**Henry Smith Foundation - Shout! Fund Launch Webinar-20250722\_125957-Meeting Recording**

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 **Tom Cowie** 0:08  
Again, as people start coming in, I hope you're having a good lunch. I'm just going to go through some housekeeping, so I'm going to go through some housekeeping just for this webinar.  
So Please note that your microphones and cameras are turned off by default, so you don't need to worry about any background noise the doorbell go in or being on screen. If you have any questions during the session, please use the Q&A tab which you will find at the top of the screen.  
None.  
The what that you can do the Q&A tab, you can just simply type your question and then just hit submit. The regular chat function is restricted for the session, so please use that Q&A to get in your questions.  
We will be moderating questions as we go along, so don't panic if yours doesn't appear, it probably means that someone else has asked it already or we haven't got round to it just yet. You cannot vote other people's questions, so don't panic if yours doesn't appear.  
Oh, sorry, I've just said that, but we'll be answering questions live and some will be answered in the chat. We won't be able to answer all the questions, but we will update our Q&A after the webinar finishes and we will do our damnedest to answer as many as we can today.  
If you experience any technical issues like sound problems or freezing, I think we've been informed by IT that the age-old solution of switching on and off again should work. So if you access and come back in, hopefully that.  
Mostly sorts out those technical issues. We are recording the session today and we will have a transcript after this webinar finishes. We will share both of these with you alongside a copy of the slides and a follow up summary.  
If you would like to turn on audio captions, you can find this option under the more button up top. Click on that, go to language and speech and click show live captions.  
I will pass now on to Gino, who will introduce herself and the team.

 **Ghino Parker** 2:41  
Thank you, Tom. So welcome everybody. And I understand that more people are entering and coming in from the lobby. So I just want to take a moment to just let everybody come through while I just introduce myself. My name's Gino Parker.  
If you're entering now and you've just missed some of the opening remarks around how we're going to operate, then don't worry, because we'll repeat that for you in just a minute. And also to bear in mind that this is being recorded. So the recording will be available for you to be able to play back in your own time.  
So my name's Gino. Gino Parker and I'm the director of our building independence programme. I'll talk a little bit more later about what the programme covers and what it entails, but I have a fabulous team, of which Tom is part of that team and we've worked really hard to be able to get the information for you today.  
For our first fund that we'll be launching tomorrow. So Tom, if I just hand back over to you so that we could just go over some of the information around questions and how to answer and just remind everybody that their cameras are off by default just to allow for a few more people who are entering to come through.  
So yeah, really pleased that you've all made the time to join us this lunchtime and yeah.

 **Tom Cowie** 4:07  
Brilliant. Just for those people coming back again. So Please note that your microphones and cameras are turned off by default, so you don't have to worry about any background noise or being on screen. If you have any questions during the session, please use the question and answer tab which you'll find at the top of your screen.  
Simply type your question and hit submit. The regular chat function for this webinar will be closed, but please use the Q&A tab to post your questions or comments. We will be moderating questions, so don't panic if yours doesn't appear, it probably means that.  
Someone else has already answered it, or we haven't gotten to it just yet. You can upvote other people's questions if you'd like to see them answered, or instead of repeating yourself, this is quite good for us because it helps us prioritise the more relevant ones.  
And just to clarify, Upvoting in the Q&A is is not the same as liking something on on your feed. The upvotes kind of help surface the more popular questions to the top, we will be answering some questions live and some will be answered in the chat.  
We won't be able to answer all the Q&A questions. I'm sure you've got lots of burning ones, but after this webinar has finished we will be updating our website with the Q&A S and we'll do our damnedest today to answer as many as we can.  
If you experience any technical issues, we do recommend just exit this webinar and restart. That should sort most audio and visual problems, but again there will be a recording.  
That will be put up after this. If you would like to turn on audio captions, you can find this option under somewhere up here under the more button and if you click that, go to language and.  
The beach and then press show live captions and you should have captions below. Here we will pass. Gino, would you like to introduce yourself again? And then we can start. Get going.

 **Ghino Parker** 6:34  
So my name's Gino. Gino Parker and I'm the director of our building independence programme at Henry Smith. So for those of you that might have known us before, you'll see that there's been a quite a strategic shift around our work and a little bit of a rebrand etcetera.  
And we can talk a little bit more about that. Today's webinar is really about our advocacy programme Shout, which is launching tomorrow. But for those of you that find yourself also just curious about where we.  
Are going and other opportunities that might be available. We'll try and touch on those slightly, but this webinar is intended to share the information and allow you to ask some questions around our programme. Our fund launch tomorrow through the building independence programme. What I'm going to say really early on.  
Is that is, I'm going to just ask you to bear with us in lots of ways in the sense that this is our first strategic communication. That's our messaging and our communication out there that's relational, that is trying to engage with the sector and yourselves.  
So bear with us on many fronts, a for the webinar itself, things might go wrong. We might be muted at parts. We will do our best to get the quest through the questions. We might make mistakes as we go along, but please just allow that grace. But additionally, when the resources are launched.  
Tomorrow I ask that we extend the same for understanding that we are working on a journey together to make sure that we get it right and that journey for us is very iterative. It means that sometimes we will listen and respond and go back and change, and that can include anything from a link on the website to how and when we say.  
That we might get a piece of information out, but yeah, we're very excited and have been working very hard behind the scenes to do a little bit of work to get us where we are. So I just ask that you just bear with us as we go along.  
Yeah.  
Tom.

