

Organisation Name		Reference code (for office use only)
Positive Futures		2026-05-YWG20
Organisation Address		
181 Townsend Lane Clubmoor Liverpool L13 9DY		
Website Address		
https://www.positivefutures.org.uk/		
How did you hear about the Triangle Trust		
Online search		
Please describe your organisation's purpose in one to two sentences		
Positive Futures supports young people aged 8-18 (up to 25 with additional needs), across the Liverpool City Region who are vulnerable, hard to engage, at risk of exploitation, exclusion or involvement in criminal activity. Through early intervention, mentoring and wraparound support.		
Type of Organisation? (tick all that apply and complete relevant details)		
Charity	Registered Charity Number	Date Registered
Yes	1145598	2011
Community Interest Company	Registered Companies House Number	Date Registered
No		
Social Enterprise	Has your organisation been awarded the Social Enterprise Mark?	Year Awarded
No		
Grant Summary		
We are seeking a grant of £90,000 over 3 years to introduce a female only mentoring programme. Funding will support 60 young females at risk of criminal exploitation, school exclusion or entering care to access one-to-one mentoring, gender and trauma-informed support.		
Please describe your principal beneficiaries.		
Positive Futures is an expert organisation supporting vulnerable and hard-to-engage young people across the Liverpool City Region who are at risk of crisis, exploitation, criminality (county lines/gangs), school exclusion or care experience. We work primarily with young people aged 8-18, and up to 25 for those with additional needs. Our work has been recognised by Liverpool City Council's Community Safety and Complex Safeguarding teams, who identify Positive Futures as an anchor organisation supporting young people either at or on the pathway to crisis. Young people are referred into our intensive mentoring and wraparound support programmes, with 41% of referrals in the last 12 months being female - a 12% increase from the previous year. All female beneficiaries came from the top 10% most disadvantaged communities nationally and were identified as being on the pathway to crisis. We also operate two children's residential homes with all surpluses being invested into the charity.		
Please describe the specific local needs of the young women and girls you work with that this project will address		
<i>(Maximum 4000 characters)</i>		

Positive Futures works with girls across Liverpool, Knowsley and Sefton who are experiencing a complex combination of poverty, exploitation, school exclusion, poor mental health, family instability and exposure to serious violence with 71% coming from the most disadvantaged areas in the country.

The need for this project is supported by both local evidence and our frontline experience. The Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership Strategic Needs Assessment 2024/25 identifies poverty, adverse childhood experiences, poor mental health, school exclusion, truancy, peer involvement in crime and gangs, and local drug supply as key risk factors linked to serious violence. Evidence also highlights that many girls involved with Youth Justice Services have experienced trauma, abuse or violence themselves.

Across Liverpool, Knowsley and parts of Sefton, high levels of deprivation and inequality continue to increase vulnerability. The girls we support often move across local authority boundaries, peer groups and family networks, meaning risks associated with exploitation, county lines and gang-related harm do not stop at one council border.

Through our safeguarding logs, mentoring programmes, detached youth work, Young Futures Prevention Panels and direct conversations with young people and families, we are seeing increasingly complex and overlapping needs. In the last 12 months, 57% of all safeguarding concerns raised within Positive Futures related to girls and young women. The most common themes were poor mental health, domestic abuse, exploitation, education breakdown, missing episodes, family conflict, peer risk and poverty.

Education is a significant concern. Many girls we support are persistently absent, at risk of exclusion, on reduced timetables or disengaged from education due to trauma, anxiety, unmet SEND needs, bullying or unsafe peer relationships. When girls are outside education, they become more isolated and more vulnerable to grooming, coercion and exploitation.

Many girls we support are also known to social care, are care experienced, on the edge of care, or living in homes affected by domestic abuse, parental substance misuse, poverty, bereavement or poor parental mental health. Families are often overwhelmed and require practical, non-judgemental support to respond to risk and strengthen stability at home. The girls we work with us tell us they feel unsafe, unheard and unsupported. Many describe coercive relationships, bullying, intimidation, image-based abuse, emotional abuse and pressure from older peers or adults. Through our mentoring work, we are increasingly identifying girls vulnerable to criminal exploitation, county lines and gang-associated harm. Their involvement is often hidden, with girls being manipulated into carrying items, holding money, keeping secrets or remaining in harmful relationships because they feel protected, valued or afraid.

