

Youth Endowment Fund



Youth Endowment Fund – Evaluation Officer

Reports to – Head of Evaluation

Contract: Permanent

Hours: Full time (35 hours per week)

Location: Central London

Salary: Up to £31k (including market supplement)

About the Youth Endowment Fund

The Youth Endowment Fund is a bold new attempt to put early intervention at the heart of efforts to tackle youth offending. It will support programmes and community partnerships working with children at risk of being drawn into crime and violence, and build up our knowledge of what works to prevent that. Focusing on 10-14 year olds across England and Wales, it will be run by youth charity Impetus, in partnership with the Early Intervention Foundation and Social Investment Business.

About EIF

The Early Intervention Foundation (EIF) is a young, dynamic and ambitious charity established in 2013 to champion and support the use of effective early intervention to improve the lives of children and young people at risk of experiencing negative outcomes.

As a member of the government's What Works Network, EIF has a pivotal role as the go-to source for evidence and advice on early intervention for children and young people. We have a responsibility to communicate 'what works' in a way that is robust and transparent in its use of evidence, and also relevant and accessible for national and local audiences, including policymakers, public service commissioners and managers, and frontline practitioners and service providers. Our work extends across a range of social policy and service areas, including health, education, families and policing.

Email: youthendowmentfund@impetus.org.uk Tel: 020 3474 1032
Twitter: [@YouthEndowFund](https://twitter.com/YouthEndowFund) Website: www.youthendowmentfund.org.uk

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EIF's role in the Youth Endowment Fund

EIF's role in this fund is to lead the evidence generation and evaluation. We will do this by building the evidence base around what works to tackle the risk factors and support the development of protective factors which we know to be associated with criminal activity. We will not be funding the development or delivery of our own interventions or approaches to tackling crime. Rather we will fund the delivery of interventions by existing providers, and the independent evaluation of these interventions. Key to the success of the funds will be producing high-quality evidence on effectiveness, alongside working closely with key stakeholders and local areas to ensure that evidence changes policy and practice in a way which will support children and young people to avoid crime.

About this role

EIF's primary role in this partnership is to lead all aspects of evidence building and evaluation, including, but not limited to:

- Quantitative analysis to describe long-term trends in crime and to identify cohorts and areas who are most likely to benefit from the interventions and services we fund;
- Evidence synthesis work to ensure that the decisions of the fund are fully grounded in the latest research around the risk and protective factors which are linked to youth crime and what we know about the characteristics of interventions or systems which have been successful and reducing crime
- Advising the YEF grant making committee on the quality of evidence underpinning all initiatives and programmes seeking funding for the YEF
- Running all aspects of the appointment of independent evaluators who will be delivering high-quality empirical evaluation of all programmes and initiatives funded by YEF
- Ensuring that clear messages are extracted from our evidence work working with colleagues leading on communication and dissemination to ensure that these are communicated and disseminated in ways which are accessible by our key stakeholders across central and local government, schools, policing and the VCS and leads to changes in policy and practice.

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Evaluation Officers will be a key part of the team with responsibility for supporting funding decisions and commissioning the independent evaluation of all projects funded by YEF.

The Evaluation team will design and implement the processes to make a detailed assessment of the evidence of each application to the fund's multiple annual funding rounds and to assess, appoint, monitor and quality assure complex and rigorous impact evaluations from experts in the field.

There may also be opportunities within this role to support other strategically important activity including the production or commissioning of evidence products and contribution to our quantitative analysis function.

Specific Responsibilities

Given this is a new role within a new fund, the successful candidate will need to be comfortable working in a rapidly evolving environment. Key tasks for the first year are likely to include the following:

- Supporting the Head of Evaluation to design and implement the processes for assessing the quality of evidence underpinning applications to the fund and for making recommendations to the Grants Committee on which applications should be approved across multiple annual funding rounds
- Supporting our evaluation work including:
 - tendering evaluations,
 - assessing the technical quality and deliverability of applications
 - making appointments and project management
 - ongoing monitoring
 - quality assurance
 - publication
- Working closely with colleagues across YEF and specifically the Capacity team who will provide operational and business support to Grantees
- Being a key member of the evidence team tasked with ensuring high quality evidence is at the heart of all YEF activity and that the evidence we produce is communicated in a clear and accessible way which will drive sustainable change

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Person specification

Essential characteristics

- A passionate commitment to tackling youth crime through prevention and early intervention
- Strong knowledge, experience and technical expertise in evaluation methodologies including the ability to critically appraise the design of randomised control trial and related approaches.
- An ability to design and draft research proposals, including all aspects of the design, sample, measurement and analysis. Experience of designing and carrying out own research would be an asset, as would experience of ethical review processes.
- Confidence in assessing the quality of evidence underpinning interventions in order to support decisions on grant applications
- An ability to produce documents with high technical content, including accurate reporting methodological and statistical information.
- Excellent project and time management skills and the ability to deliver high-quality work in a fast-paced environment
- Strong written and verbal communication skills, with experience and interest in communicating research to a variety of non-expert audiences and experience of writing research papers to a high standard
- Strong team working ethos, willing to support others and work collaboratively
- Self-motivated, flexible and able to work on own initiative
- Master's degree in social science, social policy, public health, health services or other field, with a significant quantitative component, or relevant experience equivalent to Masters qualification

Desirable Characteristics

- Experience of commissioning evaluation and research Expertise in areas such as child development, parenting or children's mental health from fields such as psychology, neuroscience or education research
- Strong quantitative analysis skills including experience of using advanced analytical software such as R, Stata or SPPSS
- Knowledge and understanding of intervention and prevention science

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- Knowledge of services for children and their families
- At least 1-year experience of carrying out applied research methods, including qualitative and quantitative approaches.
- Experience of commissioning and managing research and analysis from external contractors.

How to apply

Please send a completed application form to recruitment@eif.org.uk. Applications close **10am on the 10th June**. Interviews will be scheduled for **the following 2 weeks**. We regret that we will only be able to contact shortlisted applicants.

Please note that whilst we have current vacancies, we are also interested in hearing from candidates who may not be available to start immediately (for example, individuals who are studying and currently completing courses).

We are currently advertising a number of research roles. Please note that it is acceptable to apply for both if you wish to.

As part of our commitment to flexible working we will consider a range of options for the successful applicant to fill the post. All options can be discussed at interview stage.

Your personal data will be shared for the purposes of the recruitment exercise. This includes our HR team, interviewers (who may include other partners in the project and independent advisors), relevant team managers and our IT service provider if access to the data is necessary for performance of their roles. We do not share your data with other third parties, unless your application for employment is successful and we make you an offer of employment. We will then share your data with former employers to obtain references for you. We do not transfer your data outside the European Economic Area.

The people we are looking for do not discriminate and we believe in being inclusive and giving everyone an equal chance to succeed. Applications are welcome from all regardless of age, sex, gender identity, disability, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, religion or belief, race, sexual orientation, transgender status or social economic background.

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