

Specification

Issued on behalf of
The Violence Reduction Unit (VRU)

Title: MyEnds Partnership Fund
2024-2026

Contents

1. Organisational Overview	2
2. Introduction and Service Aims	2
3. Current Service Delivery	7
4. Service Requirements	9
5. Minimum Service Levels	11
6. Delivering the Service	12
7. Reporting and Monitoring.....	12
8. Payments.....	14
9. Annex 1.....	14

1. Organisational Overview

London's Violence Reduction Unit, which was established in 2018, is a unit within MOPAC that brings together specialists from health, police, local government, probation and community organisations to tackle violent crime and the underlying causes of violent crime.

Our vision is a London that is free from violence, and a city where everyone feels safe. The VRU's programme of work is wide ranging and complex, we take an evidence-based approach, commissioning both innovative and established interventions, targeting people and places most in need of support.

In line with the public health approach, the VRU has continued to look at violence not as isolated incidents or solely a police enforcement problem, but at violence as a preventable consequence of a range of factors, such as adverse early-life experiences, or harmful social or community experiences and influences.

This has meant putting communities and young people at the heart of tackling the issue, and particularly in those parts of London most affected. To help us achieve this, our commitments are focused on education and inclusion-based projects, community-based projects together with specific projects for young people, youth practitioners, support to communities and Local Authorities in response to critical incidents, as well as piloting other community and parent group programmes.

2. Introduction and Service Aims

In some parts of London, we know that violence is very localised and is often concentrated in areas as small as an estate or a cluster of streets. For effective, long-term impact to tackle violence, there needs to be strong, local, collaborative work in our communities.

The VRU has further aligned the previous Community Capacity Building Fund with the MyEnds strategic approach and intended outcomes. The Mayor has also increased investment in this fund to provide an enhanced offer to boroughs under the newly created **MyEnds – Partnership** Fund to deliver hyper local interventions in areas of most need.

The VRU is allocating funding for financial years 2024 – 25 and 2025-26, from the 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2026, to 23 Local Authorities (that are not part of the VRU My Ends 2.0 programmes) as part of the new MyEnds – Partnership Fund (previously named Community Capacity Building Fund) - allocating a total of £6,440,000 to boroughs over a 2 year period.

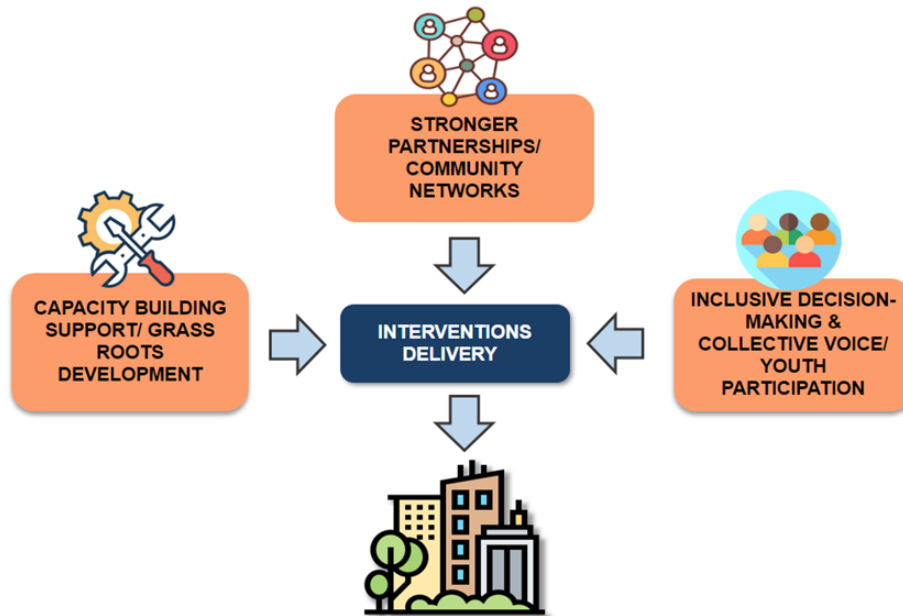
Background to MyEnds

MyEnds is an ambitious programme from London VRU which takes a community-led, partnership-driven, hyper local approach to reducing and preventing violence. MyEnds, soon to be in its second iteration, aims to reduce violence through the following objectives:

