



Prospectus appendix

A supportive home: what we're looking to fund

August 2021

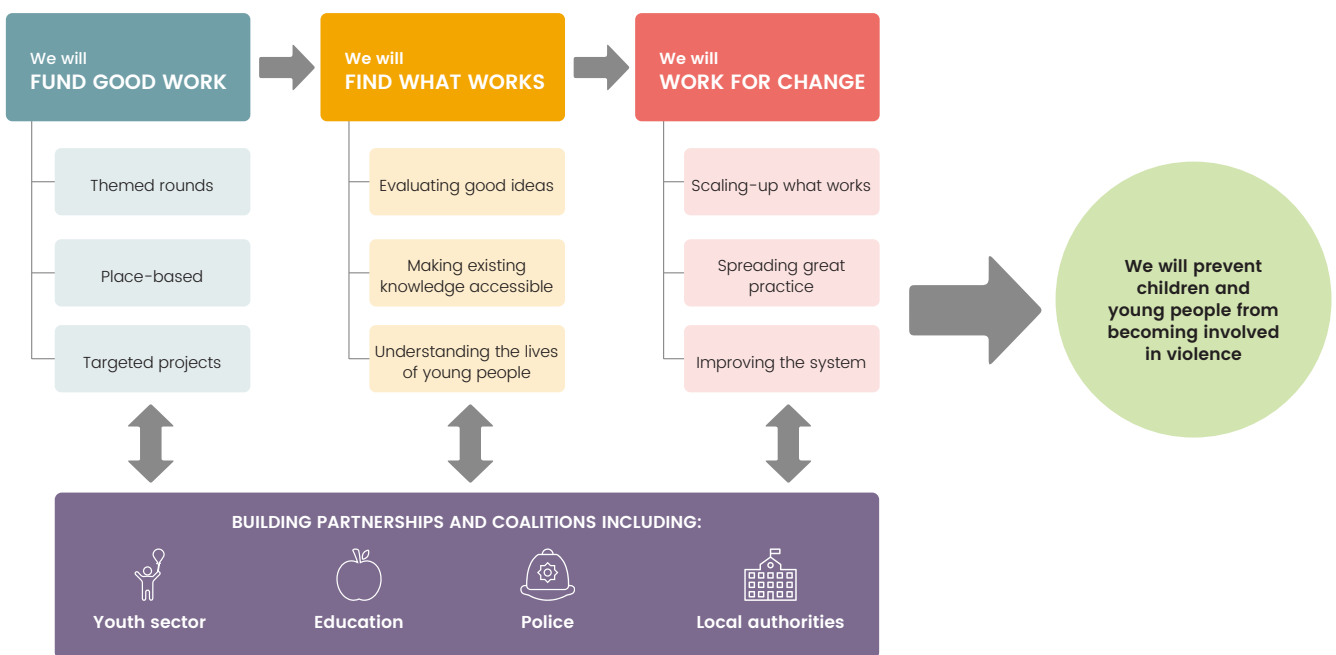
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1. About us

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.

Our [strategy](#) sets out how we'll do it. At its heart it says that we will fund good work, find what works and work for change.

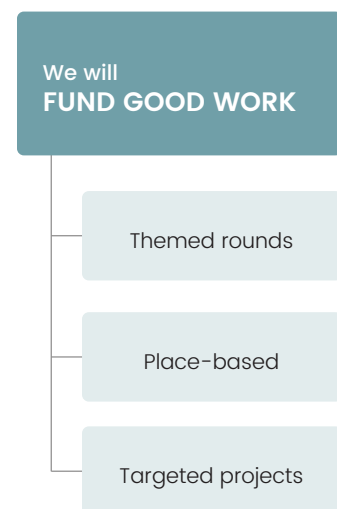


About this appendix

Back in February, we published our [2021 prospectus](#), which announced what we'll be doing under the themed rounds part of our [strategy](#):

- 1 Another chance: diversion from the criminal justice system
- 2 A supportive home: helping families to overcome challenges, in partnership with Comic Relief

Since then, we've closed applications to our [diversion grant round](#). We wanted to fund between 10 and 20 projects, but we received over 300 applications. You can read more about our decision-making process and next steps [here](#).



What happens next?

In the last three months we've been planning our second themed grant round, *A supportive home: helping families to overcome challenges* and can now share more details about it. We are running this grant round in partnership with Comic Relief.

This appendix (which adds to our [2021 prospectus](#)), gives you more information on what we're looking to fund and what evidence we are trying to build, before we open applications on 27 September 2021. It tells you:

- ◆ Which children we're hoping this funding will reach
- ◆ How we want projects to identify the children we want to support
- ◆ The kinds of activities we want to fund
- ◆ The types of evaluations we want to commission

What the appendix **won't** tell you is how to apply for funding. We'll publish full, detailed guidance in September to help you with this. That guidance will also include even more detail on the types of projects we're looking to fund. So before you make your decision to apply, please make sure you've read it fully.