 **Tom Cowie** 8:42  
I'll quickly introduce myself. My name is TomTom Cowie. I work as a grants officer here at Henry Smith Foundation. My pronouns are he him. We've got a team here as well. Today we've got.  
Ellen, Ella, Steve and Keisha, who will be helping answering the questions and we've been looking forward to this webinar for a long time, so we're quite excited.

 **Ghino Parker** 9:15  
Great. So should we go on to a little bit around our also just again like I said, please do give us grace, my pronouns, are she her and just as an audio description for anybody who's listening in. I just want to describe that I am a female with long dark hair enjoying the grey.

 **Tom Cowie** 9:15  
None.

 **Ghino Parker** 9:34  
And I have earrings on and I'm wearing a cream top with a pen in my hand. And I. Yeah, we'll pass over to Tom to do the same.

 **Tom Cowie** 9:44  
And I am a white SIS man with blonde hair, round glasses. I'm wearing a lurid blue shirt, and I've got very pink backgrounds by me.

 **Ghino Parker** 9:58  
Thank you, Tom. So our strategic shift, so Henry Smith has been going for almost 400 years and as a grant maker in the sector, we've always been known to be quite reliable. And for those that have received funding, lots of flexibility around the way in which we fund.

 **Tom Cowie** 9:59  
OK.

 **Ghino Parker** 10:16  
However, one of the things that I think was really apparent a few years ago was actually a need to really align and strategize a way to fund so that we reduced it waste of time in the sector. We found that lots of organisations were applying and were unsuccessful, and that that really drew up a lot of time.  
And a waste of time in the sector. So the the need to kind of really make sure that that grantees were getting what they needed most when they needed it most in a process that was transparent, that was fair. That was also making sure that they weren't there wasn't a waste of time within the sector to apply for grants that they weren't able to actually be able to benefit from.  
So that was one of the driving forces ultimately around thinking about strategising and looking at a more narrowed scope and strategy. So the building independence programme itself is one of the three, one of three of our strategic focuses.  
And as most of the team and most people that have ever worked with me or people that know that we're very clear about the fact that although we're talking about building independence, we really clearly we understand that you can't do that without actually without actually understanding how young people connect and are interdependent.  
And how interdependence and interdependency and the sense of belonging and connection that young people need to experience is really a true sense of how we get to being and thinking about what independence looks like. So our three, our four areas of focus are young people who identify as LGBT plus.  
Young people who are care, experienced young people who experience school exclusions and young people who have a learning disability or identify as a neurodivergent. Those are the four areas in which we focus down where our grant making direction will go within the building independence team.  
Theme team. Sorry and we did a lot of work in the background before that, looking at all the different golden threads of what might connect some of those themes together and what sort of things we'd like to prioritise based on needs of the sector that included hosting round tables with various partners and understanding what a good response would look.  
Would like, and So what we're leaning on 1st and what we're leading with is our advocacy programme shout and the purpose of that is to think about how we fund through the advocacy programme work that supports young people understand their rights, that's non statutory and we're specifically for the advocacy programme.  
And focusing on three key areas, care experienced, young people, young people who identify as LGBT, plus and young people who have a learning disability or are neurodivergent. So that's a little bit about building advocacy and the strategic shift.  
And why advocacy to start with, I will say as well, though we are still also in the early stages of understanding what the planning will look like for other funds that will be available within that key within those key priorities. So we're really keen that if you find yourself not really in a position to be able to apply for this.  
Please stay in touch. Please sign up to the newsletter and please look out for opportunities where we'll be inviting other people in to help us shape what 2026 will look like and various other funds that will be developed and hopefully Co developed with the sector itself. Also including with young people and youth voice.  
We would really love to hear and connect from people that are doing this well. We're not looking for perfection. That's another thing I must say. We're designing our programmes to think about how we best support organisations and also how those organisations can feed and shape into the work that we do. We don't think that we have all the answers.  
Actually, we think the answers can be built in partnership and that very much includes partnerships with young people or organisations who support young people to have a voice in decision making processes. So that's a little bit about our strategic direction and why we've drawn to being a little bit more focused.  
And some of the themes in which we're going to be working and moving forward.  
So over to you, Tom.

