



Connected Futures Fund Prospectus

November 2021

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1. About Youth Futures Foundation

[Youth Futures Foundation](#) is an independent not-for-profit organisation established in December 2019 to improve employment outcomes for young people from marginalised backgrounds.

When Youth Futures launched, youth unemployment was already at alarming levels. As we emerge from the pandemic, one in eight young people are still not in full-time education or employment. Meanwhile, long-term youth unemployment remains high at around 170,000 young people, with nearly half a million young people still looking for work. We know that young people with multiple disadvantages and lower qualifications are much more likely to become long-term unemployed.

The pandemic has highlighted and deepened disparities, with the most vulnerable young people facing the greatest barriers to securing good jobs.

Vision and mission

Our vision is a society where all young people have access to quality jobs. This includes:

- Equal employment opportunities for young people facing discrimination or disadvantage
- Fewer young people outside the labour market or in insecure work
- Improved progression pathways for young people

Our mission is to narrow the employment gap by [identifying what works](#) and why, [investing in evidence](#) generation and innovation, and [igniting a movement](#) for change.

2. What do you need to know?

This prospectus sets out the funding approach, criteria, rationale and process for our Connected Futures Fund. Please read it carefully as you consider whether to apply and as you develop your application.

The fund will have two phases (see Section 4 for more detail):

- **Phase 1** (June 2022–December 2023) – We will fund **6–8** partnerships to explore problems with employment support for young people facing disadvantage and mobilise local stakeholders around a shared ambition for change.

We will make grants of up to **£125,000** in Phase 1 for a period of **18 months**.

- **Phase 2** (January 2024 onwards) – We will then fund collective local efforts to deliver on these ambitions in **2–4** of the places supported during Phase 1.

We expect to make grants of up to **£1.5m** in Phase 2 for a period of **3–4 years** to selected places from Phase 1.

When we asked young people facing disadvantage about their experiences of employment support, they told us they want a more joined-up and consistent approach, so that they get the right help from the right services (from employment or education to health or housing, statutory or voluntary) at the right time.

We set up the Connected Futures Fund to encourage local collaborations to establish these kinds of approaches. We want to fund work that builds connections, aligns incentives and fills gaps so that young people facing disadvantage receive support. We also want to remove barriers in the way that support is currently provided, for example through anti-discriminatory or trauma-informed approaches.

We have not set specific outcomes for the fund. We want you to tell us about the problem you want to tackle, and why it matters. Section 3 explains what young people facing disadvantage told us and what we are looking for.

We have identified a list of eligible local authorities in England (see Annexe). All applications must cover an area within one of these – this doesn't have to cover the whole local authority. Section 6 gives further information about how we chose these areas.

We have also identified specific groups of young people who face the greatest disadvantage and discrimination in the labour market. All applications must tackle a problem that matters to at least one of these groups. See Section 6 for the full list.

We are seeking applications from partnerships of at least three organisations, including organisations with statutory responsibility for young people (such as local authorities or education providers), voluntary, community and social enterprises, and employers or employer bodies. All partners should be legally incorporated organisations, and at least one must have a turnover of at least £100,000pa and

have been in operation for at least three years. Recognising that community-based organisations may often be smaller and have less power than other partners, we will ask you how you will ensure equity within the partnership, including a minimum budget allocation to the smallest organisation. Sections 6 and 8 give more detail on our partnership expectations.

In Phase 1, you should focus on bringing people together, with young people facing disadvantage in the lead, to explore the problem and develop a shared ambition for change. We do not expect applicants to offer fully developed solutions at this stage. If you are already delivering services that you think can solve the problem, we encourage you to think about how our funding can help you build on what you are already doing, for example developing new partnerships or spreading your vision. The funding in phase 1 is to support a process – it will not be tied to outcomes. Sections 4 and 6 explain more about the kinds of activities you might consider.

If you are interested and eligible to apply, you should tell us about the problem you want to tackle, the young people you will focus on and how you will involve them in designing the programme, your partnership and other relevant relationships, the process you will take, and the potential to achieve wider or more lasting change. Section 6 gives an overview of what we're looking for, and Sections 9 and 11 explain more about the application process.

Alongside this prospectus, we have published a set of [systems change case studies](#), which you may find a helpful illustration of the processes and principles we think are important. There are links to these case studies at relevant points throughout.

3. Connected Futures – what do we want to achieve?

Too many young people are failed by services that don't take account of their circumstances, pull in different directions, or simply don't offer them what they need. We want these services and agencies to interact with each other to support young people to get good jobs.

