**Stronger Futures Evaluation- Further Clarification Questions & Responses**

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| **We would like to know if the interim report from February 2023 is published and where we can have access to it. If the whole report is not public or available to bidders, could some relevant sections be made available to bidders?** | The Interim report, completed in February 2023, has not been published. Some of the most relevant findings from the report can be found in section 5 of the volume 2 Specification for the evaluation of the Stronger Futures Programme. The VRU understands that the evaluation framework will need to be finalised and agreed collaboratively within the first months of delivery. |
| **The ITT document lists 3 high-level outcomes for the overall Stronger Futures Programme, namely: 1) improved wellbeing for children and young people - individual outcome; 2) improved practice to support vulnerable young people - organisational outcome; and 3) improved capacity in community networks - community outcome. Grateful if you could clarify your understanding of 'community outcome' as it seems unclear whether this means “community-based organisations” and how they work together - or something different.** | Within our overarching Outcomes Framework, our working definition for the high level outcome of 'improved capacity in community networks' is that: *Community groups have the skills, tools and resource to engage in violence reduction strategies locally. Agencies and grassroots organisations have the resources and capacity to respond to local need and take an evidence-based approach to tackling violence.* There may be more specific outcomes that sit within this, including (but not limited to):- Increased analytical capacity and use of evidence in Violence Reduction planning within community-led networks and/or local authorities - Improved cultural competency / understanding of different cultures - Increase in number of individuals/organisations engaged in local responses to violence - Improved capacity within community-led networks   |
| **The ITT document says it’s a 30-month contract that starts on 12 Sept 2023, which would take it to 12 March 2026. However, the project milestones ask for a final report in Autumn 2026. Would you please confirm end date of the contract?** | This contract is 30 months with a start date in September 2023. The Milestones 6 and 7 will be expected between December 2025- March 2026  |
| **Regarding programme funding: Is it possible for organisations who received funding in the 2021 programme to receive further funding in this round?** | Applications for the second iteration of Stronger Futures were open for new applicants and those who received funding in the 2021 programme. However, applications have now closed. |
| **What are the timelines for identifying and awarding the successful grantee delivery organisations?** | The deadline for applications was on 28th June 2023.Over 40 organisations have been shortlisted for interviews, which will take place from Tuesday 18th – Friday 21st July, with the aim of appointing the final cohort by Monday 24th July 2023. Delivery is expected to start from 1st August 2023 .  |
| **Is it possible that any of the grantees will have been part of the previous round?** | Yes, applications for the second iteration of Stronger Futures were open for new applicants as well as those who received funding in the 2021 programme. |
| **We assume that it will be a condition of funding for grantees that they take part in this evaluation – please confirm whether this is the case.** | We strongly encourage grantees to fully engage with the evaluation process, however it is the responsibility of the evaluation partner to build trust and confidence with the grantees and foster better collaboration and participation. The evaluation partners are required to conduct fieldwork, e.g. interviews/workshops, with grantees to gain an understanding of successes, challenges, barriers, promising practice and areas for improvement. The evaluation of this programme will play a key role in building the VRU's understanding of what works and what doesn't, which feeds into our decision-making around future funding. We recognise the limited resource and capacity of smaller, grassroots organisations, so we do not prescribe that grantees participate in the evaluation more than they are able to. The more open and transparent grantees can be about their work and capacity, the more the evaluation partner can adapt to meet their needs, |
| **Is there any scope to extend beyond the 1-page limit on the questions where this is in place? It won’t leave a lot of room to detail the approach.** | Due to the high level of bids we receive across our tender process, the 1 page limit enables organisations to really focus their responses and it allows us to give appropriate and equal time to every application.  |
| **Under 5.6, The Financial Criteria, 5.6.1 states that the financial criteria have a ratio of 30%. Can you please clarify what this 30% is referring to?** | All bids will be assessed on quality and price with a 70% weighting on quality and a 30% weighting on price. How the pricing score is calculated can be found in paragraph 5.6.3-5.6.6 |
| **If an SME has been in formation for less than a year, what would be acceptable in terms of audited accounts?** | (a) A statement of the turnover, Profit and Loss Account/Income Statement, Balance Sheet/Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Cash Flow for the most recent year of trading for this organisation.(b) A statement of the cash flow forecast for the current year and a bank letter outlining the current cash and credit position. |