, and those who have had Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs).

Sustainability

Sustainability refers to the ability of an organisation or local authority to maintain or continue to implement detached youth work overtime, as part of its services. Three studies examined sustainability relating to detached youth work interventions (Clements et al., 2025; Jones, 2014; Rocket Science, 2024). Findings indicate that sustainability arises from sufficient long-term funding in the approach (Rocket Science, 2024).

As Jones (2014) noted, temporary funding streams have a negative impact on, and often prevent the sustainability of, detached youth work. Indeed, the fund had no provisions to recruit and train local volunteers. This was highlighted as a significant weakness in terms of sustainability, as detached youth workers encountered adults who could have been nurtured and trained to support the continued provision of detached youth work once the funding had ceased, but were not able to invest in this approach.

 Similarly, Clements et al. (2025) found that the sustainability of detached youth work was affected by limited funding, with stakeholders indicating that they would like more frequent sessions delivered but were not able to fund this. Sustainability was also affected by staff safety concerns. Specifically, staff numbers had to be increased in order for detached youth workers to be safe when on the streets. However, there was no increase in funding to enable this provision. As such, the number of sessions provided had to be reduced to accommodate the additional costs needed to pay detached youth workers. This directly affected the continued provision of sufficient numbers of sessions over time.

Experiences of Children and Young People

Three studies included the views of children and young people in their process evaluations. Fritz et al. (2016), Jones (2014) and Rocket Science (2024) all examined interventions in the UK, in London, Yorkshire and Essex respectively. Study quality was deemed to be poor, with Fritz et al. (2016) and Rocket Science (2024) rated as low, and Jones (2014) as very low.

Children and young people placed high importance on being listened to and being able to trust their youth workers. Indeed, in Essex, several young people commented on the building of trust as a key ingredient in the success of detached youth work (Rocket Science, 2024). Trust is established in both directions in the relationship between children and young people and youth workers. For example, children and young people are trusted by the youth workers *"not to break it or nick it* [sports equipment]. *It's unusual for people to do* [trust children and young people] *that but they did. There's respect both ways"*, inferring that children and young people may not have felt trusted in the past. In the other direction, children and young people trusting youth workers could lead to problems being solved. One young person reported that *"because I know detached youth workers won't tell people I told them, I have let them know when there are fights or problems so they can help others"*, indicating that value is placed on confidentiality in conversations. The ability to talk to youth workers also enabled children and young people to have meaningful conversations, helping them to *"feel calmer"*.

Similarly, Fritz et al. (2016) found that some children and young people felt listened to and believed that *"with the youth worker you can tell them, like, most things and they will actually help. They will actually act on it"*. Fritz et al. (2016) suggest that detached youth workers are limited in their capacity to transform or change structural barriers and harmful norms underpinning risky environments. As such, youth workers focus on individualised provision can instead help children and young people exit or be safer within risky environments. Supporting this, when asked about what role youth workers can play in mitigating violence between groups of young people, one young person declared *"There's nothing they can do about it to be honest… What they can do is just try and make us stop that lifestyle really"*.

Jones (2014) highlighted that children and young people valued being involved in decision making. Many children and young people had taken part in steering groups and value was placed upon the opportunity to *"get involved in deciding*

on future activities for members". However, staff noted that it was not always possible to involve children and young people in planning and consequently could *"feel like you are forcing something on to them, and they have got to like it"*.

How much does it cost?

No studies meeting the review's eligibility criteria reported actual delivery costs or conducted a full economic evaluation of detached youth work. The only available evidence comes from a hypothetical cost benefit analysis based in Essex, England.

Rocket Science (2024) applied monetary value to the types of outcomes young people might expect to achieve through their engagement with detached youth work. As the team did not speak with any children and young people directly to develop case studies on costs, they developed a hypothetical case study based on outcomes that might be achieved. They hypothesise that £10,793.10 can be saved per young person that engages in detached youth work, based on savings from public services (e.g., schools, healthcare). However, the methodology underpinning this study has a number of serious limitations, meaning the findings cannot be relied upon. Firstly, the lack of direct costs (e.g. staffing, overheads) means that other useful metrics (e.g. cost-effectiveness) cannot be calculated. Secondly, information on the time periods that these costs relate to is lacking and there is no detail on whether the costs have been inflation adjusted. Thirdly, it cannot be confirmed whether benefits (increased social connections, confidence/self-esteem and reduced stress/anxiety) are overlapping; consequently, there is a risk of double counting. Lastly, this cost modelling is specific to Essex and is therefore not transferable to a UK wide context.

