

# **Young People's Advocate on Sexual Violence and Exploitation Guidance Note**

## **Guidance note for grants to employ a Young People Advocate on sexual violence and exploitation**

- 1. What is a Young People's Advocate on Sexual Violence and Exploitation?**
- 1.a** In the Ending Gang and Youth Violence Report the Home Office committed to making an additional £400,000 per year to improve services to support children under 18 suffering rape and sexual abuse – including from gangs. This will funding will fund approximately 13 Young People's Advocates.
- 1.b** Young People's Advocate is a new role which organisations can apply for grants up to £30,000 per year, for three years, to fund this post. This fund will be open for submissions for one month and you should ensure applications are submitted by 10am on Monday 12 March 2012.
- 1.c** The Young People's Advocate is distinct from that of an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor. The primary purpose of this role is to provide direct and dedicated support to young people who have been victims or at risk of sexual violence and/or sexual exploitation. They will work in areas most affected by gangs and will have to have an understanding of the specific risks that gang violence has on a young person and work with local agencies to ensure that a robust risk management plan is in place.
- 1.d** The Young People's Advocate will need to work with the existing structures around the child, such as social services, education, youth justice system, family. They will also need to have an awareness of, and in some circumstances be involved in, serious case reviews and other child safeguarding systems.
- 1.e** They will work alongside local partners that have a role in providing support and services to young people who are victims of, and vulnerable to, sexual violence and or sexual exploitation. These would include the police, health practitioners, as well as youth workers and voluntary organisations. They will also need to work with the police and other organisations to help identify girls at risk through their association with gang nominals.
- 1.f** All Young People's Advocates will be provided with a training course on working with young people who have been affected by sexual abuse and exploitation and the issues around dealing with sexual exploitation and abuse from street gangs. This training will be commissioned by the Home Office and will be provided to the new Young People's

Advocates (and other frontline practitioners) free of charge following recruitment.

- 1.g** The Young People's Advocate could be based in any location, such as a Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC) or a gang project, but the application will be expected to show how the post will identify, target and engage with the affected young people.

**2. Eligibility Criteria**

- 2.a** The grants are open to **all organisations** who have a track record of **i) working and engaging with young people and ii) working with victims of sexual violence and or sexual exploitation and iii) working with street gangs**. Organisations can work in partnership to demonstrate the full range of expertise or demonstrate how they will acquire the necessary skills to meet these criteria.

- 2.b** Due to the unique nature of this post the Home Office would encourage and welcome joint bids from organisations who are able to work together to demonstrate the full range of expertise required for this post. Bids are also encouraged from large organisations for multiple posts to cover a wide geographical area, or national organisations to cover multiple areas. Please ensure that you make this clear in the application form, specifying the different areas that the posts would work in.

- 2.c** In addition to Part A of this section, to be eligible for the grant your application must also demonstrate that:

- i. Your organisation(s) is engaged in prevention and awareness raising work.
- ii. You have support from local statutory organisations for this post and the need for this work.
- iii. The Young People's Advocate's support must address the legacy of sexual assault or sexual exploitation by improving the victims' mental and physical health, well-being and social functioning. This support will be done in collaboration with the other support services which surrounds a child, ensuring that appropriate steps are taken to keep the child safe from harm in line with child protection and safeguarding laws.
- iv. The Young People's Advocate's support must address the unique and differing risks to victims affected by sexual violence associated with street gangs.
- v. Demonstrate an embedded evaluation process.

### 3. **Guidance for completing the application form**

All sections of this application form must be completed. Although there is no specified word limit for each question please keep your answers concise and if necessary provide any primary evidence as an annex.

**Please ensure that you address the following when answering questions 11 to 16 of the application form:**

- 3.a **The assessment panel will be looking for a good geographical spread for the posts across England and Wales. However, the panel will look favourably at applications who will be working in any of the 22 targeted local areas assessed, following the Ending Gang and Youth Violence report, as being affected by high levels of gang and youth violence.**

**These are:**

Birmingham	Liverpool
Brent	Manchester
Croydon	Newham
Ealing	Salford
Enfield	Sandwell
Greenwich	Southwark
Hackney	Tower Hamlets
Haringey	Waltham Forest
Islington	Wandsworth
Lambeth	Westminster
Lewisham	Wolverhampton

- 3.b **The organisation(s) included in your application must have a proven track record of working with i) young people and ii) victims of sexual violence/exploitation; and iii) working within a gang/group context.** In order to demonstrate all three areas you may work in partnership with other organisations.

**To help us assess your background in these fields, please include the following detail in your application:**

- What services do you currently offer?
- How do these services work with young people with difficult issues?
- How do these services specifically cater for people suffering sexual abuse/exploitation?
- How do these services specifically cater for people affected by gangs?

- Please provide evidence (in any form) that you have a proven track record of working these three fields. This evidence could be in the form of past reports, evaluations, awards, commendations, appraisals or testimonials from other organisations and/or service users (this is not an exhaustive list).

