



EMPOWERING LOCAL

A call for proposals to explore the role of national funders in place-based funding



Introduction

Empowering Local is a growing group of local, regional and national funders and infrastructure organisations committed to supporting place-based funding of the VCSE sector which meets the needs of children, young people and communities.

We believe that more attention needs to be paid to local need at a national level, and we want to support that to happen through collaboration and investment. The real impact of the last year has been felt locally - local organisations supporting children and young people have been hit very hard, and many are at risk of disappearing, leaving further huge gaps in provision and support for children and young people when they need it most.

We also see incredible work happening, and strong and ambitious partnerships between local organisations and national funders – we want to build on this great work and make it the norm. Finally, we want to ensure that children and young people’s voices are central to decisions made and work undertaken at a local level, and support provided by funders locally and nationally.

We see young people, their voices, lived experiences and roles in genuine decision-making and change as fundamental to successful funding, and are committed to promoting the role of young people in shaping their communities and the investment’s made in their communities both locally and nationally.

Our aim is to ensure that funding, and funding decisions that are made, make the most impact possible by being driven by the local needs of children and young people and the organisations that support them.

We are aiming to bring funders, infrastructure organisations and children and young people’s charities together to share learning, undertake new research, provide guidance on what ‘funding local well’ looks like and advocating for investment in place locally, regionally and nationally.

Current members of the group are:

- Children in Need
- John Lyon’s Charity
- Paul Hamlyn Foundation
- The Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS)
- The National Lottery Community Fund
- Westminster Foundation
- Young Kensington and Chelsea
- Young Manchester
- Youth Focus North East (representing the Network of Regional Youth Work Units)
- YPF Trust

Research Project Aims

Group members have identified a number of priorities for the group's work together, including a joint research and engagement project, which seeks to increase understanding of how funders can best support place-based approaches to funding, especially at a national level.

We are aware that there are a range of initiatives and activities in this space, and we are seeking to align to and support that work, adding further value where useful. We are interested in supporting a piece of work which is clearly placed within the wider context of place-based practice and specifically place-based funding of the VCSE sector supporting children and young people.

Key questions the group are interested in include:

- How can national and regional funders best positively engage in local ecosystems and communities?
- How can national and regional funders not get in the way of great impact at a local level (including how best to actually get out of the way if needed)?
- What relationships between local, regional and national organisations and funders are needed to build momentum and make the most impact on children and young people's lives?
- How can local organisations and networks best engage with national funders?
- How is youth voice embedded within these systems, and how genuinely is it influencing decision making locally and nationally

The research project seeks to:

1. Inform our collective understanding of 'sufficiency' at a local level and what the 'ideal ecosystem' is
2. Identify examples of best practice in place-based funding
3. Provide guidance to national funders (and other stakeholders)
4. Advocate for investment in place, and place-based funding, at local, regional and national levels

The research project should be clear on definitions and approach (for example, what we mean by 'place-based'), whilst acknowledging that what is ideal is different in each place and needs to reflect local context and needs. We are keen to explore this area of work within that context e.g. are there key principles which could inform guidance on sufficiency and funding.

We are also aware there is a lot out there already – we don't want to add to the noise or duplicate efforts or resources in any way. This work seeks to support, align and build on wider thinking, mapping and sector engagement work including:

- The NYA's current youth sector census
- Work on sufficiency at a local level, including guidance from NYA to local authorities
- The recently published Youth Review by DCMS, and plans for the Youth Investment Fund
- The wealth of research and thinking undertaken on place, including recent work by Renaisi and London Funders



Audience and Key Messages

The primary audience for the project is key stakeholders who are and will be shaping strategies and funding decisions for the youth and play sector, including:

- Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport
- National funders, including key trusts and foundations and institutional donors (e.g. National Lottery Community Fund)
- Local funders, including local authorities
- Potential and current private sector supporters / businesses, at local and national levels

Key messages should be framed as clear and explicit guidance, recommendations or tools to inform place-based funding of work with children and young people. We are open to creative ways of this being developed and shared, which are engaging to the audience whilst reflecting our shared desire to place children and young people at the heart of this work.