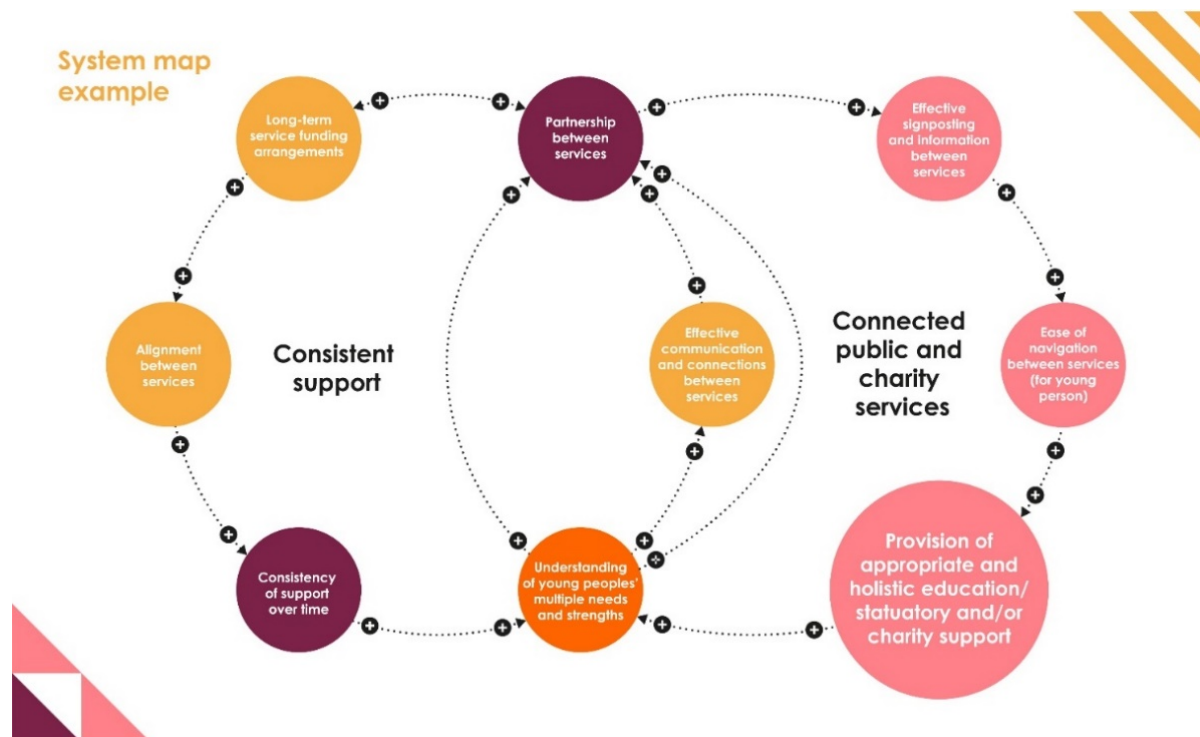
Young people facing disadvantage have told us they want more joined-up and consistent help to find work.¹ This isn't just about employment support – for some young people, education, health, social care, housing or criminal justice agencies may be just as important. They want to see charities, employers and public services working together. What matters to young people facing disadvantage isn't the label on the service, but getting the right help at the right time, in ways that fit around them and not the other way round.

In other words, young people are looking for changes to the **whole system** – across different services and sectors, not just improvements within individual agencies or interventions. Young people need:

- **holistic** support that responds to their situation by taking their needs and strengths into account
- **aligned** services that work together to help them achieve their goals, rather than pulling in different directions
- **connected** services with effective communication and coordination across organisations and sectors so that they don't have to navigate everything for themselves
- **consistent** support over time

¹ Please see our new tool that maps the youth employment system here:
<https://youthfuturesfoundation.org/our-work/identify/youth-employment-system-map/>

Figure 1. Positive impact of Consistent Support and Connected services - loop from the [youth employment system map](#) developed with young people



The map contains **causal loops**, that tell us a story about a part of the youth employment system. Each loop identifies different factors (coloured bubbles) and how they are related (arrowed lines). An increase (+) in one factor can cause a decrease (-) in another factor, or vice versa. Click [here](#) to view the narrative of the consistent support and connected services loop online.

We have set up the Connected Futures Fund to support local efforts to establish, spread or embed these kinds of approaches and ways of working, so that young people facing disadvantage have the support they want and need to get good jobs, as and when they need it over time.

When we talk about connected futures, we mean the ways employers, educational settings, health services, social care, housing agencies and the criminal justice system can come together to improve outcomes for young people facing disadvantage. We want to see services putting **young people facing disadvantage at the centre**. Young people need help with different things at different times, from different agencies and services, so we want to encourage **deeper collaboration at local level**. We think this could include:

- ways of working that **improve communication and connections** between services and sectors so that young people facing disadvantage receive holistic support (e.g. [Wigan Deal, Drive](#))
- genuine partnerships that **align goals and incentives** so that support is consistent (e.g. [Glasgow Youth Employability Partnership](#))

- new or improved services to **fill gaps** and improve consistency and connection (e.g. [Drive](#), [Leeds Restorative Practice](#))
- shifts in culture and practice to **fit services around young people** rather than expecting them to fit themselves to services (e.g. [Leeds Restorative Practice](#), [Ways to Wellness](#))

We are particularly interested in **improving young people's experiences of support, and tackling the barriers** that mean that young people facing disadvantage don't get the support they need.

