

Co-operative Foundation call for new partners to help tackle youth loneliness

Overview

The Co-operative Foundation is looking for up to 5 new partners to help us tackle loneliness among disadvantaged young people.

These organisations will have the opportunity to share a £100,000 fund to support activities that connect young people to their community during the transition to adulthood, when they may be at risk of loneliness.

They will also join the Foundation's existing partners in forming a network of organisations committed to sharing their learning about youth loneliness, stimulating a national conversation and strengthening local practice.

We want to hear from charitable organisations in England working with young people (aged 16 to 25) who have experienced one or more of the following:

- Being in care
- Being a young carer
- Being in the criminal justice system
- Homelessness
- Disability
- Coming to the UK as a refugee.

Potential partners will need to show that they are committed to:

- young people having a strong voice within their organisation, and championing young people's voices in the wider community
- using learning to improve outcomes for young people and communities
- working co-operatively as part of a national network of organisations tackling youth loneliness
- running their organisation effectively and sustainably.

Organisations who meet these criteria can apply by completing a short [expression of interest form](#) (EOI). The deadline to register interest is **5pm on 20th February 2017** but earlier submissions are encouraged. The Foundation will review EOIs within 3 days of receiving them and contact eligible applicants to request further detail about their organisations' work and how they demonstrate the four commitments listed above. Applicants will need to send us all information requested by 1st March 2017.

Applications will be assessed during March, and final decisions on selecting new partners will be made in April.

Being selected as one of our partners doesn't guarantee an offer of funding. But it means that in principle we'd like to work with you to develop your plans for activity we could fund. Partners will be invited to take part in a collaborative process to explore youth loneliness and develop specific proposals to respond to this issue with the young people they work with.

The Foundation will offer tailored support to partners while developing their proposals, to help make these as strong as possible. Funding for proposed activities will be subject to final approval by the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

Additional information

About the Co-operative Foundation

The Co-operative Foundation helps disadvantaged communities to overcome their challenges by putting co-operative values into practice.

We aim to stimulate and strengthen community action that connects and empowers people so they can work together to make things better.

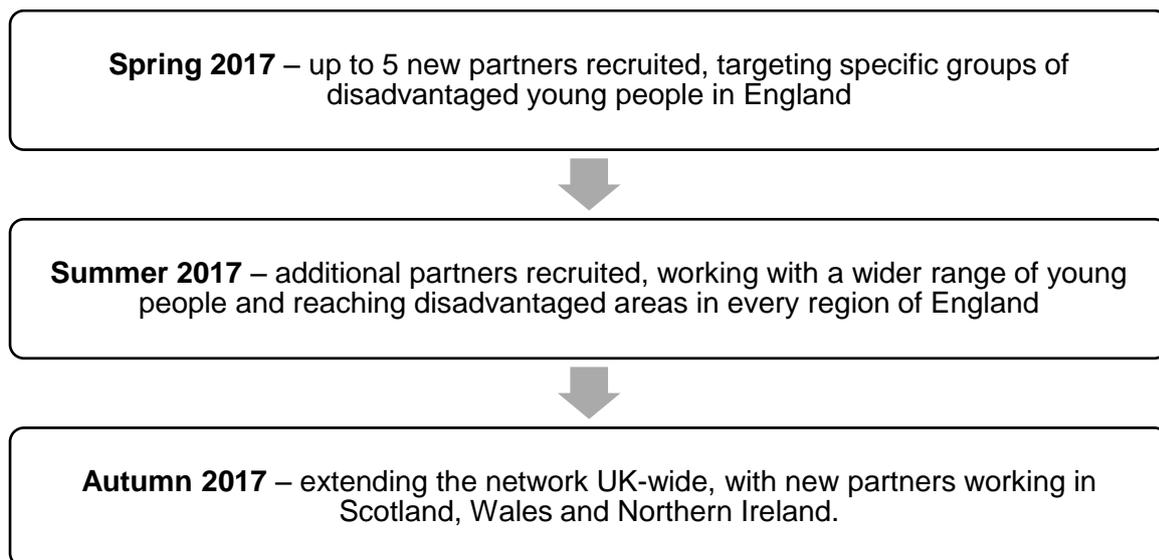
The Co-operative Foundation and young people

One of our main goals is to champion young people's ability to contribute positively to their communities and help strengthen their sense of belonging.

We aim to do this by developing a national network of projects tackling loneliness among disadvantaged young people, through activities that connect them to and benefit their communities.

