



What Works Centre for Children & Families

# STRENGTHENING EVALUATION CAPACITY OF BY AND FOR ORGANISATIONS:

## DOMESTIC ABUSE WORKFORCE PROGRAMMES

Webinar – Wednesday 24 June  
2026



# Agenda



## **Foundations, Overview of Opportunity: 2:00 – 2:30pm**

### **Introducing Foundations**

- Vision, Mission, Domestic Abuse Work

### **Funding Call Details**

- Background, Scope, Partner Engagement

### **Funding Process**

- Funding parameters, Application Process, Funding Call Stages, Timeline

## **Open questions: 2:30 – 3:00pm**

- **Questions & Answers**

# Format



- We'll be recording today's webinar for internal notetaking purposes and to share on our website for those who could not attend. You can find our privacy policy on our website.
- You can start providing questions in the chat box function. We will track all submitted and aim to answer each one in this session. Where we cannot answer at this time, we will provide an answer on our general FAQ document afterwards.
- All questions and answers from this webinar will be captured in FAQ available for all interested applicants.

# Foundations Team – Funding Call



**Ava Berry,  
*Senior Policy  
Advisor***



**Liv Martin,  
*Senior Practice  
Development  
Advisor***



**Polina Bishenden,  
*Evidence &  
Evaluation Officer***



**Sarah Amato,  
*Senior  
Programmes  
Manager***

**Unable to attend today's session**

- Dhriti Suresh Eapen, Programmes Manager
- Jamila Boughelaf, Head of Programmes
- Emma Leith, Senior Evaluation Officer



# INTRODUCTION TO FOUNDATIONS

# FOUNDATIONS

**Foundations is the national What Works Centre for Children & Families.**

We're generating and championing the actionable evidence that improves family support services, so more vulnerable children have the foundational relationships they need to thrive in life.



## VISION

Vulnerable children have the foundational relationships they need to thrive in life.

## MISSION

Generating and championing actionable evidence that improves services to support family relationships.

# OUR PRIORITY AREAS



1. Supporting parenting



2. Strengthening family networks



3. Domestic abuse



4. Relationships for care experienced children



# Domestic Abuse: introducing the REACH plan



- Domestic abuse is one of the four priority areas in our five-year strategy
- Our aim is to examine how to effectively support children and young people who have experienced domestic abuse
- Two publications to date

# Sample DA Projects



We commissioned **Cordis Bright** to conduct a feasibility study of the **Restart programme**, delivered by **SafeLives, Respect, and Cranstoun**. We published a report on this work in October 2025.

We commissioned **IFF Research** to conduct an impact evaluation and implementation and process evaluation of **Bounce Back 4 Kids**.

**Action for Children's Breaking the Cycle** team was supported by the **Behavioural Insights Team** to carry out early -stage evaluation activities, including developing a theory of change.

We commissioned **Verian** to conduct an impact evaluation and implementation and process evaluation of **WeMatter**.

The **Fatherhood Institute** was supported by the **Behavioural Insights Team** to adapt **Fathers 4 Change** from a US programme to the UK context, including meeting Home Office standards for perpetrator programmes.

**Please visit our website for more information about our REACH plan and our recent update - [REACH: An update on our five year plan - Foundations](#)**



# FUNDING CALL DETAILS

# Background - Scoping



## Policy Review

- Freedom from Violence and Abuse Cross-Government Strategy
- Department for Education (DfE)
- Domestic Abuse Commissioner's Office

## Stakeholder Consultations

- Experts by Experience
- Domestic Abuse Advisory Group
- Sector specialists

## Evidence Review

- Promising approaches
- Existing evidence gaps

## DA Workforce Programme Mapping

- National sector scoping

# Background – Findings



## **1. Workforce capability gaps persist in key areas**

- Knowledge, confidence and practice
- Thematic gaps within coercive control, perpetrator dynamics, cultural competency, and child-centred responses

## **2. Implementation challenges undermine existing training provision**

- “One-off” trainings, limited senior buy-in, insufficient follow-up
- Weak links between learning and frontline practice

## **3. Significant equity and programme gaps remain**

- Marginalised and minoritised ethnic survivors experience poorer access to effective support
- Lack of robust evidence on the impact of workforce development delivered by By-and-For Organisations

# Funding Call – Objectives



**Purpose:** To generate evidence that informs Children's Social Care and the wider safeguarding partnership's understanding of what works to upskill professionals to better support children, young people and whole families affected by domestic abuse, including marginalised groups with a particular focus on minoritised ethnic families.

## **Aims:**

- To **generate 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.
- To support organisations to **strengthen their evaluation capacity** and prepare for a future robust evaluation of their programme.

# Funding Call – Two Strand Approach



## Strand 1

An impact evaluation and process evaluation of domestic abuse workforce development programme(s) that are **impact evaluation ready**, or close to ready.



By demonstrating the impact of these programmes, we aim to support the wider adoption/commissioning of effective workforce development support across the sector.

## Strand 2

**Strengthening evaluation capacity** for domestic abuse workforce development programmes that are developed and implemented by **By-and-For Organisations**



To prepare for a future robust evaluation.

# Strand 2 – What are we looking to achieve?



- Support By-and-For Organisations to strengthen their skills, capacities and experience to engage in research evaluations and enhance how they can best profile the impact of their work to a wide audience.
- Tailored evaluation capacity strengthening plan
- Expected outline;
  - **Set-up & scoping (between 3 to 6 months):** Relationship building, developing plans.
  - **Capacity Strengthening Delivery and Testing (between 11 to 18 months):** Individual (and potential cross-cohort) workshops, Theory of Change development or refinement, and participating in peer-learning and exchanges, potential 'test & learn' activities.
  - **Project Wind-up (last 3 months):** Finalise the project outputs, dissemination and lessons learned activities and 'what next' planning, reporting.

