

Call specification

DOMESTIC ABUSE WORKFORCE PROGRAMMES EVIDENCE FUND

Open call for participation

Closes: 12pm (midday), Wednesday 5 August 2026



Dear applicant,

Thank you for your interest in our funding call: Domestic Abuse Workforce Programmes Evidence Fund.

Through this work, we aim to build strong evidence on promising domestic abuse workforce development programmes by demonstrating their impact, understanding how they help the workforce respond better to the needs of children, young people and families, and identifying approaches that could be adopted more widely across the sector.

This is an exciting opportunity to contribute to learning and growing the evidence base for what works in domestic abuse workforce development.

We are particularly interested in evaluating interventions that:

- Are delivered to the Early/ Family Help and wider Children's Social Care workforce, and possibly the wider safeguarding partnership.
- Are developed and delivered to go beyond a workforce training offer, meaningfully aiming to build knowledge and motivation, recognising the organisational and systemic context of the workforce.
- Have been developed through consultation with those from lived experience, especially marginalised groups and minorities ethnic families, and;
- Target one or more thematic areas of skills gaps noted in the scoping phase around; cultural competencies, coercive control, perpetrator dynamics, child-centered practice, multi-agencies, and family courts. *However, Foundations is open to receiving applications that cover other thematic areas as well.*

We recognise the complexity of evaluating a programme delivered in diverse local contexts and under real-world constraints. We are therefore seeking proposals from teams with a high commitment and buy-in to evaluation, and a genuine interest in the use of the evidence created.

Programme requirements for a successful evaluation

For the purposes of this opportunity, we are seeking programmes that are well placed to generate meaningful, credible and usable evidence through an independent evaluation. A programme likely to lead to a successful evaluation will be:

- **Useful:** the programme has a clear purpose, a plan for how findings will inform future delivery or decision-making, and organisational commitment to learning from the results.
- **Credible:** the programme is underpinned by a clear theory of change, is sufficiently specified and consistently delivered, has appropriate quality assurance processes, and is supported by data and feedback systems that can help demonstrate whether and how change is taking place.
- **Timely:** ensuring a programme's development, delivery, and evidence gathering happen early enough for decision-makers to use what they learn.



- **Efficient:** the programme makes proportionate and well-judged use of available resources, balancing ambition with feasibility and ensuring that delivery and evaluation requirements are realistic for the organisation and partners involved, matching the size of the problem, the population served, and the value of the evidence being produced.

About this opportunity

This is a grant-funded opportunity, with up to **£250,000** available for **up to 27 months**.

We recognise that the application process requires a meaningful investment of time and resource. However, this level of detail helps us to assess the evaluation feasibility, while giving applicants the opportunity to consider what full participation in an evaluation would involve, and whether this is the right time for your organisation to take part considering your capacity and strategic goals.

How to apply

Our goal is to make well-informed funding decisions while ensuring that successful applicants are well-prepared for the next steps. To support with this, we have implemented a two-stage process:

1. Full application
2. Interview and selection stage

Within this document you will find details of the scope of the evaluation, guidance on the application process, and information on how successful applicants will work with partners.

Once you have completed your Application Form please upload them via our [Application Portal](#) by 12PM (midday) Wednesday 5 August 2026.

If you have any questions or require support with your application, please do not hesitate to contact the project team at programmes@foundations.org.uk.

We look forward to reviewing your application.

Kind regards,
Foundations



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1. Introduction

Foundations, the national What Works Centre for Children & Families, invites applications from organisations seeking grant funding to deliver domestic abuse workforce development programmes and participate in an evaluation.

The aim of this funding call is to improve **organisational and the wider sector's understanding of what works in upskilling professionals to better support children, young people (CYP) and families affected by domestic abuse**, including marginalised groups with a particular focus on minoritised ethnic families.

We know from evidence **that effective response to domestic abuse relies on a skilled, confident, and well-supported workforce**. Practitioners across the social care sector play a critical role in identifying domestic abuse, supporting victims/survivors, and contributing to safer outcomes for CYP and families. However, there are gaps in workforce knowledge, confidence and practice, which are even more prominent when it comes to support for those from marginalised groups. Evidence shows that addressing these gaps requires a better understanding of how development programmes work best for different workforces, how delivery modalities can affect impact, and how embedding survivor voices (particularly from marginalised groups) strengthens programme design and effectiveness.

