



Reaching the young people we are here to serve

Research project

TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. Background

Blaggrave exists to support all young people and particularly those who are challenging and experiencing injustice in their individual lives and within society. This means young people who are experiencing the most disadvantage as a result of poverty, social exclusion, discrimination or any other contributing factors.

For these young people, overall outcomes remain poor on a range of indicators, and there are still huge gaps between them and their more advantaged peers. Covid has intensified the issue (Association for Young People's Health, Key Data for YP, 2021).

Yet many youth charities serve a settled constituency of young people and much traditional funding – which focuses on single issue problems – limits the freedom partners have to respond to demographic or social changes. Our concern is with those young people who are affected by intersecting issues, the combination of which has a particular impact on disadvantage (LankellyChase, 2015). Many of these young people have growing needs which are not well served by traditional services, both public and charitable sector.

We are now looking for a researcher or research organisation to help deepen our understanding of which young people are being missed, and what support we as an independent funder are best placed to provide.

2. Aim of the research

The aim of this research is to identify where young people have significant needs that are not being met by existing support agencies, given the current context i.e. Covid, the Levelling Up agenda, and the cost of living crisis, and the longer term trends of poverty in coastal towns and rural areas, pressures in the mental health system and housing shortage. We particularly want to understand emerging needs that are not being well served by mainstream services. The aim of the work is to identify who and where these young people are, and what kind of support they need.

3. Scope

Our regional grant making has a historical focus on four specific counties in South East England: Berkshire, Hampshire (including the Isle of Wight), Wiltshire and Sussex. The

scope of this research is young people aged 16–25 living in the areas in the SE that are both materially poorest and have the least community infrastructure and support available to them.

4. Learning questions

Our starting point for questions to be addressed through this work is outlined below, based on our initial conversations with partners and how we think we will use the research. However, we are very open to discussing this depending on your and young people's input. We would like spend time together at the start of the project defining these.

- a. Are there young people in our region being underserved by existing support systems?
- b. What kind of support do they have and what do they want for themselves?
- c. What more could we do to plug the gaps?

In order that, internally, we can answer the questions:

- d. Are we reaching the young people we really want to serve?
- e. If not, how can we reach them?
- f. How will we know if we are being effective?

5. Method and access to information/ people

We anticipate this research will be qualitative in nature. As the region we cover spans a wide area, you may want to choose to focus on a small number (3–4) of specific areas within it in order to gather qualitative data in a meaningful way

We are open to discussions about methodology but across the SE we have around 50 regional partners (funded charities) who could provide a good starting point. We propose to offer a number of them the opportunity to participate and will re-imburse their time and costs to do so., allowing you the chance to set up site visits and conversations with the young people in their area. We would like you to include a good number of young people in each area you focus on, at least five young people per area, in order to get a broad range of experience.

We could also facilitate access to our wider network so you can conduct phone interviews or online surveys with a larger group of partners, potentially up to 50.

We want young people to have an active role in the conclusions of the research, and would like to discuss your recommendations for how best to manage this.

6. Audience

There are two audiences for this research:

- The Blaggrave Trust - including the young people we are working with across all our programmes
- Funded charities in the region - so they can challenge their own and others' work with young people.

The finalised output will be shared via social media, on our website, to all our partners and at our annual partners' day in November 2022.

7. Outputs

We would like you to consider creative methods of presenting the information including film, presentation, slide deck and/ or pdf.

The most direct use of the results will be to inform the work of a panel of young people making grant decisions in the autumn 2022 so the information must be accessible and engaging.

The final output will be also be shared at a partners' day in November and we hope you or a member of your research team will be available to present it.

8. What we are looking for:

We are seeking an individual or organisation to carry out this research,

Who has

- Good knowledge of the context for youth services in the South East
- A clear understanding of the issues experienced by young people who face social injustice
- Some understanding of the objectives and priorities of funders, either as a funded partner or as a result of having completed work for funders
- An ability to synthesize lots of material into clear findings and make recommendations for action.

And is:

- Based in, or strongly connected to, the South East region
- Skilled in a range of research approaches and methods
- Comfortable in facilitating groups of young people
- A skilled listener, and able to draw together, analyse and present back what they hear
- Able and willing to challenge us to determine what we can achieve with this learning work and how best to go about it

9. Timing

- Applications submitted by 6 June
- Interviews 22 June
- Appointment made 29 June
- Set up period until 13 July
- Research completed and initial conclusions 21 October
- Final output agreed 4 November

10. Budget

Our total budget for this piece of work is £10,000 to include VAT if applicable. This has been calculated on the following estimates.

Who is responsible	What	Number	Cost	Total
Research team	Induction meeting	1	£350 per day	£5,600
	Background reading and planning	2		
	Field work	7		
	Analysis	2		
	Writing	4		
Research team	Creative output	1		£2,000
Research team	Expenses			£500
Subtotal				£8,100
Blagrove	Re-imburement for 3 partner charities to take part in focus groups, interviews or group work with young people (via Blagrove)	3	£500	£1,500
TOTAL				£9,600

Blagrove will recruit funded charities to take part in the study and re-imburse them directly. You will be responsible for commissioning and paying for any other items of expense associated with this work including room hire etc. We suggest focus groups with young people would be best done in person.

11. Next steps

You are welcome to contact Tessa Hibbert with any questions about the project: tessa.hibbert@blagravetrust.org or 07940 545505.

Applications close on 6 June 2022 and should consist of:

- a covering letter explaining your approach to this work,
- two recent examples of research work
- two references
- Your CV

To tessa.hibbert@blagravetrust.org