The Local Government Association's review into girls affected by youth violence highlights the need for gender-specific, trauma-informed support, family interventions and services shaped by girls' experiences. This project responds directly to those recommendations. This project will support girls aged 11-18 who are at risk of entering the criminal justice system due to county lines involvement, gang association, school exclusion, exploitation, care experience or edge-of-care vulnerabilities. Through early, gender-informed mentoring and family support, we will intervene before risk escalates into offending, criminalisation, family breakdown or entry into care, helping girls feel safer, more confident and better able to achieve their potential.

What are the key outcomes you will be seeking to achieve for young women and girls either at risk of offending or who are already caught up in the criminal justice system?

(Maximum 3000 characters)

The key outcomes we want to achieve are focused on helping girls build safety, confidence, positive relationships and a stronger sense of control over their futures. Many of the girls we support have already shown significant resilience in the face of poverty, trauma, exploitation, school disruption, care experience and family instability. This project will build on their strengths and aspirations while reducing the risks that can lead to offending, exploitation or criminalisation.

- A primary outcome will be that girls feel safer and better supported. Through consistent, trauma-informed mentoring, girls will develop trusted relationships with practitioners who understand their experiences and goals. They will increase their understanding of healthy relationships, exploitation, coercion, county lines, online safety and personal boundaries, helping them recognise risk earlier and make informed choices.

- A second outcome will be improved confidence, self-worth and emotional resilience. Many girls have experienced shame, blame or judgement. Through one-to-one mentoring and girls' group sessions, they will have safe spaces to explore identity, emotions, friendships, relationships and future aspirations, helping them feel listened to, valued and empowered.

- We will see improved engagement with education, positive opportunities and trusted adults. We will support girls to re-engage with school, alternative provision, training or enrichment activities through advocacy, attendance support and access to SEND or pastoral services where required. Girls will also be encouraged to participate in youth work, volunteering and leadership opportunities.

- There will be stronger and safer relationships at home and within the community. Alongside direct support for girls, we will work with parents and carers to improve communication, strengthen understanding of adolescent development and exploitation risks, and reduce conflict. Families will have access to evidence-based programmes including the Nurturing Programme and Talking Teens.

- There will be a reduction in vulnerability to criminal exploitation, county lines activity, gang-associated harm, unsafe peer relationships and entry into the criminal justice system. We recognise that many girls' experiences of offending or risky behaviour are linked to trauma, coercion, survival and unmet need. Working alongside schools, safeguarding partners, police and youth justice services, we will intervene early to prevent escalation and ensure girls are seen as children needing support rather than risks to be managed. A final outcome will be increased voice, agency and leadership. Girls will be supported to understand their rights, express their views, set boundaries and influence the support they receive.

Longer term, we want girls to be safer, more hopeful and better connected to education, family and community support, reducing the likelihood of exclusion, care entry and criminality

How will you track the impact you are making?

(Maximum 3000 characters)

We will measure impact through a combination of quantitative data, safeguarding information, distance-travelled measures, case studies, young people's feedback, family feedback and multi-agency evidence.

Each girl will have an individual support plan developed at the start of mentoring. This will identify strengths, needs, risks, aspirations and agreed goals, and will be developed with the young person rather than for them. Progress will be reviewed regularly with the young person and, where appropriate, parents, carers, schools and referring agencies. We will use Plinth to manage referrals, record interventions, monitor engagement and track outputs across the programme. Outcome Star will be used at entry, review and exit points to measure distance travelled in areas including safety, emotional wellbeing, confidence, trusted relationships, education engagement, family relationships, aspirations and future planning.

Together, these tools will enable us to evidence both the scale and quality of delivery, demonstrating who we reach, how they engage and what difference the support makes over time.

Key indicators will include:

- Number of girls referred, accepted and actively engaged
- Number of mentoring, group work and family support sessions delivered
- Changes in safeguarding concerns and levels of risk
- Improved school attendance, reduced exclusion risk and re-engagement with education
- Reduction in missing episodes, where relevant
- Reduction in police, Youth Justice or community safety concerns
- Improved understanding of exploitation, coercion, healthy relationships and personal safety
- Improved emotional wellbeing, confidence and resilience
- Improved family communication and stability
- Increased voice, confidence, safety and agency reported by girls
- Successful engagement with specialist services and positive onward pathways

Young people's voices will be central to our evaluation. Girls will be asked what has changed, what has helped and what could be improved. Feedback will be gathered using trauma-informed approaches including reflective conversations, creative tools, group discussions and anonymous feedback opportunities.

