



**LONDON
YOUTH
GATEWAY**

H.A.Y.N

Together:

Housing solutions for young people experiencing homelessness in London

Research tender - August 2019

Together with each other and together with young people

"I was sleeping on the street or on sofas, now I have this. It changes your life"

Against a backdrop of rising levels of youth homelessness there is much discussion about what is needed. We know that young people become homeless for a range of reasons but an ongoing housing crisis, confusing and cut services and challenging job prospects mean that it is increasingly difficult for them to get their lives back on track. We also know that no single organisation can tackle this alone and if we are serious about making a change then we have to work together.

Back in the autumn of 2018, members of two collaborations – the London Youth Gateway and the Housing Association Youth Network (HAYN) - created an alliance of funders, voluntary sector providers and housing associations to start to explore how we could use our collective assets to do more for the thousands of young people that find themselves with nowhere to call home in the capital. Our shared ambition has been to start a conversation that will expand networks, generate new ideas and open up more opportunities for collaboration. We want to unlock better support, unlock improved partnership working and ultimately unlock more places for young people to stay in the short term and call home in the long term. And most of all we want to do this with young people, together.

Together, we have:

Our alliance first met in September 2018 and has seen participation from 10 different organisations to date, with involvement from five youth homelessness organisations, four housing associations, one innovation agency and is supported through funding from the Fusion 21 Foundation and the Berkeley Foundation.

Member of the alliance so far include:

● *New Horizon Youth Centre* ● *Hyde Housing* ● *Clarion Housing Group* ● *DePaul UK* ● *HACT*
● *Stonewall Housing* ● *Network Homes* ● *Albert Kennedy Trust* ● *Peabody* ● *Safer London*

Since then we have held both roundtable and workshop sessions to deepen our understanding in relation to young people experiencing homelessness, being at risk of homelessness or transitioning into independent living. The diverse perspectives offered by the alliance have already opened up new opportunities to begin working differently. From this we have identified that we need to further explore the models of housing that work for young people; and the types of support that they required at different points in their journey to independence.

Together, we plan to:

To take this work to the next stage, our alliance now wishes to commission an external consultant or organisation to undertake an action orientated research project which will ultimately deliver the following two objectives and lead to a project plan being developed so that an early stage pilot can begin in 2020.

1. Furthering our understanding of what works - and what could work – for the provision of housing and support for young people experiencing homelessness in London
2. Turning research into action through the development of a project plan that the alliance can collectively deliver

Research brief

a) Research questions and scope

The research we are looking to commission has two components and should address the following questions:

Furthering our understanding of what works and what could work

1. Based on the reasons that young people find themselves homeless in London, what are the best packages of support that young people need when being rehoused?
2. How are existing accommodation projects working for young people experiencing homelessness and what evidence is there – from both an evaluative and young person’s perspective – that these are successful?
3. What can the youth homelessness sector learn from the broader sector and other housing models and how are these viewed by young people with lived experience?
4. How are current housing processes, e.g. income collection, housing management, acting as enablers or blockers in terms of supporting young people to manage tenancies?

Through answering these questions, we will have deepened our understanding and be in a better place to develop a range of potential projects and/or services to support young people experiencing homelessness to transition into independent living.

Turning research into action through the development of a project plan

In addition to understanding what works or could work, we would like to answer the following questions:

5. How can the complementary assets of the organisations in our alliance – or the opportunities that they could create - be best used to pilot a housing model or models that can be replicated across the city to support more young people?
6. What are the economic benefits to this approach and how, ultimately, might the alliance seek sustainable funding and partnerships to deliver it?

b) Methodology

Individuals or organisations submitting a bid are required to outline details of the proposed methodology that they will use to address the research questions described above. This should include details of:

- ✓ How you envisage the research design and how you see the balance between external desk research and time spent with the partners in the alliance on their current models and evidence base
- ✓ How you will collect data, specifically including how this will involve young people and be youth-led in line with the ethos of our alliance
- ✓ How you will undertake the asset mapping with partners and how you will use this to co-create a potential pilot programme of activity
- ✓ How you will ensure all relevant stakeholders perspectives are included
- ✓ How you will approach the economic model for this work
- ✓ How you will ensure that the research meets ethical standards

c) Deliverables & timescale

We anticipate that the research work would take around five months – finishing by early February - and during this time, the commissioned organisation or individual would be expected to:

✓ **Provide short written monthly updates**

This is to ensure good communication between the project management group and the commissioned researcher and that they are supported to address any issues at the earliest opportunity.

✓ **Provide a final research report and project plan**

A written research report and action plan that addresses the questions outlined above which should include full details of the methodology. The report should be accessible to a range of audiences and include an executive summary.

In addition, they would be expected to attend:

- ✓ A project kick off meeting with the project management group for the alliance in order to finalise the research plan and agree on roles and responsibilities
- ✓ Progress meetings with the project management group to update on progress and review draft deliverables (frequency to be agreed once appointed)
- ✓ Up to three presentations with the alliance or its' potential supporters to share the findings of the research with key stakeholders

In its role as the commissioning organisation and chair of the project management group, New Horizon Youth Centre will support to the commissioned researcher by providing:

- ✓ A full briefing on the history and purpose of the alliance, its partners and vision
- ✓ Named contacts at partners of the alliance and other key stakeholders with whom the researcher will work
- ✓ Named contacts at partners with whom young people's research work can be undertaken
- ✓ Feedback on draft deliverables

Milestone	Date
Deadline for submitting proposals	September 6 th 2019
Research commissioned	September 16 th 2019
Project planning meeting	w/c September 23 rd
Anticipated research phase	September to November 2019
Anticipated project planning phase	November to January 2020
Final research and plan completed	Early February 2020

d) Budget

The total budget for this research project is **£30,000** and so we are requesting submissions from interested people and organisations that can deliver within that budget (total costs must be inclusive of VAT).

A further £2,000 will be made available for costs for young people and partners to participate and will be separately administered by New Horizon Youth Centre.

e) Tendering process

Given the diversity of organisations involved in our alliance – all with differing assets and approaches – we will ideally be looking for someone who has a robust understanding of the issues, but the independence to not be wedded to a particular way of working. If you are interested in applying then you can do so as follows:

Key dates

- ✓ Deadline for bids: Friday September 6th 2019 at 10am
- ✓ Interview shortlisted applicants: Friday September 13th (please hold this date)
- ✓ Award contract: by Monday September 16th 2019

Tender contents

Bids should include the following:

- ✓ Proposed research methodology and outputs, including final report
- ✓ Proposed project management plan for research
- ✓ Schedule of costs
- ✓ Names and addresses of two referees, confirming your experience and suitability
- ✓ Short CVs of individuals who would carry out the research and analysis
- ✓ Examples of similar research and analysis undertaken

Submission

Bids should be emailed to phil.kerry@nhyouthcentre.org.uk with the subject heading Together: research proposal by September 6th at 10am.

The commissioning organisation for this work is New Horizon Youth Centre. Queries relating to the tender should be addressed to phil.kerry@nhyouthcentre.org.uk and sent no later than noon on August 30th 2019.