

Violence Impacting Young People – Sharing Power with Children and Young People

Partnership Brief

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Background & Context

Preventing violence is a priority for many young people in the UK who feel its impacts through fear, stress, loss, and physical harm. As well as being directly impacted by it, young people also talk about violence as a symptom of wider challenges faced in many places, like social division, poverty and disadvantage.¹

[BBC Children in Need](#) and [Social Finance's Impact Incubator](#) are forming a **new partnership to reduce the violence that impacts children and young people** and their communities across the UK. We want expert partners to join us, strengthen the work, and realise our aim of sharing power with children and young people and their communities.

Ambitions for 2021 to 2025

We want children and young people to be and feel safer because the services and systems that support them work better.

We believe this can be achieved *and* sustained if:



The power to define aims and bring about change is shared with children, young people and communities¹



The professionals who work with children, young people and families have the capacity and skills built on this knowledge



Knowledge of what works is better understood and scaled

These aims are shared by lots of people and organisations. Through the shorter-term work described below, we will discover more about the role we can and should play, in partnership with others, as part of a collective effort to bring about change for children and young people.

A key element of this will be deciding how BBC Children in Need should focus its own grant making. This includes dedicated budget for this work, which we currently think should be focussed in one or two

¹ UK Youth, [Harnessing Lived Experience](#), October 2019. In a survey conducted with young people directly, social division was the factor cited most frequently by young people, and was ranked as the most important factor (22%).

places over a significant period of time to help drive new ways of working and learn about what it takes to contribute to systems change.

Ambitions for 2020 to 2021

We want to answer three key questions over the next 12 months. The answers will influence the direction of our longer-term work. These questions are:

1. **Who** should funding deployed go to and work with?
2. **What** could funding be used for?
3. **How** could a longer-term funding programme be structured?

Our initial research and engagement with CYP suggest the following ideas to be tested and built upon over the coming months:

1. **Who?** Focus on whole communities and not individuals, taking a place-based approach – but places that matter to CYP impacted by violence;
2. **What?** Builds community assets that strengthen communities and create safer places;
3. **How?** Fosters collaboration with and shifting power back to CYP.

We will initially work in a small number of geographical areas to test a co-production and funding model centred around the aims of children and young people in those areas. We have not agreed these areas yet but currently exploring work in a number of areas in England and Northern Ireland.

This work won't be possible via this partnership alone, so we will look to work with a broader coalition of organisations working towards the same aims, whether they are community groups working with children and young people, academics, funders, charities, social enterprises, or statutory bodies.

Developing place-based programmes with CYP

In the next 6 months, we want to engage a small number of geographical areas, with the aim of testing a local co-production and funding model (as described above) in at least two of them. These will be centred around CYP in those areas. Based on our experience and planning to date, this work could include:

- 1 Agreeing geographical area(s) to focus on
- 2 Identifying and forming relationships with key organisations, groups, or communities
- 3 Strengthening and supporting local organisation(s) to lead on community and engagement of youth people
- 4 Development of a shared understanding of “place” – to identify potential specific place(s) within that geographical area that may be appropriate for testing funding approaches, so that the choice and boundaries applied are relevant to CYP
- 5 Development of a shared understanding of what “good” looks like for this place, including what communities and CYP within them would want to see – to create a youth-led outcomes framework to guide future funding and intervention
- 6 Development of processes by which CYP are meaningfully² able to hold power structures (including within our partnership) to account

We hope to then implement this approach with local partners, blending local resources with BBC Children in Need grant finance where appropriate and feasible. We will also look to build a coalition across other geographical areas, to enhance and diversify the learning for this partnership.

Developing a national response based on local learnings

Alongside work in places we will explore opportunities to influence the wider systems which can play a role in preventing violence impacting young people. This work could take many directions and will need to respond to what we are learning as well as opportunities for wider impact as they appear over the coming months.