We began piloting this work in 2016, working with some of our previous youth partners. During 2017 we will be inviting new partners to join our network as it expands across the UK.

This will be done in 3 stages as follows.



We aim to continue building on this work in 2018 and 2019. Partners will initially be able to apply to the Foundation for one year's funding, although we anticipate there will be the opportunity to renew successful partnerships for two further years.

Our partnership approach

We want to support organisations to work co-operatively for the benefit of disadvantaged young people and communities.

We will choose our partners based on their ability to contribute to sustainable positive outcomes, and because they reflect our co-operative values.

Partners in our network will be supported to collaborate rather than compete, sharing their learning openly and honestly as they develop and deliver work to tackle youth loneliness.

Spring 2017 call for new partners

Research suggests that the transition to adulthood is a time when many young people experience loneliness. For the most disadvantaged young people, making these transitions can be especially challenging, with the risk that loneliness may become long-term and contribute to negative effects throughout their adult life.

We have identified 6 factors which place young people at particular risk of loneliness and long-term disadvantage. At this stage we are looking for organisations working with young people aged 16 to 25 who have experienced one or more of these issues.

- Being in care
- Homelessness
- Disability
- Being a young carer
- Being in the criminal justice system
- Coming to the UK as a refugee.

Eligibility criteria

Potential partners will need to meet the following three essential criteria.

Charitable status

The Foundation can only support work which furthers our charitable purposes for the public benefit. We currently do this by funding other organisations with exclusively charitable purposes. Applicants will need to provide either a charity registration number, or other proof that they are recognised as having exclusively charitable aims.

Work in England

At the moment we are only looking for partners in England. We will consider organisations that work at local, regional or national level. However, all partners will be expected to engage with a collaborative national network focused on sharing learning about youth loneliness.

Please note: the Foundation is set up to benefit communities throughout the UK. We aim to distribute our resources equitably and in ways which take account of the different contexts of the four UK nations. We will launch our work in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in the second half of 2017.

Track record with one or more target groups

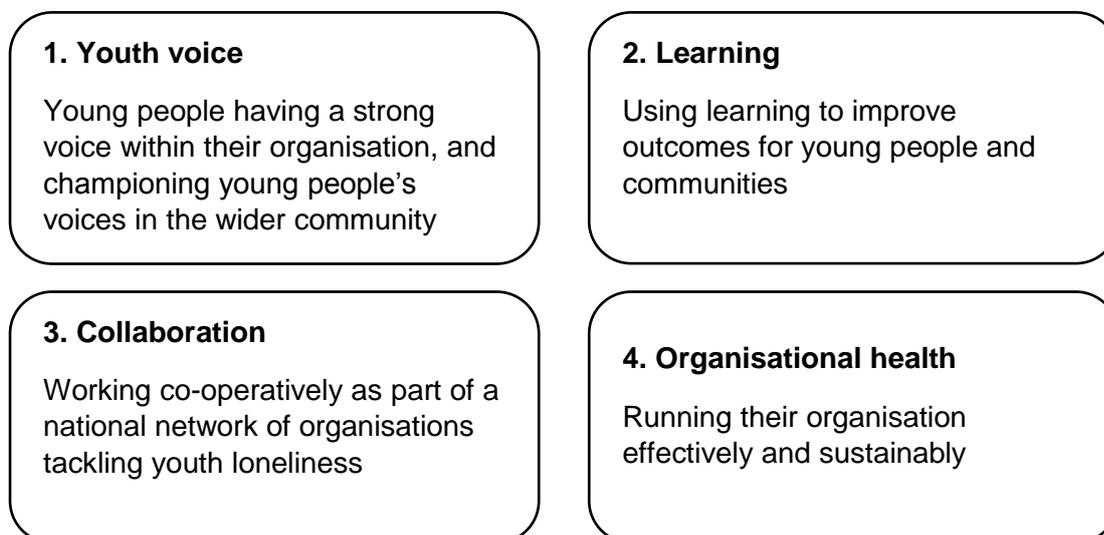
We are targeting some of the most disadvantaged young people who face significant challenges in their transition to adulthood. Partners will have a strong understanding of these young people's needs and be able to reach and engage them effectively.

We will consider organisations that focus specifically on any of the issues listed, as well as those that address multiple disadvantage, provided that a significant proportion of their work relates to one or more of these issues.

We also want wider communities to benefit from the work we support. We'll ask applicants to describe how the work they do with disadvantaged young people benefits other members of the community.