- a) To facilitate the emergence of interventions that are locally, and community led, appropriate to the needs of the local area and reach those who need them most.
- b) To develop local networks and support them to implement locally led interventions.
- c) To ensure that local organisations (VCS & grassroots) are equipped with the skills, knowledge and access to resources and information they need.
- d) Increase local organisations sustainability, including adding long-term capacity to local organisations, so that local networks are well-placed to respond to the needs of those in the community.
- e) Increase trust and strengthen collaboration between local communities, stakeholders, key institutions, and statutory partners.

These objectives are met through four key activity strands highlighted below:

1. <u>Community and youth-led co-design and engagement</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising awareness and community outreach Involving young people in design, planning, & delivery Developing routes for community engagement and building on existing assets
2. <u>Supporting & building capacity in the grassroots sector:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grassroots grant funding Community decision-making panel Capacity-building support
3. <u>Targeted hyper-local interventions:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding a mixed profile of support in terms of need and intervention level (primary/ secondary/ tertiary) Expanding promising practice Fostering innovative practice Adapting to emerging need & critical incidents
4. <u>Strengthening collaborative local network approach:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incident response Strategic thinking Joined-up working Sharing intelligence Sustainability



During the first three years of MyEnds several key learnings have emerged from its evaluation and the VRU's operational oversight, indicating areas for ongoing development.

These have included:

Taking a strategic approach to understanding needs and identifying target groups: Local interventions and activities run by consortiums were sometimes inconsistent at reaching and engaging those that needed them most. To improve this, consortiums were trained to create local EqIA's (Equality Impact Assessment) identifying unheard and underrepresented groups, those with protected and other characteristics, the intersectionality of their needs, and create collaborative action plans to expand/ focus reach. This will be built on further in MyEnds 2.0 during mobilisation through the creation and implementation of hyper-local Community Needs Assessments.

Building capacity to robustly measure impact to evaluate innovative approaches: Despite their local embeddedness and effectiveness of delivery, several consortiums struggled to incorporate meaningful methods for measuring and assessing their impact, especially regarding contextualised and innovative intervention work. In response to this the VRU commissioned external capacity building support for consortiums in year 2 of the programme, adapting this to the recruitment of a Capacity Building Lead within the VRU in year 3. Capacity building support has bridged the gap between consortium partners and programme evaluators, and has supported consortiums to up-skill, adapt, share, innovate and embed

stronger monitoring, evaluation and learning into their practice and activity, using methods and approaches which make sense within their local context.

Navigating the opportunities and boundaries of VCS-statutory partnership working:

Stronger partnerships and networks are a key outcome of the programme, however consortium found several challenges when working with their local authorities (LAs). These included struggling to understand LA systems and policies, engage and maintain working relationships with key LA stakeholders, and building communication and trust between their local communities and statutory sectors. Going into MyEnds 2.0, a greater focus has been placed on LAs and MyEnds consortiums working closely together, for example in their response to critical incidences, information sharing, and facilitating/ amplifying community voice and LA accountability.

Address gaps in locally embedded tertiary intervention: Whilst primary and secondary interventions developed effectively in all MyEnds areas, some struggled to create and implement locally informed and embedded tertiary interventions for those closest to violence. Where this was the case there were common trends, such as a wider lack of tertiary services in the borough, or complications in identifying, recruiting, and training practitioners with the lived experience, expertise, and local credibility needed to reach those most at risk. Even within MyEnd consortiums where tertiary intervention was better established, evaluation identified potential to connect this further with wider early intervention and multi-model approaches.

Build sustainability planning earlier into the programme: Sustainability for consortiums past the life/ funding cycle of the VRU programme was a distinct challenge with risk of over-reliance on VRU investment. The VRU created a Sustainability Fund to support MyEnds consortiums as they transitioned out of full programme funding, along with specialist support on creating sustainability strategies and building co-ordination mechanisms within consortiums to aid long-term collaboration.

MyEnds Partnership Fund

MyEnds Partnership Fund will be offered to Local Authorities to deliver responses to, and prevention of, hyper-local violence in their borough, through aligning with two or more of the **four key activity strands** of MyEnds.

It is mandatory for at least one of the chosen activity strands to involve the delivery of interventions, namely activity strands 1 (Community & youth-led co-design and engagement) and/ or activity strand 3 (Targeted hyper-local interventions).

In keeping with the methodology and approach of MyEnds, the MyEnds Partnership Fund needs to be focused on the hyper-local, rather than whole borough. Using local data sets and community intelligence, Local Authorities will need to identify hyper-local areas, such as a particular ward or group of estates, that have a high need for violence prevention and early-intervention. The target area/s will then become the focus in the utilisation of the grant.

Local Authorities will need to demonstrate how they will collaborate with their local VCS, grassroots groups, young people, and community members to plan and deliver their proposed activities and initiatives. Examples of approaches that LAs could take are as follows:

1. Community & youth-led co-design and engagement:

- Initiatives that reach, amplify, and empower the voices of young people who are historically unheard, especially those nearest to violence and exploitation.
- Projects that build trust and co-working between local communities impacted by violence and statutory services, incorporating community voice and co-design in LA strategy design and decision making.

2. Supporting & building capacity in the grassroots sector:

- Resourcing and empowering local grassroots groups to build their sustainability and increase their impact in reducing violence and exploitation.
- Building mechanisms that will allow new violence reduction initiatives, run by grassroots groups, to emerge, strengthen and thrive.

3. Targeted hyper-local interventions:

- Collaborating with local VCS organisations to pre-empt and prevent local violence, as well as co-developing community-based responses to critical incidents.
- Identifying gaps in existing violence prevention interventions and providing resource and capacity building support to local providers to address these.

4. Strengthening collaborative local network approach:

- Supporting and resourcing local networks to form stronger trust, co-ordination, and collaboration to work together to reduce violence and exploitation.
- Funding local partnership-lead initiatives that reduce and prevent violence.

The MyEnds Partnership Fund will operate over **24 months** from the award of the grant with a start date of **1st April 2024 until 31st March 2026**. The funding will be split across each 23 Local Authorities providing a maximum of **£280,000** per borough over the 2 year period.

Each Local Authority will receive an equal amount of funding and will be required to submit a project proposal and a breakdown of spend clearly highlighting the violence profile within the locality and detailing the scope of the project, outcomes/outputs, how these will be measured, partner involvement and how these align to the MyEnds Partnership Fund criteria above. Each borough can submit 1 proposal.

3. Current Service Delivery

The VRU have prioritised investment in those who hold key trusted relationships with young people – parents and carers, teachers, peers, communities and youth practitioners. Those who have the capacity to support young people most in need and can provide opportunity and foster ambition in young Londoners. Alongside this investment, the VRU have adopted a place-based focus, supporting strategies at a local authority level through to initiatives in specific neighbourhoods.




While the VRU is looking to make positive change now, our aim is to reduce violence and increase safety in a long-term sustainable approach that enables us to best develop tried and tested preventative measures and work constructively with communities. All the current budget is committed to a range of violence reduction programmes ranging from education, parenting, mental health, funding to support VCS/grass roots projects as well as funding allocated to Local Authorities for violence reduction initiatives.

LCPF funding has been provided to each London borough since 2019 and allows for local delivery of violence reduction initiatives including mentoring and outreach support for young people impacted by violence, parenting programmes, programmes to reduce risk of exclusion, drug related violence research, and local analysts and violence reduction coordinators. Providing this funding to boroughs has given consistent funding stream enabling additional capacity to help support local delivery and outcomes aligned to local priorities, and most recently those priorities identified through serious violence duty strategies and strategic needs assessments.

The VRU wants to continue to support boroughs that are not My Ends 2.0 areas, to develop programmes that are focused on areas impacted by violence, in collaboration with communities and provide further capacity building. The MyEnds Partnership fund intends to take the learning from the MyEnds programme to deliver evidence based hyperlocal interventions to prevent and respond to violence in areas of most need.

VRU Objectives

The VRU's work is organized into Priority Areas which illustrate the VRU's ambition to advance innovative approaches to violence reduction at both the individual and systems-level. The Priority Areas form the foundation of the VRU Outcomes Framework (see Annex 1). This document sets out the shorter-term changes (outcomes) we need in order to achieve our longer-term goals.

Priority Areas	
	Children & Young People: Reducing Harm Improving identification of and support to prevent violence against CYP at greatest risk of harm and exploitation
	Children & Young People: Positive Opportunities Expanding access to positive opportunities and providing development and support through training, apprenticeships, and employment & enrichment
	Families Developing stronger and more resilient families (to better support young people)
	Educational settings Promoting healthy relationships and reducing exclusions and dis-engagement in education
	Communities & Place Providing communities with the support and resources to deliver sustainable reductions in violence
	Systems & Sector Collaborating and working in partnership to deliver better services and improved outcomes for those affected by violence

As part of a nationwide network of VRUs, we are committed to contributing to the development of the evidence base. This includes ‘what works, and for whom’ to reduce serious violence. We will do this by monitoring and evaluating our funded interventions to answer these questions. Being able to answer those questions – and to conversely identify what doesn’t work and why – can build evidence-informed policymaking. It will also mean that the most effective programmes can be scaled up and sustained.

Strategic Outcomes of this Fund

The overall strategic aims of this grant are drawn from VRU’s priority area relating to ‘**Communities & Place**’. Project proposals are therefore encouraged to identify opportunities to build more connected communities, increase inclusive decision-making, improve community connectedness, and support capacity building within community networks.

Programme Level Outcomes

We ask that project proposals identify at least two programme-level outcomes from the VRU Outcomes Framework (Annex 1). When selecting your two programme-level outcomes, you may identify outcomes from across all Priority Areas in the framework, not just the primary area in which the project sits. For more information, please see attached VRU Outcomes Framework Guidance which sets out how outcomes should be selected.

4. Service Requirements

Scope

The proposal must be focused on a **specific neighbourhood** where violence is more prevalent within the borough, looking at **targeted hyper-local areas**, with the proposal clearly highlighting the violence profile within the locality or hotspot. This can also include focusing on a specific group or community within this area, but they should not use the group or community to define the area, as this is area based.

The proposal needs to evidence partnerships collaboration between MPS, VCS and communities and young people, (as well as other local authorities where the location is cross-borough) working together to develop the response and delivery so the partnership is better placed to support the community in the wake of current and future serious youth violence incidents.

We want you to define your neighbourhood in a way that’s meaningful to those who live there. Some examples of a neighbourhood area include:

- Residential areas and housing estates
- Wards
- A school catchment area
- Night-time economy locations or town centres
- Transport hubs
- Open spaces, i.e., parks

Proposals should also reference how the project will link in with other VRU funded projects in the locality - e.g., parents' network, LCPF etc.

Please note that boroughs can only submit 1 proposal. Proposals must align with two or more of the four key activity strands of MyEnds, with the mandatory requirement for at least one of the chosen activity strands to involve the delivery of interventions, namely activity strands 1 (Community & youth-led co-design and engagement) and/ or activity strand 3 (Targeted hyper-local interventions).

1. Community and youth-led co-design and engagement

- Raising awareness and community outreach
- Involving young people in design, planning, & delivery
- Developing routes for community engagement and building on existing assets

2. Supporting & building capacity in the grassroots sector

- Grassroots grant funding
- Community decision-making panel
- Capacity-building support

3. Targeted hyper-local interventions

- Funding a mixed profile of support in terms of need and intervention level (primary/ secondary/ tertiary)
- Expanding promising practice
- Fostering innovative practice
- Adapting to emerging need & critical incidents

4. Strengthening collaborative local network approach:

- Incident response
- Strategic thinking
- Joined-up working

- Sharing intelligence
- Sustainability

The funding does not need to be split equally across the 2 year period, boroughs can propose to spend more in year 2 than in year 1, but proposals must include a full forecast of spend with a quarterly breakdown.