Resources you should read now

When you're thinking about whether this funding is right for you, please read our [2021 prospectus](#), which tells you more about what it means to be a YEF partner and work with an independent evaluator who'll design the research elements of your project.

Want to find out more about what the evidence says about family support?

[The YEF Toolkit](#) has useful information on approaches like [parenting programmes](#) and [multisystemic therapy](#).

Resources we'll produce to help you during the application period

1. **A report about the evidence:** We've been working with our partners at the Early Intervention Foundation to find out more about what existing evidence says about family support programmes and how they might help us prevent children from becoming involved in violence. We'll publish a summary report, so you can understand the evidence and use it to shape your proposal. We'll publish it in September.
2. **Application guidance:** This will include a step-by-step guide to answering the questions in the application form, some model responses and more detail on the criteria we'll use to assess your proposals. We'll publish it when applications open on 27 September.

We're also hosting a series of two types of workshops. One session will give you an overview of the grant round, what our review of the evidence said and a bit more information about what it's like to work with the YEF. The second session will go into more detail about our application process, to explain what we're looking for in response to the questions in our application form. [Sign up on our website.](#)



2. A supportive home: being a YEF partner

Our commitment to evidence

The Youth Endowment Fund exists 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. To do this, we not only need to find and fund great approaches, we also need to evaluate them as rigorously as possible.

Finding out what works to create a supportive home

Our commitment to evidence and evaluation means that, in our supportive home round, we'll prioritise applications from projects that are already delivering, can show us some existing evidence that they work. For more information about what we mean by existing evidence, please read the Themed grant rounds: being a YEF partner section of our [2021 prospectus](#).



What do we mean by evaluation?

It's also important to say that, unlike some of our other themed grant rounds (where we are only looking to fund projects that are ready for a robust type of evaluation, like a randomised control trial), it's likely that we'll fund earlier stage evaluations for some activities in this round.

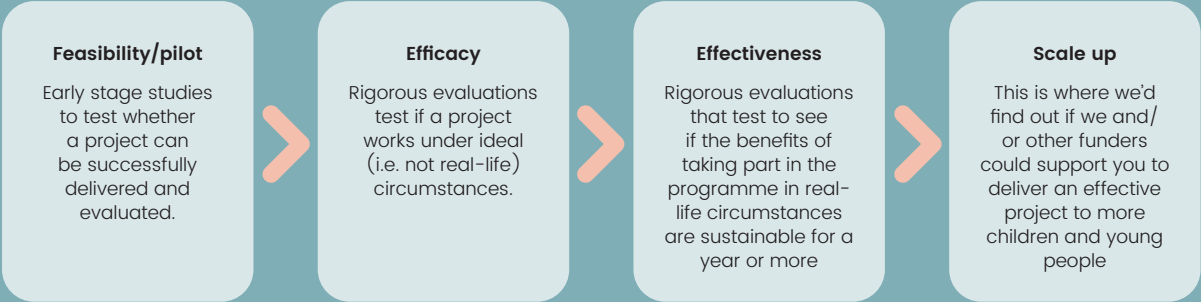
That's because we want to find out about how reducing parental conflict and domestic abuse in the home can prevent children from becoming involved in violence. While there is some evidence about how these programmes can help adults, there just hasn't been as much research on how or if they work well to support the children in those families.

This doesn't mean that we can't fund later stage evaluations where there are parental conflict or domestic abuse programmes that are ready (and helping projects produce robust evidence about what works is still our priority). But we know that reducing domestic abuse and parental conflict is a crucial area for us to explore and – at the moment – there aren't early stage evaluations for us to build on. So we'll invest our funds to develop that foundation, so that we can run robust trials later.

For more information on which evaluations we're likely to commission for the different types of activities we want to fund, please read the [table below](#).

What do we mean by different stages of evaluation?

To help you understand what we mean when we talk about different stages of evaluation, we've produced this diagram:



For more information, you can also read the [Early Intervention Foundation's 10 Steps to Evaluation Success](#). Our guidance for evaluators also includes detail on different types of evaluations.



3. What we're looking to fund

Why are we investing in family support?

Where children live in homes where there are challenges like conflict or domestic abuse, alcohol or substance misuse or where other family members are involved in crime, they're more likely to become involved in violence. Our conversations with people working to keep children safe – and young people themselves – made it clear that we should focus on finding out what works to help families facing these types of challenges. There's also clear evidence that family support could be effective. But lots of the evidence is international rather than UK-based, and many of the underlying studies have limitations.

