

## Call for Proposals: Connected Futures, Action Research for Downham Futures Partnership

### FAQs:

- 1. In addition to the partnership organisations outlined in the specification, what other organisations/services/partners are involved in the physical shared-space shop front location? Roughly how many?**

The local partnership are looking to other hubs to work out who might work in the space with them, but they would be focused on supporting young people and services that fit their vision rather than aiming for a specific number.

- 2. Have the Youth Ambassadors previously received research/evaluation training? If so, what topics have been covered?**

It's likely they have received training, either from the Learning Partner or someone within the partnership. Therefore, they might require further training or will not need any additional training. We recommend budgeting to work closely with the Youth Ambassadors but do not at this stage expect specific budgets as we envision the support will be tailored on the ground once the Action Research partner is appointed.

- 3. Can YFF say more about how they hope the Young Ambassadors might be involved in the iterative Action Research? Are there any parameters around the involvement of Youth Ambassadors (e.g., a set number of hours per week/month)?**

The Young Ambassadors are part of the partnership and therefore, play an important role in the iterative research and should be part of discussions, shaping the conversations and the research. The Young Ambassadors will be carrying out research which they will lead on and we expect the Action Research partner to support them - however, not much more is known at this stage and will be discussed once appointed with the local partnership.

The Young Ambassadors do not have set parameters in terms of hours per week/month. They work flexibly around other priorities. We recommend that any support provided to the young people is set by them and therefore, they will know how much time they can offer but for budgeting purposes, we believe it is feasible to set time aside monthly to work with the Youth Ambassadors.

- 4. Can YFF say more about how the Young Ambassadors are supported and coordinated? Are Youth Ambassadors currently reimbursed for their time? Will reimbursement for time need to be factored into the Action Researchers' budget?**

The Circle Collective lead on supporting and coordinating the Young Ambassadors. There is also a key contact within Lewisham Council that supports

them as well and the Young Ambassadors work across the whole project. They are paid for their time but work flexibly on this project - meaning no designated hours.

We do not expect the Action Research partner to budget for reimbursing the young people as they will be operating within their role as Young Ambassadors as part of the Lewisham partnership. The Young Ambassadors are reimbursed for their time by the local partnership.

**5. What proportion of the overall budget should the Action Researchers think about retaining for the period between May and November 2025?**

We believe the remaining six months of the time period will be mostly consultive and therefore recommend approximately 20%. However, the project is flexible and we expect the Action Research partner to review as they go.

**6. Is it necessary to include a VAT line in the budget as the specification suggests (e.g., "all budgets should be inclusive of VAT")?**

Our grants are non-VATable and therefore, you do not need to include a VAT line in the budget.

**7. Are all other Connected Futures partnerships going through a similar process (e.g., working with an Action Researcher, which will factor into decision-making on future funding to be made in May 2025) or are there variations here?**

Most partnerships are going through this process, albeit at different timelines. However, there are partnerships that are going through a different process where they will be going through a similar learning process but there aren't decision-making processes that we would expect the Action Research/Evaluation partner to contribute to.

**8. Can you please clarify on the focus of the ToC – would it be the Downham Futures physical space, rather than the wider work undertaken across/through the partnership?**

The focus of the ToC is the physical space, however the local partnership's whole approach (e.g., ways of working and reflecting) and research they have carried out should inform the ToC and be represented.

**9. In terms of the evaluation framework, would there be scope to speak with representatives from other Connected Futures partnerships to hear about the monitoring data collected in those areas (to form a point of comparison and help set expectations about what's reasonable)? If so, could YFF facilitate introductions?**

Yes, and Youth Futures would be happy to facilitate those introductions. The Action Research partner would be part of a network of other Action Research

and Evaluation partners across Connected Futures and so would have relationships there which may facilitate this process.

**10. Can you please clarify whether the learning partner has been appointed, and whether they would be precluded from bidding for the Action Research project?**

They have not been appointed and are not precluded from proposing for Action Research projects. We would expect that any proposers to demonstrate their capability to deliver multiple pieces of work, whilst delivering a flexible and tailored approach and to demonstrate that the two roles can exist together without causing bias.