Conclusion and Takeaway Messages

The following discussion interprets our findings on detached youth work, first examining the complete lack of evidence available on its effectiveness, then situating this within the broader implementation evidence.

What Works?

Our primary objective for this review was to examine whether detached youth work reduces children and young people's involvement in violence and crime. Under *What Works* standards[2], this question should be answered using causal evaluations (e.g., randomised controlled trials or strong quasi-experimental designs). No eligible causal studies were identified, so we cannot determine whether detached youth work reduces young people's involvement in violence or crime.

Who Benefits Most?

Evidence available on children and young people's experience of detached youth work according to their personal characteristics was extremely limited, meaning it was not possible to determine who benefits most from engaging with the approach. Specifically, no studies explored ethnicity, gender, care-experience, place of residence, socioeconomic status, SEND, neurodiversity, education, or intersectionality. This is despite systemic inequities, such as structural racism, residential segregation and differential access to services, known to impact on engagement with and outcomes of interventions targeting crime, offending and violence amongst children and young people (April et al., 2023). As such, understanding who detached youth work is most effective for, how and why, are critical questions that must be explored in future research.

Insights from process evaluations suggest that detached youth work can support a variety of positive outcomes for children and young people, including reduced risky behaviour and school exclusions, as well as improvements in confidence, mental health, education and employment. These findings are in line with evidence from youth work in general, suggesting that when implemented well, contact with youth workers can act as a preventative measure reducing children and young people's involvement in violence and crime (Axford et al., 2023; Hoddinott & Davies, 2024).

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[2] For information on the What Works Network, please see:
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/what-works-network

Limitations

Challenges with the studies measuring effectiveness

Consistent with Hall et al.'s (2024) report, assessing the feasibility of conducting an impact evaluation into detached youth work, we found that there is not yet robust quantitative evidence available regarding the impact of detached youth work. Hall et al. (2024) suggest that the lack of quantitative evidence available could be due to the flexible, youth-centred nature of detached youth work, the non-programmatic approach and lack of clear eligibility criteria. These factors make it challenging to undertake robust, causal evaluations, with difficulties in establishing comparison groups.

Challenges with the studies measuring implementation

Only five studies were eligible for inclusion in the review of implementation evidence, limiting the availability of the data. No studies explored the adoption and uptake of detached youth work. In addition, only one study provided hypothetical data on cost-savings of detached youth work and had major methodological limitations, meaning the findings cannot be relied upon.

Relying on such small numbers of studies to understand effective approaches to implementation can be problematic, as experiences of implementing detached youth work may vary across locations. However, given our broad search strategy did not limit inclusion based on country, this demonstrates the very limited evidence-base available regarding detached youth work.. Critically, of the five included studies, only one was rated as moderate quality, with the remainder rated as low (three studies) or very low quality (one study). Low and very low-quality studies are prone to bias, emphasising the need for more high-quality studies to strengthen our confidence in the findings. Given that authors did not directly examine implementation outcomes according to Proctor et al.'s (2011) framework, it was challenging to map evidence cleanly onto this. This limits the framework's usefulness for summarising evidence from these evaluations.

Final Thoughts and Recommendations

Evidence from five implementation studies indicates that the success of detached youth work is dependent on long-term funding to enable ongoing provision of sessions, with sufficient staff numbers to ensure safety. Detached youth work is most successful when it is implemented flexibly in response to the needs of children, young people and local communities. This includes adjusting locations dependent on areas that are experiencing more crime amongst children and young people, as well as ensuring activities are of interest to those

taking part. Youth workers need to be perceived as credible by children and young people, to build trusting relationships. To support this, youth workers need to either be from the area in which the intervention is taking place or have strong knowledge of the area through sustained involvement with it. It is beneficial for detached youth workers to have similar lived experiences as those faced by children and young people, come from similar backgrounds, and use similar language to communicate. Detached youth workers need to be able to work with children and young people empathically and without judgement. Overall, children and young people have positive views of detached youth work, and place importance on being listened to and able to trust their youth workers.