National policy reforms have reflected the importance of a well-trained frontline workforce working with CYP affected by domestic abuse. **The Government's [Freedom from Violence and Abuse Cross-Government Strategy](#)** has committed to halving rates of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in a decade, with an upskilling the workforce integral to this goal. The **Department for Education (DfE)** has committed to improving the policy and practice response to domestic abuse in families through ongoing reforms to CYP's social care, including the planned introduction of the Child Protection Authority (CPA) and the current roll out of the Families First Partnership (FFP) programme, which includes Multi Agency Child Protection Teams (MACPTs) and the new approach to Family Help. As well, the **Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office (DAC)** has repeatedly called for specialist domestic abuse training for all frontline professionals working with CYP due to the current inconsistencies in the practice response.

To shape this funding call, Foundations undertook a targeted scoping phase comprising of **stakeholder consultations**. Foundations engaged at a policy level with DAC and DfE, subject matter experts through Foundations' Domestic Abuse Advisory Group, Foundations' Experts by Experience panel and within the ending VAWG/ domestic abuse sector, and local authority representatives. Foundations also worked with an independent evaluator to conduct a targeted **mapping exercise** to better understand the provision of workforce development programmes



across England¹. The output of this service mapping showed that there are workforce development programmes which may be suitable for an impact evaluation.

Drawing on this evidence and engagement, this call seeks to generate robust learning that addresses three key challenges:

1. Workforce capability gaps persist in key areas.

Stakeholders highlighted ongoing gaps in knowledge, confidence and practice across the domestic abuse workforce, particularly in relation to coercive control, perpetrator dynamics, culturally competent practice, and child-centred responses. **Foundations is particularly interested in programmes explicitly addressing these gaps**

2. Implementation challenges undermine existing training provision.

Training is often provided on a “one-off” basis, with limited senior buy-in, insufficient follow-up, and weak links between learning and frontline practice. Managers were identified as a critical leverage point for embedding change. **We are particularly interested in programmes that embed ways to build and support learning from training and increase buy-in.**

3. Significant equity and programme gaps remain.

Marginalised and minoritised survivors experience poorer access to effective support. By-and-For Organisations are widely recognised as better placed to meet these needs, however evaluation evidence has disproportionately focused on larger, mainstream providers, limiting insight into what works for marginalised CYP and families. As part of this programme of work, we are launching a separate, complementary call with ring-fenced funding to support By-and-For Organisations to plan a future evaluation of their workforce development offer (please see [2.1 Aims of the Call](#) for more information). **However, we are keen to understand how the needs of marginalised and minoritised children, young people (CYP) and families will be met through programmes in both calls.**

If you are interested in applying for this fund and taking part in evaluation, please express your interest by completing the **application form** and submitting it to the [Application Portal](#) by **12:00 (noon) 5th August 2026**. You can find more information about the application process, including potential interview stages, and key timelines under [3. How to Apply](#).

If you would like to read more about the scoping work which supported this call, please see the [Evidence Considerations](#).

¹ This work was conducted as part of the Restart feasibility study, in line with recommendations from the feasibility study report. You can find more information here; [A feasibility study of the Restart programme - Foundations](#)



2. Project scope

2.1. Aims of the call

The purpose of this funding call is to improve organisational and the wider sector's understanding of what works in upskilling professionals to better support CYP and families affected by domestic abuse, including marginalised groups with a particular focus on minoritised ethnic families.

Through this call, Foundations aims to build robust evidence of promising domestic abuse workforce development programmes by demonstrating their impact, understanding how they support diverse families, and identifying approaches that could be widely adopted across the sector.

The call comprises two distinct, but complementary strands;

1. **Strand 1:** An evaluation of domestic abuse workforce development programme(s) that are impact evaluation ready, or close to ready.
2. **Strand 2:** Strengthening evaluation capacity for domestic abuse workforce development programmes that are developed and implemented from By-and-For Organisations, to support their entry into the evidence pipeline.

This Call Specification is in relation to Strand 1. Please see [here](#) for the Expression of Interest for Strand 2.

