



Effecting change in multi-agency landscapes:



Area Leaders Programme

Summary

- YEF is seeking a team or individual to develop insights that will inform our thinking about the second year of the Area Leaders Programme
- This is a five day rapid piece of work, which will provide new insights and recommendations on two key questions:
 - How can we define and position a 'local partnership coordinator' role to lead on actions aimed at strengthening local violence prevention strategies and partnerships?
 - How can senior leaders be encouraged to adopt YEF's evidence-based recommendations for governance and accountability on preventing children's involvement in violence?
- The deadline for applications is **Friday 14th August**

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.

The Area Leaders Programme is part of YEF's change work, which aims to:

- Grow demand for evidence, research and data;
- Change practice by supporting senior leaders to make evidence-informed decisions to help prevent children's involvement in violence; and
- Reform systems by supporting system leaders to develop policies that help keep children safe from violence.

The Area Leaders Programme (ALP)

The ALP is a programme for strategic violence prevention partnerships in local authority areas. These partnerships, usually led by the Community Safety Partnership or Safeguarding Children Partnership, are multi-agency and span statutory and voluntary sectors. ALP aims to support partnerships to strengthen and develop how they use evidence and collaboration to prevent children's involvement in violence.

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 governance, leadership and multi-agency relationships.
- 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.

In 26/27 the Area Leaders Programme has delivered to nine local authority areas. The programme offer has included:

- £25k funding for a part-time local coordinator
- Evidence-based learning and resources
- Bespoke facilitated partnership workshops
- Intensive consultancy support offers

The 26/27 year was delivered as a '0.5 version' of the programme, testing what works and generating learning about local strategy and partnership development. This commission will directly support the YEF team to use the learning from year 1, develop and test recommendations relating to the design of the year 2 programme. We plan to launch the year 2 programme in September 2028. This will coincide with the publication of new evidence-based practice guidance recommendations for local leaders of multi-agency violence prevention work.

The aim of this project

YEF is commissioning a team or individual to provide insights and recommendations to inform thinking about the year 2 programme on two key aspects:

- How can we define and position a 'local partnership coordinator' role to lead on actions aimed at strengthening local violence prevention strategies and partnerships?
- How can senior leaders be encouraged to adopt YEF's evidence-based recommendations for governance and accountability on preventing children's involvement in violence?

Learning from year 1 of the programme suggests that the local coordinator role has been a critical enabler of translating identified areas for development into action across each multi-agency partnership. However, the ability of coordinators to influence change has varied depending on their agency, role, experience and fluctuations in other workload and priorities.

Our learning also suggests that senior leadership bandwidth to engage has often been limited. This has sometimes created barriers to progressing identified actions at working level. But more importantly, it may be limiting the full impact of a programme that seeks to strengthen partnership working and accountability for children and violence.

The appointed team or individual will work alongside YEF to develop understanding about how, in year 2 of the programme, we might develop the ALP support model to better strengthen coordination and leadership engagement.

Key questions

How can we define and position a 'local partnership coordinator' role to lead on actions aimed at strengthening local violence prevention strategies and partnerships?

- How should we define the key skillset and experience of the local coordinator?
- What types of existing role are particularly well placed to backfill or second into the local coordinator role and why?
- How important is it that the local coordinator has existing networks and relationships within the local violence prevention landscape?
- How does the local coordinator need to connect with existing networks run by the VRU or PCC?
- What is the optimum FTE and level of funding for YEF to provide for the local coordinator role?
- What is the impact that we should expect from an optimised local coordinator role?

How can senior leaders be encouraged to adopt YEF's evidence-based recommendations for governance and accountability on preventing children's involvement in violence?

- What would effective early engagement of senior leaders with ALP and the practice guidance look like?
- How can we provide an early diagnostic to local authority level leaders on how well existing governance and accountability arrangements balance enforcement, safeguarding and prevention goals?
- How could ALP support local leaders to define accountability for children's involvement in violence in their local context?
- What would effective ongoing engagement of senior leaders with ALP look like?
- How could ALP play a helpful role in addressing or resolving tensions between different agencies where these arise and are affecting partnership development?
- What is the impact that we should expect from an optimised senior engagement model?

Required outputs

We expect the appointed team or individual to deliver a short-written report, and an ideas development session for the YEF team.

We expect the report to include:

- Analysis of key issues based on available learning insights from the year 1 programme
- Insights about what has worked in comparable change or violence prevention programmes
- Insights from a limited number of stakeholder interviews about how YEF could strengthen the ALP support offer in relation to local coordination and senior engagement
- Recommendations for adoption into the year 2 model

We expect the ideas development session to be based on the report findings and to support the YEF team in taking forward recommendations as part of the overall programme design.

Timeline

The deadline for proposals is Friday 14th August 2026. We intend to have appointed the successful team or individual by Friday 21st August 2026.

We expect the work to be delivered by Friday 25th September 2026. A schedule for deliverables will be agreed between YEF and the successful team or individual.

Budget

We can pay associated day rates for up to 5 days of work. 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.

Application

Applications should briefly outline:

- Your approach to delivering the requirements for this work
- Your capacity to deliver within the timeframe
- Relevant skills and experience
- Costs

This commission would be particularly well suited to someone with in-depth existing knowledge of the local level multi-agency violence prevention landscape.

Please send applications to catherine.fayers@youthendowmentfund.org.uk

Any questions about the tender should be directed to catherine.fayers@youthendowmentfund.org.uk and saphia.youssef@youthendowmentfund.org.uk