Improving the journey

- **Personalised support** addressing health needs, caring responsibilities and other issues, and based on young people's abilities and ambitions
- Developing better **pathways** between education, training and work, especially for young people leaving school with fewer qualifications at 16
- Supporting young people through key **transitions** – such as leaving school, leaving care, or entering employment – so that they aren't dropped through the gaps
- Engaging **employers** so that they are better prepared to employ and support young people facing disadvantage
- Responding to young people's **individual and family context**

Tackling barriers

- Engaging young people who **services are failing to reach**
- Developing **anti-racist / anti-discriminatory** services
- Recognising and responding to **trauma and adverse childhood experiences**
- Providing support to include young people with **physical or learning disabilities**
- Enabling equal and inclusive access to **work and training opportunities**

4. About the Connected Futures Fund – what will we fund?

We know there are many good ideas and services working to help young people facing disadvantage. However, we also know that new projects and services, however effective, often fail to achieve wider change or make a lasting difference. Established services don't take new approaches on board, and may even resist new ways of doing things, so that young people get unhelpful or confusing support. Over time, old habits reassert themselves, especially if incentives or culture haven't shifted. Decision-making and resource allocation rarely change.

We want our funding to help change how decisions are made, how services are organised and how organisations work together so that young people facing disadvantage get more holistic, connected and consistent support. We think this means bringing people together to develop a shared ambition for change. We will therefore provide **flexible funding** to foster collaboration and encourage innovation and risk-taking while acting as a catalyst for wider change.

In each phase, we will require partnerships to put resources into **co-production**, with young people in the lead throughout, and appropriate involvement of practitioners and minority-led organisations at every stage.

Phase 1

We will start by funding you to explore a problem with how support is organised or delivered that affects young people facing disadvantage. We want to give you time to bring people together, consider the problem from different perspectives, understand how current approaches and ways of working create this problem and what could be done differently, and build a shared ambition for change. We want to see young people facing disadvantage at the heart of this process.

In this phase, **we will not be providing funding for outcomes**. We don't want you to propose a solution or begin large-scale delivery. We want you to tell us about the problem, why it matters, what you have tried in the past to deal with the problem and how you will mobilise across sectors to change things for the better. **We want to fund this process.**

If you are already working to change how support is provided across agencies or sectors, tell us what it would take to enhance or accelerate your work. Tell us about the barriers you've faced, and the next steps you want to take. For example, think about how you could build the evidence base for your work, increase the voice and involvement of young people or communities, strengthen partnerships, or build wider political or practical support. We want our funding to help you further develop your work and thinking, and set the foundations for the future. It's an opportunity to step back from day-to-day delivery, build strong partnerships, and identify where you can make the biggest difference.

We think taking time to understand the problem and get more people on board will lead you to bigger, more ambitious solutions in the end.

By the end of phase 1, all partnerships should have²:

- A clear, commonly understood and widely shared analysis of what's going wrong and why
- A clear, commonly understood and widely shared vision of change and what good would look like
- Active involvement from young people facing disadvantage in shaping and pursuing this vision
- Stronger partnerships and relationships across sectors, and more people and organisations committed to working together to achieve this vision
- A collective roadmap for change, including delivery plans and resource requirements

If your partnership is **already well established** and working towards this vision, we would also expect to see further development of your work by the end of this phase:

- A joined up, evidence informed approach to supporting young people facing disadvantage into work, that is ready to be evaluated
- A sustainable partnership model and funding strategy for this approach

See Section 6 for more details of the kind of processes we expect to fund.

In Phase 1, we expect partnerships to ask for funding to cover:

- Salaries and staff costs, including existing staff
- Costs of young people's and/or volunteers' time and participation
- Ethnographic, youth-led or participatory research to understand young people's experiences
- Mapping systems, resource flows, young people's journeys or other processes to understand how services and agencies interact
- Exploring evidence or experiences from other places
- Data/cost-benefit analysis or evaluation to make the case for new approaches
- Co-design or prototyping to try out new ways of working at small scale

We are open to your ideas. **You may request funding for any activities to help you understand the problem and mobilise people around a shared ambition for change.**

Especially for smaller organisations or those already involved in work to change how services operate, we recognise that you may need to cover core costs as well as the costs of new activities.

How we will work with you

As well as funding, we will help you gather data and evidence to support your case. Youth Futures will commission analysis of education and youth-employment data for

² All your analysis, plans and agreements will need to be fully documented to allow us to assess progress and make decisions for Phase 2

each area involved in Phase 1, providing detailed quantitative evidence on young people's employment outcomes. We will also offer training, advice and support to partnerships, and provide opportunities to share your learning and insights with each other and with policy makers or wider audiences.