Through this call, we will identify a promising domestic abuse workforce programme, and we will contribute funding for programme delivery and impact evaluation. Following identifying the programme as part of this funding call, an independent impact evaluation will be commissioned. As such, **participation in and facilitation of an independent evaluation is a core requirement of this funding.**

2.2. Programme scope: Sector, themes and design requirements

In scope

This funding call is open to domestic abuse workforce development programmes:

- Where the ultimate beneficiaries of the programme are CYP and their families through Early/ Family Help and wider Children's Social Care workforce (essential) and may include the wider safeguarding partnership such as health, police, and education (desirable).
- That allow us to understand the different lenses taken by partners on key domestic abuse thematic issues such as peer abuse, child as victim, or child as perpetrator.
- Which target one or more thematic areas of skills gaps noted in the scoping phase around; cultural competencies, coercive control, perpetrator dynamics, child-centered practice, multi-agencies, and family courts. *However, Foundations is open to receiving applications that cover other thematic areas as well.*



We understand that development programmes may combine a range of formats and methods, including formal in person or online trainings, mentoring or further implementation support. We are open to how you define and implement your development programmes, however **we are specifically looking for:**

- Programmes that build knowledge, motivate staff, develop techniques and embed practice
- Extend beyond a workforce training offer, considering the organisational and systemic context within which development is implemented
- Acknowledge and address the support needs of children as victims in their own right and is not adult-only focused
- Have been delivered consistently in content and implementation, and have progressed beyond the early design/development phase
- Can target different career stages, for example to inform early career standards (ECS), Child Protection standards, and general continuing professional development (CPD).

Drawing from evidence on workforce development specifically around domestic abuse, **we are also interested in programmes which:**

- Target practitioners' practical skills and confidence
- Address survivors' intersecting needs
- Involve specialist knowledge and lived experience in their design and delivery
- Include an element of ongoing learning
- Integrate practitioner wellbeing considerations.

Out of scope

We would consider programmes out of scope and therefore, **not applicable for this call if they are:**

- One-off training with no follow-up or reinforcement
- Approaches that only focus on awareness-raising
- Programmes that are not grounded in evidence-informed behaviour change mechanisms.

We recognise that programmes may be at different stages of development in relation to evidence readiness. We would however expect programmes to **be evidence-informed**. By evidence-informed programme, we mean one that is **theory driven, uses data and feedback to improve, has appropriate quality assurance processes, is sufficiently documented or manualised, and is designed with impact, scalability and sustainability in mind**. We do not expect applicants to already have all of these features fully in place. However, we do expect successful applicants to be willing to work with us and the evaluator during the set-up phase to strengthen these areas, for example by refining their theory of change, strengthening documentation, or considering future scalability.



2.3. Outcomes of interest

Evidence-Informed Programmes should demonstrate clarity in their intended impact, with clearly defined aims and short-, medium-, and long-term outcomes. Some examples of possible outcomes include:

Short-term

- Practitioner knowledge, attitudes and confidence relating to domestic abuse.
- Evidence of the programme's principles and practices in casework.

Medium-term

- Greater use of shared language and frameworks relating to domestic abuse across teams.
- For CYP and non-abusing parents, improved trust and engagement with CSC practitioners and other services.

Long-term

- Increased safety and stability for CYP exposed to domestic abuse.
- Strengthened systems and organisational processes for managing domestic abuse and perpetrator behaviour.

2.4. What makes a successful proposal

Selection for this evaluation will be determined through an assessment of the following criteria:

Criteria	Detail
Inclusivity in delivery	We want to know how the programme design has been developed to consider the needs and outcomes for all CYP and families, including those from marginalised/ minoritised backgrounds, as well as any engagement and inclusion of child and adult survivor voices and experiences. More information on this point can be found under 2.6 Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Equity (EDIE) .
Programme content and target audience	As previously mentioned, we are particularly interested in programmes which target one or more thematic areas of skills gaps noted in the scoping phase around: cultural competencies, coercive control, perpetrator dynamics, child-centered practice, multi-agencies, and family courts. However, Foundations is open to receiving applications that cover other thematic areas as well. The ultimate beneficiaries for the programme should be CYP as well as their families, through Early/ Family Help and wider Children's Social Care workforce and may include the wider safeguarding partnership such as health, police, and education.