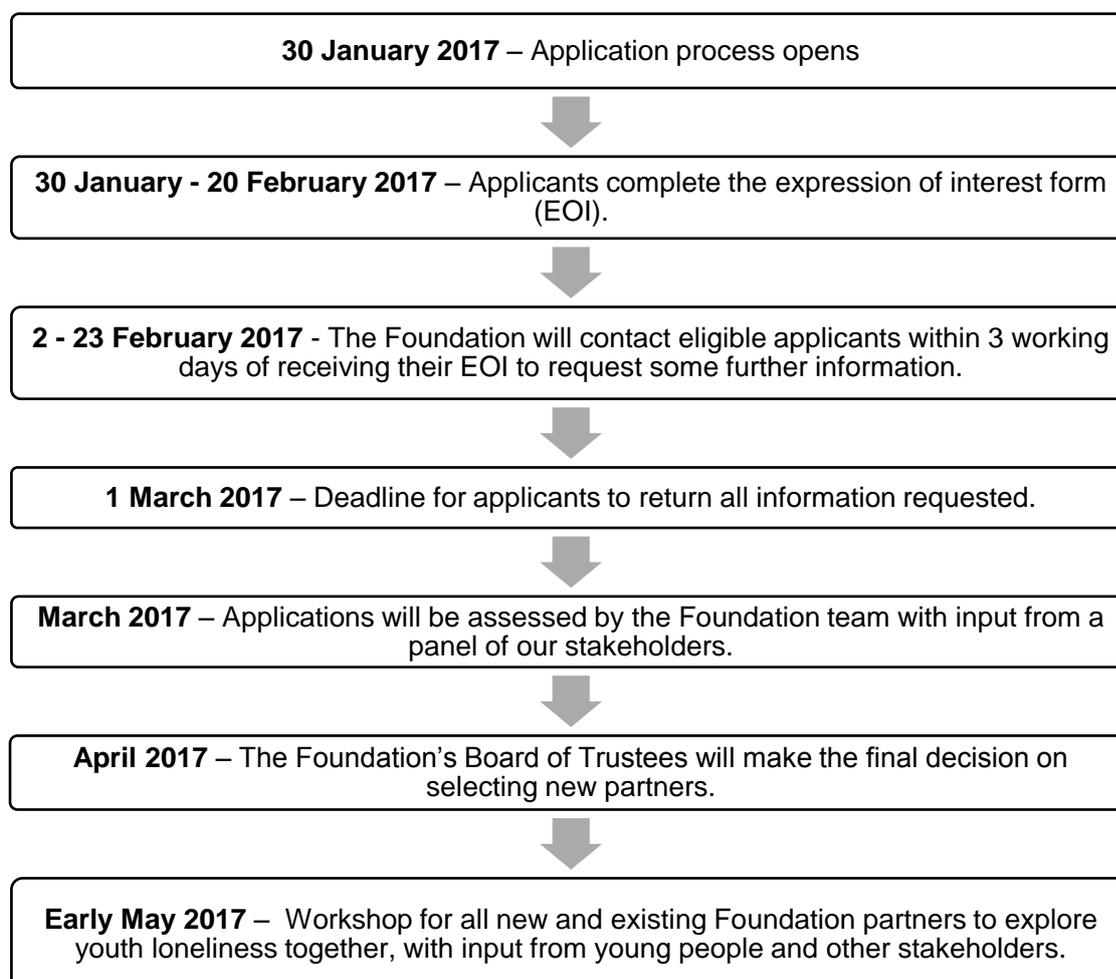
Assessment criteria

Organisations that are eligible will be asked for further details to show how well they meet our four assessment criteria. Our final selection of partners will be based on assessing organisations' capability and commitment in each of these areas.



Timeline

The timeline for our Spring 2017 recruitment of new partners is as follows.



Proposal development and funding

Following the May workshop, new partners will be invited to develop specific proposals for activities to tackle loneliness.

Tailored support will be offered to each partner (which may include financial and non-financial support as needed) while they are developing their proposed activities.

Funding for partners' proposed activities will be subject to approval by the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

How to contact us

Organisations who meet our eligibility criteria and are interested in applying to become a partner of the Foundation should complete the [expression of interest form](#).

If you don't meet the criteria for this round, but would like to be contacted about future relevant opportunities, email foundation@coop.co.uk including a short description of your organisation's work. We can't respond to all the enquiries we receive, but will review these when planning future stages of our work and contact those organisations that match our priorities.