Methodology

We anticipate that the project will primarily focus on desk research and direct engagement with a VCSE organisations, young people and funders. Taking into account the scale and scope of this work, it is recommended that broader research is informed and enhanced by a small number of deep dives or case studies focusing on specific geographical areas.

Our expectation is that significant direct engagement will not be possible at scale within the proposed budget, but that the project could be supported and enhanced by engagement through focus groups, semi-structured interviews and visits to organisations.

The proposed report will draw upon:

- Evidence from reports and other publications and data already published (and in development) by funders, national governance, the VCSE sector and others, at local and national level.
- Local and national data and insights, including linking to the work being done by NYA, DCMS, The Centre for Youth Impact and others
- Engagement of national funders, primarily via the CYP Funders Group network
- Engagement of groups and organisations, young people and funders in chosen local areas

Defining Local

For the purposes of this project, we are defining local as a geographical area in which a range of services are delivered within well established and agreed boundaries – most simply this would be a local authority area or city region.

Voice and Inclusion

We are keen to ensure that the report reflects the shared values and principles of Empowering Local group members, including ensuring that the research process and final report/findings are representative and inclusive.

We would welcome proposals which place young people at the heart of this project, and especially those which ensure that the voices and experiences shared are inclusive and can demonstrate that the project is reaching those who need our support the most.

Outputs Required

1. A short report, 15-20 pages in length max
2. Other related resources or outputs, including creative ways of representing findings and recommendations to the target audience(s)

We are very keen to support creative approaches to presenting the findings from this work, especially those which directly engage young people.



Timetable

We expect the project to last between three and six months, and are open to ensuring that the timing meets the needs of the project, young people and partners engaged.

It is anticipated that the project will take between three and six months (depending on the successful proposal and their approach), with the opportunity for on-going communications and engagement beyond this initial stage.

The procurement timetable will be:

- Tender return deadline: 5pm on Friday 22nd April 2022
- Clarification meetings may be held with shortlisted consultants/groups and would take place on week commencing: 25th April 2022. These will be held online.

We will notify bidders of our procurement decision week commencing: 2nd May 2022

Data Protection and Confidentiality

The contractor must comply with all of the requirements of General Data Protection Regulation 2018 and shall ensure appropriate research consents from participants for any data collection.

Budget

The anticipated budget is up to £20,000 to include all expenses and VAT if applicable.

The payment schedule will be 70% on agreement signing, and 30% on receipt of final report.



Instructions For Responding



Proposals should be submitted by 5pm on Friday 22nd April and the tender return should include:

- Name of organisation and/or individual consultant(s) making application
- Contact name and details for all correspondence, inc. address, email and telephone
- Names, roles and CVs of consultants to be involved
- An outline of your skills, suitability and relevant experience to deliver the project
- Details of the proposal
- Constraints, challenges and risks associated with the work and how you would mitigate them
- Append a brief example of how you have delivered a comparable piece of work
- Budget outline
- Two referees

The total maximum length of submission, excluding the appended comparable project example, should not exceed 15 A4 pages.

We are open to proposals from consortia of organisations or individual consultants, where there are appropriate measures in place to ensure clear lines of management, communication and risk management. Payment arrangements will be via a single organisation and these details should be included in the tender return.

Please return your submission to applications@ypftrust.org.uk and include the subject line “Research project proposal – Empowering Local”.

Proposals will be assessed against the criteria specified below by a diverse group of experts including young people – please ensure your proposal is accessible for this audience.

References may be requested from shortlisted respondents. Interviews may also be held to further inform the decision-making process.