We strongly advise you to front load your exploratory activities into the first 12 months. In the final six months of Phase 1, we expect to work with you to plan what happens next. For some places, this will involve negotiating activities, evaluation and other investment for Phase 2. For others, it may mean working with you to influence policy based on what you've found, or to develop a new business case or proposition to secure resources other than another Youth Futures grant. We will keep you informed of our thinking, assessments and decisions throughout the process (see diagram in section 10 for more details on the timeline from Phase 1 to Phase 2).

Phase 2

In Phase 2, we will provide funding for collective local efforts to deliver on these ambitions in 2-4 places. Depending on the problems they want to solve and the approaches they take, these activities are likely to differ by location.

We expect some places will launch new **interventions** or services that can fill gaps or failures in current provision and show that new ways of doing things are possible, like [Family Group Conferences in Leeds](#) or [Drive's](#) 1:1 perpetrator work. These can also act as a hook to get other services or stakeholders engaged, and rally them around a wider change process.

Other places may focus on **relationships, processes, incentives or decision-making**. This may be your main systems change effort – as in [Glasgow's Youth Employment Partnership](#), which focused on partnership, data-sharing and joint commissioning approaches, or [Schwartz Rounds](#) which aim to change hospital culture.

It may also go hand-in-hand with service development or delivery – like the work on management incentives and workforce culture that Leeds invested in alongside Family Group Conferences, or Drive's multi-agency case conferences – what we're calling **glue as well as pieces**. Please note that the examples cited above are for illustrative purposes only, we want to see original proposals based on the need in your area.

4. What is our learning approach?

Learning and evaluation support is provided in addition to the grant. For Phase 1, we will commission an independent learning partner to help you explore your problem and the wider system while developing your ambition for change. We use this approach because it is important for you have support that is independent of our decision-making process.

This partner will be an independent source of advice, quality assurance and support. They will help you to:

- Design and deliver activities, access evidence, and analyse data.
- Exchange learning and insights with the other places involved in Phase 1
- Deliver reports that Youth Futures can share.

We will:

- Commission local labour-market analysis to provide a snapshot of youth employment, helping you to pinpoint problems, make the case for change and support baselining for future evaluation.
- Make available additional funding for specialist research or consultancy over and above the Phase 1 grant, allocated on a case-by-case basis as needs and issues emerge.

We will support you throughout the process. In 2023, we will commission evaluation scoping and feasibility testing to prepare the ground for evaluations of activities in Phase 2.

5. Connected Futures Fund criteria – what are we looking for?

Partners

For Phase 1, we are looking to fund collaborative partnerships between at least three organisations, representing at least two of the following:

- Community-based partner (e.g. charity, social enterprise, social purpose, non-profit)
- Local partner with statutory responsibility for young people aged 16–25 (e.g. borough, district or town council, FE college, school, alternative education provider)
- Collective employer body (e.g. Local Enterprise Partnership, Chamber of Commerce, SME networks) or a large not-for-profit employer (250+ employees in the local footprint)

You will also need to describe your proposals for shared governance, metrics and decision making across the partnership. There are often power imbalances between smaller and larger partners, especially if one can act as a funder for the other, so we want to understand how you will ensure equity within the partnership.

If one of the partners is a community-based organisation, you should allocate at least 40% of the total budget for Phase 1 to this partner. If two or more are community based, we will require you to allocate at least 40% of the budget to the smallest partner. You can apply for less than £125,000 in Phase 1 if this requirement will create capacity challenges for any partners.

We will give preference to applications where at least one of the partners is **led by people from a community that you will be working with**. We recognise that this won't always be possible – there are very few organisations led by unemployed young people, for example – so we will only apply this criterion where relevant.

Beyond your core partners, you will need to demonstrate relationships with a wider group of organisations including schools/colleges, youth providers, significant local/national employers with a local footprint, employer bodies, and voluntary/community sector partners.

People

We have identified that the following groups face particular disadvantages and discrimination in the labour market:

- Young people with Black African or Black Caribbean heritage
- Young people with Bangladeshi or Pakistani heritage
- Young people with Gypsy, Roma or Traveller heritage
- Young people with experience of the care system
- Young people with experience of the criminal justice system
- Young people with experience of homelessness

- Young people with experience of substance misuse
- Young people with physical or learning disabilities
- Young people with long-term mental or physical health conditions
- Young people with caring responsibilities
- Young people who are long-term unemployed (6 months +), especially those with few or no qualifications

You must show how the problem you want to tackle affects one or more of these groups, and how you will involve these young people in developing solutions to these problems.

We welcome applications that aim to develop specialist offers for specific groups of young people, or bids that look to break down barriers and make mainstream services more inclusive.