Criteria	Detail
Programme stability and evidence base	We require a programme that has moved past the initial "proof of concept" phase with delivery and implementation experience. Programmes need to demonstrate a track record of successful implementation, which can be replicated and scaled. We anticipate the programme will have an existing Theory of Change (ToC) or Logic Model and ask that partners be willing to review and refine (as relevant) during the set-up phase with the evaluator. If the programme does not have a ToC, we require partners to be willing to develop one with Foundations and the evaluation partner during the set-up phase. Our main aim is to identify partners and programmes that have a strong understanding of the intended outcomes of their programme and can explain how their programme is intended to work. It would be desirable to evaluate a programme that has participated in some form of external monitoring, research and/or evaluation, but this is not a strict requirement.
Delivery capacity and scalability	Programmes must be delivered within England, and we are particularly interested in programmes delivered outside of London. We are open to both regional and national programmes, with a preference on multi-site delivery. All sites could be in the same region or spread across different regions. You should be able to demonstrate an ability to recruit and train professionals/practitioners across a range of teams and settings such as various departments within a local authority. You should be able to demonstrate secured delivery partnerships. Examples of this could include evidence of existing buy-in and support from local authorities, police forces or health trusts (e.g. MoUs or agreements to deliver), or letters of recommendations from previous deliveries.
Evaluation and data readiness	You need to demonstrate a willingness to work with an independent evaluator, understanding the resourcing (including staffing and time) that is required around this. You need to demonstrate adequate governance and GDPR compliance, with the infrastructure to share data with an independent evaluator in an appropriate and compliant way. You should already use or be willing to adopt standardised/validated outcome measures where appropriate. You need to demonstrate a willingness to monitor fidelity of delivery and may already have mechanisms in place for doing this.



Criteria	Detail
Motivation and ability to engage in independent evaluation	We are open to any entity who align with the detail of this Call Specification and would like to apply, such as local authorities, charities, third sector organisations, universities, social enterprises, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which will act as the beneficiary of the funds and will oversee the delivery of the programme. We can only accept applications from legally constituted organisations, and not from individuals. If the programme developer or delivery organisation is different from the lead applicant, you must: • Prove you have the required licencing agreement in place to deliver the programme • Demonstrate a formal partnership with and/or demonstrate approval from the programme developer to participate in this call and in an independent evaluation • Ensure the developer is part of the set-up phase, engaging meaningfully in conversations • Ensure the developer reviews and agrees with the evaluation protocol. These expectations are essential to avoid challenges later in the process. You need to articulate your motivation to generate evidence of your programme, as well as provide an understanding of the challenges and risks you envision with participating in an evaluation and how you will mitigate them. You need to have adequate organisational stability so you can participate in the full duration of the funding call, with considerations for any contingency measures needed in the event of any timeline changes. You will need to demonstrate appropriate division of responsibilities among the team you assemble to support the evaluation, including: • Someone from your senior management to support the strategic alignment, risk and resource management • Adequate operational and decision-making capacities required for the successful implementation of this evaluation • Ideally you would have a dedicated evaluation role, but it is not a requirement. We require partners to demonstrate committed internal capacity to engage with the evaluators.

We recognise that organisations may have multiple valuable programmes that fit our criteria. If you believe you have more than one programme that strongly aligns with our funding goals, you are welcome to submit separate applications for each programme. Each application should be complete and stand-alone, focusing on a single programme.

For more information on the assessment criteria and application weighting, please see [Appendix 1: Application Assessment](#).



2.5 Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Equity (EDIE)

Findings from stakeholder consultations and our scoping work demonstrated concerning gaps in effective and appropriate domestic abuse workforce programming and onward services for CYP and families, in particular for those from marginalised groups, with an emphasis on minoritised ethnic families.

As part of this funding call, we expect programmes to:

- Demonstrate how the workforce programme seeks to address the needs of the local area(s) in which they are delivered.
- Demonstrate the extent to which EDIE has been included within your workforce development programme. Such as content developed in collaboration or with input from persons with lived experiences, themes of cultural competencies, and consideration of particular approaches and skills with engaging and responding to incidents involving marginalised groups and minoritised ethnic families, and consideration of different perspectives and experiences and how that factors into good workforce development.
- Demonstrate how your workforce programme seeks to raise awareness/ upskill the workforce in supporting marginalised and minoritised ethnic families and CYP.

Where EDIE is not clearly considered within the outline for the workforce development programme, we may follow-up with partners to understand their approach. These insights will be captured in the findings and used to inform onward recommendations.

In terms of how EDIE is considered in the evaluation design, we will include clear expectations with the evaluator to include specific research questions within their planning.