Based on our findings, we make the following key recommendations:

- Implement detached youth work flexibly, responding to the needs of children, young people and local communities, including adjusting locations dependent on where crime amongst children and young people is occurring most, as well as ensuring activities and ongoing interactions are of interest to children and young people partaking.
- Ensure youth workers have sufficient knowledge of the local community, including dominant people residing there, have links with local families, elders, shop owners and faith leaders, and awareness of community perceptions about the role of detached youth work. This will help build credibility and trust with children and young people.
- High quality evaluations, including quasi-experiments and, where feasible, randomised trials are urgently needed to explore the impact of detached youth work on violence, crime and associated outcomes in children and young people.
- In line with Hall et al.'s (2024) feasibility study, we recommend drawing on local areas which do not have detached youth work available as a comparison group for future research. Effectiveness data can draw on administration data (e.g., crime rates, school exclusions) and community-level surveys.
- The cost of implementing detached youth work needs exploring in order to establish the funding needed to provide sufficient staffing and sessions for children and young people. In addition, further research is needed to understand the cost-benefits of implementing detached youth work, drawing on real-life figures rather than hypothetical cases.
- More high-quality research is needed to understand how best to implement detached youth work, particularly regarding Adoption, Feasibility, Fidelity and Reach/Penetration outcomes.

- More research is needed to understand who benefits most from detached youth work, according to protected characteristics of the children and young people participating.

Overall, there is no causal evidence available on the effectiveness of detached youth work. Rigorous evaluations are needed to establish its impact on violence, crime, and associated outcomes as per the YEF outcomes framework. As further research is conducted, these conclusions should be revisited.

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Appendix 1. Methods of the systematic review

Protocol

Prior to initiating this systematic review, we developed a comprehensive protocol for an Evidence and Gap Map (EGM) outlining the research objectives, eligibility criteria, search strategy, data extraction, quality appraisal, and synthesis methods. This protocol was registered and is available on the Open Science Framework (OSF),[3] ensuring transparency and adherence to predefined methods.

The search strategy and eligibility criteria outlined in the protocol are designed to be sufficiently comprehensive to capture a broad and systematically identified body of literature, enabling the extraction of relevant subsets of studies for inclusion in the Toolkit. The methods described below are aligned with the current Toolkit Strands on Problem-Oriented Policing, Precourt diversion, and Youth Clubs, ensuring a structured and rigorous approach to evidence synthesis.

Eligibility Criteria

To define the scope of relevant research, we applied the following criteria from the outset:

- **Population:** Studies had to include children aged 10–17. Interventions targeting children and young people older than 18 were excluded unless the target age group was also included.

- **Dosage:** Eligible interventions operated over a minimum of two weeks' engagement with at least one direct contact per week. One-off or ad hoc engagements without follow up were excluded.

- **Setting:** Provision had to be community-based and utilising non-institutional settings. This could include, for example, bus stops, streets, parks, cafes, shopping centres and fast-food establishments. These are places where young people would typically choose to be in. Settings such as youth clubs, schools or building based services were excluded, as were custodial and institutional settings. Approaches which *only* provided mobile, satellite or pop-up provision were excluded.

- **Activities:** Activities had to be informal and unstructured and take place in young people's chosen environment. Activities could include such things as

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conversations, peer group work, signposting or support – in short, activities which are not delivered as part of a fixed programme. Activities that were out of scope in this strand included:

- Outreach: This is understood as 'reaching out to bring back in' to a service or provision. Outreach work can also involve the taking out of a specific service or information for those not accessing services.

- Mobile provision: Using some kind of vehicle, this is typically project based, such as a music studio, and is a satellite from a building service.

- Pop up provision: As above, typically a satellite from a building-based service.

- **Participation model:** Participation must be open-access and initiated by the young people themselves. Detached youth work should operate on a drop-in basis and should not involve formal sign up or enrolment. Programmes requiring mandatory attendance or participation as a condition of referral, diversion or parole would therefore be excluded from scope.

- **Who delivers the intervention:** Detached youth work had to be delivered by voluntary and community sector organisations and led by youth workers or youth work-trained professionals. Activities delivered primarily by teachers, youth justice professionals or mental health practitioners without a youth work model would be excluded from scope.

