

Organisation Name		Reference code	
YWCA Yorkshire		2025-10-YWG43	
Organisation Address			
Peile House, 255 Pitsmoor Road Sheffield S3 9AQ UK			
Website Address			
www.ywcayorkshire.org.uk			
How did you hear about the Triangle Trust?			
Infrastructure organisation website			
Please describe your organisation's purpose in one or two sentences.			
We work with women, children, and families facing homelessness, abuse, exploitation and disadvantage, providing safe accommodation, emotional support, and opportunities to build independence and resilience.			
Type of organisation? (tick all that apply and complete relevant details)			
Charity	Registered Charity Number	Date Registered	
Yes	1080111	2000	
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			
This grant will change the story for those young women trapped between trauma and criminalisation. Through expert safeguarding, therapeutic interventions (WRAP), and diversionary activities, 'Beyond the Label' will help those already in, or at high risk of entering, the justice system to rebuild safety, trust, confidence and hope.			
Please describe the specific needs of the young women and girls you work with that this project will address			
· Childhood experiences of sexual violence, neglect and instability			
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? How will you track the impact you are making?			
When we first met Chloe, she was frightened, isolated, and convinced she was a "lost cause." Arrested for shop theft and exploited by a county-lines gang, she believed the system only saw her mistakes. Beyond the Label: Preventing the Criminalisation of Vulnerable Young Women will ensure that girls like Chloe are seen, supported and given a way out of criminalisation. The project will create measurable change for young women aged 16-25 who have already offended or are at high risk of doing so. It focuses on two key social-impact areas: Individual Development and Health & Wellbeing, and Education, Employability and Social Cohesion. Each outcome is designed to replace trauma-driven behaviour with safety, confidence, and purpose. Key Outcomes: 1. Reduced offending / risk of offending: At least 75% of participants will avoid further / first contact with the criminal justice system. Like Chloe, they will move from fear and instability to safety, with improved decision-making evidenced through support plans			

and partner feedback.

2. Improved mental health and emotional resilience: Through WRAP and trauma-informed sessions, participants will show measurable gains in wellbeing, emotional regulation, and self-awareness. Chloe now uses her WRAP plan to manage anxiety and recognise early signs of exploitation.

3. Greater engagement in education, training, or employment: At least 60% of young women will progress towards education, volunteering, or paid work within six months. Structured diversionary activities will help them develop employability skills and positive identity.

4. Stronger relationships and social belonging: Group work will help participants form healthy peer connections and rebuild trust. Chloe, once isolated, now engages in activity sessions with her peers, evidence of improved confidence and sense of community.

5. Wider systemic impact: 30 professionals trained in contextual safeguarding will embed gender and trauma informed practice across the organisation and partner agencies, strengthening early-intervention pathways and sustainability.

Tracking and Evaluation:

Impact will be measured using a blend of quantitative and qualitative tools:

- Baseline and exit assessments capturing change in wellbeing, confidence, and risk.
- Outcome Star and WRAP progress tools to chart individual growth.
- Attendance, engagement, and progression data reviewed quarterly.
- Case studies and reflective journals, capturing participant voice and lived experience.
- Partner feedback from Youth Offending Teams, Police, and schools confirming progress.

Learning from this project will contribute to the funder's and YWCA's own evidence base on what works for young women in or at risk of entering the justice system. For Chloe however, and the many young women who share her story, success will mean being known not for having a criminal record and living in fear, but for recovery, resilience, and hope for the future.

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

We will deliver a structured two-year programme across Sheffield, Rotherham, and Doncaster, combining one-to-one outreach, WRAP delivery, trauma-informed group work, and partnership training to strengthen early intervention and reduce reoffending risk.

1. Relationship-based outreach and recovery support: A specialist 0.6 FTE Outreach Worker will provide direct one-to-one support to up to 80 young women over two years. Each woman will co-produce a personalised recovery plan addressing safety, housing, mental health, and life goals. The Outreach Worker will provide consistent, trauma-informed support to build trust, resilience and emotional stability.

2. WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Planning): We will deliver WRAP sessions tailored to young women with experience of exploitation or offending. WRAP gives participants practical tools to manage mental health, identify triggers, and maintain stability. This approach has already proved effective in our existing services, where 89% of participants report improved emotional wellbeing.

3. Trauma-informed group work: Weekly group sessions will explore self-worth, relationships, and identity using creative methods such as art, photography, and poetry. These sessions help young women process trauma, develop communication skills, and form safe, positive peer relationships.

4. Diversionary and restorative activities: We will run volunteering, skills-based workshops and community projects designed to promote belonging, employability, and social cohesion. By replacing harmful environments with constructive opportunities, participants will gain confidence, new routines, and a renewed sense of purpose.

5. Contextual safeguarding training and partnership development: In partnership with the Contextual Safeguarding Network, we will train YWCA staff, volunteers, and partner

agencies (including Youth Offending Teams, Police, and schools) to identify and disrupt external risks e.g. peer coercion, exploitation, and county lines involvement. This shared approach will strengthen local systems of prevention.

6. Peer mentoring and co-production: Women who have been through the programme will play an active role in shaping its ongoing development, ensuring it remains relevant and responsive to real experience. Their insight will guide delivery, strengthen peer connection, and embed lived experience at its core.

