

Fair Education Alliance Youth Engagement: Evaluation Brief

About The Fair Education Alliance

The Fair Education Alliance (FEA) is England's largest education coalition. We unite over 280 member organisations under a shared vision that no child's educational success is limited by their socio-economic background. Our members (youth organisations, charities and social enterprises, research organisations and think tanks, businesses and foundations, unions, universities and schools) work together to achieve an inclusive education system that works for all children and young people.

About our Youth Engagement Work

The FEA believe that to make education fair, young people should lead the change alongside adults. Therefore, in 2021, with the generous support of The Pears #iwill Fund, we co-created a [Youth Engagement Strategy](#) with young people and our members, to ensure young people are central to everything we do. We are now over two years into implementing the strategy with the continued support of Pears Foundation and new funding from Mission 44.

One objective of our strategy is to increase good youth engagement practice amongst our members and wider sector organisations. We do this in two ways:

- 1) Our Head of Youth Engagement offers **bespoke 1:1 support** to our members and sector stakeholders who are looking to start or improve their youth engagement practice. We have worked with over 50 organisations in two years. Most organisations have one support meeting about a specific issue they are facing, but a small number have had ongoing strategic support or other types of support such as help with funding applications or recruitment of youth engagement staff.
- 2) Our **Youth Engagement Working Group** brings together members and other organisations in the education and youth sectors to share and learn from one another. 268 people from 143 organisations attended a workshop in the last two years. The workshop themes are set by the needs of the group and always relate to improving the quality of youth engagement the organisations are providing. We held eight sessions led by members and young people on themes including youth governance, navigating paying young people, supporting young campaigners' mental health and young people as researchers. Following the most recent meeting, 96% of attendees said they learnt something about making their youth engagement work more inclusive and 92% said they were 'likely' or 'very likely' to act on what they had learnt in the session.

The Evaluation Brief

We are ambitious about the future of our youth engagement work, and we want to build evidence of what works and what our members need to scale their youth engagement in the future.

We already have quantitative attendance data, feedback data and data on the number of FEA members who have started or increased their youth engagement. We are now looking for an evaluation partner to complete qualitative research to help us:

- **Better understand the outcomes of our youth engagement support** (1:1s and Working Group meetings) for FEA members.
- **Produce high quality written case studies** to illustrate and celebrate the outcomes of the work and showcase youth engagement across our membership. These case studies should inspire FEA members, funders and other stakeholders to get involved and share power with young people.

Evaluation questions

1. How have the FEA's youth engagement activities helped our members and wider sector stakeholders to:
 - a. start or improve their youth engagement activities;
 - b. support the young people they work with to develop relevant skills and knowledge for youth engagement and youth leadership roles;
 - c. increase the number and diversity of young people involved in their work.
2. What, if anything, do FEA members feel has changed regarding attitudes towards the involvement of young people in decision-making:
 - a. within their organisations;
 - b. with policy makers.
3. What additional support do organisations need to continue to improve their youth engagement?

Evaluation approach

The evaluation partner will:

- Conduct ten 30-minute phone/online interviews with organisations who have taken part in the FEA youth engagement activities. Where possible, these interviews will include a staff member and young person. *We will provide a draft topic guide for the interviews (to be refined with you) and we will introduce you via email to the organisations who have agreed to be interviewed.*
- Analyse the interview content to identify and write up key themes and learnings.
- Develop written case studies based on the interviews which celebrate the youth engagement happening across the FEA and the impact of our support.
- Design the case study content into visually beautiful and shareable PDFs. *We will share our branding guidelines with you.*

We anticipate this project will require:

- 1 day for interview preparation and logistics
- Half day for interviews between 4th March and 9th March and another half day for interviews between 19th - 28th March.
- 3-4 days for analysis, written summary and case study creation

Evaluation deliverables

- Six written case studies (three full page and three half page) which celebrate six different members' youth engagement and the impact of our support. They should be designed in accordance with our brand guidelines and ready to share externally.
- An internal write up report with summaries of key themes from the interviews and responses against evaluation objectives along with key recommendations for the future.

Timeline

- 21st February 2024: Expressions of interest deadline
- w/c 26th February: External evaluation contract confirmed and kick off meeting
- 4th –9th March: First interview window
- 14th March: Draft of first two case studies
- 18th March: Final version of first two case studies
- 19th - 28th March: Second interview window
- 8th April: Draft deliverables submitted (case studies and report)
- 18th April: Final deliverables submitted.

How to express interest

Deadline for expressions of interest: 4pm Wednesday 21st February 2024.

Please contact Becca Weighell, Head of Youth Engagement, at bweighell@faireducation.org.uk to discuss further or express interest.

Please send an estimate of cost, a brief description of your relevant experience and an example of a written case study you have produced. Our maximum budget for this is £4000 .

As this evaluation involves supervised work with young people, a DBS check is desirable but not essential. If you have one, please include your level of clearance in your expression of interest. You will also be required to agree to the [FEA's Safeguarding Policy](#).