At this stage, we see two strands we want to pursue:

- Amplify findings from place-based work and consider application of local outcomes framework to national level
- Shaping research and measurement around this issue through data and narratives

In summary, by this time next year we expect to:

- Be developing local outcomes frameworks and strategies with at least two areas
- Be working at a larger regional / national level through partnership with one or more other organisations and agencies
- Have processes and functions whereby we are demonstrating shared power with children and young people, demonstrating progress against a longer-term strategy around engagement

To get here, there will be a number of stages at which decisions will be made. We are keen to begin the process of sharing power with children and young people around these decisions as soon as is possible and appropriate. As described in the next section, we want the process and strategy to be informed by the expert partner we are looking for now. However, at this stage we expect power sharing to include:

- a) Decisions about strategy of this programme
- b) Advice about and oversight of the work being delivered
- c) Grant recommendations and/or decisions
- d) 'Scanning the horizon' for changes and opportunities which this partnership should get involved with

Notes:

- 1) We have not set precise age parameters yet, but consider the participation of young people up to the age of 25 to be important for this work.
- 2) The precise definition of what is meaningful for this work will need to be developed. However, our expectation at this stage is that this means more than consultation (i.e. Rungs 6 to 8 of Roger Hart's Ladder of Youth Participation
https://higherlogicdownload.s3.amazonaws.com/ASTC/00e37246-8bd9-481f-900c-ad9d6b6b3393/UploadedImages/Ladder_of_Participation_1.pdf).

Partnership brief

We are looking for another partner (or partners¹) to join this partnership and work alongside Social Finance and BBC Children in Need to inform, shape and co-deliver this work over the coming six months. The new partner will work with us as to develop and deliver the programme across the UK. It is expected that the programme will continue beyond August 2021, but decisions about longer term programme design and partnerships will be made later in the year.

The priority for our programme at this early stage is to **form the functions and processes that start meaningfully sharing power with young people**. We recognise this will be an iterative process that evolves over time, but it is vital that we begin forming a version of this with partner as early as is possible and appropriate.

The new partner will **bring expertise around engaging children and young people and building programmes that truly share power with them**. The expertise they will bring will help us all

better understand what power we are able to and actually willing to share, so the approach and offer to young people is authentic and maintains integrity throughout. We are looking to the new partner to work through this with us, for example by facilitating workshops where we discuss this as a new partnership.

Our expectation is that this process would **lead to the design of a governance and/or advisory function that meaningfully engages children and young people in partnership decisions**, including around the deployment of resources and funding. We expect this to be ambitious in its scope and aims but recognise it will take time to fully form and develop. Therefore, although we want to engage with children and young people as early as possible, the precise way we do that may evolve over time, depending on the strategy that we develop together.

We need to **engage children and young people from a variety of backgrounds from around the UK, including Northern Ireland**. Given this, it's likely that collaboration with other youth organisations will be required.

We are aware of the racist narrative that often taints discussion around violence and childhood vulnerability, particularly in areas of the country where ethnic minority communities form a higher proportion of the demographic. We expect to be working in areas where this is the case. **It is necessary that we actively oppose these narratives and challenge them throughout our work. Furthermore, our partnership must be held to account in this regard**, particularly given the under-representation of individuals from ethnic minorities within the spaces we work in. It is essential that the functions built have capacity and authority to do this.

Finally, through our discussions with organisations working in this space, it's clear that there is a lot of expertise which our partnership would benefit from in different ways. Many are at the forefront of innovative thinking and practice when it comes to meaningful power sharing with children and young people. We are looking for a partner who can, with us, **maintain a connection with this wider community and identify opportunities for further and deeper collaboration**.

In summary, we anticipate new partner(s) will help us achieve the following:

1. Bring children and young people directly into the partnership as soon as possible to shape the direction and delivery of our work, taking into account how to navigate the challenges of doing this in the context of COVID-19;
2. Design and implement an initial set of structures at a project and governance level to support this
3. Develop a medium-term approach that captures the different ways in which power can and should be shared with children and young people within this partnership, including any 'trade-offs' involved. This could include:
4. Design a longer-term vision for sharing power with children and young people through this partnership which better defines what we are aiming for and the principles that will underpin relevant processes as they develop.
5. Throughout, challenge the prevailing narratives that frame violence in a problematic way, namely the racialised narratives around young people involved in violence. In addition to narrative, we want our work to actively tackle marginalisation in all forms and draw attention to the inequalities which lie at the root of violence. Our governance should hold us accountable to this².