- **Timing of delivery:** Detached youth work is likely to be delivered in the evenings, at the weekends or during school holidays – in short, at times that young people are likely to be present in public spaces. Timing alone was not used as the basis for screening and exclusion and studies were appraised on a case-by-case basis to assess alignment with the inclusion criteria.

Search strategy

The following search strategy was developed and used via OpenAlex and Google Scholar:

"detached youth work" OR "detached work" OR "detached youth service" OR "street work" OR "streetwork" OR "street outreach" OR "street-based work" OR "street-based youth work" OR "informal youth work" OR "unstructured youth work" OR

"relationship-based youth work" OR "place-based youth work" OR "youth work in public spaces"

Details of screening

A total of 1,381 titles and abstracts identified as potentially relevant to the current strand were independently assessed by two reviewers. To ensure a fair distribution of workload, the screening process was structured as follows:

- Four reviewers screened a total of 1,381 records.
- The EPPI-reviewer robot conducted a duplicate screening of all 1,381 records to enhance consistency.

A senior team member reconciled discrepancies between reviewers and the robot. Common errors and inconsistencies were noted and discussed in a team meeting, ensuring alignment in decision-making criteria.

At the end of title and abstract screening:

- 113 studies were marked as included.

- 1,268 studies were marked as excluded.

A total of 113 studies proceeded to full-text screening, of which 81 were excluded.

Table 1: *Full text screening results*

Reason for exclusion	Number of Records Excluded at Full-Text Level
Did not target children and young people	1
PDF not accessible	30
Study Design not eligible	29
Outcomes or intervention not relevant	17
Excluded based on language	2
Duplicates	2

For inaccessible PDFs, the team attempted to contact lead authors to request access to the report or further data. Following full-text screening, 32 studies were flagged as potentially relevant for inclusion.

Due to the very low number of studies, we conducted a targeted search of UK-based grey literature using the Google search engine in the incognito mode.

Search strings combined all intervention-related terms with UK setting identifiers. The first 10 pages of results were screened for relevance, and additional relevant sources were identified through targeted website scanning and reference checking. This process yielded four additional sources for inclusion.

Of these 36 papers, 14 papers were excluded and 15 were categorised in other toolkit strands. All 14 excluded studies were thoroughly checked by a senior team member.

Table 2: *Reasons for exclusion after full text screening*

Reason for exclusion	Number of Records Excluded at EGM Data Extraction Level
Study design not meeting inclusion criteria	6
Outcomes or intervention not relevant	8

