

Inspiring Futures – scoping summary

What is Inspiring Futures?

Through a partnership between BBC CIN and YFF, the Inspiring Futures programme offers grant funding to provide capacity in the voluntary sector during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The target cohort for Inspiring Futures is children and young people aged 10 to 24. The programme aims to:

- Support VCOSs to adapt and respond to the rising or evolving needs of children and young people through the pandemic
- Deliver positive activities that support children and young people who face the greatest disadvantage to achieve their potential in their journey towards employment.

Funding lasts up to 18 months so that organisations have a source of support which is constant throughout changes in context related to the COVID-19 pandemic

Key challenges the programme seeks to mitigate

Stakeholder interviews identified two key challenges for the sector posed by Covid-19:

- Exacerbating the existing challenges faced by children and young people in terms of employment prospects
- Threatening the existence of services which aim to support children and young people towards positive employment pathways

Programme activities, outputs, and intended outcomes

Key activities

Organisations in the Inspiring Futures programme are supported in three key ways:

- Financial support for project and organisational costs
- Support and training around outcomes measurement using the BBC CiN Your Difference Framework
- Grant management support, such as adapting projects to meet Covid restrictions and completing monitoring forms

Key outputs

Key outputs for the programme are:

- The number and value of grants delivered.
- The number of ways grantees have used grant funding, including the amount of funding deployed for each use.
- The number of children and young people supported via programme funding, broken down by whether they are disadvantaged.

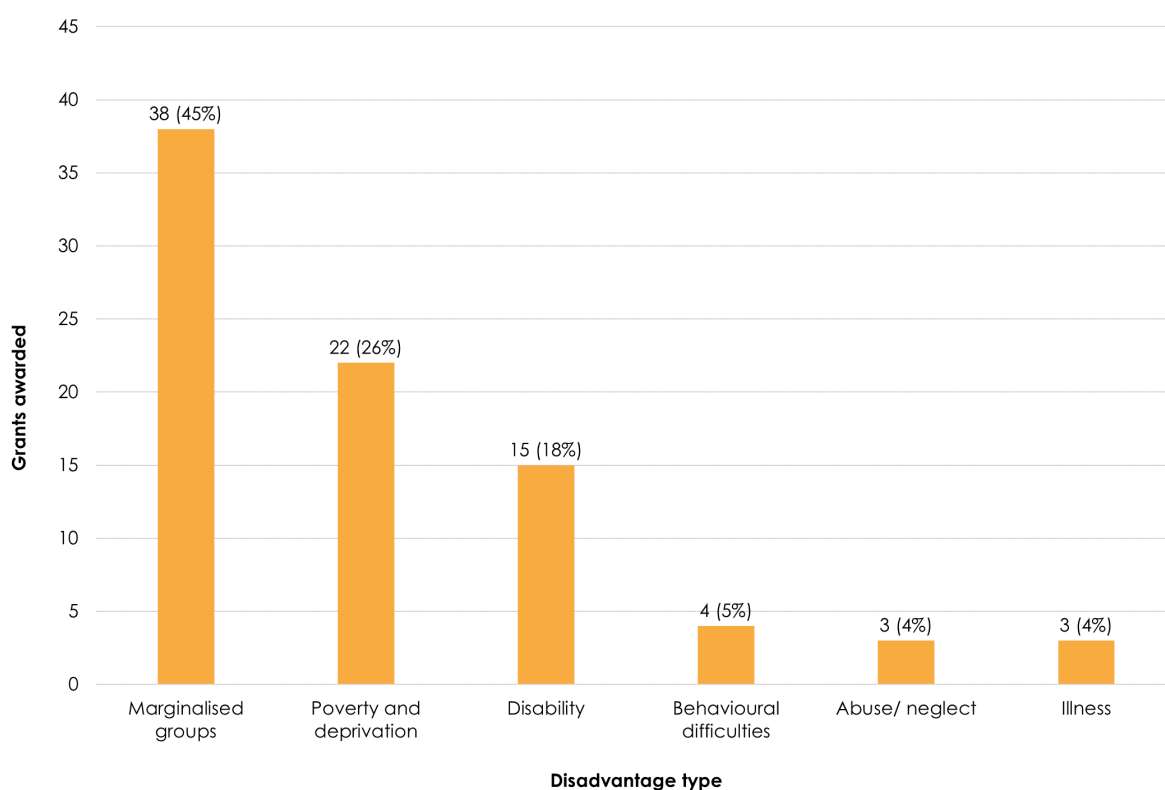
Intended outcomes and impacts

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- **CYP:** improve pathways towards employment for children and young people who face barriers (with the caveat that this will vary by intervention time and target group/cohort)
- **Grantees:** provide flexible emergency funding so that organisations are able to continue supporting CYP through the challenges of the pandemic

Profile of grantees being supported by IF programme

The below graph provides a breakdown of number of grants by disadvantage type. (More detail on project type, size of grant and regional distribution is provided in the scoping report)



Evaluating Inspiring Futures

Cordis Bright, an independent research consultancy, have been commissioned to evaluate the success of the Inspiring Futures programme. Key evaluation activities led by Cordis Bright include:

- Scoping phase with key stakeholders
- Thematic workshops with grantholders, exploring themes such as effective practice in the pandemic and supporting children and young people towards employment pathways.
- Depth research with grantholders and programme participants
- Quantitative analysis of reported programme outcomes

The Youth Reference Group

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All of this work is supported by seven young people aged 18-24. They have played a vital role in decision making for initial programme funding and commissioning the evaluation. They now support the evaluation activities by providing feedback, developing materials and approaches, and delivering parts of the research. They also create content about their experiences: you can see more information about the YRG members and their experiences here [\[LINK\]](#).