Safeguarding data will be reviewed regularly by Clare Cody, Targeted Youth Manager and qualified social worker, alongside safeguarding leads. This will help identify emerging themes, repeat concerns, escalation and learning for practice. Where appropriate, we will gather feedback from schools, social workers, Youth Justice, community safety and safeguarding partners to understand wider outcomes.

We will produce regular monitoring reports and an annual learning report summarising outputs, outcomes, safeguarding themes, girls' feedback, family impact and case studies.

What are the key activities you will undertake with this funding to achieve these outcomes?

(Maximum 3000 characters)

This funding will enable Positive Futures to deliver a dedicated girls' pathway through our established Mentoring House Model. The model combines one-to-one mentoring, group work, family support, education advocacy, multi-agency coordination and positive exit pathways into wider community opportunities.

Each girl will begin with an assessment and relationship-building phase to understand her strengths, aspirations, family circumstances, education needs, trusted relationships and presenting risks. An individual support plan will then be developed with the young person, ensuring support is tailored to her goals and circumstances.

The foundation of the programme is consistent one-to-one mentoring. Each girl will be matched with a dedicated Girls' Mentoring Practitioner who will provide practical, emotional

and relational support. Mentoring will focus on emotional wellbeing, confidence, healthy relationships, exploitation awareness, safety, education engagement, identity and future aspirations. Practitioners will work at the young person's pace, recognising that trust is often the first step towards change.

Alongside mentoring, girls will participate in weekly gender-informed group sessions designed to reduce isolation, build confidence and develop positive peer relationships. Sessions will explore healthy relationships, county lines and exploitation, online safety, emotional wellbeing, friendship, boundaries and positive decision-making. Group work will also include a strong confidence and leadership element, helping girls recognise their strengths, develop their voice and build aspirations for the future.

Family support is a key part of the model. Where appropriate, we will work alongside parents and carers to strengthen communication, improve understanding of adolescent development and exploitation risks, and reduce conflict at home. Families may also access Positive Futures' evidence-based programmes, including the Nurturing Programme and Talking Teens.

The programme will also provide education and multi-agency advocacy. Mentors will work closely with schools, social care, Youth Justice, community safety teams, police and safeguarding partners to ensure girls receive coordinated support. This may include attendance support, exclusion prevention, SEND advocacy, safeguarding meetings and referrals to specialist services.

A key feature of the model is positive exit planning. Girls will be supported to transition into wider Positive Futures opportunities, including youth work, volunteering, leadership, training and enrichment activities, ensuring they leave with ongoing support networks and positive pathways for the future.

The project will be underpinned by regular safeguarding oversight, case supervision and reflective practice to ensure delivery remains safe, responsive and trauma-informed.

How many girls will you be working over the course of the grant?

75

Does your proposed project already exist or is this a new piece of work?

If this project is already operating, please describe how you will build on what you have achieved to date.

If this is a new piece of work, please explain what this funding will enable you to do differently.

(Maximum 3000 characters)

This project builds on Positive Futures' existing mentoring provision and established Mentoring House Model, but will create a dedicated gender-specific pathway for girls aged 11-18 who are at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

Positive Futures is recognised as an expert organisation already delivering targeted mentoring for vulnerable young people across Liverpool, Knowsley and Sefton. Our Mentoring House Model provides trusted one-to-one support, group work, family support, education and multi-agency advocacy, and positive exit routes into youth work, education, training and wider opportunities. We already support young people affected by exploitation, school exclusion, poor mental health, family breakdown, care experience and criminal justice risk.

Through this existing work, we have seen a clear increase in the number and complexity of girls presenting with overlapping risks linked to county lines, gang association, coercive relationships, sexual exploitation, school absence, care experience and emotional distress. Our current mentoring programme supports girls, but it is not funded or structured as a dedicated gender-specific criminal justice prevention pathway.