 **Tom Cowie** 14:31  
Brilliant. Thanks, Gino. I'm just going to advance us on to the next slide. So as we've just seen, so we've got a lot of attendees on this call. Roughly, I think we've got 500 and we are going to make be making around 20 grants.  
One of my aims of this session is to kind of hopefully give you enough information and answers to the questions to help you decide if you're a good fit for this fund. One of a really important thing is that we don't want to waste your organisation time and this starts with being quite.  
Clear about what we're funding and what we're not. So without further ado on this slide the shout funds and just as Gino has said, the Shout Fund supports advocacy services that help young people speak up.  
Make informed choices and secure their rights. Now you don't need to be calling your work advocacy to apply. We define this by what you do, not what you call it.  
To make it clear about what we understand as advocacy in our guidelines, we have written seven key features of advocacy on this slide. I've kind of taken free, which I think are no less important than the others, but I think quite core.  
Or into thinking whether your organisation is a good fit for what we're looking to fund.  
So the first key feature of advocacy is that we want your work to be independent. This means that the service that you provide is not tied to state care or treatment provision, or to any particular particular local authority.  
Staff can act in the young person's best interests and represent their come represent their wishes without any conflicts. The second key feature of advocacy that we really want to see in work, and this is.  
Quite core is that it has to be structured around providing rights based support. We want to see how your work is enabling young people to understand their options.  
Navigate services. We want to see how young people can be a part of decisions about their life, helping them to challenge unfair treatment, and to speak up about what matters to them.  
And then lastly, this is the third out of the seven that I'm just going to bring to this webinar, is that the work that you're doing and the work that we want to support with the shout funds is we don't want it to be time limited.  
So whether in one to one group settings we want the service to provide opportunities for regular engagement over time. We found that this is just a really good way and for an organisation to build a relationship with different groups.  
Of young people over time, these key features I've provided here should clarify if you should apply to the fund or not.  
If you provide for example peer support or a mentoring service that say doesn't have a focus on rights based support, we don't think the Shout Fund would be a good fit for you. Again, if your organisation solely provides wonderful advice signposting.  
Or general information advice. We think this wouldn't be something that you would be successful in an application. The work we will fund must align with these key features of advocacy. So even if you do like the most spectacular youth work.  
We suggest that you don't apply, but we defo encourage you to stay in contact with us and to hear about the new funds we develop in the future. So in addition to what we're looking to fund.  
There we also want to consider like who you are working with. And as Gina said, the building independence programme has some core focuses for the shout funds. You're we're looking to support organisations that are working with three groups of people.  
They could be young people with care experience for, for us, our understanding of young people who are care experienced includes those who have been in foster care, residential care, kinship care, or who have left care themselves. We also want to support.  
Organisations that are working with young people who won't identify as LGBT, we want organisations that work inclusively and that can affirm the rights, identities and lived experience of all LGBT young people. And that's across the full spectrum of.  
Or should be T identities. And lastly, we also want to work with organisations who support young people who have learning disabilities or who are neurodivergent. Again, we recognise not everyone has a formal diagnosis of a learning disability or neurodivergence.  
And we welcome applications from organisations that offer support without requiring a diagnosis or and take an inclusive approach. Lastly, you can work with more than one group. We want this to be exclusive.  
However, in the application to us, you will be asked to show your understanding of these groups. I will just take the slides off here.  
Or.  
I'll be really I feel like I've gone through lots of things that you can and can't apply for, but really quickly we have really simple eligibility criteria that you'll be able to find when you fill out our eligibility quiz on the on our website, we want to only fund registered organisations.  
For charitable purpose, this could be like CICSCIOS or community benefit companies. We want your organisation to be based in the UK and or working only with groups in the UK and that is when we say UK that's across.  
Of all nations, and we're particularly keen to reach organisations in Northern Ireland, Wales and rural areas because it's from our research, we found that these areas are under represented with advocacy within these three groups of young people.  
We also, if your organisation has your organisation, has to have an income of under 5 million and have at least one registered account, say that with the Charity Commission or Company's House.  
Your organisation also needs to have a good, up-to-date safeguarding policy as well as robust safeguarding processes, and I can see a few questions coming in if you are currently funded by us.  
That's fine. We just ask you to get in contact with us, either through our e-mail, which we will share in the chat, or you can get in contact with your grants manager, who will pass on your contact to us. It's just for us. Just have a discussion with you just to see if you're a good fit.  
And I feel like I've offloaded quite a lot of information there, but if there was something to kind of summarise what we've just talked about, I think if your work looks like what we've just described, even if you use a different way or.  
Say different terms to describe it we we want to hear from you, but if it doesn't, we're really grateful for your time and and joining us and we're sure we will connect through other routes as the building and dependence programme.  
Goes on. I think more or less about now. Like what the what and The Who. And I think when you if you decide to apply you will be asked to fill out a short expression of.  
Interest form. We're using this expression of interest stage to help us find 4E organisations with a strong fit for what we're looking to support to go on to a more fuller, substantial assessment.  
The reality is that most EO is will not be taken forward for us and going back to what I said earlier, I think the EOI is about and narrowing the focus rather than, say, casting the widest net. We know that preparing the full application can take.  
Take a lot of time and resource. So we've designed this expression of interest stage to keep things proportionate and helping us to understand early on where the strongest fit sits. Yeah and.  
Gina, did you want to talk about, say, the fit for the funds?