Notes:

- 1) All references to a partner also mean partners if more than one organisation applies together
- 2) We have started thinking about this as a partnership already. A paper outlining this is available upon request.

Timescales and key milestones for this partnership

The timescale outlined here is high level and indicative. We will be guided by the expertise of our partners in terms of how best to deliver the programme within the specified window (from appointment to August 2021).

Please note the requirement to outline your own proposed milestones in the Milestone Plan section of your response.

- February 2021 – Partner organisation identified and inducted, providing check and challenge / direction on plans.
In early February, we will be making decisions on where we take the work we have developed so far. This meeting is planned to take place on 4th February; we would be really pleased if the new partner could join.
- Q1 2021 – Develop governance function with regular meeting or forum instated. As partners, we are developing a strategy for sharing power with children and young people and have an initial plan for achieving it (over Q1 to Q2 2021, we expect there to be at least two points at which key governance decisions will be made)
- By August 2021 – demonstrate Children & Young People have been involved in decision making and programme delivery in keeping with the strategy created in Q1.

We would like the new partner to join our programme delivery team as soon as is feasible after appointment. Currently we meet every week for at least one hour, but would identify the right way of working when the new partner joins us.

Grant available

The programme is grant funded by BBC Children in Need and by a coalition of philanthropic funders as part of Social Finance's 'Impact Incubator', with the current agreements running to August 2021¹. Upon inception, up to £40,000 of grant funding was set aside for another partner (and any remuneration of young people²).

We intend to invite the new partner to enter into a partnership agreement with Social Finance and draw down this funding. Proposals may require less than £40,000, but please note that proposals will not be evaluated based on costs.

You are encouraged to outline what you would be able to achieve in accordance with this budget and demonstrate any additional value that your organisation and/or approach will bring.

Proposals that exceed the grant available of £40,000 may not be accepted.

Notes:

- 1) At the time of writing we have agreed budgets until August 2021. The work described in this brief will be important for deciding the direction of travel beyond this point. If the work is extended beyond August 2021 and partner(s) remain in the partnership, it's understood that partner(s) may require more funding to continue and this would be decided closer to the time.
- 2) At the time of writing we have not developed a remuneration policy but will co-develop one with new partner(s)

Requirements for partnership proposal

Please read this section carefully for full instructions on a) expressing interest in applying, b) submitting a full proposal, and c) registering with Children in Need and answering safeguarding questions.

Expressing interest in applying

If you plan to submit a proposal, we ask that you email Harriet via sharingpowercyp@socialfinance.org.uk to confirm your interest **before 5pm on Friday 8th January 2021**. Please include your organisation(s) name(s) and main contact information.

This helps us plan, but also means we can keep you updated. By registering, you consent to us sharing this information with you.

Full proposal

Please provide a written proposal addressing the following requirements (the full scoring criteria is enclosed in Appendix 1) and including the name of your organisation and one primary contact:

- **Background and experience.** Specify relevant experience and any similar/related work, demonstrating the outcomes and difference made, and how this will be applied to support this partnership. (2-page limit, 30% of total scoring)
- **Principles underpinning your approach.** Outline the principles which are important to your proposed approach to working with children and young people within this partnership. We also want to understand how your approach would take action against racism and marginalisation. (2-page limit, 30% of total scoring)
- **Your proposed role in the partnership.** This should include a broad description of how you would approach the work, based on the partnership brief, including any key questions you would have about the work to further inform your plans (2-page limit, 30% of total scoring)
- **Milestone plan.** Provide a breakdown of achievable milestones, how resources will be used to achieve these, and an indicative activity schedule. Please also outline your budget. Refer to milestones section of brief. (1-page limit, 10% of total scoring)

Please note three requirements which are marked with an asterisk (*) and in bold in Appendix 1. Applicants must achieve a score of higher than 6 out of 10 in order to be considered for interview, regardless of overall score. See Appendix 2 for the scoring framework.