2.6 Participation in the evaluation

Participating in an impact evaluation is a significant undertaking for a delivery organisation. We aim to be transparent about the capacity and capability this requires, and this is set out below. We understand that organisations may be at different levels of readiness to participate in such work, and we encourage you to attend the call webinars to understand more (see webinar details in [3.2 Applicant Support](#)). Our experience is that this is critical to the successful delivery of a funded partnership between Foundations, a delivery partner and evaluator.

The type of evaluation, its scale and objectives that we commission depends on the programme and its implementation. For more information about participating in an impact evaluation, including key activities by phase, please see [Working with Foundations](#).

3. How to apply

As a funder, we value the commitment required to participate in a rigorous evaluation and recognise the opportunity it presents to strengthen your programme's impact. Engaging in this process provides valuable insights, enhances learning, and contributes to the wider evidence base for domestic abuse workforce development programmes. We encourage applicants to consider



their capacity to fully participate, ensuring they can maximize the benefits of this evaluation while successfully delivering their programme.

Once you have considered the scope of this funding call, we invite you to submit a Proposal Application Form. This section will provide an overview of the application process as well as tailored guidance on how to complete the questions within the application form.

This funding call is composed of two strands:

- [Strand 1: Domestic abuse workforce programmes evidence fund](#)
- [Strand 2: Strengthening the evaluation capacity of By and For organisations](#)

Please review both in detail to determine which strand best aligns with your programme and organisations profile.

Please submit your completed application form, costings spreadsheet, timeline and supporting documents via our [application portal](#) by **12pm (noon) on Wednesday 5th August 2026**.

3.1 Provisional key dates

Please note these dates are provisional and may be updated.

Date	Activity
17 June 2026	Call for applications open
1 July 2026	Webinar 1
22 July 2026	Webinar 2
5 August 2026	Application deadline – 12pm (noon)
13 August 2026	Shortlisted applicants notified, invitation to interview
17 – 18 August 2026	Interviews conducted. If you anticipate any challenges in attending, please indicate as requested within your application document.
w/c 24 August 2026	Successful applicants notified, due diligence to be submitted by successful applicant within two weeks.



September 2026	Call for Evaluation Live
December 2026	Full award to delivery partners and evaluation partners
January 2027	Project kick off

Please note that Foundations reserves the right to change any of the key dates above. Please refer to our [website page](#) related to this call for updates as relevant.

3.2 Applicant support

Webinars

To support you in the application process, Foundations will be hosting two webinars while the call is live. Both will give a comprehensive overview of the Scope of the Funding Call and support on what are expectations are for your full proposal. You will also have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss any queries you might have.

Date	Time	Registration Links
1 July 2026	11h - 12h	Webinar #1
22 July 2026	14h – 15h	Webinar #2

Webinar 1 will be recorded and shared following the event, along with a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document if there are a significant number of questions raised.

Application guidance

Tailored guidance on how to complete the questions can be found directly within the Application Form, which can be found [here](#).

FAQs

If you have any questions or require support with your application, please do not hesitate to contact us at programmes@foundations.org.uk. Please include the reference ‘**DA13.B - DAWE**’ in your subject heading, and we will aim to get back to applicants within 3 working days.

Our FAQ will be updated regularly on the funding page of our website, so do check back periodically. To ensure transparency for all interested applicants, all questions and answers raised to Foundations through email and during our webinars will be published. We will ensure that no information which may identify potential applicants will be included in the content.



Shortlisting and interview

Foundations will carefully review all applications according to the eligibility criteria (section 3.2 Eligible Programmes) and additional assessment criteria and question weighting (Appendix 1).

This section outlines how and when shortlisting and decision-making will take place.

If your application is shortlisted, we may invite you to a virtual interview as the final stage before funding decisions are made. In such an event, you will receive a letter with details of the interview, along with key feedback points to consider in preparation.

Interviews will be held **17 – 18 August 2026**. If you anticipate any challenges in attending, please indicate as requested within your application document.

The interview is an opportunity for a deeper conversation about your programme, the team delivering it, and how you plan to engage in the evaluation. It also allows us to discuss specific aspects of your application in more detail and explore any areas that may need further development.

Provisional award and potential site visit

Following interviews, we will confirm which applicant will receive a provisional funding award.

At this stage, we will work together to ensure all necessary steps are in place for a successful partnership.

As part of our onboarding, we may arrange a site visit (where possible, in person) with successful applicants. This gives us an opportunity to meet each other. Site visits help us to better understand your programme and explore how we can best support programme delivery in the context of an evaluation. This can be very helpful to ensure our call for evaluation partners incorporates any considerations that are specific to your programme. Similarly, this is a great opportunity for successful applicants to get to know us better and ask any questions you may have about working with us.