 **Ghino Parker** 24:49  
Yeah.  
So as Tom said, we're going to be funding 20 organisations and part of the process for us is to also think about what the right fit of the organisations are that we want to fund and what we really want to do is look at a good spread of where people under people that are replying understand the very needs of the group, it that's the most important thing.  
For us, we don't, we do not expect to fund organisations that might feel like they're 100% fit on every question that we might ask, but we'd like organisations to be honest with us about where they're at. So to give an example, we will definitely be looking at.  
Organisations and their safeguarding policies and one of the key things that we're going to be looking for within a safeguarding policy is how the organisation responds to young people who experience racism, for example, and that whether they're dealing with incidences of racism within their safeguarding policy, to be able to ensure that young people are safeguarded.  
And one of the reasons for that is the understanding that actually there are some groups of young people that are over represented within these theme areas. So there are groups of young people that are going to have certain over representation around the, the, the diagnosis and then the lack of support afforded to them following a learning disability diagnosis, for example.  
So one of the things that we're trying to do is trying to make sure that organisations understand the fit and what they bring to that support for that young person, and that includes things around where they're looking at safeguarding young people appropriately. Are they ensuring that they themselves have a good reach and a mechanism?  
Them to be able to find those that are often underrepresented within support systems, but overrepresented with the actual issues that that other young people are experiencing, for example. So we're not looking at for a fit where we want 20 of the top best advocacy organisations across the country to come together.  
Some of the fit and some of the things that we'll be looking for is do we have a good reach geographically where young people are not having their needs met? Do the organisation that we are considering, do they understand the needs of young people who identify as African Caribbean heritage, for example?  
Do the organise and is that you know is there a good representation also around the understanding of not just the needs in which they are supporting those young people, but the intersectional needs that young people particularly care, experienced young people might experience? So we're looking for a fit around where how organisations are able to.  
To tell us what it is they do and for example, it's one of the requirements that we've dropped around having a formal diagnosis or even trying to commit to percentages and numbers, right? What we're asking is you tell us.  
What the a good timeline of an intervention looks like around advocacy because we don't think we know the answer. We're not going to prescribe and say you must do six sessions, but we also don't think it's fair to apply that to somebody who might just do one session and then it's signposting.  
But what we're saying is, is that we're not going to dictate to you what we think good advocacy looks like. We have to set some parameters. However, what we'd like to do is for you to tell us the story of why you think and how far you've come in your learning to be able to understand the very needs of young people.  
So some of that is also thinking about organisations that are by we'll be looking specifically for organisations that are not just by and LED, but also organisations that understand that decision making and responsibility around decision making very, very often is best practise.  
When the user voice in inverted comments, I say that is in the process of decision making. At some point, some organisations are buying LED in that way and that's great. Other other organisations demonstrate that differently by allowing young people to be part of their trustees by allowing young people to be part of the decision making process in different forms.  
And they're very effective at that. We also are. We also have an understanding and some research and some partnership we did just recently that LGBT organisations are less likely to receive funding for advocacy services. And the other two. So there is.  
There is a scope where we've said actually if the need be that we wouldn't split this three ways around 20 organisations that neatly fit three ways. But actually LGBT organisations we might reserve to apply more of those funding to more of those organisations because there is a need in the sector where they're actually disenfranchised and funded less.  
So we're trying to take a relational approach to things and we really want to hear from you and your organisation about how you best fit rather than us saying that this is the lines we have to obviously like I said, set some parameters. So age wise we're talking 14 to 25. We understand that that's still a Cliff edge.  
We know that some organisations might be adult organisations and only work with 18 plus and that's fine. But you and your application has to have to demonstrate to us how your funding is applied to the 18 to 25 cohort within your advocacy service.  
And I'm sure there's going to be some questions coming up around around things that we've said. So yeah, look forward to answering some of those.

 **Tom Cowie** 30:10  
And I just wanted to add that within your application, say here at Henry Smith Foundation, I talk about AI quite a lot, but I wanted to just bring up about using AI in your applications with us, I personally.

 **Ghino Parker** 30:25  
OK.  
Yeah.

 **Tom Cowie** 30:29  
And I think AI tools like ChatGPT or Claude are amazing. I have. I'm like neurodivergent and it just really helps me to organise sports and turn something that can be quite incoherent in my brain to something that is.  
Coherent for someone else to read, but if you are thinking about using AI in your application, we would encourage you to really think of it as an asset. But we do want to make sure that when.  
You submit that application has come from yourself. We over the past few years as AI has become more used by organisations, we can, and this is more of an insight, but we've we can start to really tell when say.  
The AI has been used quite incorrectly. Some of the things is that it completely removes the local context. It removes kind of the the kind of the data that your organisation might naturally have.  
So when you're using AII think one of the things is just to really when you get your your output, just take that have a read through it and then make sure it's in your words and because at the end of the day I think we're all owning what we're getting from AI.  
So and I think we really want it to be a good thing, it's an asset, but just double check and make sure it's all correct.

 **Ghino Parker** 32:09  
Agreed. Like we just want we're we're happy to see it being used as an enhancement of what you already know that you do, but don't rely on it to to lead like let the work that you do lead and then use it as an enhancement if you need to. We're we're not we we're not going to be adversely like the you know these organisations have just used AI it's about how you use.  
Is it that we're looking for that? So I think that we are ready for some questions, Tom.

 **Tom Cowie** 32:39  
Yes, yeah, yeah. Brilliant. We I did see one earlier. I did. Did write it down. Sorry to the person I didn't write down your name.  
So it was our organisation say they work with a broader group of young people, not just, say, care experience, LGBT or young people with learning disabilities. Can they still apply?

 **Ghino Parker** 33:01  
Yeah.  
Yeah.

 **Tom Cowie** 33:11  
And what do they need to show?

 **Ghino Parker** 33:14  
Yeah. So what we're funding is the advocacy work. So what we're not saying is that you have to be an advocacy organisation and name it that and label that there are lots of really good organisations that have multi purposes in what they do. If you are an organisation that has several layers to your work.  
Right, like perhaps a community hub or a community space that's based in, let's just say Hertfordshire, for example, and in that Community hub in that community space there is an element of your work that is dedicated to advocacy that young people know that they can come and receive advocacy and support for. If you are asking for funding for that element of.  
Your work then you're absolutely eligible. It doesn't matter that you apply. You have to just demonstrate how that fits within the sphere of your wider organisation. It's not a problem for you to apply if you are a much bigger organisation in regards to what you offer to young people. Is that what we won't fund is the.  
Whole offer, but we will fund the part that is where you do that piece of work. So the same if you think about the same would apply. Like I said, if you work with older adults, if you work with young people that are that have a diagnosis, but you also work with young people that don't have a diagnosis at all or they might be waiting for a diagnosis.  
That's absolutely fine. It's it's how you tell the story to us about what it is and how it is. The advocacy that we're looking for.