Following data extraction for the EGM, five studies were deemed eligible for additional extraction for the detached youth work toolkit strand. The characteristics of these studies are detailed in Appendix 3.
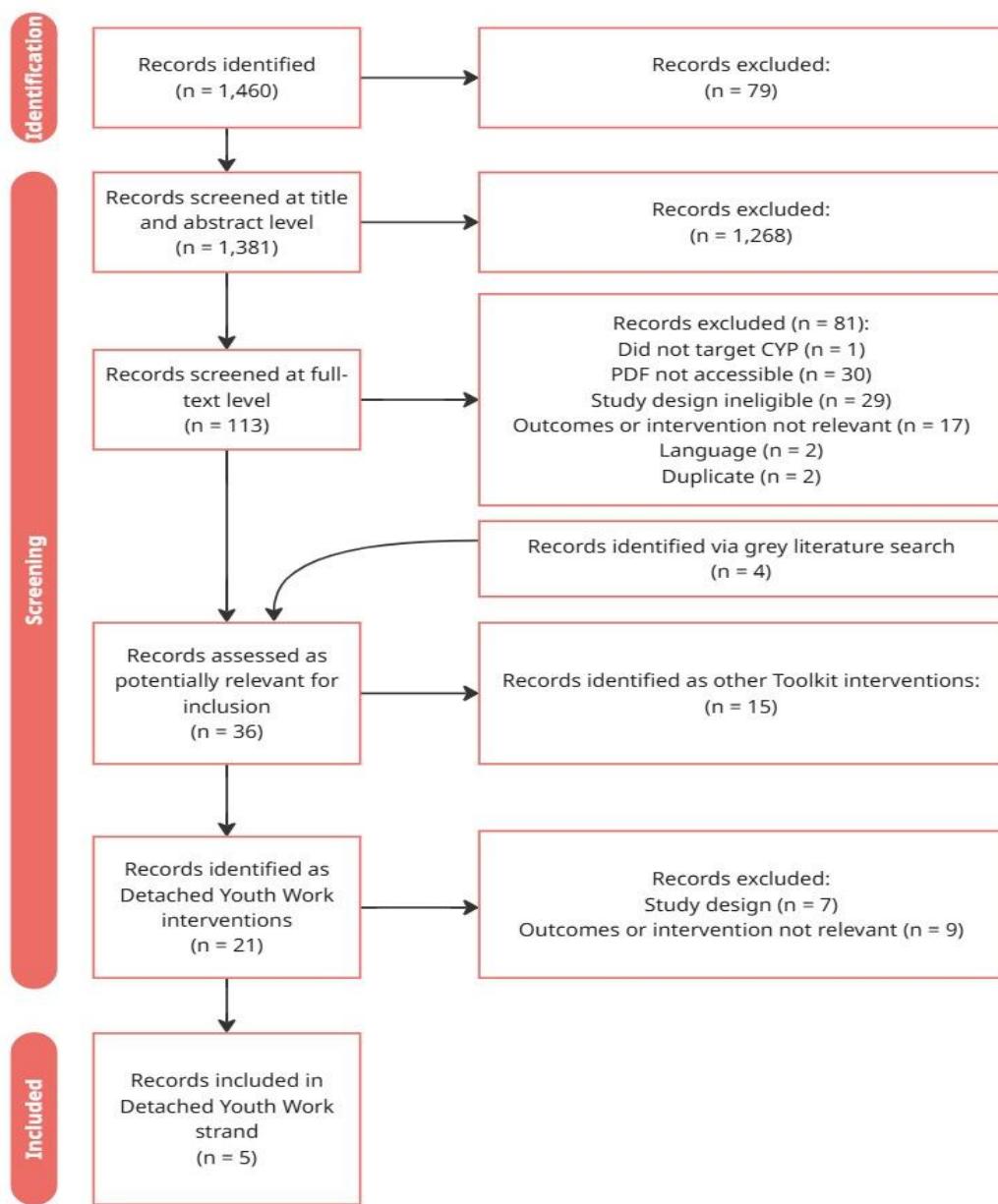
Figure 1: *PRISMA Flow Diagram*

Quality appraisal process

The YEF-EQA tool was used across all studies to systematically assess the quality, reliability, and relevance of the research. This tool was applied by one reviewer, with a second reviewer checking their appraisals.

Table 3: *Quality appraisal ratings for studies included in the detached youth work Toolkit strand*

Study ID	Overall quality of the study	Study Design
Clements et al. (2025)	Moderate	PE
Fritz et al. (2016)	Low	PE
Jones (2014)	Very Low	PE
Pinkney et al. (2018)	Low	PE
Rocket Science (2024)	Low	PE

Implementation data

Information on factors that influenced, or were perceived to influence, implementation was extracted from studies where this was reported by study authors.

To capture implementation outcomes the toolkit data extraction made use of Proctor et al.'s (2011) Implementation Outcomes Framework to capture and categorise findings related to implementation.

The data extraction for the toolkit is an extension of what is already captured in the EGM. For the EGM the focus was on whether or not implementation outcomes were measured. In other words, does a study report on indicators of how well the programme/intervention was implemented or not. For toolkit data extraction we capture why implementation did or did not go well and what influenced implementation. This is typically thought of as barriers and facilitators to implementation. Information on barriers and facilitators will be presented using Proctor et al.'s (2011) Implementation Outcomes as headings so that the reader can understand the evidence, and gaps in the evidence, on the following implementation outcomes:

- **Acceptability**: Stakeholders' perceptions that the intervention or change is agreeable, palatable, or satisfactory.
    - Example indicators: Children's views on the intervention, participant engagement, satisfaction with content or delivery.

- **Adoption:** The decision or action to employ an intervention or implementation target.

  - Example indicators: Uptake of the intervention by services, schools, or communities.

- **Appropriateness:** The perceived fit or relevance of the intervention to the given context or problem.

  - Example indicators: Adaptations made to improve the intervention's fit with the context, perceived usefulness.