Triangle Trust funding would allow us to do something different and more targeted. It would enable us to ringfence practitioner time, develop gender-specific resources, strengthen referral pathways, deliver girls' group work, provide family support and build a clearer evidence base around what works for girls at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

The funding would also allow us to respond earlier. Many girls are currently only offered support when risk has already escalated. This project would allow Positive Futures to work alongside schools, Youth Justice, social care, police and community safety partners to identify girls earlier and provide consistent mentoring before they become criminalised or further exploited.

This is therefore both a continuation and a development. It builds on a proven mentoring model, an established community presence and trusted relationships with partners, but creates a more focused, gender-informed offer for girls whose needs are currently not being met by generic youth provision or crisis-led statutory services.

The learning from this project will also strengthen our wider Mentoring House Model. It will help us understand how gender, trauma, exploitation, school exclusion and care experience intersect, and how mentoring can better support girls' safety, voice, confidence and future opportunities.

What expertise and track record do you have to be able to deliver this work successfully? Please specifically mention your expertise linked to gender and trauma informed approaches.

(Maximum 3000 characters)

Positive Futures has extensive experience delivering trauma-informed mentoring, youth work and family support to vulnerable young people across Liverpool, Knowsley and Sefton. We work with young people facing complex challenges, including criminal exploitation, county lines involvement, school exclusion, care experience, domestic abuse, poor mental health, serious youth violence, family breakdown and poverty.

Our track record of supporting girls is well established and growing. In 2025, we supported 81 girls through our targeted mentoring and wraparound support model, a 50% increase on the previous year. Demand continues to rise, with 21 girls currently receiving support and a further 15 on our waiting list. This reflects both increasing need and the confidence local partners place in Positive Futures to work effectively with vulnerable girls facing complex risks.

Our expertise and impact are recognised across Liverpool's safeguarding and community safety network. Liverpool City Council's Community Safety and Complex Safeguarding teams identify Positive Futures as an anchor organisation for young people experiencing multiple disadvantages. This is further demonstrated through the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership's Young Futures Prevention (YFP) Panels pilot. While the programme previously involved four delivery partners, Positive Futures will now be the sole commissioned provider, reflecting confidence in the quality and impact of our approach. Central to our success is our Mentoring House Model, built around trusted relationships. We recognise that young people affected by trauma, exploitation and instability rarely engage through short-term interventions. They need trusted adults who can build relationships, manage risk and provide consistent support.

Our practitioners are experienced in supporting young people presenting with trauma responses, including withdrawal, anger, distrust, emotional dysregulation, risk-taking behaviours and disengagement from services. Our trauma-informed practice prioritises safety, trust, collaboration, choice and empowerment, supported by safeguarding supervision, reflective practice and case management.

We also recognise that girls experience risk differently. Girls affected by gangs, county lines and exploitation are often less visible than boys and may experience coercive control, sexual exploitation, unhealthy relationships, intimidation and fear of disclosure. Our gender-informed approach tailors support through trusted female practitioners, safe spaces, peer support, family interventions and education advocacy.

Alongside direct work, we deliver evidence-based family programmes including the Nurturing Programme and Talking Teens, helping parents better understand trauma, exploitation and adolescent risk while strengthening family resilience.

Does your organisation have existing knowledge and expertise working across the criminal justice system?

(Maximum 3000 characters)

Positive Futures has significant experience working with young people at risk of entering the criminal justice system and those already known to criminal justice, safeguarding and community safety partners.

Our targeted mentoring work supports young people affected by exploitation, serious youth violence, anti-social behaviour, school exclusion, missing episodes, care experience and family breakdown. Many of the young people we support are known to Youth Justice, police, social care, schools, community safety teams or exploitation panels. Our role is often to provide the trusted relationship and practical support that helps young people engage with services, understand risk and make safer choices.

Positive Futures is actively involved in Young Futures Prevention Partnership Panels and multi-agency work across Liverpool, Knowsley and Sefton. These panels identify young people at risk of exploitation, violence, offending and poor outcomes, and coordinate support around them. Our mentoring provision has been jointly funded through Youth Futures and Be the Change, demonstrating confidence from local criminal justice and community safety partners in our ability to support young people on the edge of the criminal justice system.