It is not expected that one organisation will be able to demonstrate experience of working in all three fields and therefore welcome organisations forming a joint bid to provide the full range of services.

**3.c The application must include evidence that you have support from local statutory agencies for this post. This should include:**

- Evidence that you have consulted with local partners and that there is support for this post. Please specify whether you have consulted with young people who have experienced sexual violence and/or sexual exploitation.
- How this post will work with other organisations who work with young people who are victims of sexual violence/exploitation, such as the police, health practitioners, youth services, youth offending teams, etc. to improve services.
- Any match-funding or in-kind support that you have secured.

**3.d The service should engage in both preventative and support work.**

**To help us assess your background in this field, please answer the following questions:**

- What preventative work do you do?
- How do you engage in preventative work?
- Does your organisation(s) engage with any other organisations/services to achieve a greater impact when working on preventative work?
- Is your preventative work sustainable? Do you have funding to continue this work during 2012/13?
- What support services do you provide alongside the preventative work?
- Please outline any specific preventative work you do with young people suffering sexual violence exploitation from gangs.

**3.e The Young People's Advocate's aim is to improve services to children and young people suffering rape and sexual abuse/exploitation. Please outline how you expect this post to improve these services in the area that you work.**

- This section should include the objectives for the Young People's Advocates and how you will evaluate the measure effectiveness.
- Indicators of success should demonstrate the long-term impact they are having on the lives of children and young people and should not be purely about numbers of referrals.
- Young people who are victims of sexual abuse and exploitation are very hard to engage with. Please outline how this post will engage with this client group.
- Please outline how you will embed an evaluation process from the outset. Please demonstrate how you will monitor and record the outcomes of this post.
- What new preventative work would the Young People's Advocate undertake?

**3.f This section is to ensure that your organisation can support the work of the Young People's Advocate. Please include detail of the following and any other evidence that you are able to support the role:**

- Does your organisation have its own child protection policy (please include a copy with your application)?
- What procedures does your organisation have to vet prospective employees?
- Does your organisation provide staff with child protection training?
- What risk assessment tools do you use to ensure the safety of your staff and service users?

**4. What can the money be spent on?**

The funding can **only** be spent on the salary or associated management or overhead costs of the Young People's Advocate.

**5. The Grant Amounts**

Successful applications will receive £30,000 per year over three years between April 2012 and March 2015.

We expect that successful applicants will be notified in March 2012 and will receive the first payment once a signed grant agreement has been returned. We cannot release funds until the signed grant agreement has been returned.

**6. Who makes the final decision on the grant awards?**

Recommendations about who gets the grants will be made by an independent panel and representatives from the Home office finance department.

Applications will be assessed on their ability to meet the eligibility criteria. There will not be an appeal panel and the decision of the panel will be final.

**7. What do you need in order to be considered for funding?**

You must submit a completed application form with any supporting evidence. We **do not** accept any other form application.

**8. Submitting your completed application**

All applications must be submitted to Jennifer Travis at **seriousyouthviolence@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk**

We do not accept faxed copies. Applications will be acknowledged by email within two days of receipt.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that they receive an acknowledgement within two working days and contact the Home Office directly if an acknowledgement has not been received.

**9. Notifying you of the outcome of your application.**

We will notify you by email whether you have been successful or not in March 2012.

**10. What happens if you are successful in being offered the funding?**

We will email you offering you the funding and setting out the detailed terms and conditions and requesting copies of any further documentation as required.

Successful applicants will be asked to provide a year-end monitoring form. Full details of reporting requirements will be provided with the terms and conditions.

## **11. Data Protection Act**

The Home Office will use the information you give us during the assessment of your application and the life of your grant (if awarded) to administer and analyse grants and for our own learning purposes. Information included in your application will be retained by us on the Male Victims of Domestic and/or Sexual Violence Fund spreadsheet. We may give copies of all or some of this information to the selection panel and to the Home Office finance team when assessing applications, administering the process, monitoring grants and evaluating funding processes and impacts.

Your contact details (organisational contact, telephone number, website, email address, etc) may be shared with delivery partners and/or the Home Office, but will not be shared with other third parties. The information may also be used for us to contact you by letter, fax, telephone or email.

We may share information with organisations and individuals with a legitimate interest in the Male Victims of Domestic and/or Sexual Violence fund. We have a duty to protect public funds and for that reason we may also share information (in line with the Freedom of Information Act) with government departments, organisations providing matched funding or for the prevention and detection of crime.

## **12. Timeline for the grant application process**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Date</b>
Fund opens for applications	9 February 2012
Deadline for applications	12 March 2012
Panel assessment	w/c 19 March 2012
Notification of decision from panel	w/c 26 March 2012
Grant agreement and supporting documents sent out to successful applicants	w/c 26 March 2012
All grant agreements returned	w/c 2 April 2012
Funding made available to successful applicants	w/c 30 April 2012
Grant agreement returned for year 2 funding	February 2013
End of year monitoring for year 1	1 April 2013