

Changemaker mapping

Research Project Brief

We are looking for a research partner to better understand and align our definition of a 'Young Changemaker', and to map the extent of Changemakers work and needs in a sample number of geographical areas In England.

Context

The Blaggrave Trust is coming to the end of a 5 year strategy and whilst we are developing what our future looks like, we want to ensure that we aren't working off assumptions, but in reality. In 2024, we commissioned [work to better understand the needs](#) of the young change makers we work with, but we would like to revisit what our understanding of a change maker is and how it varies across geographies. We're looking to better understand what we mean internally when we use the term "changemaker" considering [Who we're here for](#).

After we define what we mean by changemaker, we want to look at a sample of three locations to identify the presence of changemakers as defined by Blaggrave, to understand existing support provision there in more detail, and whether our programmes can make a meaningful addition.

Outcomes

We intend for this research to have three primary outcomes:

- To provide a clear internal understanding of what a 'changemaker' is within our context of who we're here to support.
- To identify whether there is a significant presence of changemakers (as defined by Blaggrave) in sample areas, and a greater understanding of what changemaking is already happening there.
- To identify the gaps in support to changemakers in these areas and how our programmes may provide support required

This will help us to gain knowledge to:

- Build on our learning to date to better inform future programme design of our [investing in young people directly](#) portfolio, and to ensure our programmes cater to the differing needs of changemakers in different places.

Process

- Review of learning to date, and desk research.
- In person session with Blaggrave staff to tease out "changemaker" definition.
- Feedback on this definition from staff at Blaggrave and key partners / young people.
- Desk research mapping key support organisations for changemakers in three areas (more details will be provided on appointment)
- In person visits to three areas to meet key actors
- Interviews and / or focus groups with young changemakers in three locations

Audience

- Primary: Blaggrave staff and trustees.

Deliverables

- A Blaggrave definition of the word "Changemaker"
- Mapping whether there are a significant number of changemakers in sample locations having spoken to at least 15 young people per area (total of at least 45)
- Mapping what support and funding already exists for said changemakers in the areas
- Report detailing the support and funding gaps for changemakers in these areas, including
 - Recommendations for how Blaggrave can best support the needs of changemakers in these areas in response to this research.
 - If/how our programmes may need to adapt/change if they were to move from national to place specific.

Contract and timeline

The contract will be for **6 months**. We expect all deliverables to be completed by **Monday 28th October 2026**. We are open and flexible to the best ways to structure the project and for you to communicate with us, but at a minimum expect a mid-point check-in meeting. If this timeline does not feel appropriate, we are open to discussing alternative approaches.

Key dates	
27th April	Deadline for application
11th and 13th May	Interviews of shortlisted proposals
18th - 25th May	Offer and contract
w/c 8th June	Project commences with an in person briefing session
Late June/ early July	Blaggrave team session
Late July	Field work commences
Early September	Mid-point check in with Blaggrave
28 th October	Deadline for deliverables

Budget

Up to £40,000 is available for this project. Please state in your proposal how much you would require for this work and a topline overview of how your budget would break down. We expect you to budget for paying for the time and expertise of anyone you have consulted or spoken with (not including Blaggrave staff) our rate for paying people involved in interview is £50/hour.

Who we would like to work with

We are keen to work with people who have a deep understanding of the young changemakers we work with and experience advancing work around social justice issues. We want our own assumptions to be challenged by appointing someone who is embedded in the space, with more advanced theory and thinking to our own.

We especially encourage applications who have shared identities and experiences to the young people we support. If you meet most of the criteria set out below but not all, please submit an application for our consideration.

Skills, knowledge and experience expected:

We are looking for a **skilled and experienced researcher** or research organisation that is passionate about young people leading change, and deeply rooted in social justice work and principles. You will be:

- Expert in project management , including managing multi-site project work.
- Adept in handling geographical analysis and analysis of community strengths and gaps.
- A strong facilitator, rooted in anti-oppression.
- Experienced in conducting onsite interviews and focus groups.

And has

- Good understanding of social justice and the needs of changemakers, activist and campaigners who work on these issues.
- Knowledge of youth work and community organising theory and practice.

How to apply

Please contact Rochell Rowe (rochell.rowe@blagravetrust.org) with your written proposal by Monday 27th April at 9am. We expect to invite shortlisted proposals for interviews on either 11th or 13th May so please keep availability for these dates.

In your proposal, we expect you to include:

- Your approach to this work and how you would structure it, including a top line timeline and budget.
- Your reflections on the brief above and whether/how you would attempt to meet the outcomes and deliverables.
- Your experience and knowledge of youth leadership and social justice work.
- Examples of your track record of carrying out work of this nature (can be submitted as links or attachments).
- Details of two referees.

We are happy to answer any questions you may have over email before submitting your overview. Please contact Rochell at the above address to ask any questions. However, we do not have capacity to set up phone calls with anyone before submitting their proposal, unless needed for access. Please get in touch with Rochell if you need this information in a different format or have access requirements.