



Sport and Youth Crime Prevention Conference

The Youth Endowment Fund

Our Vision

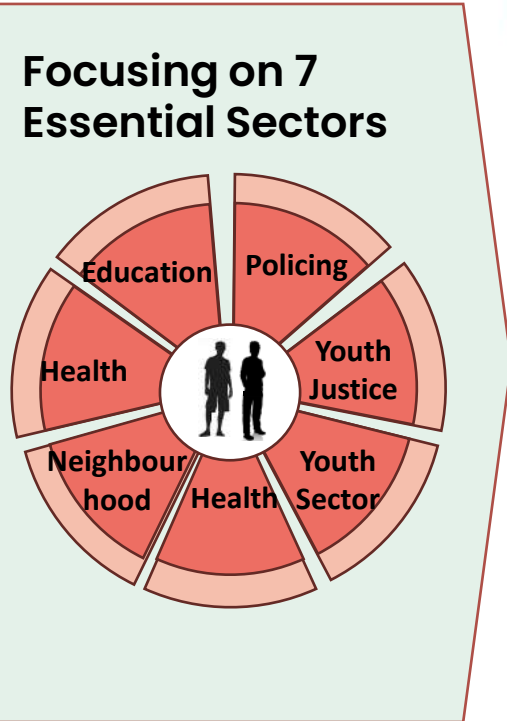
A world where no child becomes involved in violence.

Our Mission

To find what works and build a movement to put this knowledge into practice.



Our strategy is to focus on the 7 Essential Sectors



We will **FUND GOOD WORK**

- Systematic Reviews**
Fund reviews summarising the existing evidence on reducing violence.
- Evidence Gaps**
Spot the most important gaps in evidence on what reduces violence.
- New Evaluations and Data Analysis**
Fill these gaps with new research.



We will **FIND WHAT WORKS**

- YEF Toolkit**
Publish clear advice on which interventions work best and which do harm.
- Practice Guidance**
Publish guidance for delivery organisations on how to reduce violence.
- System Guidance**
Publish guidance for system leaders on what changes to make.



We will **WORK FOR CHANGE**

- Grow Demand**
Build awareness and appetite for evidence across all sectors.
- Change Practice**
Support delivery organisations in each sector to do what works.
- Reform Systems**
Support system leaders in each sector to change things.



We will **UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION**

- Understand young people**
The lived experiences, views of our children and who is most vulnerable.
- Understand violence**
The scale, trends and causes of violence
- Understand practices & systems**
The existing practice and the bright-spots & challenges in systems

Violence casts a long shadow over children's lives

There are 1.7 million teenage children in England and Wales. Each year, roughly:

50 are murdered by a knife
(1 in 34,000)

500 are admitted to hospital
after knife violence
(1 in 3400)

68,000 carry a knife
(1 in 25)

85,000 are in a 'gang'
(1 in 20)

240k perpetrate violence
(1 in 7)

285k are a victim of violence
(1 in 6)

425k are either a victim or a perpetrator
(1 in 4)

850k are either a witness or victim
(1 in 2)

1 in 2 teenage
children
changed their
behaviour last
year



Children, violence and vulnerability

The second annual
Youth Endowment Fund
report into young people's
experiences of violence

November 2023



The Youth Sector's Role in Preventing Violence

Youth Sector guidance – Summary of findings

1. Organised **Youth activities are popular**, high numbers of children attending regularly – but disadvantaged children may struggle to access them
2. Significant **cuts to youth sector since 2011** have changed the nature of the sector and made delivery challenging
3. More **research is required** into modes of delivery (youth clubs and detached youth work)
4. The **existing evidence base highlights the value of youth sector** enabling young people at risk of or involved in violence to build relationships with Trusted Adults & engage in Positive Activities
5. Current **evidence points to mentoring** and **targeted sports programmes** as the sectors best bets for reducing violence.



**What does the
Toolkit say?**

Sports programmes

Secondary or tertiary prevention programmes which engage children in organised sports or physical activity

ESTIMATED IMPACT ON VIOLENT CRIME:

HIGH ?

EVIDENCE QUALITY:



COST:

? ?

PREVENTION TYPE

Secondary
Tertiary

SETTING

Community
Custody
School and college

THEMES

Positive activities
Trusted adults

Is it effective?

- Sports programmes could have a high impact on crime and violence
- Our estimate is based on one review of six studies (low confidence of low to moderate quality)
- Desirable impacts on reducing aggression, promoting mental health and responding to other behavioural difficulties

How can you implement it well?

- **Developing strong, trusting relationships with participating children**
Adults running sessions become role models; building strong relationships is important to drive impact; soft skills are key for staff.
- **Choosing an accessible and safe location and time**
Venues should be well equipped with the right facilities and, most importantly, safe for children (such as after school between 4-6pm)
- **Plan to connect children with other activities**
The programme could be used as a hook into wrap around or follow on services (such as therapy and mentoring)
- **Be aware of the reasons young people may leave programmes and support continued engagement**
Providing incentives (such as healthy meals, or coaching accreditation) can help children remained engaged and having relevant activities that have a wider offer can strengthen engagement.

Key take aways

- Sports can support in protecting children from serious youth violence.
- However, there are **significant evidence gaps**, particularly in high-quality research from English/Welsh contexts.
- **The Positive Activities funding round** aims to fill these gaps, funding activity interventions and evaluations from 2024.
- **Encouraging (but very early) results** from initiatives like Rugby Football League's Educate Mentoring Programme, Empire Fighting Chance (boxing)- these programmes are feasible and well perceived- future evaluations will tell us if they are impactful!
- YEF is building the evidence base through these funded programmes:

FEASIBILITY & PILOT STUDY

Empire Fighting Chance

Non-contact boxing and mentoring for at risk young people.

[View evaluation](#) →

ORANISATION NAME:

Empire Fighting Chance

FUNDING ROUND:

Launch grant round

ACTIVITY TYPE:

Sports programmes

FEASIBILITY & PILOT STUDY

Rugby Football League: Educate Mentoring Programme

12 week mentoring programme delivered by the Rugby Football League

[View evaluation](#) →

ORANISATION NAME:

The Rugby Football League

FUNDING ROUND:

Launch grant round

ACTIVITY TYPE:

Sports programmes

Building evidence

Landmark £11 million investment to test the transformative power of sports, outdoor activities and the arts for young people

New YEF funding for Audio Active, Dallaglio RugbyWorks, Ingeus UK, National Literacy Trust, Rugby Football League and StreetGames

The transformative power of sports, outdoor activities and the arts to change young people's lives will be rigorously tested thanks to a landmark £11 million investment from the **Youth Endowment Fund (YEF)**.



4 asks for local decision makers (focused on youth the sectors role in reducing youth violence)

1. **Where** and to **who** is **youth violence** and **youth ASB** happening?
2. **What services** are working with these children to reduce violence?
3. Are these services delivered by **Trusted adults** or through **positive activities** (youth and community workers)?
4. Is the delivery targeted and based on the available evidence of **what works to reduce youth violence**, how is this aligned to local need?

Keep in touch

Sign up to YEF's newsletter for latest updates:

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