 **Tom Cowie** 34:43  
That was really clear. I've got another question here for Eugene, though I think we talked about, say, with the building independence and our four focuses and we've got a question here from Brianna. It says what grant is for, what grants are there for young people?

 **Ghino Parker** 34:44  
Yeah.  
Yeah.  
Yeah.

 **Tom Cowie** 35:02  
People at risk of exclusion, as I think this is their target group that they're working with.

 **Ghino Parker** 35:08  
Yeah, that's a really good question. So in this example, we we haven't built in advocacy within school exclusion, that doesn't mean that we're not funding that work for this year. It was a strategic decision to partner with impetus and we have applied our funding in partnership with impetus to develop and design systems models.

 **Tom Cowie** 35:23  
Mm-hmm.

 **Ghino Parker** 35:27  
That are more than just advocacy that are also about mentoring, that are about other different functions that need to happen within a system around school exclusions. Now the I think I think this year, I mean, I don't want to quote the exact amount, but there was a significant amount that went to that part of the funding that's happening in partnership.  
What is happening now is that we're developing what the 2026 fund or grant offer would look like for that group or that area. And in saying that, we understand that there's lots of intersectional issues. So there are some groups that are more impacted by school exclusions than others.  
And that includes young people based, you know with with different identity markers such as race or gender. There's also lots of intersection around being care experienced and school exclusions. So a lot of the planning and the the designing and the Co production work of that is happening now for 2026.  
If you're interested specifically in that area of work, I would just say reach out to us and then we can tell you what's on the horizon and and if there's a way for you to input and inform alongside us, we're trying to make sure that what we don't do is create an extractive process, because that tends to happen where we just sort of pull.  
But we're still in the process of of Co designing what that looks like. So I'd say stay in touch, have a look and get in touch in that area specifically. I'd also encourage you to have a look at what impetus are doing with the fund that we're doing in partnership and they're distributing some grants alongside us on our behalf.  
Yeah.

 **Tom Cowie** 36:57  
Brilliant. I've got quite maybe a a knotty question and as owning imperfection as you mentioned earlier, Gino, we maybe we can get back to this person. So we've got a question from Christine Brown. Who says can you apply under multiple themes?

 **Ghino Parker** 37:05  
Yes.

 **Tom Cowie** 37:17  
For example, if you were a lead and one but say a partner in another, would this be allowed?

 **Ghino Parker** 37:25  
Yeah, I don't at this point. I don't see why not. I don't know if we would fund both. I think there would. That would be the key consideration and it would be about at that point it would be something that we could have in conversation. Like I said, the process is still very, it's iterative for us.

 **Tom Cowie** 37:34  
Yeah.

 **Ghino Parker** 37:42  
We won't fund one organisation to do 2 key elements. I can say that so we wouldn't fund one community centre that would lead just on advocacy here and then they could apply for funding here for young people with learning disabilities and they'd get 2 grants essentially within the one organisation.  
So in your example, I would say that there would have to be a decision made based on which one would go ahead, but in the sense of could they both apply to almost for want of a better description, hedge your bets to see that there was you know twice the likelihood there isn't anything in the rules that we've set out that says that you can't do that.

 **Tom Cowie** 38:00  
Mm-hmm.

 **Ghino Parker** 38:16  
Yeah.  
Yeah.

 **Tom Cowie** 38:18  
Brilliant. I was just like getting this next question, seeing if our team haven't already answered it I.  
OK, I think we we touched on this. So I think it'll be a good follow on from what we were talking about before. So this question comes from Lydia Shepherd. They right, I noted that the guidance states that young people with learning disabilities or neurodivergence.

 **Ghino Parker** 38:35  
It's.

 **Tom Cowie** 38:48  
Don't require a diagnosis to fall in to this priority area and please can you give any additional context as to how you would determine eligibility of a target group where young people may not have a formal diagnosis.

 **Ghino Parker** 39:02  
Yes, that's a really good question. And I think so we did a little bit of listening and some learning exercises and some round tables and what we definitely identified is that for example, females of a particular age range are less likely to have their needs met within a formal diagnosis because they're.

 **Tom Cowie** 39:05  
Yeah.

 **Ghino Parker** 39:22  
May visit.  
Attributed differently, particularly when you think about bias in the system. The same happens for children, particularly boys of African Caribbean heritage. They are sometimes less likely to be able to receive a diagnosis and get the support that they need. And what we didn't want to do is say that those that are only have only been able to navigate the system to be able to get.  
To diagnosis are the ones that we'd work with, because then we reinforce the harms that the structures are creating around those that are allowed to get through the door, have a diagnosis, and then receive the support. So one of the reasons why we allowed that is because there are some organisations that within their operating and the ones that we've spoken to very clearly.  
In a in an informal way, have an awareness of that 80% of their young people, for example, are referred to that particular service because it's very clear that their needs aren't being met through school, that they're 18 to 21, and that they're getting needing extra support around employment, employability, there's an advocacy.  
7.  
That they run through that as well in a particular local authority, and that part of that is that they don't require the young people to have and a formal diagnosis because they would have been left and dropped through the net of a system that hasn't been able to catch them appropriately because of bias within the system. So what we didn't want to do is then reinforce and say, well, so in that.  
Example, the organisation can clearly, through its referral has identity markers that that suggest that the young people are very clearly fit within the bracket of should have been entitled to an EHCP plan that wasn't able to for various reasons. So we didn't want to disenfranchise organisations like that that already working with.  
In the context of what they offer and provide to young people on the basis that they have, they are neurodivergent or they have a learning disability, but that that that there isn't a formal stamp. So we didn't want to reinforce anything that allowed that, that organisation is able to tell that story to us. If you feel that within the application process.  
So you're able to say this is how your referrals come from. They come from XY processes. We also have an understanding of it because of our history in this space, and if you're able to tell that story to us, then that's more important to us than a than a formal diagnosis. I hope that makes sense.

