



## **Bedford Borough Youth Empowerment Fund (YEF)**

Bedford Borough has a funding pot of £460,000 to distribute to organisations working within Bedford Borough to support children and young people

### **1) Criteria for funding applications**

- Funding applications should link to one of the following key priority areas (as identified through the 'Mark your Mark' feedback from over 2500 children and young people within the Borough):
  - Homelessness
  - Domestic Violence
  - Access to jobs and training
  - Things to do and places to go
  - Support with Mental Health
  - Climate Change
  - Tackle discrimination and hate crime
  - End Knife crime and serious youth violence
  - Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities (SEND)
- Applications will be encouraged from local organisations, with preference given to local charities or community interest companies.
- Applications for demonstrably new projects are preferable, however applications for expansions of current provisions will not be discounted
- Bids with match funding will be prioritised, however this is not a pre-requisite for applying. Bedford Borough council would be willing to support with applications to national funders (Big Lottery Fund, Children In Need) via match funding from this pot if required.
- Applications will be completed using an application form which highlights the following:
  - Evidence of Young People involvement in the planning, delivery and evaluation of the project (eg how does the bid demonstrate the it is led by young people)
  - Rationale for project need (eg addressing youth violence, mental health, SEND)
  - Project impact (eg what difference will it make) and how this will be measured
  - Project reach (eg appropriateness of number of participants to have an impact – not just about high numbers if a targeted need is identified)
  - Longer term sustainability of the project

## 2) Process for distribution of Funds

Applications will initially be sifted via a panel to ensure that the applications meet all of the qualifying criteria as set out above. The panel will consist of:

- **Jane Owen (CVS)**
- **Cllr James Valentine, Portfolio Holder for Education and Children's Services**
- **Wendy Beeton-Townshend, Manager for Early Help and Intervention**
- **Ben Pearson, Chief Officer – Education, SEND & School Infrastructure (Chief Education Officer)**
- **Emma Watts, Manager (Bus Partner) Schools & Children**
- **Chris Morris, Manager for SEND Programme**
- **Hayley Mills, Team Leader Engagement & Development**
- **Kerri Rennie, Chair of Bedford Borough Parent Carer Forum**

Once the panel has confirmed that applications meet the qualifying criteria they will be passed on to a Youth panel to review the applications and make the decision of where to award the funds.

*See Appendix A for proposed timeline*

## 3) Bidding rounds and fund allocations

There will be two rounds of bidding for funding:

- **Round 1** – Submissions for bids of up to £15,000 per application. (£180,000 available)
- **Round 2** – Submissions for bids of up to £140,000 per application. (£280,000 available)

*See Appendix A for proposed timeline*

## 4) Monitoring the impact of the funds

- As part of the awarding of funds, organisations must agree to announced and unannounced youth inspections being undertaken over the course of the project
- Project reports will be produced at the end of the project for projects 6 months or less in length
- For projects longer than 6 months in length, project reports must be produced after 6 months and every 6 months after that until the final project report and the end of the project.

## 5) Celebrating success of the funds

- Arrange visit for appropriate elected members to visit the projects on approx. a monthly basis across the years (eg each project receives at least one visit)
- Project reports to include case studies and success stories



### Appendix A – Timeline

Date	Project Implementation
22/3/21 – 31/3/21	Advertise YEF / Contact local organisations
1/4/21 – 16/4/21	<b>Application Round 1 is Open</b>
19/4/21 – 23/4/21	Applications screened by panel
24/4/21	Youth Panel with Mayor Dave Hodgson
26/4/21 – 30/4/21	Funding decisions shared with all applicants
3/5/21	Funding awarded to successful applicants
10/5/21 – 28/5/21	<b>Application Round 2 is Open</b>
1/6/21 – 4/6/21	Applications screened by panel
5/6/21	Youth Panel with Mayor Dave Hodgson
7/6/21 – 11/6/21	Funding decisions shared with all applicants
14/6/21	Funding awarded to successful applicants

### Appendix B – Application Form



## Bedford Borough Youth Empowerment Fund (YEF) – Application Form

Name of organisation:		
Project title:		
Amount of funding requested:		
Project start date:		
Expected project length:		
Which criteria does this project meet (more than one can apply):		X
	Homelessness	
	Domestic Violence	
	Access to jobs and training	
	Things to do and places to go	
	Support with Mental Health	
	Climate change	
	Tackle discrimination and hate crime	
	End knife crime and serious youth violence	
	Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities	
Please outline your project (Maximum 500 words)		
Please give a rationale for why you feel this project is needed (500 words)		
Please outline how young people have been involved in the planning of this project and any plans to involved young people in the delivery and evaluation of the project (250 words)		
What impact is expected from this project and how do you plan on measuring this impact (500 words)		
How many young people are expected to be reached through this project? (250 words)		
Please outline what liability insurance you have, what safeguarding policies are in place (please link to appropriate documents), what risk assessments are required and how you will ensure all staff are DBS checked <b>*Please note that for successful applicants documentation will be requested to be submitted as proof before funds are released</b>		

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Role \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit application to [voice@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:voice@bedford.gov.uk)