



Partnership Working Agreement

Between the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) and the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF)

Date 28 February 2024

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The parties

The Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB)

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) is a non-departmental public body created by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It has oversight of the whole youth justice system in England and Wales and guides and advises on the provision of youth justice services. The YJB's statutory functions are to:

- Monitor the youth justice system to understand:
 - its operation
 - performance against National Standards
 - whether offending by children is being prevented
- Advise the Secretary of State on:
 - the provision of youth justice services
 - the best way to prevent offending by children
 - National Standards
- Identify and share good practice about:
 - the operation of youth justice services
 - preventing offending by children
 - working with children at risk of offending.
- Make grants to youth justice services
 - support local IT services
- Obtain and publish information from relevant authorities to enable monitoring
- Commission research to support the development of good practice.

The Youth Endowment Fund (YEF)

The YEF is an independent charity originally funded by an endowment from the Home Office. Its mission is to prevent children and young people becoming involved in violence by finding out what works and building a movement to put this knowledge into practice. YEF aims to make a lasting contribution to the prevention of youth offending in England and Wales by developing a bank of evidence of what works and promoting the use of

evidence-based practice and approaches by local authorities, the police and criminal justice system, youth services, schools, and others in the field.

The YEF aims to achieve this purpose by funding a programme of projects and research across England and Wales working with children at risk of being drawn into crime and violence. The YEF attracts and selects interventions based on best available evidence and information about effective approaches and ensures rigorous and robust evaluation of the projects.

1. Introduction, Background and Purpose of the Partnership Agreement

- 1.1 This Partnership Agreement is agreed by the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales (YJB) and the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF). This sets out the key ways in which these two bodies will work together.
- 1.2 The purpose of this Partnership Agreement is to formalise many aspects of the working relationship and interfaces between the two parties that are already in place, and facilitate new ways of working together in the future.
- 1.3 The key aspirations of working together are to produce, identify and share evidence about the best way to improve outcomes for children - and ultimately prevent offending and serious violence by children and make communities safer.
- 1.4 The Partnership Agreement does not confer any legal powers or responsibilities and it is not intended to be legally binding. The Partnership Agreement does not seek to describe, in any great detail, activities that are entirely within the remit of one of the parties, but rather it covers key interfaces that need agreement.
- 1.5 Each of the two parties bring a range of different perspectives, approaches and expertise. This agreement does not make any changes to or requirements for ways of working by either of the two parties. Rather it puts in place a framework through which the two parties can operate, to support delivery of any areas of their work in which it is mutually agreed that there are benefits of working together.

2. Key Terms and Activities of the Partnership

2.1 Agreeing partnership activity

- 2.1.1 The parties will follow an annual process to agree activities for the coming year. This process will take place in Q4 of each financial year, planning for the year ahead.
- 2.1.2 This annual planning process will involve agreement on a focused joint objective or objectives for the year, supported by a list of planned activity for the year.
- 2.1.3 Progress on activity will be reviewed through quarterly meetings between strategic leads. Supplementary activity may be agreed as needed throughout the year.

- 2.1.4 The activities between the two parties are likely to broadly cover the four categories set out below, i.e. strategic activity; commissioning and design of activity; conduct of activity; dissemination.

2.2 Strategic activity

- 2.2.1 Where appropriate to do so, the parties will share knowledge and expertise that will mutually benefit each other's strategic planning activity. This will include at least quarterly meetings between strategic leads. In addition, where suitable opportunities arise may include sitting on each other's strategic committees and groups, and sharing or providing feedback on each other's priorities. This may also include opportunities for stakeholder intelligence gathered by YJB to inform YEF strategic planning, and for recommendations emerging from YEF activity informing YJB business and strategic planning.
- 2.2.2 The parties will collaborate to explore opportunities where identification of promising practice in the youth justice sector, including practice funded by YJB's pathfinder programme, may be translated into evaluation of impact overseen by YEF.

2.3 Commissioning and design of activity including research and evaluation

- 2.3.1 Where appropriate to do so, the parties will seek opportunities to share and provide feedback on each other's planned activities or outputs, such as research questions and research design. This may include drawing on the parties' various stakeholder networks and fora in support of this.
- 2.3.2 Where there are areas of mutual interest, the parties will seek to collaborate through jointly identifying, developing and / or funding areas of work such as grant rounds or evidence reviews.

2.4 Conduct of activity including research and evaluation

- 2.4.1 The parties will take appropriate opportunities to provide advice which mutually benefits each others' delivery activity. This is likely to operate through involvement in project or programme-level advisory group membership.
- 2.4.2 Where appropriate to do so, the parties will facilitate or convene connections with key stakeholders, for example the YJB may be able to play a role in convening advice from or engagement with stakeholders in the youth justice sector that may be of benefit to YEF activity.

2.5 Dissemination

- 2.5.1 The parties will work together to agree approaches to disseminate relevant research outputs produced by their respective organisations, in order to support implementation of recommendations for research, policy and practice. This may be achieved through establishing regular meetings to take place between leads for dissemination of information. Dissemination activity may include sharing or

presentation of YEF outputs to YJB staff and to wider stakeholders in the youth justice sector - either through existing or new fora and events.

3. Monitoring, Reviewing and Amending the Partnership Agreement

3.1 This Partnership Agreement will be effective from the date it is approved by the parties, and will be subject to an annual review by both parties to ensure that the processes outlined within are an accurate reflection of the practice and are working effectively.

Signed on behalf of the Youth Justice Board for England and Wales

Signed:

Steph Roberts-Bibby, Chief Executive Officer, Youth Justice Board



Date: 01/12/2023

Signed on behalf of the Youth Endowment Fund

Signed:

Jon Yates, Executive Director, Youth Endowment Fund



Date: 18/10/2023