 **Tom Cowie** 41:38  
Yeah, definitely. I'm firing all these questions at Eugeno.

 **Ghino Parker** 41:42  
No worries. Let's go. Yeah. I also just. I'm just going to say for anybody's question that doesn't get picked up, we are going to try and collate them, put some themes together and then respond with a bit more of a response so that nobody's question, hopefully not fully, should be completely missed. But a lot of the themes we will collate and and and write some.

 **Tom Cowie** 41:48  
Yeah.  
Hmm.

 **Ghino Parker** 42:01  
Responses to after. So if you don't hear your question being answered, we're going to do a bit of work afterwards to make sure that we do that.

 **Tom Cowie** 42:08  
Yeah, exactly. And we're updating as well. The Web FAQ on on our website. Next question I this is really interesting. So a question from Angela Barr.

 **Ghino Parker** 42:09  
Yes.  
Yes, we will.  
Yeah.

 **Tom Cowie** 42:23  
To so the question goes, do we already need to offer advocacy already, or could it be something that we would that would be a good extension to what they already do?

 **Ghino Parker** 42:36  
Yeah, I'd say absolutely. So what, when I said earlier about the perfect, we're not looking for 20 perfect organisations that are further along that have been doing this for five years. I should mention that part of what we hope to offer additional to the grant is support through an external convener that would be able to bring the 20 grant.

 **Tom Cowie** 42:38  
Mm-hmm.

 **Ghino Parker** 42:56  
Together so that we can develop some peer support through that through the organisations and we're actually really keen to hear from organisations that are at different journeys on their work, and this is particularly true of organisations that might be rural outside of cities, is that there might be a great youth organisation that's always wanted to develop some.  
Advocacy support for young people with learning disabilities because of an increase in the area and a demand but never been able to have the resource to do so, and this is absolutely an opportunity, I'd say where there is a need and A and a definite if you can demonstrate that within your process, we're definitely open to this being a an existing organisation that's.  
Trying to develop a new offer, the convening option, it is an option. It's not the 20 organisations that are funded do not have to automatically be enrolled. There will be someone to one support through the convening and it's really for us to understand and learn what is best suited support.  
To the organisation and we feel that perhaps a convener would be a bit more appropriate because we want organisations to really tell us where they're at, also where they might face a challenge or a difficulty, and the convener can be there on hand to support what that looks like.  
In that process, so we welcome existing organisations that fit the criteria, who want to develop something that they've thought about for a long time, because there is a need, particularly any organisations where the need is coming from the young people themselves, and there's a there's a demonstration that young people are saying that this is a missing service in the local area or within the organisation and and that.  
What we welcome those applicants to.  
You're on mute tunnel. It's OK. We did it. We did it. It's good. It's good.

 **Tom Cowie** 44:39  
Oh, I did not want to do that. Yeah, no, I was like, I feel like it's quite exciting to to be able to offer grants, maybe to new work and exciting work taking place across all across the whole of the UK.  
I've got this next question from, I think it was from Angela Barr. Hi. We support and facilitate young people to advocate for themselves and to enable and empower their peers to do this.

 **Ghino Parker** 45:00  
Yeah.

 **Tom Cowie** 45:15  
Would this work be eligible? They note that they do work across all of the free target groups.  
And.

 **Ghino Parker** 45:24  
Yeah, I I don't see why that would be a no. I think it would be about how you demonstrate that, that advocacy fits in with the principles of what we've said. If it, if it fits within the principles of how we've laid out advocacy, that to me sounds like peer-to-peer advocacy support. And that's absolutely anything that's.

 **Tom Cowie** 45:27  
Yeah.

 **Ghino Parker** 45:43  
Voice LED user LED young people LED is very welcomed.

 **Tom Cowie** 45:49  
Yeah.  
I was just looking, so we've got a question here. I just want to pick it up as well, just to unpack on it. It's a question from Ella. It was answered. It's specific for organisations working with people with learning disabilities.

 **Ghino Parker** 46:09  
Yeah.

 **Tom Cowie** 46:09  
Can learning to, say, disabled young people, can that age bracket go up to 30 years old and so Keisha's gone, answered them, gone in there and we're supporting primarily young people aged 14 to 20.  
25 that I assume and and Gino jump in. So the focus of the work will be for, and the purpose of the grant is to support young people aged from 14 to 25. I hope that we do recognise that.  
Organise this isn't a clear cut and organisations work with different age ranges. It wouldn't exclude you from funding, so yeah, it might obviously different organisations, different groups.

 **Ghino Parker** 46:54  
That.

 **Tom Cowie** 47:01  
Is there?

 **Ghino Parker** 47:01  
Yes. So we don't we again, it's not that we don't have a clear line, it's that the majority of the fund needs to go to the Group of young people that are 14 to 25 if what the if if the question for me is two things. If you're saying that you work up to 30.  
And if you had offered advocacy to somebody in year one at 25, then we don't expect you to say to that young person if your service goes up to 30. OK, well, you just have to stop now after six months because you've now turned 26. That's not. We're not trying to be unreasonable here. We're not trying to say that we're not trying to create barriers for barriers sake. What we are saying is that we wouldn't.

