

Data consultancy support to help Young Futures Hub areas to prevent young people from becoming involved in crime and violence

Background and context

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.

Violence remains a serious and persistent problem affecting children and young people across England and Wales. Some children and young people experience individual adversities or harmful contexts that make them more vulnerable to involvement in violence. Where resources are limited, commissioners can make the biggest difference by supporting those who need it most. This is the first of our evidence-based recommendations for funders and commissioners of youth work, set out in our [Youth sector practice guidance](#). Good data is central to making this targeting possible, which is why we're pleased to be supporting the government's new Young Futures Hubs.

On 16th September the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) announced a national programme to support up to 32 local authorities to establish Young Futures Hubs (potentially including LA's undertaking the local youth transformation programme), joining up local services across mental health and wellbeing, employment and crime prevention. As these Hubs are designed and set up, good data can add real value: helping areas understand local patterns and drivers of violence and crime, where and when it happens, and where the gaps are in existing services.

This support offer has been developed alongside DCMS and will complement DCMS-funded support.

Purpose of this commission

YEF is seeking a specialist partner to work directly with up to 32 Young Futures Local Authorities to review crime and violence-related data and strengthen local data infrastructure. The partner will use the learning from this work to develop a small number of accessible tools and resources to help future sites replicate it independently. The partner will be hands-on, helping sites source, govern, interpret and act on the data that underpins evidence-based commissioning.

This will be an optional offer for Young Futures Local Authorities to take up, available on a call-off basis, with a maximum of 10 days of support per Local Authority that opts in.

The aim is to give Local Authorities the data and insight they need to get their Hub off to the best possible start, helping them reduce young people's vulnerability to being drawn into crime and violence.

Key questions

These questions are indicative. We encourage bidders to propose amendments and additional questions that would help meet the aims of the project.

- What datasets relevant to youth violence and vulnerability currently exist in and across each area's partnership?
- To what extent are these datasets currently being shared and used across partners, and what is stopping fuller use?
- What data can realistically be accessed within the available timeframe, and what would need a longer-term fix?
- What does this data show about local patterns, disparities and gaps in provision, and what should the Hub prioritise as a result?
- What governance, policy or practice changes would let partners share and use this data more effectively, both now and after this support ends?
- What practical tools, templates or guidance, tested in these areas, would help future Hubs replicate this work independently?
- To what extent does the use of broader partner data help sites understand and respond to racial disproportionality affecting Black, Asian and minority ethnic children, including Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children?

Scope of work

Analytical support

- Rapid analysis and synthesis of existing LA 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).
- Virtual problem-solving clinics for local analysts and relevant LA staff.
- Training and development on data analysis for LA teams.

Strategic support

- Advice on connecting data to YFH design, decision-making and commissioning.
- Advice on improving governance, data flows and strengthening local data profiles.

Key outputs

Output	Description
A report for each area	A clear picture of crime, violence, youth provision and vulnerability for each area, setting out what's happening, where, to whom and any gaps in provision, assessed against the minimum data requirement at Appendix 1 Reports will follow a common

	structure and template agreed with YEF, so that findings are comparable across areas and can feed the cross-area synthesis and tools below.
Help getting hold of the data	Working with each Local Authority to agree data-sharing arrangements with local partners and helping them get past any practical barriers to accessing the data they need.
Support to use the data	Working directly with each area to help them turn their data into practical decisions about how they design their Hub and commission services.
Tools other areas can reuse	Simple, reusable tools and guidance, based on what worked across up to 32 areas, to support future Young Futures Hub design and commissioning.

Race equity

There are significant racial disparities in children's experience of violence and youth justice. The Youth Endowment Fund's mission is to prevent children and young people from becoming involved in violence. We can't achieve this mission if we do not challenge this racial inequity. Addressing these disparities is an important aspect of our work, and there is expectation that any application sets out clear ways in which the data will enable local sites to better understand and respond to racial disproportionality.

Data protection and information governance

This work is likely to involve police, health, education, children's social care and youth justice data, some of it sensitive and potentially identifiable, across up to 32 Local Authorities. The appointed partner will be expected to comply with UK GDPR and relevant local data-sharing agreements at all times; complete a data protection impact assessment (DPIA) where personal or special category data is processed; work wherever possible with aggregated or de-identified data; and hold data securely, with clear retention and deletion arrangements agreed with each Local Authority. Bidders should set out their approach to information governance as part of their proposal, including how they would handle any incidents or delays in agreeing data-sharing arrangements with local partners.

