

# Youth Social Action Fund

## Call for ideas - Middlesbrough and Lancashire

### Introduction

1. The opening of this fund runs in parallel with the launch of the independent Campaign for Youth Social Action, introduced by HRH The Prince of Wales with cross-party support on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2013. The Campaign's **mission** is to improve the quality, quantity and frequency of social action for young people aged 10-20.
2. The Campaign's interim report '*In the Service of Others*' (which the Government endorsed) identified three key transition stages between 10 and 20: 10-14, 14-16 and 16-20. Of these, evidence suggests that the 10-14 age group is least well served by social action provision. The report also identified that creating a journey between social action opportunities is critical.
3. The key ambition underpinning this call for ideas is to begin to understand the extent to which social action may be able to contribute to improving educational attainment.

Therefore the Government is looking to grant **up to £2m** over two years from the Youth Social Action Fund (drawn from the Cabinet Office Centre for Social Action and the Education Endowment Foundation) to offer financial support to programmes which provide social action opportunities for 10-14 year olds and can create positive outcomes for young people, including improved attainment and engagement at school.

All programmes should demonstrate how they will make strong links within their trial area to other providers, new and existing, and become advocates for the wider social action movement, to help to create a social action journey for young people.

Further detail is provided below at paragraphs 5-10.

4. While beginning to understand the extent to which social action may be able to contribute to improving educational attainment, the fund also aims to:
  - Work intensively in a small number of geographic areas to demonstrate the potential for transformation of the landscape of social action opportunities for young people by following the principles of the Campaign for Youth Social Action.

- Support programmes that engage young people in social action to adopt the standards and help them expand their reach and impact.
- Learn about how the Outcomes Framework and Quality Mark work in practice.
- Share the data gathered in this process with the Campaign.

## Criteria for supporting programmes

### 5. We will only support programmes that:

- Deliver according to the Campaign for Youth Social Action's definition of social action and the six principles of 'good social action'. These are outlined at paragraph 9, below.
- Use the Campaign for Youth Social Action Outcomes Framework to record the programme outcomes and the individual outcomes of all participants. These are outlined at paragraph 10, below.
- Demonstrate a commitment to rigorous measurement of on-going performance and progress against our standards of evidence.
- Demonstrate a commitment to participate in a randomised control trial and an independent evaluation of both their programme and the outcomes of participants (by an EEF-appointed evaluator).
- Demonstrate that they are reaching young people for whom provision is currently limited.
- Demonstrate how they will make links within their trial area to other providers, new and existing, to help to create a social action journey for young people.
- Deliver programmes which fit within the parameters outlined below (at paragraph 6 onwards).

### 6. **Programmes:**

Following the recommendations outlined in the report '*In the Service of Others*', we are looking to fund social action opportunities for young people aged 10-14 which can create positive outcomes, including improved engagement and attainment at school. We are particularly interested in programmes that:

- Have promising evidence that they contribute to improved educational outcomes for young people.
- Are committed to taking part in a rigorous evaluation through a randomised controlled trial.

- Have the capacity to deliver to 250–500 young people.
- Are affordable to schools or other funders, and have the potential to be taken to scale.

7. **Area:**

We will only fund programmes delivering in the two specific trial areas:

- Middlesbrough (including Redcar); and
- Lancashire.

8. **Size of grant:**

We are looking to support organisations capable of working across both trial areas, and able to work with approximately 10–20 schools supporting a total of 250–500 young people. Grant size will reflect this scale of programme delivery, with priority given to organisations that can demonstrate a cost-effective approach that is likely to be affordable to other funders and is sustainable. We are unlikely to award grants of less than £100k. Organisations will need to demonstrate they have the capacity to manage this size of grant.

9. **Funding is conditional upon programmes demonstrating conformity to the Campaign for Youth Social Action Principles** – these are:

a) Definition of youth social action:

“Young people taking practical action in the service of others...  
...in order to create positive social change that is of *benefit* to the wider community as well as to the young person themselves.”

b) The principles of quality youth social action:

<b>Challenging</b>	Stretching and engaging, as well as exciting and enjoyable.
<b>Youth-led</b>	Young people have a key role in owning and shaping the social action (with appropriate adult support).
<b>Socially impactful</b>	Creating positive change that is of benefit to the wider community as well as to the young person themselves.
<b>Progressive</b>	Progressing to other programmes and activities.

<b>Reflective</b>	Valuing reflection, recognition and reward.
<b>Embedded</b>	Becoming the norm in a young person's journey to adulthood and a habit for life.

10. ***In addition, funding is conditional upon programmes using the Campaign for Youth Social Action Outcomes Framework to record the programme outcomes and the individual outcomes of all participants.*** These are:

<b>Optimism</b>	Communication
	Creativity
<b>Determination</b>	Confidence and Agency
	Planning and Problem solving
	Resilience, Grit
<b>Emotional Intelligence</b>	Leadership
	Relationships
	Managing feelings, Self control

## Other conditions and information

### ***Funding***

11. Funding can be used to finance programme delivery costs and core organisational costs. It cannot be used to fund evaluation as adhering to a centrally delivered evaluation is a condition of funding.
12. All funding will be phased against agreed milestones, and in particular funding in the second year will be contingent upon performance in the first.
13. We expect programmes to:
  - Have an ambitious and financially sustainable strategy for growing their impact by reaching and benefiting many more people. To this end organisations must demonstrate clearly how they intend to use the funding to remain sustainable after the term of the grant. Organisations must also demonstrate that the trials funding does not account for an overly large

proportion of their overall funding and that it is one of a number of funding streams.

- Be supported by a competent management team who are open to challenge and support.
- Demonstrate a strong track record of timely and effective delivery. In particular, where an organisation has had government funding at any point, references must be provided.
- Demonstrate some form of match funding.
- Have a plan which will achieve the sustainability of the programmes independent of government funding following the trial funding period.

14. When assessing bids, we will consider the relative value for money that programmes offer.

### ***Eligible organisations***

15. The Youth Social Action Fund would invite bids from charities, social enterprises and other not-for-profit businesses (delivering in England) provided they can demonstrate that their projects will deliver public benefit. We can support incorporated entities and unincorporated associations with formal membership structures, but not individuals. However, a key principle of quality social action for the Campaign for Youth Social Action is that programmes should be Youth-Led: by demonstrating how young people have helped to shape programme design, applicants could go some way to fulfilling this criterion.
16. A number of organisations can apply together, but one must act as lead and take responsibility for the others.
17. All funding is subject to acceptance of our grant conditions and satisfaction of legal and regulatory requirements. Cabinet Office can only fund projects which advance our charitable objects for the public benefit. We may impose conditions and restrictions on private benefit and profit derived from our funding.