 **Tom Cowie** 47:31  
Yeah.  
Mm-hmm.

 **Ghino Parker** 47:40  
Fund organisations that strictly worked with with with adults that don't demonstrate that their advocacy support is targeted to the needs of 18 to 25 year olds. So in that there's two questions would we not fund an organisation that worked up to 30 but provided the majority of its advocacy needs for 18 to 25 year olds, would we?  
They say that then there's a cut off and they have to cut those young people off at 25. No, absolutely not. We you would still be eligible for funding. It's about how you demonstrate that the core part of what you're getting funding for goes to the the group that we if you're an adult service from 18 class goes to the 18 to 25 year old group.

 **Tom Cowie** 48:05  
Yeah.

 **Ghino Parker** 48:19  
Yeah.  
Yeah.

 **Tom Cowie** 48:21  
Brilliant. I am going through. It's lots of great questions. I have one.

 **Ghino Parker** 48:23  
Yeah.  
I think you've also not before you go to that question just to say, I don't know if we've mentioned. So the fund value just so, so, so your organisation. So I know we mentioned 20, it's a fund of up to 60,000 per year for four years.

 **Tom Cowie** 48:29  
Yeah.  
Play song.  
Yes.  
Yes. Yeah.

 **Ghino Parker** 48:41  
The total grant value is 240,000 lbs, so that's that's spread over four years at 60,000 a year. Over the four years. And there's 20 organisations. So we're looking at 4.8 million within this fund.

 **Tom Cowie** 48:46  
Yeah.  
Yeah.

 **Ghino Parker** 48:57  
That will fund 20 organisations at different levels of where they are. You know, you could, it could be a new service, it could be a well established service and it's about the 20 organisations being spread in a way that is geographical, that is really addressing the needs of some of the most young people in the most need of these services, etcetera. So yeah, I just wanted.  
To mention the numbers just there because I suddenly thought, I don't think I've said that yet.

 **Tom Cowie** 49:21  
And and just to jump as well, like I think that in developing the shout programme that this was in response to, we brought together some organisations already work, doing really amazing work in this group and I think one of the priorities was.

 **Ghino Parker** 49:23  
Yeah.  
Just.

 **Tom Cowie** 49:37  
Have a yeah funding programme that allows organisations to keep their work going for them to be sustainable and I'm glad, yeah.

 **Ghino Parker** 49:37  
Longer.  
Yeah.  
Yes.  
Yeah, exactly. So the decision around whether we did this for two years or whether we put the 4.8 million / 2 years or four years was actually very much led by the sector partners that we worked with. Some are grantees, some aren't, and it was about having discussions with organisations about what would.  
What would fit the need most and long term, over four years that that it was the most that was the most responsive that we got very much most of how we've designed. The elements aren't going to be perfect or fit for everybody. But we've tried to be very considerate along the way.  
To ensure that the voices of those that are doing the work and also the voices of those that are impacted by the work and are the work is here to support, have been heard through this process. That does mean that it's not going to fit every organisation. We are not able to capture every voice through that.  
However, this process has allowed for us to start off with our first fund and just to be clear, although that is the fund grant allowance for this year, over four years, the fund is not repeating again next year. It might do. It's not that we're absolutely saying we won't fund advocacy next year, but we're not going to.  
Take that decision until we've had a little bit of learning and understanding around what the needs are for this programme and the needs of what other areas of work might look like too.

 **Tom Cowie** 51:01  
Yeah.  
Yeah, yeah, we've. I think we've got our last 10 minutes. I've got three questions that I want to make sure we get because I think they're really interesting and they're linked to kind of the key features that we talked about before. So if for the first one.

 **Ghino Parker** 51:13  
Yes.  
Yeah, let's do it. Let's do it.  
But.

 **Tom Cowie** 51:26  
So this one's from Greta Brattenson. They've said when you say not tied to an authority, some of our young people receive funding from their local authority to attend our sessions and cover their fees. Would this?  
Rule us out of applying.

 **Ghino Parker** 51:46  
I think that's it's not the principle of whether they're tied, it's the principle of the fact that is your funding tied. Say, for example, a advocacy project that was tied like, let's say, hypothetically, an advocacy project that was around, not that we're funding this, that was around school exclusion that would be tied into the school.

 **Tom Cowie** 51:49  
Yeah.

 **Ghino Parker** 52:05  
And then funded in the school from our point of view, there's a power dynamic there. How able are they really be able to challenge the status quo? How able are they really able to have their rights heard and met? So it's not about being associated or attached. It's about do you have enough autonomy to really be able to advocate and have that person advocate?  
What way?  
Your based, so I think of the principle rather than the rule, it's that are you able to really provide a service that and some to some extent we could also argue that that's not the case. Either way that there's always going to be a level, but it's do you have enough autonomy for you to be able to really help that young person with their rights and their entitlement? That doesn't mean that you.

 **Tom Cowie** 52:26  
Mm-hmm.  
Yeah.

 **Ghino Parker** 52:45  
Can't say everything or let the young person advocate in a way that their needs are met because you're tied to funding elsewhere. So I hope that makes sense. I'm happy to have a further conversation if needed.