Places

We have developed a list of eligible local authority areas (see Annexe) based on the following criteria:

- A higher-than-average concentration of young people facing disadvantage
- A higher-than-average proportion of young people not in employment, education or training

All applications must come from an area within one of the local authorities on this list. We will ask you to describe the area your application will cover, including a few key statistics. This area can be smaller than the whole local authority. For example, this could be one or more lower super output areas (LSOA) or council wards, especially if these form a natural community.

We also welcome applications that cover smaller areas such as an estate or neighbourhood, provided that there are enough young people facing disadvantage to justify this and you are clear about how you will make links to relevant local services with bigger footprints.

Similarly, we are open to applications that cover a larger area, such as a local authority, FE college catchment area or JobCentre Plus district provided that there is a focus on young people facing disadvantage and you are clear about how the funding will make a difference at this scale. You will need to provide stronger justification for applications covering a larger geography, such as a combined authority. Bids covering a larger area must still include eligible local authorities from our list.

There must be a connection to the people you intend to collaborate with. If you would like to work with young South Asian people, for example, it would make sense to focus on their communities. Young people with learning disabilities may be distributed across a much larger area, however.

Problem

We are looking for a clear statement of the problem you want to tackle, and why you think this is a wider problem rather than a failure on the part of a particular service. You can use whatever evidence you have to make this case, from data on youth employment to young people's feedback. For example, [Ways to Wellness](#) was a response to lower life expectancy in the west of Newcastle upon Tyne.

We do not expect you to provide a solution at this stage. However, we do want to understand the scale of your ambition. For example, do you want to get existing services to work together more efficiently or in a more coordinated way, like [Glasgow Youth Employability Partnership](#), or do you think that a totally new approach to delivery is needed, like the [Wigan Deal](#)? Do you want to reach young people who don't have access to key services, like [Drive](#), or do you want to improve the opportunities for young people already in the system, such as [Leeds Restorative Practice](#)?

There isn't a right answer to these questions! We are looking for bids that show you are thinking about problems and solutions in a joined-up way, and have a clear understanding of where and why system change is needed. Please note the examples above are for illustrative purposes only.

Process

Next, tell us what you propose to do in Phase 1. As outlined in Section 4, success in this phase will look like more people and more organisations signed up to a shared understanding of the problem, and a shared ambition for change.

We want to understand your **approach to rethinking how young people are supported to get good jobs** – understanding how things currently work and why, how they could be better, and how to get there. In most places we expect this is likely to involve some combination of:

- getting more people to recognise that current arrangements, structures, incentives, attitudes, behaviours and ways of working cause problems
- helping people to experience or imagine new/better ways of doing things with young people at the centre, and developing a shared ambition for change
- working together to identify opportunities/levers and barriers to change, and building the case for a different approach
- recruiting more people and organisations to join you

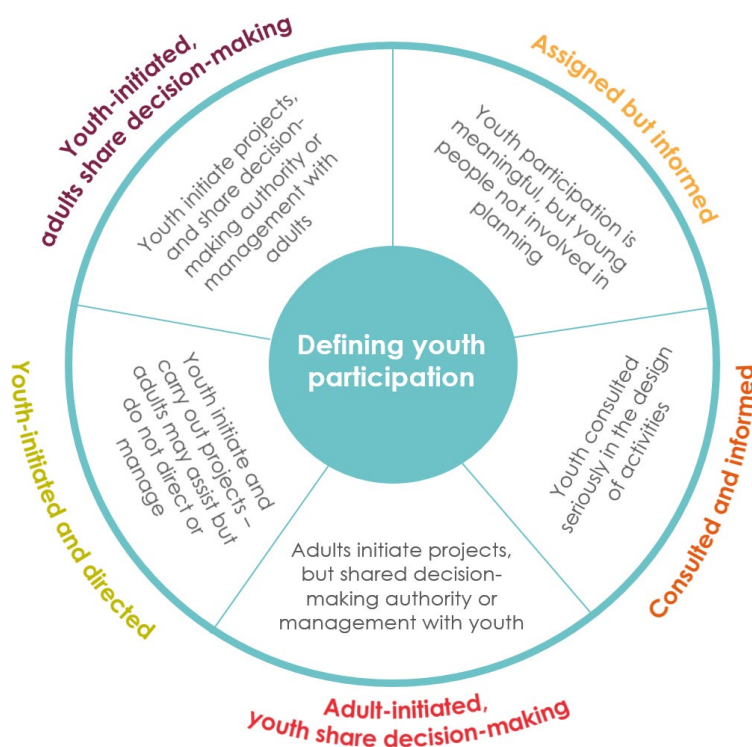
For example, one of the starting points for the [Wigan Deal](#) was ethnography by social workers with people using services, which showed that better approaches were possible. [Drive](#) began with a question ("why doesn't he stop?") to get police, probation and social workers to think differently, while [Schwartz Rounds](#) aim to unlock wider change by creating a space for health staff to reflect on the emotional aspects of their work.

Again, there is no right answer. We recognise you will want to build on your existing relationships and work to date, and find ways forward that make sense in your context, so we are not prescribing particular tools or processes to achieve this.