# Strand 2 Scope – Who is this call for?



- By-and-For Organisations working with minoritised ethnic families

“organisations that are **designed and delivered by and for people who are minoritised (including race, disability, sexual orientation, transgender identity, religion or age)**. These services will be rooted in the communities they serve, and may include wrap-around holistic recovery and support that address a victim or survivor’s full range of intersecting needs, beyond purely domestic abuse support.”

- *Domestic Abuse Commissioner’s Patchwork of Provision*

- Intersectionality welcome, though consistent focus with minoritised ethnic families
- *Grassroots, community led, survivor led* – nature and purpose, not label
- We welcome a discussion on eligibility

# Strand 2 Scope – Programme Type



## Must Haves

- Programme beneficiaries **CYP and families**, including marginalised groups and minoritised ethnic families.
- Recognises **children as victims in their own right**, not adult only focused.
- **Early Family Help, wider Children’s Social Care.**
- Addresses **key skills gap**; cultural competencies, coercive control, perpetrator dynamics, child-centered practice, multi-agencies, and family courts, but could include others.
- Builds **knowledge, motivation, techniques**, and **embeds practice** (not just training).
- Includes **ongoing** capacity support.
- Extends beyond training to take into consideration the **organisational and systemic context**.
- Has an existing Theory of Change, or willingness to develop/refine.
- Has been delivered consistently, not in development

# Strand 2 Scope – Programme Type



## Nice to Have

- Wider Safeguarding Partnership (health, police, education).
- Uses various formats, such as in person, online, mentoring, implementation support.
- Targets different career stages.
- Intersecting needs.

## Cannot Be

- 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.

# Strand 2 Scope – What can you expect?



## Evaluation Partner(s)

- Review evaluation capacity
- Develop tailored capacity strengthening plan
- Deliver training, mentoring, guidance

## Foundations

- Selecting the best placed evaluation partner(s) with relevant experience
  - Establishing relationships
- Ensuring effective delivery of the capacity plans
- Stakeholder engagement / thought partner

Cohort – Peer Learning – Peer Engagement



# Funding Process

# Funding Parameters



- £30,000, to cover participation
- 25 months, March 2027 to March 2029

## ***Programme Eligibility***

- Sector and thematic alignment.
- Track record of delivering the DA workforce programme.
- Committed engagement and experience working with and supporting CYP and families from minoritised ethnic backgrounds.
- Potential to be scaled and evaluated in the future.
- Programmes must be delivered within England.

## ***Applicant Eligibility***

- By-and-For Organisations only.
- Applicants must be willing and have the capacity to fully participate in the capacity building activities of this call.
- Applicants need to have adequate organisational stability for full duration of the call.

*Please see the full details of eligibility and project scope in the EOI guidance.*

# Application Process



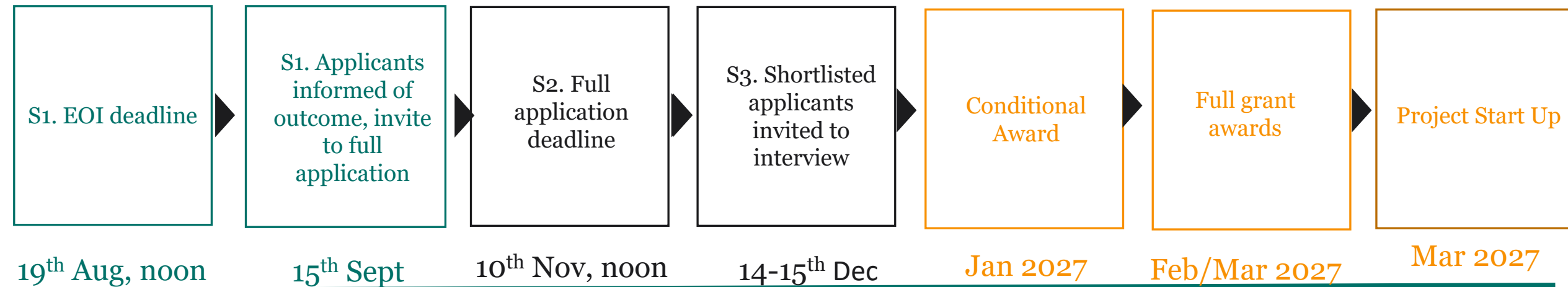
Three stage application process;

1. Submitting an EOI - our intention with this stage is to reduce burden on applicants.
2. Full application – by invitation from the EOI stage.
3. Interview and selection stage – shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview.

To apply, please submit an EOI by **12PM (noon) Wednesday 19th August 2026.**

FAQs are regular updated and available to view on our website.

# Application Timeline



*A reminder that Foundations reserves the rights to change timelines, and will provide updates on our website as relevant.*

# Application Support



## Webinars

1. 24<sup>th</sup> June, 14-15h
2. 8<sup>th</sup> July, 14-15h
3. 5<sup>th</sup> August, 14-15h

## FAQ

- Regularly updated on website
- All questions raised and answers included

## Assessment

- Determine suitability
  - Provide tailored feedback
- Direct engagement, *potentially*

- You are welcome to email anytime at; [programmes@foundations.org.uk](mailto:programmes@foundations.org.uk)
- Please include 'DA13.B Strand 2' in the subject heading



# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

# Thank you!



- Webinar slides and FAQ document will be uploaded with questions/answers from today.
- Reminder of our email address; [programmes@foundations.org.uk](mailto:programmes@foundations.org.uk)