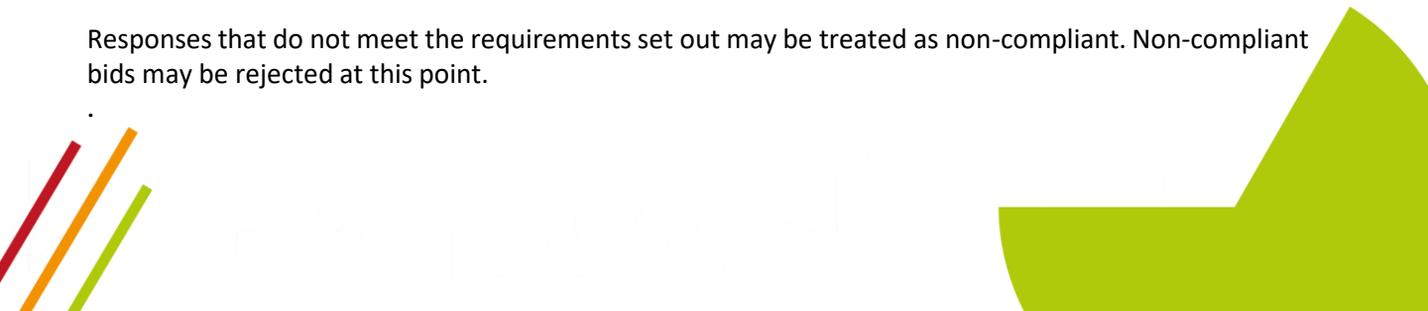
Award Criteria – Initial Assessment



It is anticipated that representatives from the group will carry out an initial assessment of each Bidder's Tender Response to ensure that:

- a) the Bidder has satisfied the requirements set out in the ITT
- b) the Tender Response has been submitted on time and meets submission requirements/instructions which have been notified to the Bidders;
- c) the Tender Response is sufficiently complete to enable the response to be evaluated in accordance with the evaluation methodology; and
- d) the Bidder has not contravened any of the terms and conditions of the ITT or the Regulations.

Responses that do not meet the requirements set out may be treated as non-compliant. Non-compliant bids may be rejected at this point.



Award Criteria – Detailed Evaluation

Your bid will be scored out of 100%.

Tender responses will be assessed to determine the most economically advantageous tender using the following criteria and weightings:

Criteria	Available Marks (%)
Understanding of the aims, objectives and main concerns of the review.	15%
Clear and structured delivery methodology	15%
Experience and track record	15%
Ability to deliver to scope and within the timescale	15%
Clear and realistic Project Plan	20%
Price and value	20%

Award Criteria – Detailed Evaluation (cont)

Tender responses will be scored by an evaluation panel using the following scoring model:

Weighting of available marks	Interpretation
100% - Excellent	Overall the response demonstrates that the bidder meets all areas of the requirement and provides all of the areas evidence requested in the level of detail requested. This response also offers additional value or improved VFM.
70% - Good	Overall the response demonstrates that the bidder meets all areas of the requirement and provides all of the areas of evidence requested, but contains some trivial omissions in relation to the level of detail requested in terms of either the response or the evidence
50% - Adequate	Overall the response demonstrates that the bidder meets all areas of the requirement, but not all of the areas of detail or evidence requested have been provided. This, therefore, is an adequate response, but with some ambiguity as to whether the bidder can meet the requirement due to the bidder's failure to provide all of the detail or evidence requested.
30% - Poor	The response does not demonstrate that the bidder meets the requirement in one or more areas. This, therefore, is a poor response with significant ambiguity as to whether the bidder can meet the requirement due to the failure by the bidder to show that it meets one or more areas of the requirement.
0% - Unacceptable	The response is not compliant with the requirements of the ITT and/or no response has been provided.

Taking Account of Tenderers' Past Performance



The group reserves the right to assess the past performance of a Supplier, using its own experiences or via a reference. The reference may not necessarily have been provided by the Supplier but may have been sourced by members of the group, and the group may take into account any failure to discharge obligations under any previous contracts by any Supplier.

Contacts



For queries on this ITT please contact Layla Hall, who is overseeing this work on behalf of the Empowering Local group.

email: layla@ypftrust.org.uk

This project is being jointly managed by Young Manchester and YPF Trust.

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