We will assess your approach to stakeholder engagement and mobilisation based on:

- Who are the people and organisations you want to involve?
- Why do you think they are relevant to the problem you're trying to address?
- How do you plan to get them on board?
- How will you engage people across sectors and involve those beyond the formal system?
- What problems do you foresee and how will you tackle them?

We want to know how you will ensure that **young people are in the lead** and have a meaningful role in decision-making. We developed the following framework for understanding youth participation (see diagram).



You need to demonstrate that your process represents one of the following stages in this framework:

- Adult-initiated, youth share decision-making
- Youth-initiated, adults share decision-making
- Youth-initiated and directed

Potential

Finally, we're interested in how your work fits into the bigger picture, and its potential to contribute to wider processes of change. Our funding can only go so far, so we're keen to work together to support local initiatives and partners with good insights into how to achieve these changes.

Local potential

We want to understand:

- Links between your work and local strategic priorities or other systems-level initiatives. Have other agencies also prioritised your target group?
- What scope is there to influence police, probation or youth offending services if you want to support young people with experience of the criminal-justice system?
- If you're interested in improving coordination or data sharing, is there a connection to local Youth Hub activities?
- If you're promoting anti-racist practice, are there recent school, employer or public-sector commitments you can use?

Funding potential

We're also interested in:

- Your potential to access additional funding or reallocate existing resources to sustain the change you want to see.
- Have you secured funding commitments from other organisations, especially those with responsibility for young people?
- What future funding opportunities or potential resource streams do you see?

National potential

We want to understand how your proposal relates to:

- The national framework for careers and employment (e.g. Gatsby benchmarks, Careers & Enterprise Company and National Careers Service)
- JobCentre Plus and other DWP initiatives
- Education & Skills Funding Agency; and apprenticeship rules and systems)
- How you see your work fitting with or challenging relevant parts of this national policy framework. In some cases, these policies will provide you with useful space or leverage for local change. In others, they may be part of the problem you are trying to fix. Tell us how you see your work fitting with or challenging relevant parts of this national policy framework.

6. What are our grant making principles and expectations?

We have five key principles that underpin our trust-based approach to grant-making and investments. These are:

1. Providing multi-year funding
2. Simplifying and minimising the application process
3. Being open, transparent and honest about who we fund and why
4. Listening and acting on your feedback to our approach
5. Providing support alongside funding, with the aim of building leadership and capacity

Wherever possible, we will simplify requirements and use available public records (such as published annual accounts) to understand your purpose, leadership, and financial standing.

Grant management and commitment

As part of the grant agreement, you will be expected to:

- Collaborate with Youth Futures staff and the learning partner, working with us in a spirit of openness and transparency to help us understand what you are finding, and sharing your insights into local and national issues. We will need you to work closely with us and the learning partner, and it is important that you recognise the time commitment required from the outset.
- Report on a regular basis against pre-agreed milestones. This will include your actual spend, supported with invoices where appropriate. Guidance and reporting processes will be shared during the grant set-up period.

7. What types of organisations can apply?

You must nominate one partner to be accountable for the grant. We will make our grant to this partner and they should then distribute funding to the other partners and procure services or activities as required. The accountable partner must have a minimum turnover of £100,000 per annum and have been in operation for a minimum of three years. This organisation must be a registered charity, not-for-profit organisation or public sector body legally incorporated in England.³ No Youth Futures grant funding can be spent on activities delivered by 'for private profit' organisations.

The other partners should be legally incorporated organisations in England. As outlined in Section 6, your partnership must include representatives from at least two of our four target sectors (statutory; education and training; VCSE; employers).

You should also nominate a lead organisation that will be responsible for delivery in Phase 1. **This does not have to be the same organisation as the accountable partner.** You should explain why they are best placed to lead by demonstrating their track record of working within the place, understanding of the local context and existing connections within the place.

We will **not** fund:

- Activities that generate profits for private gain
- The practice of religion, or any activities that actively promote religion or particular belief systems
- Recoverable VAT – if you are not VAT registered, you will need to include VAT costs as part of the funding you request
- Retrospective costs, including any costs incurred in preparing and submitting your application
- Loan repayments

³ A private sector organisation such as a large employer cannot act as the accountable partner, but a not-for-profit organisation representing employers, such as a Chamber of Commerce or Local Enterprise Partnership would be eligible.

8. What is the application process?

There are three stages to the application process:

Stage 1 – Eligibility Quiz

A simple Y/N online quiz will help you check whether you meet our eligibility criteria in terms of place, people and partners. If you do not meet these criteria, you will not be able to continue the application process.

Stage 2 - Application form

If you meet the eligibility criteria, you will fill out a short online application form. A word version of the form is also available for you to plan your answers, although you must make your final application online (see section 11).