Please note that all provisional awards are conditional on completing the relevant **due diligence checks** (please see [Appendix 2; Due Diligence](#) for more information), addressing any agreed actions from the assessment process as well as the successful appointment of an evaluation partner.

4. Funding and timeline

Funding for this project is available for **up to 27 months, with a proposed start date of January 2027**. Funding will be awarded based on the quality, impact, and cost-effectiveness of the proposal. Applicants should carefully consider the funding request, ensuring it reflects realistic costs and a strong case for value for money. Key considerations include:

- Grant Range: **Award to delivery partner will typically fall between £125,000 and £250,000.**



- **Value for Money:** Proposals that demonstrate strong value for money—for example, by showing efficient use of resources and a reasonable cost per participant—will be prioritised. Applicants should avoid automatically requesting the maximum amount and instead request funding that is proportionate to the scale and impact of their project.

We encourage all applicants to submit a proposal that reflects both ambition and responsible use of funds. Please note that Foundations reserves the right to change the funding envelope above.

This funding call has been developed in the context of our current funding arrangements with the Department for Education, which are in place until 31 March 2027. Funding for the project beyond April 2027 is not yet confirmed but it expected to be confirmed before set-up begins in January 2027.

Continuation of the Project beyond 31 March 2027 may be subject to future commissioning and funding decisions. Responsibility for the continuation of this project may transfer to another organisation or alternative delivery body during the course of the project. Where this occurs, we will seek to ensure appropriate and orderly transition arrangements, subject to funder requirements

The timeline presented below is **approximate** and will be refined once all partners are on board. While the dates may change, the evaluation will be structured by the following phases.

Phase	Approximate timeline	Objective
Set-up	January 2027 to May 2027 (5 months)	This phase is intended for all preparatory work required before programme delivery begins. Activities may include finalising partnerships, refining programme materials, and establishing delivery timelines.
Delivery	June 2027 to August 2028 (15 months)	This is the phase during which the programme will be actively delivered, and which we will expect the majority of the funding to be used to supplement those costs. Workforce participants will be recruited, the programme will be delivered, and data will be collected for the evaluation.
Analysis and reporting	September 2028 to January 2029 (5 months)	This phase includes analysis of data collected across all strands of the evaluation, culminating in a final report that will be published and disseminated. The evaluator will lead on this phase. Delivery partners may support with analysis workshops and reviewing final outputs. If this is required, this time will be funded.



Project wind-down and dissemination	February 2029 to March 2029 (2 months)	This phase will include publishing the evaluation report, partner progress and final financial reports, participating in any lessons learned discussions, dissemination events and discussions of next steps and sustainability (as relevant). If this is required, this time will be funded.
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Please see [Working with Foundations](#) for a detailed breakdown of what happens in each phase.

Please note that Foundations reserves the right to change any of the dates and timeframes above.



Appendices

Appendix 1: Application Assessment

Application assessment criteria	
SECTION 1: Applicant details (n/a, information only)	
SECTION 2: Scope (35%)	
Appropriateness of the proposed programme	• The programme is evidence informed and fits within the remit of this call; • The programme has potential to benefit the outcomes of children and young people affected by domestic abuse; • The programme embeds an aim to address the gaps in delivery of domestic abuse workforce programmes for minoritised ethnic children, families and communities; • The programme's outcomes are strategically aligned to the objectives described in the call specification.
Potential for Practice	• The programme is likely to lead to and/or contribute to positive changes in practice, policy, knowledge and service delivery; • Has a reasonable chance of making a significant (direct or indirect) difference to children's outcomes.
Recruitment of Participants	• There are no significant barriers to recruitment or retention into the programme which may compromise the integrity of an evaluation, or there is an appropriate mitigation plan in place; • There are sufficient beneficiaries and participants for the programme to be scaled.
SECTION 3: Quality (35%)	
Commitment to evaluation	• An acknowledgement that an evaluation of the programme will add distinct value to existing knowledge and evidence around workforce development programmes that focus on upskilling practitioners on domestic abuse; • A willingness to engage in evaluation, which may include a Randomised Control Trial.