We also work with young people affected by county lines and gang-associated harm. Our practitioners understand that girls' involvement is often hidden, relational and coercive. Girls may not present as 'offenders' but may be carrying items, holding money, being controlled through relationships, going missing, being sexually exploited or being used by older peers and adults. This understanding shapes our approach.

Our work is prevention-focused. We aim to intervene before young people are criminalised, recognising that many behaviours linked to offending are connected to trauma, exploitation, unmet need and survival. We work closely with schools, social care, police, Youth Justice, safeguarding teams and families to reduce risk and prevent escalation.

Positive Futures also has expertise working with care-experienced young people and those on the edge of care. This is important because care experience, placement instability, school exclusion and exploitation often overlap with criminal justice risk. Our group structure, which includes Positive Futures Homes, gives us additional insight into the needs of children in care and the importance of consistent relationships, advocacy and trauma-informed practice.

We understand the criminal justice system cannot solve these issues alone. Girls need safe relationships, family support, education advocacy, positive peer networks, youth voice and practical help to build safer futures. This project will bring that expertise together in a dedicated programme for girls at risk of entering the criminal justice system.

Please explain how the grant will be spent and include a topline budget with brief explanations

(Maximum 3000 characters)

The total cost of delivering the three-year Girls' Mentoring Programme is £153,636. The largest element of the budget is a dedicated Girls' Mentoring Practitioner (£123,636 over three years), who will be responsible for delivering intensive one-to-one mentoring, girls' group sessions, family liaison, education advocacy, safeguarding coordination and transition planning. This role is central to the programme and will provide consistent, trauma-informed support to girls at risk of criminal exploitation, county lines involvement, school exclusion, care experience and wider vulnerabilities.

To ensure safe and effective delivery, the budget also includes £15,000 for programme management, safeguarding oversight and supervision. This will provide strategic oversight, case management, quality assurance and safeguarding support from Positive Futures' Targeted Youth Manager, Clare Cody, a qualified social worker with extensive experience supporting vulnerable young people and families.

A further £7,500 is allocated to group work, materials and activity costs. This will enable the delivery of weekly girls' groups focused on confidence, resilience, healthy relationships, identity, peer support and personal development, alongside resources and activities that encourage engagement and positive social connections.

Travel and access costs (£3,000) will ensure girls can engage fully in mentoring, group sessions and wider opportunities, reducing barriers to participation. Monitoring, evaluation and impact reporting (£3,000) will support robust outcome measurement, learning and reporting throughout the life of the project. Organisational overheads (£1,500) contribute towards the infrastructure required to deliver the programme safely and effectively. We are requesting £100,000 from Triangle Trust towards the delivery of this programme, primarily supporting the dedicated Girls' Mentoring Practitioner role. The remaining £53,636 will be secured through Positive Futures' fundraising strategy and contributions from additional funding sources.

Positive Futures has a strong track record of securing funding from local authorities, violence reduction initiatives, charitable trusts and corporate partners. We are also exploring opportunities through the Young Women in Mind 2026-2028 programme and other relevant funders to support the wider mental health and gender-specific elements of this work.

This approach ensures the programme is realistically costed, sustainably funded and able to provide the intensive, relational support required to achieve meaningful long-term outcomes for vulnerable girls.

Who will be responsible for overseeing and delivering this work?

(Maximum 3000 characters)

The project will be overseen by Positive Futures' senior leadership and delivered through our established Targeted Mentor Service and Mentoring House Model.

Overall strategic accountability will sit with Hannah Allen, Group CEO of Positive Futures, who will ensure the project aligns with Positive Futures' strategy, safeguarding responsibilities and wider work with vulnerable young people. Hannah has extensive experience in youth work, organisational leadership, safeguarding, partnership development and services for young people at risk.

Operational oversight will sit with Clare Cody, Targeted Youth Manager and qualified social worker. Clare will be responsible for day-to-day project oversight, referral pathways,

case allocation, staff supervision, safeguarding oversight, partner relationships, quality assurance and impact reporting.

Clare's social work background will be particularly important for this project. The girls supported are likely to have complex and overlapping needs linked to exploitation, family instability, education breakdown, care experience, domestic abuse, trauma and criminal justice risk. Clare will ensure the work is delivered safely, is trauma-informed, and is well coordinated with schools, social care, Youth Justice, community safety, police, safeguarding partners and voluntary sector organisations.