You will be required to answer questions across the following areas:

1. Partners
2. Experience and people
3. Place
4. Proposal, including problem, process and high-level budget breakdown
5. Potential for changing the system

You will also be required to upload the following documentation on behalf of the accountable partner:

| | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Letters of support confirming that your partnership has relationships with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools / colleges / youth skills and training providers / alternative provision • Significant local / national employers with a local footprint OR employer bodies (e.g. Local Enterprise Partnerships, Chambers of Commerce, SME networks) • Voluntary and community partners • Relevant bodies with a national mandate for youth employment (e.g. JCP, CEC, NCS) |
| 2 | A copy of your equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) policy * |
| 3 | A copy of your safeguarding vulnerable adults policy * |
| 4 | A copy of your child protection policy * |
| 5 | A copy of a bank statement in the name of the organisation for the month ended November 2021 or where possible December 2021 |
| 6 | A copy of the organisation's latest set of management accounts |
| 7 | A cashflow projection/forecast for the next financial year or a document listing your expected financial position for this period |
| 8 | Where possible, we will use publicly available accounts as part of our due diligence process. If your publicly available accounts are for the period before 31st December 2020, you will be required to submit your management accounts for the current financial year. |

*Please note the EDI, safeguarding and child protection policies will also be required for the lead organisation.

Stage 3 – Interviews / site visits

If your application has been shortlisted in line with the decision-making process described in section 10, the partners will be invited to attend a meeting with Youth Futures to discuss your application in detail.

At this stage, you will also be required to submit a detailed budget breakdown.

9. How will decisions be made?

We will use the eligibility quiz to ensure that we only consider bids that are eligible (i.e. from an area on our list of places, involving three or more partners from across two sectors, the accountable partner meets our due diligence criteria, and there is a commitment to work with us over both phases).

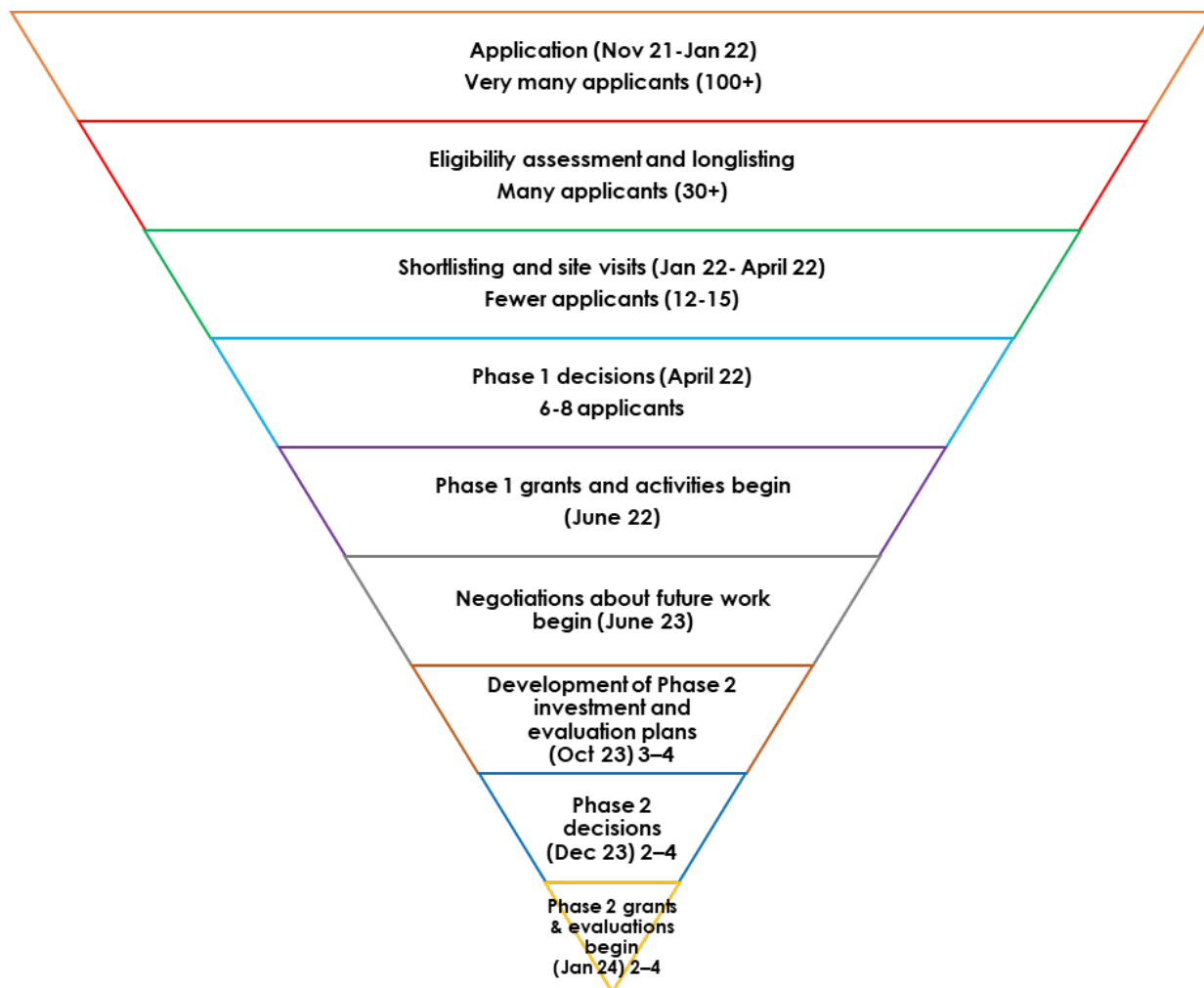
We will then assess all eligible bids against our essential criteria (focus on one or more priority groups of young people, partnership arrangements and local relationships, as well as track record).

