

19 September 2023

Dear Headteacher,

We thank you for your interest in the *More Good Days at School* programme that is being co-funded by the Youth Endowment Fund and the Home Office.

The Youth Endowment Fund (YEF) is here to prevent children and young people becoming involved in violence. We do this by finding out what works and building a movement to put this knowledge into practice. To find what works, the YEF evaluates promising interventions and approaches based on the best available evidence. We use this knowledge to scale up effective programmes, spread good practice and guide decision-makers on which services or approaches are most effective at keeping children safe from violence.

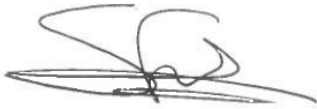
The harmful effects of childhood exposure to traumatic events have been demonstrated consistently and across many different areas of a young person's life, including health, education, employment and involvement with the criminal justice system. In response to this, trauma-informed practice has become an increasingly popular approach across many services, including education. This involves understanding the impacts of trauma, recognising its signs and symptoms, and working with young people and practitioners to avoid re-traumatisation and reduce these harmful effects.

However, whilst the use of trauma-informed practice is widespread and often rooted in strong research, there have been few robust evaluations to understand if and how it can improve young people's and practitioners' outcomes and what core elements and approaches are most effective. As trauma-informed practice becomes more diverse and popular, this is a critical evidence gap that needs to be filled to ensure services and decision-makers are able to invest in the most effective approaches.

This is why the YEF and the Home Office are funding the *More Good Days at School* programme and a robust evaluation of its results. –Indeed, this will be the first ever large-scale rigorous evaluation of school-based trauma-informed practice.

The programme is one of four selected through a competitive funding round and has the potential to generate invaluable and ground-breaking evidence about how a quality trauma-informed practice approach affects students, staff and schools. The schools involved, whether receiving the training and support or being part of the comparison group of schools, will all be playing a pivotal role in pushing forward our understanding of how to support young people who have experienced trauma and improve their life chances.

On behalf of the YEF, I'd like to thank you for your consideration of this important programme and evaluation.



Dr Sarah Fullick
Head of Programmes