 **Tom Cowie** 52:55  
Yeah, it does. And and there's just.  
Yeah, absolutely. I think I was really like quite tied in from Holly Hunt. I I got past this from a colleague, but I can't find your exact question, but I think it's talking about, say, again with statutory services. If an organisation has, say, some statutory.  
Funding this wouldn't exactly exclude them because it would be about what that funding is for and who they are supporting.

 **Ghino Parker** 53:30  
Yeah, I think it's again, it's the same principle. So if we think about services that are provided to care experienced young people, for example, sometimes the young person needs to navigate a system where they need to advocate them for themselves from the same very local authority that is also providing them another service and sometimes.

 **Tom Cowie** 53:33  
Yeah.

 **Ghino Parker** 53:50  
And this isn't about blame or fault. Sometimes the it's about the position of power, so it's if the local authority is the person who's also funding the young person to be able to access housing. Let's say, for example, but the young person doesn't feel that their housing needs are met.

 **Tom Cowie** 53:52  
Yeah.

 **Ghino Parker** 54:05  
Is the service that you're providing independent enough that you can support that young person to to hold a mirror to the local authority and ensure that they get the rights of that young person is met? So again, it's about the principle. It's you can be funded in part because you're also delivering something the the local authority is in this example.  
Is trying to ensure that it's provided for that young person, but you have to be autonomous enough to be able to to challenge so that your your rights, the rights of the young person is weighted, yes.

 **Tom Cowie** 54:32  
None.  
Yes.  
We've got our last one, Gino. This one comes from Juno Schwartz. When you say rights based, are you strictly referring to, say, their existing rights and supporting young people to say, understand access and enforce them?  
Or are you including advocating for additional rights and systems policy change, such as care experience as a protected characteristic?

 **Ghino Parker** 55:08  
So we're not funding policy asks or asks that are bigger around the collective. This is about individual rights and rights based on the individual and what those needs are. That doesn't mean to say that we're not going to be doing work to understand, for example, when those 20 organisations come together.  
And we have a convener convene. It could be that they're all saying the same thing around the rights of young people who are care experienced to be recognised as a protective characteristics or it could just be one of those organisations saying this is really important to us. We need Henry Smith to help us. That would be an additional piece of work that we would support and nurture and understand where we're best placed to do so.  
But we wouldn't fund that as a strict as the line of advocacy that we would fund. This is about understanding how young people are connected to the services in which afford them a right to be able to receive what their needs, how their needs need to be met, and the if you like the bridge or the the hinge that the advocacy.  
Offers by way of saying that this is how we can scaffold your needs to be able to get them met. But this isn't about scaffolding the needs of a collective as a whole, so that would be the policy ask and the policy area of the work as a collective to be able to move that forward. It doesn't mean that if your organisation does that, we wouldn't fund it.

 **Tom Cowie** 56:17  
MMM.

 **Ghino Parker** 56:26  
As long as you did both, we would fund the part that was the individual and the rights based approach to the individual or individuals as a group, as a peer group that might receive that service.

 **Tom Cowie** 56:27  
Mm-hmm.  
Yeah. And I think yeah, it speaks to like kind of supporting being person focused and the best outcomes for the young people. I think that was the last our last question that we had time for.

 **Ghino Parker** 56:49  
It's because I think we're going to get booted. I think the event is literally getting shut down at like in 3 minutes. So I do hope that that has been really helpful in regards to understanding the narrowing so that you can make a decision about where you fit within this fund. As Tom said, there's going to be an expression of interest form.

 **Tom Cowie** 56:51  
Yeah.

 **Ghino Parker** 57:08  
There's also an opportunity for you to have to speak to to us further down the line. I'd say please follow our socials, have a look at where we're also offering other opportunities to engage and speak and talk to you all and we'll do our utmost to up upload the.  
Dated question and answer sessions as soon as possible and then also make sure that we collate a lot of the questions that have been asked here. Create a little bit of a a themed answer response to get as many of those answers back out. So yeah I hope I'm seeing some clapped hands and some hearts, so I hope that that that went well. So as I said.

 **Tom Cowie** 57:28  
Hmm.  
Brilliant.  
Yeah.

 **Ghino Parker** 57:47  
We're trying to lead with imperfection, so any mistakes and errors we apologise and we do. We're we're going to continue with that little bit of grace that we're asking you for as forms get uploaded and and comms gets uploaded and etcetera, we're we're honestly we've got a phenomenal team behind the scenes.  
Not just in Tom, but Tom Bell couldn't be here. Who's in our team? And Jonathan as well as the exceptional support we received from our other theme teams, like Keisha and Steve and and the other colleagues that we have, there is a lot of swan like behaviour behind the scenes. Let's just put it that way.

 **Tom Cowie** 58:18  
Yeah.

 **Ghino Parker** 58:19  
Yeah.

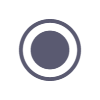
 **Tom Cowie** 58:20  
Yeah, definitely. And I think we're we're seeing quite a lot of hands come up and obviously we're in the last minute. But on the screen you'll be able to see our e-mail address and we'll provide this with you after. So please get in contact with us. And if you have anything else to add or if you have any more questions.

 **Ghino Parker** 58:22  
So thank you very much.

 **Tom Cowie** 58:38  
But yeah, thank you so much for joining.  
I think I'm going to say goodbye. Do you know? Do you have any last words?

 **Ghino Parker** 58:46  
Fine. No, that's it from me. Thank you for your time. Really. Really appreciated.

 **Tom Cowie** 58:48  
OK.  
Great. Thank you. Bye.

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