The project will be delivered by a dedicated Girls' Mentoring Practitioner, supported by Positive Futures' wider targeted youth work, family support and open-access youth work teams. The practitioner will deliver one-to-one mentoring, group work, family liaison, education advocacy, safeguarding coordination and positive exit planning. Practitioners delivering the work will have enhanced DBS checks, safeguarding training, experience of working with vulnerable young people and access to regular supervision and reflective practice.

Positive Futures' safeguarding lead will provide additional oversight of safeguarding concerns, escalation, risk management and multi-agency information sharing. The project will also report into internal quality and performance systems to ensure risks, outcomes and learning are reviewed regularly.

Where appropriate, the project will draw on Positive Futures' wider team, including youth workers, family support practitioners and staff trained in evidence-based parenting programmes such as the Nurture Programme and Talking Teens.

The project will also be supported through external partnerships with schools, Youth Justice, community safety, police, social care, safeguarding teams and local voluntary sector partners. These relationships will help identify girls at risk, coordinate support and ensure that mentoring is part of a wider safeguarding and prevention response. Governance oversight will be provided through Positive Futures' Board and Quality Committee, which scrutinises safeguarding, impact, risk and service quality.

How do you plan to continue this work once the grant ends?

(Maximum 3000 characters)

Positive Futures is committed to sustaining and growing targeted support for vulnerable girls as part of our long-term prevention strategy. This project aligns directly with our mission to prevent young people entering the care and criminal justice systems through early intervention, trusted relationships and trauma-informed support.

Triangle Trust funding will provide the foundation for establishing a dedicated girls' pathway within our Mentoring House Model. From the outset, our focus will be on building a sustainable programme that continues beyond the life of the grant. We recognise that the full project cost exceeds the funding request and will actively secure additional investment throughout the grant period to sustain and expand delivery.

We have a strong track record of securing funding from local authorities, community safety partnerships, violence reduction initiatives, charitable trusts and corporate partners. Alongside existing relationships with commissioners and strategic partners, we are exploring future opportunities, including the Young Women in Mind 2026-2028 programme and other funders focused on girls, mental health, exploitation and early intervention. Over the three-year grant period, we will gather robust evidence demonstrating the impact of gender-specific mentoring on reducing vulnerability to exploitation, school exclusion, care involvement and entry into the criminal justice system. Through outcome data, case

studies, youth voice and partner feedback, we will build a compelling evidence base to support future funding applications and commissioning opportunities.

Positive Futures is already recognised by Liverpool City Council's Community Safety and Complex Safeguarding teams as an anchor organisation for young people experiencing multiple disadvantages. As the sole commissioned provider for the Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership's Young Futures Prevention Panels pilot, we are well placed to use the learning from this programme to influence local prevention pathways and future investment in girls' services.

Sustainability will also come through integration. The learning, resources and approaches developed through this project will be embedded within our wider Mentoring House Model, staff training, safeguarding practice and family support offer. Girls completing mentoring will continue to access Positive Futures' wider provision, including youth work, leadership opportunities, volunteering, enrichment activities and community-based support, ensuring trusted relationships and positive pathways remain in place.

Our Head of Fundraising will lead a sustainability plan from year one, focusing on multi-year funding opportunities, commissioner engagement and strategic partnerships. By combining diversified funding, strong local partnerships, proven outcomes and integration into our wider services, we aim to establish a sustainable, evidence-informed girls' pathway that remains sustainable.

Will you be receiving funding from any other sources for this project?

(Maximum 3000 characters)

At this stage, we are not requesting duplicate funding for this specific dedicated girls' mentoring pathway.

Do all staff have enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks? If no please state why.

Yes

Reason why not all staff have DBS checks.

Total funding requested in this application (£30,000 to £100,000 with a maximum of £50,000 in one year)

£100000

Proposed grant start date	Proposed grant duration in months
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9/6/2026

24

How much funding is required each year?

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
£36000	£32000	£32000

What was your organisation's expenditure in the most recent financial year?

£1594590

What was your organisation's annual income in the most recent financial year?

£2259529

What value of unrestricted reserves did your organisation have at the end of the most recent financial year?

£33714