

Youth Endowment Fund



Head of Evidence for the Youth Endowment Fund (YEF)

Salary: up to £59,594

Reports to: Director of Evidence and Evaluation (YEF)

Location: London

Duration: Permanent

Working hours: Full Time

Starting date: ASAP

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.

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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.

The Head of Evidence will be integral to this by ensuring the high-quality research evidence on the cause of youth crime and approaches to tackling it is at the heart of how the fund operates. Reporting to the Director of Evidence and Evaluation you will be

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responsible for designing and delivering an ambitious programme of activity to synthesise findings from across a broad spectrum of research areas in order to inform key strategic decisions including the types of interventions which we fund, our approach to evaluation and the activity we will deliver to support a long-term approach to crime prevention in local areas.

You will also play a key role in ensuring that this research and the findings from our evaluation activity is communicated to key stakeholders in an informative and accessible format. This will include designing toolkits and other dissemination products which key stakeholders including policy makers, commissioners and practitioners can engage with and use to drive change in the way they design and deliver services for children at risk of becoming involved in crime and antisocial behaviour.

In addition, you will work collaboratively with colleagues on other strategically important projects including work to ensure that research and evidence is at the heart of the Fund's external narrative and supporting the design and delivery of our funding rounds.

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 and in which they need to take a lead in defining activities and deliverables. Key tasks for the first year are likely to include the following:

- Commissioning a Rapid Evidence Review on the key issues in youth crime, including
 - the main risk and protective factors,
 - leading theories on how risk factors impact on children and young people and make them vulnerable to crime
 - the role of prevention and public health responses
 - what we currently know about what works
- Producing internal briefing on the evidence and research on youth crime to feed in to external messaging

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- Designing a multi-year programme of research which will address some of the key gaps in the knowledge base
- Support design of new toolkits, synthesis reports and other dissemination products' which make YEF findings accessible to key stakeholders
- Building relationships with leading academics and key research institutions nationally and internationally in order to share knowledge and maintain an overview of the latest research
- Working closely with researchers and analysts across central and local government, the police and other delivery agencies to understand how their work is being used to inform the design and delivery of approaches to youth crime
- Work closely with colleagues to establish and run a panel of experts who will advise on all aspects of our evidence and analysis work

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Person specification

Essential Characteristics

- A passionate commitment to tackling youth crime through prevention and early intervention
- An understanding of the public policy and delivery context of youth crime and early intervention
- Significant experience of commissioning and managing large scale research and evaluation
- Excellent experience of delivering large evidence synthesis projects including, literature reviews, systematic reviews etc.
- At least 5 years' experience working in a senior research and evidence role in a related sector
- High levels of motivation with a track record in delivering a programme of research to time, budget and quality
- Experience in translating academic evidence and complex research into public policy
- Strong knowledge and experience of a range analytical and evaluation techniques, including randomised control trials
- Experience of working independently in a fast-paced and rapidly evolving environment
- The ability to take personal responsibility for business-critical decisions in a newly formed and high-profile organisation.
- A strong track record in working collaboratively with academics and other research organisations
- Excellent interpersonal, communication and networking skills including the ability to work collaboratively across organisational boundaries and to manage complex external relationships

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- A Masters level qualification in a relevant subject such as developmental psychology, neuroscience, criminology, prevention science, social policy or public health, or equivalent experience

Desirable Characteristics

- Working knowledge of the principles of child development and the risk and protective factors which impact youth criminality
- Experience of qualitative research including interviews, focus groups and surveys
- Understanding of the principles of prevention and implementation science
- Strong public communication skills including conference speaking, blog writing and participating in roundtables

How to apply

Please send a completed application form to recruitment@eif.org.uk by 10am on 20 May 2019. We will not accept CVs.

As part of our commitment to flexible working we will consider a range of options for the successful applicant to fill the post – and would also encourage applications from individuals seeking secondment. 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.