By funding programmes in England and Wales, we can build our knowledge of how best to support families. And that includes building our understanding of what works for children in the care system, who are significantly overrepresented in the youth justice system.

The research question we're aiming to answer

Which approaches are most effective in helping families and carers to create a supportive home environment for 6- to 14-year-old children (or children aged up to 18 years old if they're in the care system), reducing the likelihood of them becoming involved in violence?

Why the older age bracket for children in care?

As the Independent Review of Children's Social Care reported, teenagers are the fastest growing group in both child protection and care. Teenagers entering care often don't receive the help they need to have a stable and supportive home. That's why we want to encourage applications from programmes that support this group of older children, to help us find out which approaches could help to provide the support those young people need.

What do we mean when we're talking about families?

By 'families', we mean anyone who plays a long-term supportive role in a child's life, this could include extended family members or kinship networks, foster families and children's homes. Family may not necessarily be blood relations or family members who permanently live in the same household. We want to understand what works for children growing up with all different kinds of families.



What we're aiming to invest in

We're aiming to invest in 5 – 10 projects and we'll look to spend between £6 million and £10 million, depending on the quality of the applications.

The table on the following page gives you more detail about which evaluations we're likely to commission for which activities.

Scope of the programmes we'll fund through this round

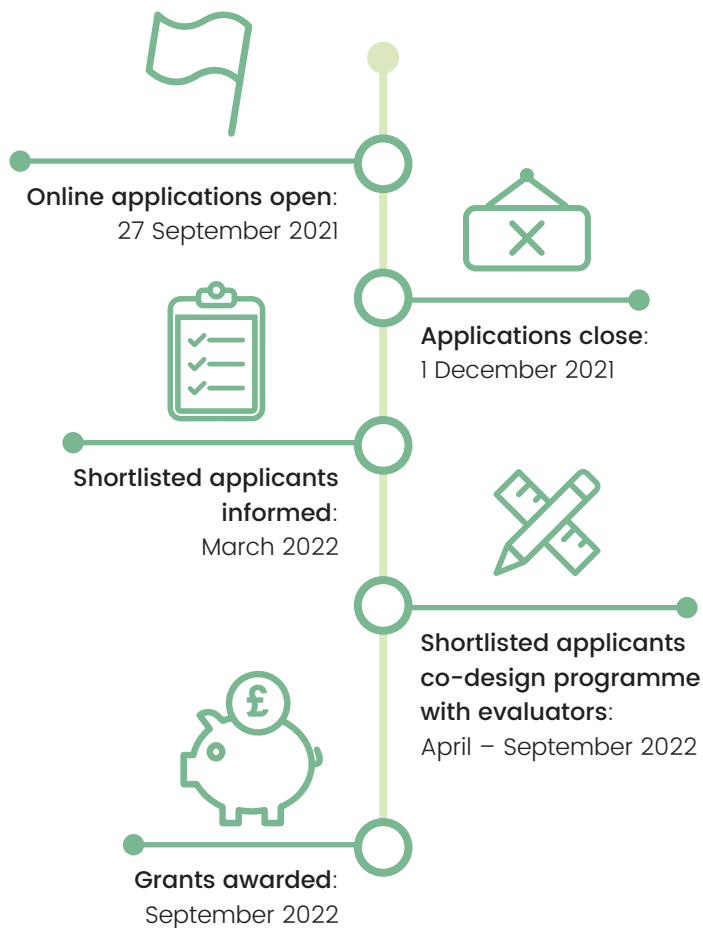
	IN SCOPE	OUT OF SCOPE
CONTEXT OF CHILDREN	<p>We want to work with children and young people who have been identified as having unmet needs in their life, which increase their likelihood of becoming involved in violence in the future.</p> <p>We want to make sure we're working with the children who are most in need of support, which is why we'll fund projects working with children who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ are showing early signs of, or who have developed challenges with their behaviour or their ability to regulate their emotions. ♦ have committed an offence. ♦ abuse or misuse substances, or have a substance misuse disorder. ♦ experience maltreatment or neglect from a parent or other family member. ♦ have experience of the care system. <p>We'll fund projects working with whole families, who might not be able to provide a supportive home. This includes families where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ parents, carers or siblings are involved in crime. ♦ parents have not had opportunities or support to develop positive relationships with their children. ♦ there's family conflict (for example, where there's domestic violence or where conflict means parents aren't able to offer emotional support to children) ♦ parents, carers or siblings abuse or misuse substances. ♦ parents or carers are struggling with their mental health and wellbeing. <p>To make sure that we're reaching the right children and families, we'd expect them to have been identified by agencies like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ local authority children's services teams. ♦ the police. ♦ youth offending teams. ♦ schools and their pastoral staff. ♦ housing teams. ♦ multi-agency safeguarding hubs or multi-agency exploitation hubs. ♦ community safety referral teams (or public protection teams). ♦ multi-agency risk assessment conferences. ♦ acute centres. 	<p>Support programmes that aren't targeted at the children and families most in need of additional support.</p>
ACTIVITIES	<p>GROUP A</p> <p>Parent education and training interventions (including for looked after children) that focus on helping parents or carers and their children to develop positive behaviours and relationships.</p> <p>Family therapy interventions (including for looked after children), which offer structured forms of therapy that takes place between a trained therapist and the family.</p> <p>Other approaches helping families or looked after children if they can show they're linked to reducing the risk of children becoming involved in violence.</p>	<p>GROUP A</p> <p>Other approaches helping families where there isn't any strong evidence of a positive change for children which is associated with a reduction in involvement in violence.</p>