- **Feasibility**: The extent to which the intervention can be successfully implemented in a specific setting.

  - Example indicators: Evidence of practicality or utility, ability to deliver the intervention in the target environment.

- **Fidelity**: The degree to which the intervention was delivered as intended.

  - Example indicators: Training quality, dosage and intensity of the intervention, adherence to the prescribed approach.

- **Reach/Penetration:** The extent to which the intervention has been integrated into a service setting or reached eligible recipients.

  - Example indicators: Ratio of recipients served to the target population, evidence of saturation or integration.

- **Sustainability:** The ability to maintain or institutionalise the intervention over time.

  - Example indicators: Evidence of routinisation, integration into policies or practices, durability of implementation efforts.

The information extracted on each implementation outcome was narratively summarised. Further analysis and integration of implementation information with the meta-analysis and meta-regression was not possible because of a lack of detailed evaluations of implementation.

Appendix 2. Location Details

	Number of UK Studies	Number (and Location) of International Studies
Overall, for Strand	5	0
Contributing to Evidence Quality Rating	0	0
Contributing to Estimated Impact on Violence	0	0
Contributing to Estimated Impact on Crime and Offending	0	0
Contributing to EDIE Information	1	0
Contributing to Implementation	5	0
Contributing to Cost Data	1	0

Appendix 3. Characteristics of included studies for implementation

Authors (Year)	Country	Study Design	Intervention	Quality Level	Implementation Outcomes	Experiences of children and young people/ Parents/ Professionals
Clements et al. (2025)	England	PE	Clements et al. (2025) evaluated the Brighton Streets programme by establishing the scale of the approach, including the number of unique individuals reached; examining the delivery of the approach; assessing the short- and long-term impacts; and making recommendations.	Moderate	**Acceptability:** stakeholders noted that young people and the community feel safer because of detached youth work. There were also reports of changing behaviour among people as a result of taking part in the intervention. **Feasibility:** the intervention can be difficult to implement in the small bus setting and outdoor spaces, leading to limited interactions with young people. **Fidelity:** researchers noted the high level of experience among project staff which helped to ensure fidelity to the delivery model. The regularity of the sessions were maintained,	The study collated stakeholders' opinions, including those of project staff. They shared their reflections through semi-structured interviews and focus groups.

| | | | | | including the consistency in staff, which supported fidelity.

Reach: it is estimated that between 19-36% of engagements with young people were unique.

Sustainability: there are concerns about limited funding impacting the number of sessions, particularly due to the resources and staff required. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fritz et al. (2016)** | England (London) | PE | Fritz (2016) conducted a study to explore the benefits and limitations of detached youth work, through the MsUnderstood Partnership, to assist local responses to peer-on-peer abuse in 2 London boroughs. Drawing on a 6 month study | Low | **Acceptability:** Detached youth work was widely regarded as acceptable for enhancing young people's safety in public spaces by the young people and by the workers themselves. It allowed workers to witness young people interacting in peer groups and understand the power dynamics within these groups in public spaces.

Appropriateness: The study reported that detached youth work offers unique opportunities | N/A |

| | | | qualitative study with young people and multi-agency partners, it considered the unique features of detached youth work; whether workers enhance young people's safety in public spaces and transform the spaces themselves; factors that constrain the impact of detached youth work; and implications of the findings on safeguarding and commissioning. | | to engage young people in their social environments, slowly developing relationships and ultimately improving individuals' safety within contexts that pose a risk of harm.

Feasibility: Detached youth work was deemed feasible in building resilience to risk and creating safety plans as it encouraged young people to think about their own safety in different environments and build the individual young person's resilience to risk. Detached youth work was successfully implemented by helping young people to disengage from risky or harmful behaviours and contexts by encouraging them to access other forms of support and opportunities. The presence of detached workers can also create safe social environments in which young people can | |

| | | | | | engage in alternative ways of thinking and acting.

