Invitation to tender for the evaluation of the Youth Endowment Fund's place-based Neighbourhood Fund

About the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF)

The YEF is here 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.

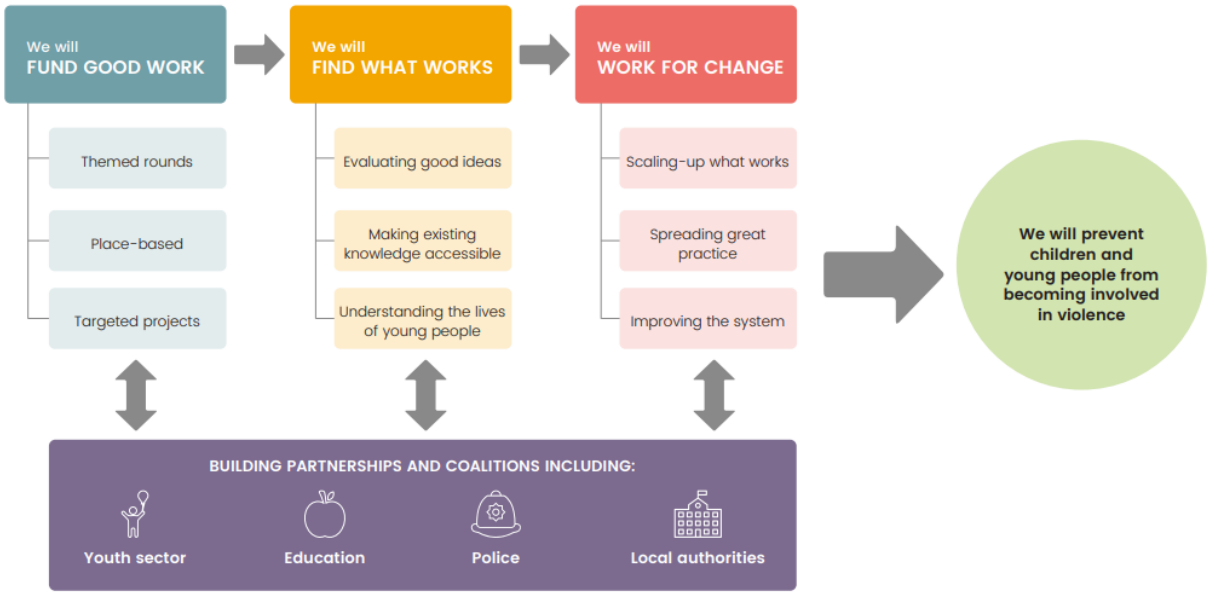
We will do this this by:

- Supporting and evaluating the most promising projects, which aim to prevent 10-14 year olds in England and Wales from becoming involved in crime and violence;
- Building the UK evidence base for what works to prevent children becoming involved in violence;
- Developing a 'place-based' approach to working with local community partnerships; and
- Building partnerships to share best practice and make sure that programmes that work get the investment they need.

Our focus is on learning what works for children aged 10-14 years. However, our funding can support children under 10 years and up to 17 years where appropriate.

Our strategy provides further detail about how we'll achieve our mission.

YEF's strategy



This Invitation to Tender (ITT)

We're looking to appoint an evaluator or evaluators to work with us and our delivery partners to conduct an evaluation of round one of the Neighbourhood Fund, which is part of our place-based work. The first round of the fund involves engagement, co-design and delivery in five 'hyper-local' areas starting in 2021, and will inform the second round of the Neighbourhood Fund which will begin in 2022. The first round of the fund will invest up to £7.5m in these five areas over approximately seven years.

The evaluation will include two strands:

1) An integrated formative evaluation that will draw lessons and provide on-going feedback to strengthen delivery;

2) A summative evaluation of the impact of the Fund on youth violence in the five areas targeted.

Evaluators (from now on called 'Learning Partners') are invited to tender for one or both strands of the evaluation. We are open to bids from consortia. Further details about the first round of the Neighbourhood Fund and its evaluation are provided below.

The Neighbourhood Fund

Background

We know that a lot of violent crime is highly concentrated in specific local areas. To make a difference, many believe that it is essential to work with the people and organisations who live and work there as they know their communities best. The Neighbourhood Fund will use evidence-informed community engagement and co-design to generate evidence on whether and how community engagement and co-design approaches can reduce local levels of young peoples' involvement in violence.

There are three reasons why we think a place-based approach is important:

1) **Disproportionate impact**: We know that a lot of violent crime happens in very specific local areas. For example: nearly 70% of knife-related homicides happen

within just 1% of small geographic areas[1]; 42% of youth victims of knife crime[2] are reported to be within 22% of local authorities; and, 62% of violent offences occur within just 12% of small geographic areas within Westminster[3]. This means that, to make the biggest impact, we need to work in the areas most affected.

2) **Local knowledge and buy-in:** Local residents' knowledge and buy-in is likely to play a role in how impactful an intervention or activity is. For example, understanding the reality of the local context may help to inform the right choice of interventions. Additionally, local knowledge may make it more likely that interventions reach those who need them most. We want to better understand how and when this local knowledge and buy-in best drives change, which we can only learn through focused place-based working.

3) **Sharing data and power:** We know that many children at risk of becoming involved in violence are known to local agencies. By getting agencies to work together to share information, data and power, we could make an impact in preventing children becoming involved in crime. Successful initiatives in Glasgow[4] and Cardiff[5] have demonstrated the impact of intelligence gathering, data sharing and multi-agency collaboration in tackling serious violence.

Approach

We will build long-term partnerships in five hyper-local areas where violence affecting young people is highly concentrated and there is opportunity for change. In these areas we will aim to understand the problems these communities face, then co-design, deliver and evaluate solutions that aim to be both evidence-informed and responsive to their local needs and context. There are four phases to this work (see Figure 2).

We selected five local authority areas to work with, using Youth Justice Board data and a combination of rates and absolute numbers of offences.[6] We also made sure we included areas with a range of different contexts, across different regions of England and Wales. The five areas in the first round of the Neighbourhood Fund in 2021 are:

- Birmingham

[1] Measured at the Lower Super Output Area (LSOA) level.

[2] Data from the Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC) between September 2018 and August 2019 Weapon-enabled Crime Dashboard (here)

[3] MOPAC (2020) Recorded Crime: Geographic Breakdown (here)

[4] Williams, D. J. et al. (2014) "Addressing gang-related violence in Glasgow: A preliminary pragmatic quasi-experimental evaluation of the Community Initiative to Reduce Violence (CIRV)," Aggression and Violent Behaviour, 19(6), pp. 686–691. doi: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.avb.2014.09.011.

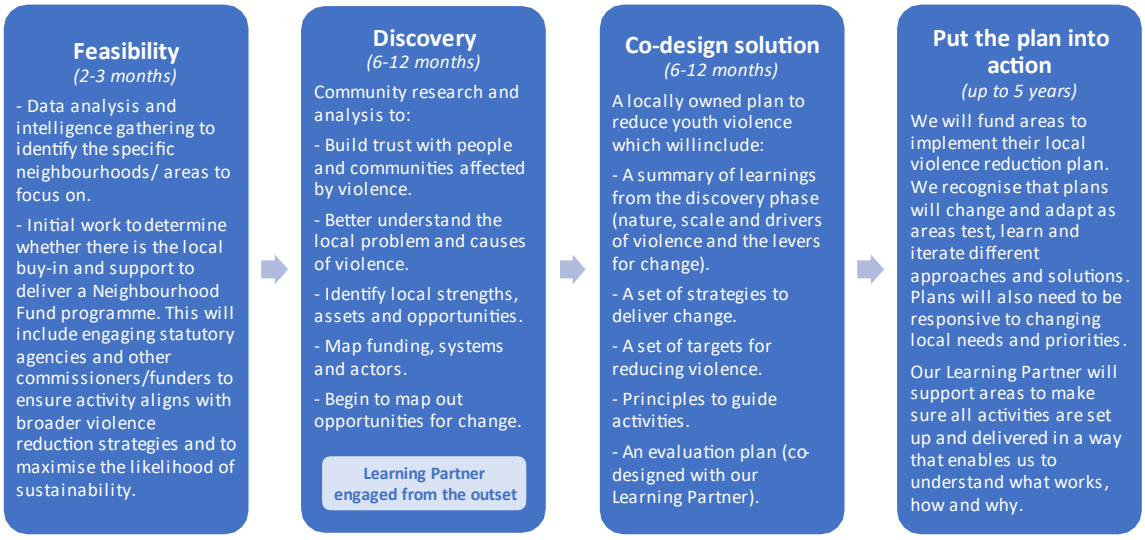
[5] Florence, C. et al. (2011) "Effectiveness of anonymised information sharing and use in health service, police, and local government partnership for preventing violence related injury: Experimental study and time series analysis," BMJ, 342(7812). doi: 10.1136/bmj.d3313.

[6] Louette, L., Teager, W., and Gibbons, G. (forthcoming) *Building safer neighbourhoods: Our approach to finding out where violence happens*. YEF

- Bradford
- Cardiff
- Manchester
- Norfolk

We have also recently tendered for five Community Research & Co-Design Partners (CRCPs), who will work with us and statutory partners in each local authority area to identify the hyper-local area where crime is highly concentrated and there is opportunity for change. These areas are likely to vary in terms of size and focus. However, all areas will be at a neighbourhood level, such as a housing estate, a ward, an area around a shopping centre, or an area straddling two neighbourhoods. This is the **feasibility** phase.

Figure 2: Four phases of the Neighbourhood Fund



During the **discovery** phase of six to 12 months CRCPs will conduct research and engage with the local community[7] to understand the nature, causes and consequences of violence. They will also develop local partnerships, trust and a thorough understanding of local needs, stakeholders, perceptions and opportunities.

7 By 'local community' we mean the people who live and work in the area.

During the **co-design** phase of six to 12 months, CRCPs will work with the local community to develop a local action plan to support and reduce the number of young people being affected by violence in their area. The plan will be informed by both local knowledge and evidence of what works, brokered by the CRCPs and the YEF. A range of community engagement approaches may be used by the CRCPs (see Box 1).

Finally, once signed off by the YEF, the **plan will be put into action** over up to five years. It is likely that a local partnership will deliver the plan, supported by the CRCP or another capacity-builder. The plan will need to be responsive to changing local needs and context.

We will support the delivery of these phases. As well as funding and monitoring the CRCPs, implementation plan, and evaluation, we will provide evidence of what works in reducing youth violence, to inform the co-design of the delivery plan, and also work to influence the wider system and societal issues that are identified as being relevant locally. We will also aim to develop funding and partnerships to support the sustainability of local action plans after our initial five-year investment. The Learning Partner will support learning throughout the discovery, co-design and action phases and YEF will work with the Learning Partner to disseminate lessons from the evaluation both between areas, and more broadly. It is expected that the learning from evaluation in the first round of the fund will inform the place-based approach in subsequent rounds and help build a framework of evaluation across the fund.

Further detail on the responsibilities of the CRCP during the first three phases are outlined in Appendix 1.

Box 1: The Community Engagement Spectrum

Our Community Engagement Spectrum is adapted from the Spectrum of Public Participation designed by the International Association of Public Participation. The aim of the spectrum is to provide a common language talk about the range of different engagement approaches that CRCPs might use and that could be explored through the Neighbourhood Fund. The optimal level of engagement is likely to vary depending upon the local context and conditions, desired outcomes and phase of the project. A project might even use different levels of engagement for different stakeholder groups within a particular phase and will need to be flexible and responsive to learning.

CRCPs are encouraged to be creative about developing the most effective ways to engage with communities and broker evidence of what works to tackle the problems identified. For example, CRCPs could use interactive sessions to bring evidence to life, or could bring local residents together with experts. We're interested in understanding which levels of community engagement CRCPs use, why and how, in order to draw lessons on the optimal approaches to community engagement and co-design.

Theory of change

We have developed a draft overarching theory of change for the Neighbourhood Fund and this is provided both in Appendix 2 and as a full-scale attachment to this ITT. The theory of change aims to identify our main activities, as well as the work of delivery partners and the Learning Partner(s)). The theory of change will be refined with CRCPs and the Learning Partner, once appointed, as we learn together about how best to co-design and deliver local approaches to supporting children affected by violence.

It is expected that each Neighbourhood Fund hyper-local area will also develop its own theory of change and action plan, based on its specific needs and context. It will be important for these to follow a similar framework in order that lessons can be best aggregated and shared.

The ultimate **intended impacts** of the Neighbourhood Fund are:

1. Evidence is generated on whether and how community engagement and co-design approaches can reduce local levels of young peoples' involvement in violence.
2. Learning from the Neighbourhood Fund informs place-based policies and practice in other areas.
3. Fewer young people become involved in violence in areas where violence is highly concentrated.

A commitment to evidence

We are committed to generating high quality evidence of what works to keep children and young people safe from involvement in violence. We have already published its Evidence and Gap Map, which is the world's largest resource mapping evidence on what works to keep children safe from violence. It is quite technical, which is why we are also developing its Toolkit, which will be an accessible, online resource for people who work with and commission services for children and young people. It will be launched in June 2021 and will be available to inform the co-design phase of the Neighbourhood Fund, the aim of which is to combine local knowledge with the best available evidence.

In addition, we are planning to commission a set of systematic reviews that are directly relevant to the Neighbourhood Fund. The research questions are still being finalised, but the reviews are likely to cover:

- What evidence is there for the impact of place-based approaches on preventing children's involvement in violence and reducing the number of children affected by it?
- What lessons can be drawn from youth justice and other fields about the best ways of delivering place-based approaches to prevent and reduce children's involvement in violence?
- What are the main barriers and facilitators of inter-agency collaboration?
- What are the optimal methodologies and methods that can be used to evaluate place-based approaches to prevent and reduce children's involvement in violence?

These outputs of theses reviews will not be available in the initial phases of the first round of the Neighbourhood Fund. However, it is hoped that they will be able to inform the later stages and the second round of the Fund and its evaluation.

The evaluation of the Neighbourhood Fund

Purpose

As with all our programmes, the Neighbourhood Fund, will involve an independent evaluation commissioned from its panel of evaluators and will maintain high standards for transparent reporting.[8] The evaluation of the Neighbourhood Fund has two distinct purposes:

- Firstly, as an integral part of the Fund's delivery, the evaluation is intended to provide information and **on-going formative feedback** on the delivery of both the

8 Any teams that are keen to bid for this ITT but are not currently on the YEF's panel of evaluators will be asked to submit an application to the panel of evaluators upon invitation to submit a full proposal.

overarching theory of change, and the theory of change in each of the five hyper-local areas. This feedback will enable iterative and responsive refinements and corrections to be made to the approach. Lessons will be shared across areas to maximise effectiveness and strengthen delivery.

- Secondly, for **accountability**, we would like to check whether the local action plans in each of the five hyper-local areas have been successful in reducing local levels of youth violence over a sustained period.

These two purposes will require quite different evaluation skills, methodologies and methods. It is for this reason that the YEF is inviting evaluators to bid for one or both strands of the work and is also open to receiving tenders from consortia.

We may also want to commission an economic evaluation of the Fund and its sustainability in the future, but this is not the subject of this ITT.

Strand 1: Integrated formative evaluation

We are planning to commission a review of the evidence on the optimal methodologies and methods for evaluating its place-based work. In the meantime, we are keen to commission an evaluation that reflects good practice and lessons learnt from evaluations of place-based approaches in the UK and internationally.

For example, the funder Lankelly-Chase, in its historical review of place-based approaches, identifies the relevance of participatory forms of evaluation and importance of regular and timely opportunities for learning, reflection and review. The Canadian CED Network's 2011 report on the evaluation of place-based approaches identified a number of methodologies or frameworks that might be applied, including theory of change, realist evaluation (Pawson and Tilley, 1997)[9], developmental evaluation (Patton, 2011)[10], and contribution analysis (Mayne, 2008)[11]. The HMRC's Magenta Book Supplementary Guide on handling complexity in policy evaluation (2020) identifies a similar range of approaches and suggests that often what is required for complex evaluations is a hybrid design where two or more approaches are combined and tailored to meet the needs of the evaluation.

We are open-minded and interested in evaluators' views on the optimal approach to delivering this formative place-based evaluation, and is keen to understand the rationale for the methodology proposed.

Based on our current understanding of good practice, it will be vital that the formative

[9] Pawson, R., and N. Tilley. 1997. *Realistic Evaluation*. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage.

[10] Patton, Michael Quinn. 2011. *Developmental Evaluation: Applying Complexity Concepts to Enhance Innovation and Use*. New York: The Guilford Press.

[11] Mayne, John (2008). *Contribution Analysis: An Approach to Exploring Cause and Effect.* Institutional Learning and Change Brief 16. www.cgiar-ilac.org.

evaluation:

- Recognises the phased and emergent nature of place-based approaches;
- Is sensitive to the complexity involved in delivering place-based approaches;
- Uses a mixture of credible qualitative and quantitative methods;
- Is flexible enough to be applied across the five areas;
- While having enough discipline, consistency and a common framework to build an evidence base;
- Helps the YEF, CRCPs and local communities to understand what is changing or not changing and why; and
- Enables strategic learning across the Fund, including both within and between the five local areas, and to support YEF decision-making.

It is anticipated that the formative evaluation will take a theory-based approach and engage with stakeholders from the outset. The Learning Partner will work closely with CRCPs and local communities to develop and evaluate their local theories of change, as well as the overarching theory of change for the Fund.

It would be useful for a common framework to be applied when developing these local theories. For example, the Australian Government Department for Social Services have developed a generic theory of change and set of research questions, in their 2019 framework and toolkit for evaluating place-based delivery approaches. The generic theory of change is included in Appendix 3. The YEF is interested in evaluators' perspectives on using this or a similar framework for the development and evaluation of the five local theories of change.

The scope of the formative evaluation includes both the discovery and co-design, and local delivery, phases of the Fund, but not the feasibility stage, which will have been completed before the Learning Partner is appointed. The success of the discovery and co-design phases will contextualise and most likely be critical to the success of the local action plans. For this reason we are aiming to appoint the Learning Partner as early as possible during this process.

Research questions will be refined with the appointed Learning Partner, CRCPs and local communities. However, they are likely to include:

1. To what extent and how are local people engaged? What has worked well, or not, and why?
2. What are the enabling factors or barriers to stakeholders engaging in the development and implementation of the plans?

3. To what extent have local stakeholders (and their knowledge, aspirations and priorities) and / or evidence sufficiently driven the development and implementation of the plans?
4. To what extent have delivery partners managed the process well and been effective in establishing the enabling conditions for systemic change within the local area and beyond?
5. To what extent is the governance transparent and sufficiently representative of those with a stake in the area?
6. To what extent are the local action plans being delivered and local changes, including systems changes, happening as intended?
7. What evidence is there of impacts on intended outcomes in each of the five areas? Is there any evidence of unintended consequences?
8. To what extent have delivery partners and local communities been responsive and adaptive to learning from the evaluation?
9. Has capacity-building and investment been sufficient to foster the sustainability of local changes?
10. What lessons can be learnt for the delivery of similar approaches elsewhere, including how best to evaluate them?

In addition, we are particularly interested in understanding more about how the following four changing aspects of the programme influence each other and interact:

- Local context and conditions, including:
    - The scale and nature of violence;
    - Levels of trust, empowerment and control;
    - Wider system dynamics and influences;
    - Existing partnerships and community structures; and the
    - Perception and use of evidence and external experts**.**

- Community engagement, including:
    - Which stakeholders are engaged; and
    - The methods, levels and points of engagement.

- Local action plans, including:
    - The target beneficiaries;
    - Interventions or approaches introduced;
    - Skills and expertise of practitioners;
    - Quality of project management and implementation; and
    - Cost.

- Outcomes, for example:
    - Social trust;
    - Intervention specific outcomes; and
    - Youth violence.

Outputs of Strand 1 of the evaluation will include:

- A published overarching evaluation plan;
- A revised overarching theory of change;
- Five local theories of change;
- Five local evaluation plans;
- Regular presentations, workshops and feedback reports to YEF and delivery partners (e.g. quarterly, although YEF is open to discussing the optimal frequency); and
- A final set of published reports, including a concise report on each of the five areas, and an overarching report, summarising the findings and lessons learnt across the Fund.

Strand 2: Summative impact evaluation

The aim of the summative evaluation will be to estimate the impact of the Fund on the extent to which young people are involved in violence in the five hyper-local areas, over the (approximately) five years of delivery and beyond. We will work with the appointed Learning Partner to refine the precise target population and outcome metrics.[12]

A significant challenge for this strand of evaluation will be the creation of a credible counterfactual. It is hoped that the impact evaluation will involve a quasi-experimental design which compares the amount or trajectory of youth violence in the five hyper-local areas, before, during and after the delivery of local action plans, to similar areas, matched on observable characteristics.

However, given uncertainty regarding the exact size of the hyper-local areas and availability of data on youth violence, this strand of the evaluation will need to begin with an assessment of feasibility. The feasibility study will assess the availability administrative data on youth violence (e.g. rates and absolute numbers of offences from Youth Justice Board and Police National Computer data) at the hyper-local level and possible approaches to creating a counterfactual.

Examples of quasi-experimental designs that might be explored include propensity score matching, interrupted time-series, or the creation of synthetic controls (Adabie et al.,

[12]It should be noted that although YEF's focus is on children aged 10-14 years, our funding can support children under 10 years and up to 17 years. It is also likely that local action plans involve beneficiaries beyond this core focus.

2003)[13]. Given the challenges in knowing what might be the least biased approach to constructing the control, it may be appropriate to take the approach of Li et al. (2013)[14] who constructed five different control groups in their analysis of a neighbourhood policing intervention, in order to assess the extent to which their estimates were dependent upon modelling assumptions.

We are open-minded about the optimal data and design and interested in evaluators' perspectives on this and how they might approach the feasibility study. The design(s) proposed should aim to minimise bias and include appropriate sensitivity analyses and robustness checks. The YEF recognises that non-experimental designs may require an iterative approach but would expect preferred approaches and their rationale to be pre-specified and subject to scrutiny from peer reviewers.

If the feasibility study indicates that it is not possible to deliver a sufficiently unbiased quasi-experimental design, we are open to discussing alternative approaches to understanding impact on youth violence, such as generative causation designs (e.g. realist evaluation or contribution analysis).[15]

Research questions will be refined with the appointed Learning Partner. However, it is anticipated that the main research questions will be:

1. To what extent have the Neighbourhood Fund local action plans impacted upon the extent to which young people are engaged in youth violence in the five hyper-local areas over the five years of delivery?
2. To what extent does the impact on youth violence vary across the five areas and what might explain this variation?
3. To what extent have impacts on youth violence been sustained after the initial five years of delivery?

In addition, the feasibility study will ask: to what extent is it feasible to answer these research questions and how?

The second research question will require the Learning Partner(s) to draw on evidence from the formative, theory-based evaluation in interpreting the impact findings. It may even be that a common intermediate outcome is identified across the five areas, that could be captured in the same way (e.g. via survey data) and linked to data on impact

13 Abadie, A. and Gardeazabal, J. (2003): *"The Economic Costs of Conflict: A Case Study of the Basque Country,"* American Economic Review, American Economic Association, vol. 93(1), pages 113-132, March

14 Li, G., Haining, R., Richardson, S. & Best, N. (2013). '*Evaluating the No Cold Calling Zones in Peterborough, England: Application of a Novel Statistical Method for Evaluating Neighbourhood Policing Policies*', Environment and Planning 45, (8), 2012-2026.

15 See P.53: Magenta_Book_supplementary_guide._Handling_Complexity_in_policy_evaluation.pdf (publishing.service.gov.uk)

to better understand variation between areas. We are interested in evaluators' perspectives on the optimal way to integrate the formative and summative evaluations, in order to maximise learning. It will be particularly important for evaluators bidding for only one of the two strands to consider this.

We are currently expecting that the summative evaluation would look at the sustainability of impacts over two years from when the initial five years of delivery ends, but is open to discussing this.

Outputs of Strand 2 of the evaluation will include:

- A presentation and / or report on the feasibility study;
- A published study plan and / or statistical analysis plan;
- A published report on the impact over five years;
- A published follow-up report on the long-term impact.

Advisory group

We are intending to appoint an advisory group to provide advice on methodology for both strands of the evaluation, and peer review outputs.

Timeline for the first round of the Neighbourhood Fund

We recognise that different approaches to the discovery and co-design phases may take varying amounts of time, yet YEF expects all sites to have completed these phases within 18 months. It is anticipated that local action plans will be completed and submitted by December 2022 at the latest.

Below is an indicative outline of the project timeline.

April 2021	Appointment and on-boarding of CRCPs
March 2021 – June 2021	Appointment and on-boarding of Learning Partners
May - July 2021	**Feasibility phase**
August 2021 – July 2022 *6-12 months dependent on model*	Discovery Phase
January 2022 – Dec 2022 *6 – 12 months dependent on model*	Co-design Phase
July 2022 – Dec 2022 *Dependent on model*	Local action plans completed and submitted to Youth Endowment Fund for funding approval

August 2022 – Jan 2023 *Dependent on model*	Local action plans launched
August 2022 – Jan 2028	Delivery of local action plans

Application

How to apply

Expressions of interest

We are interested in expressions of interest (EOIs) from single evaluators or consortiums, for one or both strands of the evaluation. EOI's are open to our panel evaluators as well as those not currently on the panel. Consortia will need to demonstrate that they will work well together.

EOIs should include no more than 2,000 words and cover:

- Which strand(s) of the evaluation you are interested in delivering and why.
- Your team's relevant methodological and substantive expertise.
- Brief, high-level thoughts about key considerations for the evaluation design and your approach.

Our panel of evaluation partners for themed grant rounds are invited to provide additional information on the team's record of relevant expertise for our place-based work.

Upon invitation to submit a proposal, and as part of the tender process, those not currently on our panel of evaluators will be invited to submit an application to join the panel. This is to ensure that evaluators have the skills, knowledge and expertise relevant for our place-based work. It also enables us to collect comprehensive information on organisations including their safeguarding procedures, ethical review processes and policies on equality, diversity and inclusion.

Organisations invited to join the panel will be eligible to apply to deliver future evaluation opportunities of our place-based work and themed grant rounds.

Proposals

The YEF will score EOIs and then invite full proposals of a maximum of 8,000 words (including tables and appendices but not budgets, references and CVs) from a short-list of evaluators.

Application timeline

The deadline for EOIs is **23rd April 2021.** Please send your proposal to evaluation@youthendowmentfund.org.uk. EOIs will be reviewed by the YEF and short-listed evaluators asked to submit proposals on the **30th of April**, with the deadline for proposal submission being the **21st of May**. Short-listed evaluators who are not currently on YEF's evaluator panel will be asked to submit applications to

the panel within the timeline. We will provide an evaluator panel brief and online application form.

If the timeline is difficult for existing YEF evaluator panel members, please contact us.

Questions about the ITT can be asked at proposal stage. If there are any updates to the timeline this will be provided when we request proposals. The anticipated timeline is:

Date	Tasks
30th March	ITT is published and circulated to evaluators
23rd April	Deadline for receipt of EOIs
30th April	Evaluators invited to prepare proposals / apply for YEF's evaluator panel (for those not currently on the panel)
7th May	Deadline for questions
14th May	Response to questions
21st May	Deadline for proposals
31st May	Learning Partner(s) appointed / outcome of YEF's evaluator panel applications
7th June – 5th July	Set-up meetings

Budget

Approximately £7.5m has been allocated to the Neighbourhood Fund, but it has not yet been determined the exact proportion of this that will be spend on the evaluation and delivery.

We are interested in evaluators' perspectives on the optimal designs for delivering the two evaluation strands, and is keen that this thinking drives the budgets proposed, rather than a somewhat arbitrary cap. It is likely that budgets provided at proposal stage will vary widely and we will enter into discussions with evaluators where the design proposed is attractive, but there are questions about the budget.

Where possible, it would be helpful for evaluator to break down the budget into different elements, highlighting any optional elements.

Scoring criteria

EOI scoring criteria

Responses will be scored against the following criteria, which will have equal weighting:

1. Evidence of the research team collectively having excellent knowledge, methodological and substantive expertise, relevant to the proposed evaluation.

2. Evidence and understanding of key considerations for deciding the study design and its key elements.

Scoring criteria	
0	Totally fails to meet the requirement – information not available
1	Meets some of the requirements with limited supporting information
2	Meets some of the requirements with reasonable explanation
3	Fully meets the requirements with detailed explanation and evidence
4	Exceeds the requirements with extensive explanation and evidence

Proposal scoring criteria

The draft criteria for scoring proposals are provided in appendices four and five.

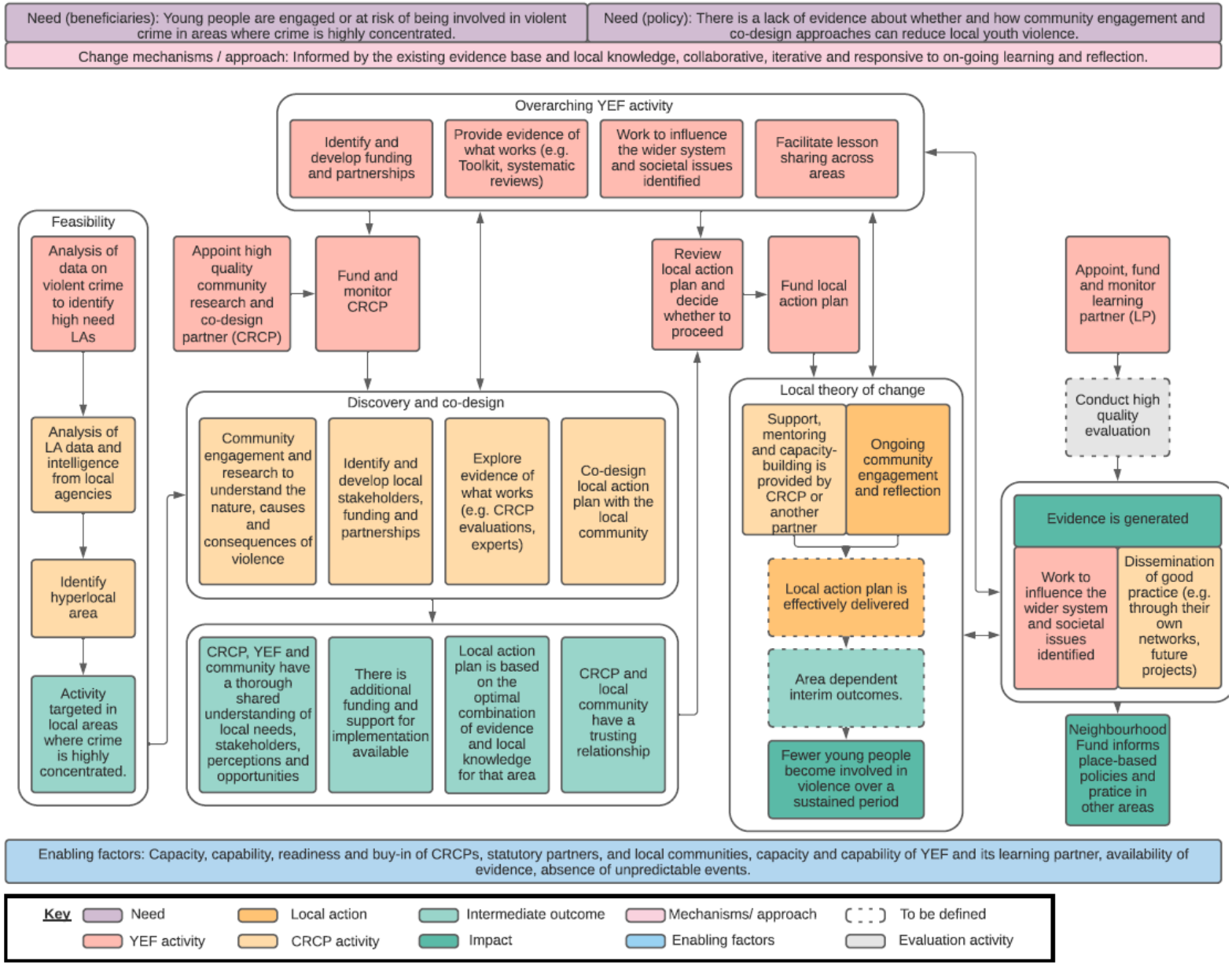
Appendix 1: Responsibilities of the CRCP

Phase	Aim	Outputs
Feasibility	To identify a local hyper area to work with both high levels of violence and high likelihood of achieving sustainable change	• Strong local links established with stakeholders at local authority level and have begun to be developed at a local neighbourhood level • Steering group established • Detailed project plan produced • Detailed understanding of levels of youth violence across the Local Authority at a neighbourhood level, drawing on available data, information and local intelligence including broader violence reduction strategies.
Discovery	To build a highly detailed profile of the nature, scale and drivers of violence in the community – which has drawn on a wide range of perspectives, data sets and intelligence	• Clear understanding of varied local stakeholder needs and perspectives • Strong local relationships with increased trust and buy-in • Detailed understanding of how violence impacts the community • Robust community mapping identifying local infrastructure, assets, gaps and opportunities for change • Map of potential supplementary funding opportunities.
Co - design	To produce a co-designed and fully costed local action plan	• Local theory of change (in consultation with Learning Partner) • Local evaluation plan (in consultation with Learning Partner) • Summary of learning from discovery

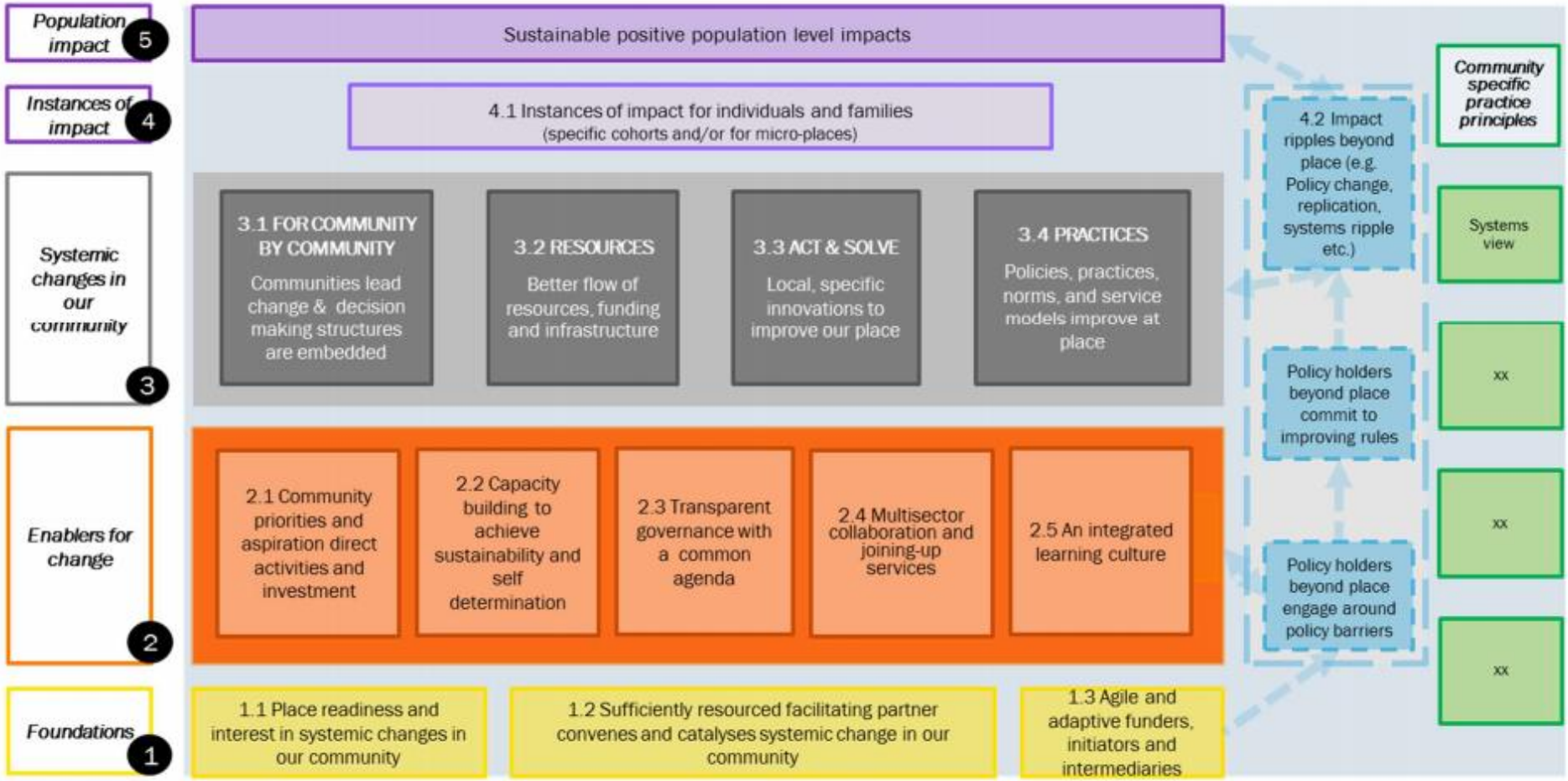
		Phase • Strategies to deliver change, including any capacity-building requirements • Shared evidence-base of what works with local community • Principles to guide activities • Violence reduction targets • Formalised partnership and governance arrangements • Detailed budget.