	IN SCOPE	OUT OF SCOPE
ACTIVITIES	<p>GROUP B</p> <p>Parental conflict interventions, which are specifically designed to improve relationships between parents</p> <p>Domestic abuse interventions, which are specifically designed to prevent and reduce harm to adults, and often to mitigate the impact of exposure to domestic abuse on children</p>	<p>GROUP B</p> <p>Relationship interventions that aren't focused on parents.</p> <p>Domestic abuse interventions that focus on the perpetrator and don't work children or other family members who have experienced or witnessed domestic abuse.</p> <p>Other approaches helping families where working with adults isn't likely to be related to children's involvement in violence in the future.</p>
AGE OF CHILDREN	<p>Most activity types:</p> <p>6- to 14-year-olds</p> <p>Activities for children looked after by the local authority and their caregivers:</p> <p>6- to 18-year-olds</p>	<p>Anyone outside this age range.</p>
DELIVERY ORGANISATIONS	<p>Programmes should involve a referral or assessment by a local authority children's services or another relevant statutory body.</p> <p>But programmes may be provided by charities, public services, or private sector organisations.</p> <p>Programmes must support children in England and/or Wales.</p>	<p>Any programmes that don't work with statutory services.</p>
TYPE OF EVALUATION	<p>GROUP A</p> <p>Programmes that have sufficient scale and evidence of impact to run a large-scale efficacy and/or effectiveness evaluation, through a randomised control trial or quasi-experimental design method.</p> <p>Programmes that require a pilot study to demonstrate they're likely to make an impact, but that could be scaled for an efficacy and/or effectiveness study within two years.</p>	<p>Programmes that have no existing theory of change or evidence base.</p> <p>Programmes that don't have sufficient scale and are not likely to be ready within two years to enable a more robust evaluation.</p>
	<p>GROUP B</p> <p>In addition to programmes ready to run a pilot or efficacy study as in group A, we'll also consider funding programmes in this group that require a feasibility/pilot study first to demonstrate that they have the potential to reduce the likelihood of children becoming involved in violence (for example, by reducing aggression or substance misuse). This may involve refining the project's theory of change. These programmes should be established enough to be able to run a pilot or efficacy study after a year.</p>	<p>Programmes that have no existing theory of change or evidence base.</p> <p>Programmes that don't have sufficient scale and are not likely to be ready for a pilot/efficacy study within a year.</p>

Partnership with Comic Relief

Comic Relief formed a partnership with YEF to develop and run this programme, investing £2 million of their funds. Comic Relief have been instrumental in ensuring that young people with lived experience of violence have helped co-design the scope for the round, which aims to find out what kinds of high-quality family support can help prevent young people becoming involved in violence. We want to thank Comic Relief for supporting this important area of work.

Application timeline



We'll launch full guidance on how to apply for this round when applications open in September. You can also sign-up to the application workshops we're running in September [here](#).



4. How we made our decisions

When we launched our strategy, we asked everyone working to keep children and young people safe to shape our future. Over 450 of you – including teachers, community and youth workers, police officers to social workers – shared your ideas and experiences. It was clear that you thought we should focus on making sure children grow up in a supportive home, because it helps to keep children safe from involvement in violence.

Since then, we've spoken to people working in children's services in local authorities, in central government and with charities providing family support. Alongside Comic Relief, we made sure that we heard from young people too. And with the Early Intervention Foundation, we've reviewed existing evidence to learn as much as we can, while OC&C Strategy provided an analysis of the system that supports children in families facing challenges and the opportunities for change

Together, you've helped us to make sure our funding is focused on the areas where we can learn the most and make the biggest difference to children and young people. Thank you.