Fidelity: The study reported on issues around fidelity. Detached youth workers identified that detached youth work holds a precarious position relative to other services and that, after funding cuts within local authorities, detached teams merged to form part of a larger 'targeted youth work' service. As a result, detached workers felt they no longer had the same flexibility to work on issues identified by young people and rather try to achieve prescribed outcomes. | |
| **Jones (2014)** | England | PE | Jones (2013) examined data from detached work on housting estates to explore the tension between traditional youth work and informal education | Very low | **Acceptability:** Detached youth work is considered acceptable, as it was reported that young people were able to open up to the workers due to their engagement with young people. | The study incorporated the views of young people by meeting with them to gather their opinions on their involvement in detached youth work |

			and association and demand for results in relation to short term funding. This is achieved through interviews with the detached youth workers.		**Appropriateness:** Detached youth work was deemed appropriate as it focuses on supporting young people within a neighbourhood by providing tailored support and activities. **Sustainability:** Due to the limitations in funding, concerns for longer-term impacts for communities are of concern.	and to provide reflections.
Pinkney et al. (2018)	England	PE	Pinkney et al. (2018) explores the conception of 'On Road' detached youth work in response to a rise in gun crime in the West Midlands of England - it explores the challenges faced by youth work practitioners and identifies what they see as the key components of effective	Low	**Acceptability:** The findings imply that detached youth workers adopting the competencies would increase the acceptability of the intervention for young people: **Language** – engaging authentically and relevantly; **Knowledge** - having sound knowledge of an area: who the dominant people are; any existing links with families, elders, local shop owners or faith leaders; perceptions of local people of the youth workers and their work; **Positionality** –	N/A

| | | | engagement. It does not evaluate the outcomes of the detached youth work intervention but the findings from a focus group and subsequent questionnaire of practitioners provides a picture of the competencies needed to work in environments where young people are vulnerable to involvement with gangs and/or violence, with the following themes emerging as most significant: Language; Knowledge and Positionality. | | impacted by gender, clothing and credibility.

Appropriateness: the study suggested that "the research has particular relevance in inner cities where the challenges linked to violence, extremism and gangs are arguably most challenging". The report concludes that ongoing developments in technology, social media use, government policy discourse and responses to issues such as gangs and gang-related violence require innovative ways of engaging young people and suggests that 'On road' youth work is an appropriate intervention to engage with young people around the issues of gangs and violence. | |

| Rocket Science (2024) | England | PE | Rocket Science (2024) were commissioned by the Essex Violence & Vulnerability Unit (VVU) to conduct an evaluation of the detached youth work delivered by 7 youth work providers within the Essex County for Voluntary Youth Services (ECYVS) network, in 7 areas of Essex. All of the areas were identified as having the highest levels of youth violence. | Low | **Acceptability:** Detached youth work was considered an acceptable intervention by youth workers, agreeing that development of the trusted relationship between young people and workers is the single-most important outcome of detached youth work. In discussing the strategies, approaches and characteristics that position detached youth workers in Essex to best provide support, the study highlighted the following core qualities: being youth-led; embedding a trusting approach; maintaining visibility and providing consistency.

Appropriateness: The study noted that detached youth work interactions can act as a launch point for a variety of outcomes ranging from reduced risky behaviour to improvements in education and employment | Part of the research included training detached youth workers in interactive data collection methods they could use with the young people they met. They used Ripple Effect Mapping (REM) to gather feedback from young people, receiving submissions from 3 of the providers. |

					outcomes and improved mental health. The type of delivery of detached youth work was considered appropriate in tackling particular issues with detached teams making strategic decisions about the scope of the delivery against the risks of entering perceived unsafe areas. **Reach/Penetration:** The research included interviews with detached youth workers in the areas which explored how effective detached youth work is at reaching a diverse group of young people across age, race, gender and sexuality, in addition to varying levels of need. **Sustainability:** The study explored the sustainability of detached youth work in the 7 areas of Essex. In describing the importance of developing trust with those directly engaged in detached youth work, the study	

					notes that this trust gradually permeates through the local community with detached youth workers being seen as trusted adults, encouraging more young people to engage with them over time. The embedding of these relationships is key to sustainability.	

Appendix 4. Availability of evidence according to each of Proctor et al.'s (2011) implementation outcomes

Authors (Year)	Acceptability	Adoption	Appropriate-ness	Feasibility	Fidelity	Reach/ penetration	Sustainability	Cost
Clements et al. (2025)	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Fritz et al. (2016)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
Jones (2014)	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No
Pinkney et al. (2018)	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No
Rocket Science (2024)	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes