



LONDON RESEARCH & POLICY PARTNERSHIP



UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON



MAYOR OF LONDON

New Deal for Young People Mentoring Research – Invitation to Submit Proposal

Summary

The London Research and Policy Partnership (LRaPP) wants to commission research that will map youth mentoring provision across London, including areas where need is greatest, and identify best practice. This research will help advance the [New Deal for Young People](#) (NDYP) that the Mayor of London and the London Recovery Board have identified as a priority mission.

We are inviting university researchers to submit a proposal setting out how they would approach the research and their qualifications for it.

Project name	New Deal for Young People Mentoring Research
Commissioner	London Research and Policy Partnership, University of London
Date of publication of research call	30 May 2022
Deadline for application submissions	6pm 20 June 2022
Deadline for final report	6pm 16 December 2022
Budget	£25,000

Background

Background to this project

The London Research and Policy Partnership is a new initiative that promotes joint working between London policymakers and the academic research community with the aim of helping London meet its critical challenges and developing academic policy knowledge and expertise. The partnership is led by Mayor of London, London Councils, University of London and the CAPE (Capabilities in Academic Policy Exchange). You can find more about LRaPP at: <https://london.ac.uk/london-research-and-policy-partnership>.

Why this project?

Although LRaPP is a new partnership, launched in July of 2021, we are eager to start supporting research that can help London policymakers. Having secured HEIF (Higher Education Innovation Funding) funding from the University of London, we worked with the Mayor of London and London Councils to identify knowledge gaps. Research on the youth mentoring landscape in London emerged as a particular priority.

The Application

Who can apply for this funding?

The funding is open to anyone who is a UK university researcher with an employment contract in place at the start of the project and which extends to the end of the project. Post-doctoral researchers may apply to lead this research where they meet the above employment conditions and have the approval of their line manager and head of unit. We welcome applications from outside London.

What does the budget cover?

The £25,000 budget covers all staff costs and associated overheads and external costs. LRaPP can host and cover the costs of meetings and events.

What is the deadline for the final report?

The final report must be submitted by **6pm 16 December 2022**

What needs to go into an application and how long should it be?

An application should be a PDF document setting out:

- Elaboration of key research questions
- Research methodology
- Project plan (milestones)
- Breakdown of team roles, responsibilities and tasks (specifying hours or days allocated)
- Breakdown of budget, including staff costs, overheads and external costs
- Name and position of project leader accountable for project delivery
- Relevant experience of team and researchers

The application should be no more than 5 sides of A4.

When and how do I submit my application?

Please email your application to lrapp@london.ac.uk by **6pm, 20 June 2022**.

How will the funding be awarded?

A panel of at least four researchers and policymakers will shortlist candidates for interview.

Interviews will take place on the week of **27 June** (day to be confirmed). No extra work will be expected prior to interview.

Applications will be assessed against criteria including:

- Rigour, fit and practicality of research plan

- Relevant experience and expertise
- Value for money

Conflicts of interest

All applicants should identify actual, perceived or potential conflicts of interest and ensure that such conflicts are properly managed or avoided. Applicants must be able to confirm that they are in compliance with their university policy on Disclosure of Conflicts and Declaration of Interest and that disclosure of any potential conflicts of interest has been made on the relevant system. Failure to comply with the published policy will result in disqualification from the award process or withdrawal of any awarded funds.

About the Research

Key research questions

- What existing mentoring¹ is available for young Londoners most in need of support². What are the gaps (target groups, locations and effective practice)?
- What effective partnerships, collaborations and best practices are currently in place and what can we learn from them?
- What are the opportunities to expand and improve the quality of mentoring and support partnerships and collaboration where it is needed most?
- How might policymakers strengthen mentoring across London (guidance and suggestions)

This research will support the London Recovery Board's New Deal for Young People (NDYP) Mission and the work of London's Violence Reduction - see **Appendices 1 and 2**. The GLA and London Councils can work with the successful applicant to identify datasets and make introductions to local authorities, voluntary sector providers and funders.

¹ We are broadly basing our definition of 'mentoring' on that used by Nesta: "Drawing on existing definitions, we see youth mentoring as trusting, purposeful and ongoing relationships between a younger person or people, and a person they are unrelated to, which involve the exchange of support, advice, encouragement, and skills development".
www.nesta.org.uk/report/what-makes-effective-youth-mentoring-programme/what-mentoring/

² *An illustrative list of the needs and characteristics of the groups of children and young people facing greatest challenges is below. Those:

- with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- who are excluded, or are at risk of exclusion, from school or college
- who are at risk of becoming involved in violence
- who are associated with gangs or impacted by exploitation
- who are not in employment, education or training (NEET)
- who are experiencing or have been impacted by domestic violence and abuse
- who are young refugees and asylum-seekers
- who are from low income families/living in poverty
- who have a social worker (Children Looked After, with a Child Protection Plan, Children in Need and Care Leavers)

Research objectives

1. Develop an evidence base that:
 - map existing mentoring provision for young people most in need of support (including info on delivery model used; young person need/reach; impact/evaluation; cost)
 - identify gaps in mentoring provision (this may include a particular local need/ward/ demographic that would benefit from additional support or a particular delivery model/skillset required by mentees)
 - provide examples of effective partnerships, collaborations and best practice
2. Highlight barriers to provision of high quality, high impact mentoring and access to mentoring for young people most in need of support.
3. Identify opportunities to expand and improve the quality of mentoring and support partnerships and collaboration where it is needed most.
4. Highlights good practice in evaluating mentoring programme delivery.

Scope of research

We expect that this project will operate pan-London, to establish a baseline of mentoring capacity, local needs and best practices.

Whilst local authorities will be a rich resource of information, they are unlikely to know the full extent of targeted mentoring activities within their borough. We expect the researcher to also engage with the wider voluntary and community sector and young people, for example through established local and pan-London youth advisory groups.

Consideration will need to be given to wider voluntary sector and community engagement methods.

Where possible this will always include collation of the experience and perception of young people/service users (though we recognise that there might not be a budget or time for direct participation of young people, particularly given the need to secure ethics approval).

Outputs

- Research report and analysis with executive summary
- Slide deck summarising findings
- 1-2 page visual summary of findings
- Infographic of findings to share on social media
- Sharing session for external stakeholders
- Sharing session for City Hall policymakers
- Sharing session with City Intelligence Unit
- Sharing session for LRaPP Forum
- Blog for LRaPP website

Outcomes

- Improved evidence base mapping of existing mentoring provision, gaps and opportunities for targeted support
- Improved understanding of skills/provision gaps within the sector and how these can be addressed
- Improved strategic planning and policy-making enabling effective, targeted delivery of the NDYP mission (including future funding decisions)
- Increased partnership awareness/understanding of NDYP
- Increased support for wider system change and ongoing improvement within the mentoring sector
- Strengthen partnership work between academic researchers and policymakers.
- Learnings for LRaPP e.g., 'market' for research on London policy challenges, ways of researchers and policymakers working together, policy impact.

Key partners

- London's Violence Reduction Unit
- London Councils
- Greater London Authority
- Local authorities
- Young people – for example, members of local authority youth advisory groups, London Youth Assembly
- Umbrella youth organisations – London Youth, Partnership for Young London, National Youth Agency, UK Youth, Young Londoners Fund Local Network
- Voluntary and Community Sector – organisations delivering youth mentoring programmes
- Schools, alternative provisions and colleges
- The London Research and Policy Partnership
- Anchor Institutions (as relevant)

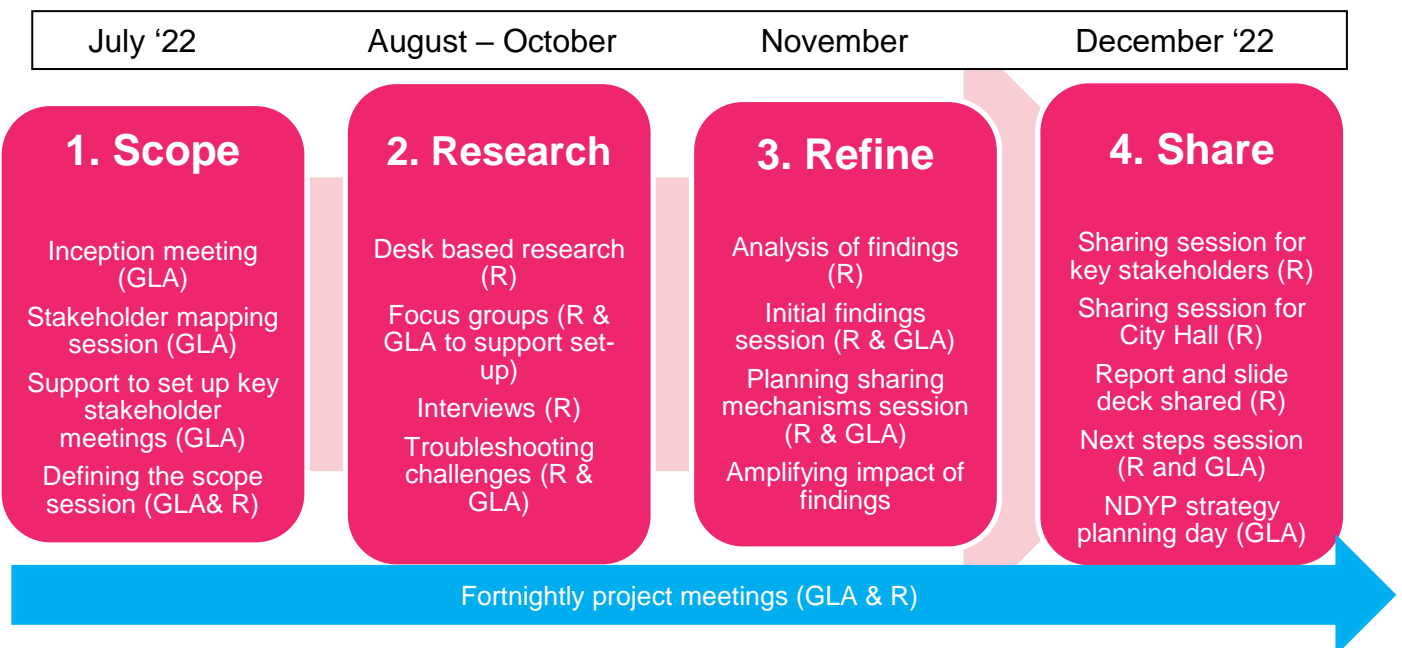
How findings will be shared?

NDYP partnership will support research and policy exchange through:

- Sharing session for external stakeholders
- Sharing session for City Hall policymakers
- Sharing session with City Intelligence Unit
- Dissemination across youth sector through GLA and VRU networks
- Presentation of findings at London Research and Policy Partnership forum meeting
- Sharing session for CAPE

Suggested method and project plan/timeline

(R = Researcher-led; GLA = GLA-led)



Management

- Monthly operational project meetings
- 3 steering group meetings (representation from GLA, London Councils, and LRaPP, CAPE, external partners)

Contacts

If you have questions please email:

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Appendix 1: New Deal for Young People Mentoring Context

The London Recovery Board's [New Deal for Young People \(NDYP\) mission](#) is that by 2024 all young people in need will have access to a personal mentor and all young Londoners will have access to quality local youth activities. The mission aims to improve the life chances and opportunities for young Londoners by:

- enabling more **young people in need** to benefit from quality mentoring and youth activities;
- improving the **quality of mentoring** by building the capacity of the youth sector;
- increasing strategic **investment in London's youth and mentoring activities**;
- and empowering system change and **sustainability within the youth sector**.

Young Londoners have told us about the transformational impact that mentors and role model can have on their lives. We know there are many excellent mentoring schemes and youth activities taking place across London. These take many forms and are often being delivered by local organisations with a deep insight into the challenges faced by young people in their local communities. The NDYP mission aims to highlight the best practice work already being provided and to sustainably build on and amplify what is being delivered well, whilst filling gaps in provision and providing better infrastructure and support to the youth sector.

Through the NDYP so far, we have committed investment of over £8.5m in programmes with a focus on mentoring. In 2021 we funded four existing City Hall programmes that include mentoring (Stepping Stones, Wave 5 London Community Response, My Ends and My London). In March 2022 the GLA grant funded 18 organisations to deliver three mentoring focused programmes: Mentoring Leaders; STEAM Mentoring and HeadStart Action. In February 2022 the Mayor publicly made a commitment to ensuring young Londoners most in need had access to a personal mentor by 2024 (based on approx. **100,000 young people** who face the biggest challenges).

To support the **quality** of mentoring based on evidence of what works in mentoring and in consultation with the voluntary sector and young people we have been working in partnership with Bloomberg Associates to commission a Mentoring Framework that articulates what good mentoring is and what support is needed to deliver quality mentoring. The Framework is an agile self-assessment tool that will help organisations develop the quality and impact of their mentoring. The Framework will be launched in September 2022 alongside a Mentoring Support Programme and Community of Practice. The Mentoring Support Programme will provide specialist training, coaching and potentially microgrants to enable organisations that work with young people and engage in mentoring to improve the quality and impact of their practice. The Mentoring Community of Practice will bring Londoners involved in delivering mentoring programmes for young people together to support partnership work, fundraising and the sharing of good practice, tools and resource

Appendix 2: Mentoring Framework Phased Implementation Plan

