

Blagrove Trust Strategy 2022 – 2026

Evaluation partner

We are looking for a learning and evaluation partner to profile the successes of the outgoing Blagrove Trust strategy and pull out the key learning.

Background

In 2021, following a turbulent period covering covid and Black Lives Matter, Blagrove prepared to develop our first ever strategy. This coincided with the donation of £1m per year for 5 years from the Nineteen Eighty-Nine Charitable Trust Charitable Trust which would span the period 2021–2026. In consultation with the team, young people and external advisers, we developed a strategy which launched in 2022, to cover the period until 2026.

Prior to this, Blagrove had been a relatively traditional local funder. The history of Blagrove is covered by [this paper](#) by IVAR, published in 2019. Our [learning journey](#), a review by Jenny Ross, was published in 2021.

Our new strategy reflected gradual developments at the Trust and encapsulated our theory of change: real change for young people facing societal barriers will only be achieved by working to support young people's needs now, changing the situation for the longer term, and empowering young people themselves to lead in the future.

This led to a three part strategy:

Our **Mission**: To bring lasting change to the lives of young people; investing in them as powerful forces for change and acting upon their right to be heard in pursuit of a fair and just society.

Our **Objectives**:

1. **Strategic Objective 1: Increasing civil society's accountability to young people** By investing in its capacity to support, listen and be held to account by young people.
2. **Strategic Objective 2: Investing in young people to create change** By funding young people directly and building the infrastructure support they need.
3. **Strategic Objective 3: Investing in better youth policy** By supporting young people to engage in democracy and participate in policy-making; and funding experts to research and advocate on their behalf where necessary.

We set the following as the outcome we hoped to achieve by 2025:

Strategic Objective	Outcomes
1. Investing in civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people have their rights and needs met by the services that exist to support them. • Young people have influence on the organisations, systems and institutions which exist to serve them. • A responsive and collaborative youth sector emerges post-Covid-19.
2. Funding young people directly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people mobilising to create change in their communities have a tried and tested route to access both funding and support for their work. • Increased numbers of impactful youth-led campaigns. • The UK field of youth led change grows and builds over time, as distinct and separate from the wider youth sector.
3. Driving better youth policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people that are the most likely to be excluded from policy decisions are better represented. • Young people with experience of social injustice gain agency and power as part of policy-making. • Increased sector knowledge about how to enable young people to influence policy on local and national levels.

As we approach the end of our strategy period we are now looking for an evaluation partner who can help us to assess how successful our strategy aims were. This is particularly important as we are about to embark on strategy development for a new approach covering 2026 onwards.

Evaluation aim

- To assess the impact made by Blaggrave's grant making over the period 2021 – 2026 against the stated strategy outcomes.

- To gather together the evidence of the difference our work made to the young people we seek to serve.

The audience

There are two main audiences for this work:

- Our stakeholders including Blagrove funders (in particular 1989 Charitable Trust). We want to demonstrate the difference made for the young people we seek to serve and thank them for their contribution.
- Blagrove staff and Trustees, as further evidence towards new strategy decisions*

* Certain strategy decisions are already underway and won't depend on this evaluation. We have already come to our own conclusions about aspects of the strategy and are implementing it in the development of our new approach. We are looking for this evaluation to draw together and evidence this learning.

Sources: Access to resources

Over the last four years we have already invested considerably in evaluation and learning, over each of our objectives. We anticipate the job of the research organization will be to pull together these different sources and construct a narrative, rather than conducting a huge amount of primary research.

In each Strategic Objective area, we have some key documentation the evaluation team will be able to draw on:

Strategic Objective	Existing evaluation source
1. Investing in civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional peer research project
2. Funding young people directly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pipelines and Pathways review of Blagrove funding for young people directly
3. Driving better youth policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy review
4. General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of Year reviews by each Programme Manager

Process

We anticipate the process to be followed:

- Literature review: covering the sources cited above and other relevant material
- Interviews with Programme Managers and Head of Grants
- Review of early drafts by Head of Grants

- In person workshop with the team to test the key messages and learning

Output

The resulting output should be visual and exciting. Costing should include design . Our current strategy is 10 pages and highly creative, the evaluation should match this. We want a pdf or flip book, no long documents. We don't think the budget will allow for an animation but are open to your ideas.

Who we are looking for

We are looking for a consultant or researcher who can quickly assimilate a number of existing sources and create a powerful and engaging public piece. You should have knowledge of the funding sector and the drivers and constraints for Trust and Foundations. You should have a track record of preparing strong impactful materials that tell a story.

The evaluator should also have strong design skills or be working in partnership with someone who has these skills as we expect the end result to be highly visual and engaging.

Timescale and milestones

We want the text of the evaluation to be complete by 30 September 2025 (design can come later). We have an internal deadline for the first draft of our new strategy by this point and the evaluation will form a key part of the evidence supporting the new strategic direction.

Useful dates. We do not anticipate you attending all of the below but you can feed in questions to be asked on your behalf and report back on results.

10 July	Regional Partners Day: this will be a key moment to interview partners, and take photos as necessary (Portsmouth)
25 July	C&C advisers – meeting to review initial process
X August	Young People in Policy final cohort meeting (online)
11 September	Blaggrave regional advisers review workshop (London)

Milestones:

First draft: 19 September

Final draft: 26 September

Designed visuals: 10 October

Budget

We have up to £10,000 plus VAT for this work. We are open to ideas on how the budget may be spent but anticipate:

- Literature review: 6 days
- Conversations with SO Managers and Head of Grants: 3 days
- Attendance at Regional Partners Day/ other Blagrove events: 2 days
- Writing and review: 6 days
- Design: 6 days.

Safeguarding

The successful applicant will be required to undertake a basic DBS check, as per our [safer recruitment policy](#). Our intention is not to discriminate but to ensure the safety of all those impacted. The successful applicant will also be expected to comply with Blagrove's [safeguarding policy](#) and processes at all times, receiving training on our procedure from our Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Next steps

Please contact Tessa Hibbert (Tessa.hibbert@blagravetrust.org) with your written proposal by Friday 13th June.

Your written proposal should be no more than 3 pages of A4. In this we expect you to include:

- Your approach to this work and how you would structure it, including a top line timeline and budget.
- Examples of your track record of carrying out work of this nature (can be submitted as links or attachments).
- Details of two referees.

If you have any questions please do get in touch with Tessa by email to ask a question or set up a call.