Likelihood to lead to change	• Demonstrating outcomes that are clearly articulated, tangible and testable; • Presenting a rationale for delivery of the proposed programme.
Readiness for evaluation	• The programme is well specified, and has been accurately described for scalability and learning; • The programme is controlled – applicants have the information and commitment needed to ensure the project is delivered as intended; • Outcomes are quantifiable, and can reasonably determine whether the effects of the programme are positive, negative or null; • Comparison groups can be identified to ensure that any comparisons are meaningful; • There are appropriate measures to capture the phenomenon we're interested in, which are valid and reliable. Data exists in administrative datasets or data collection is conducted at a scale required for the evaluation to be feasible.
Commitment to EDIE	• The programme demonstrates a commitment to Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Equity (EDIE) • The programme understands and addresses the needs of diverse communities. • The potential for differential impacts and outcomes of the programme for minoritised ethnic children and families are considered.
Stakeholder Engagement and Safeguarding	• Safeguarding considerations are appropriately incorporated in the programme and mitigated; • Actively engaging with relevant stakeholders, particularly participants, throughout programme development and delivery.
Sustainability & Scalability	• Whether the risks associated with the programme and delivery are appropriately discussed and mitigated; • The proposal provides evidence that the project team can engage the required number of participants for the programme; • The programme is well developed and clearly defined (setting, referral pathway, target population, sample size, number and delivery of activities); • The programme will, or is proposed to, run in a number of settings or sites; • The proposal demonstrates that the programme is affordable and could be replicated at a larger scale and/ or in other settings. Delivery partners are willing and able to maintain the fidelity of the programme at scale.
SECTION 4: The project team and resources (20%)	
Programme team, organisation and capacity	• The expertise and experience of the programme team and lead applicant are clearly defined and relevant to the proposed programme; • The appropriateness and added value of proposed project partners and/or collaborators is clearly reflected;



	• The composition of the project team has the capacity, skills and training to deliver the programme at the scale proposed; • The capacity of the budget and the project team to conduct set-up of the programme within a 3-month period; • There are the necessary skills, systems and team members (DPO, for example) necessary to share good quality monitoring data, including personal data.
SECTION 5: Timeline and Budget (10%)	
Cost and timeframe	• The proposed costs of the programme are reasonable and commensurate with the proposed work involved; • The timeframe for the programme is feasible and meets the necessary reporting criteria.

Appendix 2: Due diligence

If you are progressed to provisional award, you will be requested to submit relevant documentation for Foundations' due diligence checks. We recommend that you share this information with the relevant personnel to support you in uploading the correct information.

Should you have any queries about these checks, please contact programmes@foundations.org.uk.

Finance

- A copy of your published accounts and annual report
- Confirmation that you have an organisational account in which the grant payments will be paid to (this should be on letterheaded paper)
- **Subsidy Control:** Foundations is required to consider its obligations under the Subsidy Control Act 2022 when awarding funding. Applicants may be asked to provide additional information about their organisation, the proposed use of funds, and any commercial benefits that may arise from the project. Any funding award may be subject to further legal and regulatory checks

Organisation

- Please provide a copy of any relevant insurance policies your local authority holds i.e. public liability certificate
- A copy of your EDIE (Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Equity) policy
- A copy of your Safeguarding Policy and procedures.

Data Protection

We recommend that you share this section with your Data Protection Officer for completion.



- Please provide details of your Data Protection Officer (DPO) - Full Name and Contact Email Address
- Please provide your ICO Registration Number
- Please provide a copy of and/or link to your organisational privacy policy.
- Please answer the following questions:
 - Does your organisation hold any IT certification such as ISO or Cyber Essentials? If so, please provide the reference number(s) to the certificate and/or attach a copy of the certificate.
 - Have you had any data breaches in the last year that were reported to the ICO? If so, how many?
 - Do you review your security measures or perform audits? If so, how often?
 - Are your employees required to complete data protection training annually?
 - Do you have security measures that are applied to your devices such as use of password, access control and antiviruses?
 - Do you ensure your own data processors are compliant?
 - Do you have processes that would enable the performance of individuals' data protection rights?

Appendix 3: Data Protection

At Foundations, we take data protection very seriously. We want to make sure that data is used in a way that protects the individuals whose data is being processed and is in compliance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), the 2018 Data Protection Act and any other relevant data protection legislation and best practice guidelines.

To ensure that you are collecting, storing, processing, and sharing data securely and in a compliant manner, you will need to make sure that you have a robust data management and processing system in place. It is important to consider who will be responsible for overseeing the data management system and who will provide data protection support during the programme and evaluation period.