All bids that pass these essential criteria will be reviewed by our team. At this stage, we will assess your problem statement, geographic area and proposed process for Phase 1. We will pay particular attention to how you will involve young people facing disadvantage.

We will select a shortlist for further assessment through in-person site visits. These visits will evaluate the quality of your partnership and wider relationships, explore your ideas in more depth, and assess the potential for your work to contribute to wider change.

During the assessment process, we will involve young reviewers with experience of disadvantage from our Future Voices Group. Final decisions will be made by the Evaluation and Grants Committee of the Youth Futures Board of Trustees.

Connected Futures Fund decision-making process



10. How do I apply?

To apply for a Connected Futures grant, please click [here](#).

All applications must be completed through our online portal [here](#). Documents sent by any other means will not be accepted. If you are unable to complete the form online for accessibility reasons, please contact grants@youthfuturesfoundation.org for further support.

To help you prepare your application, a Word version of the application form is available to download [here](#).

Please note, the Word version of the form is for information purposes only and cannot be submitted as your application. It provides an overview of the questions you will be asked and the documents you will need to provide. Please do not use this form to apply.

We will run two remote workshops to provide an overview of the Connected Futures Fund. Please visit [our webpage](#) for further information.

If you would like a one-to-one conversation to discuss your application, please contact grants@youthfuturesfoundation.org.

11. Key dates

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Fund launch and portal to applications opens | 4 November 2021 |
| Application deadline | 17 January 2022* |
| Shortlist decision | February 2022 |
| Site visits to shortlisted organisations | March 2022 – April 2022 |
| Final decision | Late April 2022 |
| Phase 1 launch | June 2022 |

* Submissions received after this date and time will not be accepted. Submissions are electronic and close at midnight.

12. Further information and FAQs

Youth Futures has appointed [RocketScience](#) to oversee the administration of grants and investments and to support the assessment of applications and monitor the grants awarded.

If you have any questions about the application process, please call us on 020 7553 4539 or email us at: grants@youthfuturesfoundation.org

A regularly updated list of Frequently Asked Questions and other relevant information can be found [here](#).

We would like to hear your feedback about our Connected Futures Fund. If you are unsure why we are asking specific questions or asking for certain documents, please contact us for more information.

We will continue to offer funding and support through a variety of funds in 2021 and beyond. If you decide not to apply for this fund, please sign up to our newsletter [here](#) to ensure that you receive updates about future grants and investments.

Annex: List of eligible local authority areas

For more detail on how we identified these places, please see Section 6.

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Ashfield | Kings Lynn | Sheffield |
| Barnsley | Kingston upon Hull | Solihull |
| Basildon | Knowsley | South Tyneside |
| Birmingham | Lambeth | Southend-on-Sea |
| Blackburn with Darwen | Leeds | Southwark |
| Blackpool | Leicester | St Helens |
| Bolton | Lewisham | Stockton-on-Tees |
| Bradford | Lincoln | Stoke-on-Trent |
| Brent | Liverpool | Sunderland |
| Bristol, City of | Manchester | Swale |
| Burnley | Mansfield | Tameside |
| Calderdale | Medway | Telford and Wrekin |
| Cannock Chase | Middlesbrough | Tendring |
| Chesterfield | Newcastle upon Tyne | Thanet |
| County Durham | North East Lincolnshire | Walsall |
| Coventry | North Tyneside | Waveney |
| Darlington | Northumberland | Wirral |
| Derby | Norwich | Wolverhampton |
| Doncaster | Nottingham | Wyre |
| Dudley | Nuneaton and Bedworth | |
| East Lindsey | Oldham | |
| Folkestone and Hythe | Peterborough | |
| Great Yarmouth | Plymouth | |
| Hackney | Portsmouth | |
| Halton | Redcar & Cleveland | |
| Haringey | Redditch | |
| Hartlepool | Rochdale | |
| Hastings | Rossendale | |
| Hyndburn | Rotherham | |
| Ipswich | Salford | |
| Isle of Wight | Sandwell | |
| Islington | Sefton | |