We welcome joint applications from two or more organisations. Please respond to the questions asked with reference to all the organisations that are applying.

All proposals should be submitted **no later than 12pm (noon) on 22nd January 2021**.

There is no application form provided. All proposals should be submitted in Word document format, bearing in mind the page limit guidance provided. If there are any accessibility issues that would prevent you from submitting a proposal in this way, please contact us.

Safeguarding

In addition to the questions above, please also respond to the safeguarding questions listed in Appendix 3. Please do this **no later than 12pm (noon) on 22nd January 2021**.

This will require a copy of your safeguarding policy. We reserve the right to request additional information. We may also request a conversation with you about how you will apply your policies in the context of this project.

Please note: if you are registered with BBC Children in Need and met their safeguarding requirements already, you may not be required to complete this process. If you have expressed interest in applying by 5pm on 8th January, we will email you to confirm if you do not need to complete this process by the 13th January.

Partnership Selection Timescale

This invitation to partner will be live from Friday 18th December 2020 until the submission point of 12pm (noon) Friday 22nd January 2021.

If you plan to submit a proposal, we ask that you email Harriet via sharingpowercyp@socialfinance.org.uk to confirm your interest **before 5pm on Friday 8th January 2021**. Please include your organisation(s) name(s) and main contact information. If you are unable to meet this deadline or have missed it, please let us know at your earliest convenience. If you submit a full proposal but have not registered your interest, your proposal will still be considered.

We would be very pleased to speak with you about your proposal and answer any questions you have. If you would like to speak to one of us, please contact us via email (sharingpowercyp@socialfinance.org.uk). We are only able to answer questions received **before 5pm on Wednesday 13th January 2021**.

In the interest of transparency, we will collate all questions asked into an anonymous Q&A document and distribute this on 15th January 2021. This will be distributed to everyone who has registered their interest in applying before the deadline (see above).

The evaluation process will take place during the week commencing 25th January 2021. We hope to hold one hour interviews with shortlisted applicants **on Thursday 28th January** and would be grateful if you could hold that day in your diary. You should hear from us regarding this by 3pm the previous day.

We will inform all applicants of the final decision by the middle of February.

Summary of key deadlines:

Fri 08-Jan	Register your interest by 5pm
Wed 13-Jan	Deadline for questions to be received by 5pm
Tue 12-Jan	We will notify all organisations who have registered their interest if they do <u>not</u> have to respond to safeguarding questions as part of their proposal. If you do not hear back, please answer the safeguarding questions as part of your proposal.
Fri 15-Jan	We will circulate responses to all questions received to all organisations who have registered interest
Fri 22-Jan	Deadline for full proposals and response to safeguarding questions to be received (safeguarding questions may not be required – you will have heard from us if you do <u>not</u> have to answer these questions)
Thu 28-Jan	Interview with shortlisted applicants (notified by 3pm the previous day)

If you will have any problems with the application process or deadlines, please contact us.

Evaluation

The task of the evaluation exercise is to select the proposal which best meets the requirements within the budget envelope set. The evaluation will be undertaken by a panel from Social Finance and Children in Need alongside young advisors. The necessary criteria to be used in making this decision are set out in the Breakdown of Requirements attached (Appendix 1). Proposals will be allocated points in accordance with the Scoring Table, also attached (Appendix 2). Please note that, in order for your proposal to be considered, you must score at least 6/10 in three requirements marked with an asterisk (*) in Appendix 1.

Overall weighting of the evaluation process is based entirely on quality and the total budget required to support your work in the partnership should not exceed £40,000.

The assessment panel's decision will be final, and no discussions will be entered into regarding the decision making of the panel. However, all candidates will be provided verbal feedback if requested.