It is also important to consider where the data will be stored and who will have access to it. For those involved in collecting and accessing the data, please make sure they liaise with the evaluators to ensure that the data is shared appropriately and safely. Where possible, there is an expectation for you to de-identify the information you are sharing with the evaluators, and they are expected to explain how this should be done.

During the set-up phase, delivery partners and evaluators will need to work with Foundations to consider data protection measures, define who will do the work and implement those measures into any work plans. The delivery partner needs a data protection lead. This is the key person who is familiar with the programme and understands the data requirements and provide data protection oversight at all stages of the programme. Grantees will be expected to fully comply with the UK GDPR and Data Protection Act (2018). While formal details will be contained in the Grant Agreement that is issued for each project, we outline some of our expectations below:



- The purpose of the **Data Sharing Agreement (DSA)** is to make clear that all parties (Foundations, evaluators, delivery partners and delivery sites) understand the roles and responsibilities around the use and sharing of data, including personal data, within the scope of the project. The DSA will also define data protection legislative compliance responsibilities in accordance with the Information Commissioner's Office Data Sharing Code of Conduct. Your Programme Manager will advise on whether it will be beneficial to schedule a meeting between partners and Foundations' Data Protection Officer, Aurelie Stulz, Aurelie.Stulz@foundations.org.uk to iron out the details needed to complete the DSA
- The purpose of a **Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)** is to review the risks to data subjects/project participants and other data subjects due to the processing of their data. It must set out why and how personal data shall be collected and stored; the justification for the types of data we will collect; and the risks and mitigations in place for those risks. Foundations will develop a DPIA for this programme; partners are welcome to collaborate with Foundations on the development of one joint-party DPIA, or to develop their own
- The purpose of a **Data Privacy Notice (DPN)** is to remain transparent with participants about how their personal data is used. The GDPR outlines specific criteria that must be provided to all data subjects which, in this case, will include information explaining the purpose of research, how their data will be used as part of the evaluation, the rights they have including the right for participants to opt-out, legal bases for processing their data, and the intention to archive their data. We expect all data subjects, whose data is being processed, to receive a Data Privacy Notice (DPN) at the point of collection of their data.

Within the scope of this programme, we expect evaluators and delivery partners to be joint controllers with Foundations, in that partners will jointly determine and/or facilitate the methodology of capture and transfer of personal data for the purposes of the evaluation. The delivery partner will be a joint controller for the research, yet an independent controller in the delivery of the programme. This will need to be made clear in the Data Sharing Agreement we will share with you.

All awarded projects will need to include data protection practices as an embedded aspect of processing personal data. This will include such things as:

- a. Having a plan for personal data protection from the very beginning of the project's inception
- b. Providing a Data Privacy Notice to each participant inclusive of the information required of [Article 13](#) and/or 14 of the GDPR
- c. Knowing you will need to get consent from a parent or legal guardian if you are processing any CYP's personal data (age 13 and under – also note that an ethics process will view CYP as aged 16 and under)
- d. Keeping a record of any high-risk processing activities in accordance with [Article 30.5](#) of the GDPR
- e. Consider the geographic location of the data you are collecting and implement appropriate safeguards according to [Chapter 5](#) of the GDPR if data will be leaving the UK/EEA



- f. Conduct a [Data Protection Impact Assessment](#) (DPIA) on any high-risk data processing activities e.g. using CYP's personal data is considered high risk processing.
- g. Make sure the data is kept secure and only accessible to those involved in the study who need to access it ([Article 32](#) and [Article 89.1](#) are important to be aware of). Minimise, pseudonymise or anonymise personal data where you can
- h. Making sure any data you collect is only used for the reason it was collected.
- i. Define a retention period and a methodology for deleting the data at the end of the retention period
- j. Understanding the lawful basis for processing personal data and that consent for ethical purposes is not the same as consent for data protection purposes. It is most likely the processing of personal data in accordance with [Article 6](#) of the GDPR, will be either based on legitimate interest for societal benefit or for a performance of a task carried out in the public interest (it will be worth taking legal advice on this point)
- k. Understanding the lawful basis for processing special category personal data in accordance with [Article 9](#) of the GDPR (it is recommended that you read and understand GDPR Article 9.2(j) and DPA18 [Schedule 1 Part 1.4\(a\),\(b\)&\(c\)](#)).