

Call for Proposals: Safety In & Around Schools Partnership Design Support

About the Youth Endowment Fund

The Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) is a charity with a mission that matters. We exist to prevent children and young people from becoming involved in violence. We do this by finding out what works and building a movement to put this knowledge into practice. The charity was established in 2019 with a 10-year, £200 million endowment from the Home Office.

Context

Our vision for a 'world where no child becomes involved in violence' requires proactive and effective engagement with education leaders, practitioners, and policymakers. Education is one of our 7 priority sectors because educators and education institutions are well placed to:

- Safeguard children
- Identify and intervene
- Provide effective education and support
- Deliver many of the evidenced informed interventions we promote
- Contribute to improving systemic challenges such as racism and poverty.

While education settings are uniquely positioned to keep children safe from violence and already provide vital support, many leaders and staff need additional capacity, training, and confidence to consistently identify those at risk and deliver evidence-based interventions that prevent involvement in violence.

To address these gaps, our change work seeks to build awareness within the sector of 'what works', and support settings to implement evidence-informed approaches to reducing children's involvement in violence.

Safety In & Around Schools Partnership

The Safety In & Around Schools Partnership is a new place-based programme designed to strengthen children's sense of safety and reduce their vulnerability to violence. It will support hundreds of schools, identified through innovative hyper-local mapping of knife crime.

- Some schools will be invited to join a **network**, where they will be supported to reflect on and strengthen their violence prevention practice. They will participate in a programme of network activity including online sessions, in-person events, collaborative projects and a national conference.
- Some schools will receive more intensive, tailored support and training. They will be grouped into **local clusters** and will focus on building their capability, enhancing prevention practice, strengthening local partnerships, and implementing evidence-informed practice. They will:
 - Participate in local cluster meetings focused on supporting effective implementation, facilitating collaboration, sharing learning, and collectively considering the local context.
 - Complete core learning modules which facilitate evidence-informed professional development.
 - Establish school implementation teams responsible for creating, reviewing and delivering implementation plans to improve violence prevention practice.

This exciting initiative – a joint commitment of the Home Office, Department for Education, Ministry of Justice and the Youth Endowment Fund under the Halving Knife Crime Action Plan – responds to the established evidence that proximity to violence negatively affects children’s learning and wellbeing, while schools can offer safe, trusted spaces.

What we’re looking for

We’re looking for an experienced organisation or consultant(s) to support the Education Change Team to help design and quality assure the offer for schools involved in the partnership.

Please submit expressions of interest for one or multiple projects, based on your skills, experience and capacity:

Project 1 – (£10,000) – Content Development

- Reviewing the sequencing of content for schools involved in the cluster model.
- Ensuring content for the cluster model aligns with evidence around effective professional development.

- Supporting with the development of tools and resources that enable school implementation leads to facilitate effective implementation team meetings that lead to sustained practice change.
- Supporting with the development of content for local cluster meetings and tools and resources to enable meaningful collaboration between schools.

Project 2 – (£10,000) – Network Development

- Co-designing plans for the network model which aligns with best practice principles.
- Design content and materials to support network engagement and collaboration.
- Consult on best practice for network development.

Applicants need to be able to demonstrate:

- A proven track record of designing high quality, evidence-informed professional development for school leaders which leads to practice change.
- A strong understanding of effective implementation and planning for sustained practice change.
- Experience developing tools and resources that enable school leaders to translate evidence into action.
- Experience developing tools and resources to support effective collaboration between schools (within a network or local community of practice).
- A commitment to improving education leaders' engagement, understanding and use of evidence.

Timeline

Key activities	Timeline
Applications open	11 th May 2026
Application deadline	29 th May 2026 – 5pm
Interviews for shortlisted candidates	Week commencing 8 th June 2026
Grant start date	Monday 29 th June 2026
Design support	July 2026 – September 2026

How to apply

YEF is interested in applications from individuals/organisations that can evidence how they meet the requirements.

Please submit a proposal which follows this structure:

1. An overview of you/your organisation
2. Which project you would be interested in supporting (either Project 1 or Project 2, or both)
3. A description of how your expertise and experience meets the requirements outlined in this tender (please refer to the section on what applicants need to demonstrate)
4. Example(s) of other relevant projects which demonstrate suitability to undertake this tender.

Proposals should be no more than **1,000 words**.

Submit your proposal to Jo.tedstone@youthendowmentfund.org.uk by **5pm on Friday 5th June 2026**.

Contact information

For any questions about the Safety In & Around Schools Partnership or the application process, please contact Jo Tedstone, Change Lead – Education.

Jo.tedstone@youthendowmentfund.org.uk

We look forward to receiving your proposal.