The CRCP will be required to attend regular review meetings with us and to make links with other related YEF initiatives as appropriate. The CRCP will also be required to ensure alignment with local Violence Reduction Strategies and Community Safety Plans. The CRCPs will be initially appointed to deliver the feasibility, discovery and co-design phases of each local programme. However, we are also likely to want to commission an on-going capacity building and support at each site to implement the local action plan. Our proposals for this will be shared with CRCPs once appointed.

Appendix 2: Draft overarching theory of change for the Neighbourhood Fund



Appendix 3: Generic theory of change (Australian Place-based Evaluation Framework)



Appendix 4: Formative evaluation proposal scoring criteria

Bids will be scored against the following criteria:

1. **Addressing the aims and research questions (20%)**
    a. How well the applicant understands and addresses the aims of the evaluation.
    b. How well the applicant demonstrates and understanding of the wider context and key challenges for the project.
2. **Capability and relevant experience of the core project team (15%)**
    a. The extent to which the proposed team demonstrates a track record of delivering comparable evaluations.
    b. The extent to which the proposed team demonstrates experience of conducting integrated qualitative and quantitative research in local community and youth justice settings. Consortia will need to demonstrate that the team can work well together.
3. **Methodology and approach (50%)**
    a. The extent to which the proposed integrated evaluation design (including methodologies and methods) and analysis will meet the research objectives.
    b. The quality and suitability of the proposed approach to developing and revising the research questions and theories of change.
    c. The quality and suitability of the proposed approach to using a credible range of quantitative and qualitative methods to engage with stakeholders.
    d. The extent to which the proposed approach to data management and analysis will meet the research objectives.
    e. The extent to which the proposed approach is appropriate and sensitive to the phased, emergent and complex nature of place-based approaches.
    f. The extent to which the applicants identify the key risks to the project's delivery and propose appropriate strategies to mitigate those risks.
    g. The quality, suitability and timeliness of the outputs and learning that will be generated, including the extent to which the approach supports learning across the Fund.

4. Value for money (15%)

Proposals will be evaluated using the scale below:

Scoring criteria	
0	Totally fails to meet the requirement – information not available
1	Meets some of the requirements with limited supporting information
2	Meets some of the requirements with reasonable explanation
3	Fully meets the requirements with detailed explanation and evidence
4	Exceeds the requirements with extensive explanation and evidence

Appendix 5: Summative evaluation proposal scoring criteria

Bids will be scored against the following criteria:

1. **Addressing the aims and research questions (20%)**
    a. How well the applicant understands and addresses the aims of the evaluation.
    b. How well the applicant demonstrates and understanding of the wider context and key challenges for the project.
2. **Capability and relevant experience of the core project team (15%)**
    a. The extent to which the proposed team demonstrates a track record of delivering comparable evaluations.
    b. The extent to which the proposed team demonstrates experience of conducting integrated qualitative and quantitative research in local community and youth justice settings. Consortia will need to demonstrate that the team can work well together.
3. **Methodology and approach (50%)**
    a. The extent to which the proposed feasibility study meets its objectives (including assessing data availability and the least biased approach to estimating impact).
    b. The quality, suitability and practicality of the outcome measures suggested.
    c. The quality and suitability of the proposed techniques to analyse data to deliver against the research objectives.
    d. The extent to which the proposed approach considers how best to integrate and maximise learning between the formative and summative evaluations.
    e. The extent to which the applicants identify the key risks to the project's delivery and propose appropriate strategies to mitigate those risks.
    f. The quality, suitability and timeliness of the outputs offered.
4. **Value for money (15%)**

Proposals will be evaluated using the scale below:

Scoring criteria	
0	Totally fails to meet the requirement – information not available
1	Meets some of the requirements with limited supporting information
2	Meets some of the requirements with reasonable explanation
3	Fully meets the requirements with detailed explanation and evidence
4	Exceeds the requirements with extensive explanation and evidence