Timing of support

Local authorities selected by DCMS to establish a Young Futures Hub will go through an onboarding period, followed by a phase of planning and co-design in which they review existing provision and develop their Hub. This is expected to run from autumn 2026 to early 2027, with findings needed to inform funding proposals in the new year.

Most of the support (around 7 days per Local Authority) should therefore be delivered during this planning and co-design phase, in good time to inform each area's Hub design and proposals. A smaller portion (2–3 days per Local Authority) may be better used afterwards, to help areas revisit and refine their data and learning once design decisions have been made.

Bidders will therefore need to coordinate delivery across up to 32 sites within the available timeframe.

How this fits alongside DCMS support

DCMS is procuring an independent evaluation for the programme, which will include data collection requirements for LAs, alongside broader qualitative and quantitative evaluation activities. The evaluation partner will work with LAs, partners and young people to develop and implement data collection systems, providing support and guidance as required. This YEF commission is complementary to the DCMS evaluation rather than duplicative; it focuses on improving data governance, sharing, quality and use, which should strengthen the data available for the evaluation. However, there are potential overlaps, particularly around data sharing and implications for data collection. The successful partner should be mindful of these overlaps, and work with DCMS and the evaluation partner to ensure alignment of activity and communications, avoiding any duplication of DCMS-funded activity.

We recognise that Hubs also aim to improve health and employability alongside crime and violence prevention. This work may support broader data activity in those areas where it helps sites understand the wider drivers of violence, but the primary focus will remain on understanding and responding to violence. Local Authorities may use wider DCMS funding to extend the scope of this offer where helpful.

To avoid overburdening sites, the partner will join a joint onboarding kick-off meeting with DCMS and YEF to agree expectations and ways of working, then maintain regular catch-ups throughout the programme.

Budget

We expect the project to cost up to a total of £240,000. 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.

This will be an optional offer for Young Futures Local Authorities to take up, available on a call-off basis, with a maximum of 10 days of support per Local Authority that opts in. Please set out clearly in your budget the central fixed costs associated with setting up and overseeing this work, including the development of the shareable tools and resources. We expect most of the budget to be costed on a day-rate basis per Local Authority rather than as a single fixed total, so that YEF can call off support in line with actual opt-in numbers within the overall budget.

Timeline

Milestone	Timing
Questions accepted until	8th October 2026

Milestone	Timing
Proposal deadline	15th October 2026
Selection: applications reviewed; shortlisted bidders interviewed	w.c. 19th October 2026
Preferred partner appointed (including grant agreement finalised)	23rd October 2026
Mobilisation: partner appointed, grant agreement finalised, joint kick-off	w.c. 26th October 2026

How to apply

We invite bidders to prepare proposals of no more than 2,000 words, covering your:

- Proposed approach and methodology, including how you would manage the tight mobilisation timeline and condensed window of support across up to 32 Local Authorities.
- Relevant experience of working with Local Authority or public sector data, particularly in relation to crime, violence or safeguarding.
- Approach to data governance and information-sharing, including how you would help sites navigate barriers to accessing local data.
- Approach to embedding race equity throughout the work, including how the data and analysis will help sites understand and respond to racial disproportionality.
- Proposed team, including relevant qualifications, experience and capacity to deliver across multiple sites concurrently.
- Day rates and a proposed cost structure.

Proposals should be submitted to change.yef@youthendowmentfund.org.uk by **15th October 12pm**. Clarification questions can be sent to the same address until **8th October 26**.

All proposals will be reviewed by YEF against the criteria below:

Criteria	Weighting
Quality and clarity of proposed approach and methodology	30%
Relevant experience with Local Authority, crime and violence, or youth-sector data	25%
Team capability and capacity to deliver across up to 32 sites within timeframe	20%
Approach to race equity and addressing racial disproportionality	15%
Value for money	10%

Appendix 1: Minimum data requirement

As part of this project, we would expect the appointed partner to assess, where available, the following for each Local Authority in order to strengthen its 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