The proposal must provide details on how the activity aligns with other VRU funded projects such as LCPF as well as priorities set out in borough Serious Violence Strategies.

Submission Questions:

Please see below the application fields boroughs will be expected to complete – the application is available on Flexigrant.

5. Minimum Service Levels

General

Details of grant management and processes will be noted in the Grant Agreements provided to each Local Authority.

Governance and management of the services

- The VRU will have Grant agreements with each borough for the funding.
- The *Local Authority* will be responsible for the monitoring and reporting on this programme to the VRU.
- Participating boroughs will attend VRU meetings as required (currently these meetings take place quarterly), respond to requests for information and provide progress updates and reports to the VRU.
- Boroughs will be expected to participate in an evaluation of the programme and complete evaluation documentation as required.

This programme will be grant managed by the VRU in line with Grant Agreements. Local Authorities will be expected to produce project proposal and will be expected to provide a return of progress each Quarter on FlexiGrant as part of grant management arrangements. Local Authorities will be responsible for ensuring returns are submitted to set deadlines and claim invoices to the VRU.

6. Delivering the Service

Service user involvement

In line with the contract management process, the VRU will liaise with the local authorities in relation to this funding. This will include quarterly progress updates, returns and monitoring meetings. The VRU will require the final project update to be submitted within a month of the end of the project.

Complaints

Complaints should be submitted to the lead Programme Manager for this fund.

Information security -

The Provider(s) must ensure that the Service complies with the requirements of (i) the Data Protection Act 2018; (ii) Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (the General Data Protection Regulation); and (iii) any other applicable privacy and data protection legislation.

The Provider(s) must ensure that the Service handles all data in accordance with the Data Protection Act 2018. Staff and volunteers must, when relevant, introduce the Services to the victim, including any specified wording required to comply with Data Protection and GDPR.

7. Reporting & Monitoring

Management Information

There is a requirement of quarterly data returns on FlexiGrant for all funded activities detailed in the grant agreement in a consistent format specified by the MOPAC/VRU; the format, data provided, and timing may be subject to change. However, any changes must be agreed and confirmed by MOPAC/VRU by email before the submission of the next report.

Quarterly Return Deadlines

Quarter	Year 1 2024 - 2025	Year 2 2025 - 2026
Q1 (Apr-Jun)	12 th July 2024	11 th July 2025
Q2 (Jul-Sep)	11 th October 2024	10 th October 2025
Q3 (Oct-Dec)	15 th January 2025	17 th January 2026
Q4 (Jan-Mar)	11 th April 2025	11 th April 2026

The high-level reporting requirements are set out below:

- Output reporting:** Working closely with the VRU, the Local Authority will provide quarterly data reports for all funded activities detailed in the contract. This will align with the VRU's Monitoring Minimum Standards guidance, which requires quarterly reporting on outputs including programme reach, activities, demographics of children & young people participants. The VRU will provide quarterly monitoring templates, the format, data provided, and timing may be subject to change.
- Outcome reporting:** Local Authorities should be able to report progress on outcomes identified from the VRU Outcomes Framework. The VRU will shortly be publishing an *Outcomes Toolkit* which will provide details of suggested measures to capture outcomes data. Where possible, Local Authorities should also identify their own measurement tools and baseline data. The VRU will also require the Local Authority to distribute a survey to service users and local people to capture the impact of this work and ideas for improvement. This Outreach Survey will be developed by the VRU with input from key stakeholders.

Evaluation

The VRU are keen to understand the wider impact of project delivery and harness available learning and best practice identified from Mayoral investment. The VRU may ask for borough involvement in an evaluation of the programme and will provide further detail and notice on when this may take place. By accepting the allocated funding, the borough is agreeing to participate in any evaluation.

8. Payments

Boroughs can bid up to a maximum of £280,000 for 24 months delivery with the final amount being confirmed upon assessment of all successful applications - boroughs will need to provide a cost breakdown. Payments will be made quarterly in line with Grant Agreements.

9. ANNEX 1- VRU OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK



VRU Outcomes
Framework Guidance



Step By Step
Guidance - VRU Outc