7. Monitoring and evaluation: Using Outcome Star and WRAP evaluation tools, we will track changes in wellbeing, safety, and resilience. Quarterly reviews and reflective journals will capture personal progress and inform continuous improvement.

For Chloe, and others like her, Beyond the Label will mean more than recovery, it will mean prevention. It will ensure that trauma is met with understanding, not punishment, and that every young woman has the opportunity to rebuild her story with confidence, safety, and hope.

Does your proposed project already exist or is this a new piece of work? If this project is already operating, please describe to us how you will use this as an opportunity to 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.

YWCA Yorkshire has over two decades of experience delivering trauma-informed, gender-specific services for young women affected by homelessness, abuse, and exploitation.

Through projects such as Peile House, Green Gables, and Fleming Gardens, we have helped hundreds of young women rebuild their lives, improving mental health, safety, and independence. However, while these services provide stability and recovery after crisis, they do not allow us to intervene before women become entangled with the criminal justice system. That is where Beyond the Label is different. It builds on our proven expertise but introduces a new, proactive approach focused on prevention rather than response.

What this funding will enable us to do differently

1. Move from reactive to preventative work: Currently, much of our engagement with the criminal justice system is reactive, supporting young women like Chloe after they have already been criminalised. This project will give us the time, resources, and partnerships to intervene earlier, addressing the root causes of risk before harm escalates.

2. Embed contextual safeguarding as a central focus: While our staff are trained in safeguarding, this project will introduce a new depth of practice through partnership with the Contextual Safeguarding Network. This approach recognises that harm occurs not just at home, but in friendships, relationships, and communities. It will allow us to identify and disrupt risks such as grooming, county lines, and coercive control before they result in criminal behaviour.

3. Strengthen partnership with criminal justice agencies: We already work with Youth Offending Teams, social care, and the police as part of multi-agency support plans, but Beyond the Label will formalise these relationships. We will create structured referral pathways and shared training opportunities to ensure that vulnerable young women are diverted towards support, not prosecution.

4. Extend WRAP and creative group work: Although YWCA Yorkshire already delivers WRAP within our wellbeing programmes, this project will tailor it specifically for young women at risk of offending. It will be delivered alongside trauma-informed creative group work to help participants manage emotions, express experiences safely, and build identity beyond the label of "offender."

5. Involve women with lived experience in ongoing design: Women who have completed the programme will contribute to its ongoing development, ensuring it remains relevant, authentic, and grounded in real experience. Their insight will guide content, engagement methods, and evaluation.

Beyond the Label is a new, preventative model for South Yorkshire, designed by a

trusted provider, informed by lived experience, and built on proven success. It will allow us to work earlier, collaborate more effectively, and challenge the systems that too often criminalise young women for their own victimisation.

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.

YWCA Yorkshire has been changing lives for women and girls in Sheffield since the 1940s, delivering services that promote safety, stability, and opportunity. For over 20 years, we have operated under contract to local councils across South Yorkshire, providing quality supported accommodation and outreach services that consistently achieve excellent outcomes. Each year, we support more than 300 women and 500 children across South Yorkshire through trauma-informed, gender-specific programmes. Our approach is rooted in deep understanding of the barriers facing young women - homelessness, abuse, exploitation and poverty, and the belief that lasting change begins with safety and trust. We already work with many young women who sit at the edge of the criminal justice system.

Women like Chloe, who came to us after being exploited, arrested, and left feeling hopeless. Through the holistic support of our housing service, she found stability and began to rebuild her confidence, but Chloe's experience also showed us the limits of what we can do within existing contracts - we could help her recover, but not intervene early enough to prevent her being criminalised in the first place. 'Beyond the Label' will change that.

Our trauma-informed model supports young women facing multiple disadvantages, but despite this complexity, our outcomes remain exceptional: 92% of women move into safe, stable housing, 87% report better mental health, 84% gain confidence and independence, and 79% of young parents re-engage in education, training, or employment. Our staff are highly skilled and fully trained in trauma-informed practice, WRAP facilitation, domestic abuse awareness, safeguarding, and mental health first aid. Reflective supervision and co-production ensure that lived experience shapes every aspect of our delivery. We understand that behaviour is often a response to trauma, and that young women are too often punished for trying to survive. Our gender-specific services provide the safety that mixed environments cannot, giving women the time and space to rebuild trust, identity, and choice.

Our robust monitoring systems track progress through Outcome Star and WRAP evaluations, complemented by qualitative feedback, case studies and partner reports. We provide detailed quarterly reports to local authorities and funders, evidencing both outcomes and social value. Through decades of commissioned delivery, YWCA Yorkshire has earned a reputation for excellence, accountability and innovation. We have the infrastructure, expertise and partnerships to deliver this new programme successfully.

What the Triangle Trust funding will make possible is the next step - using our proven trauma-informed approach to intervene earlier, focus on contextual safeguarding, and prevent young women like Chloe from being criminalised for their own victimisation.

Please explain how the grant will be spent

This £70,000 grant over two years (£35,000 per year) will bring 'Beyond the Label - Preventing the Criminalisation of Vulnerable Young Women' to life, turning resources into real, lasting change for young women trapped between trauma and criminalisation. Every element of funding will be used to rebuild safety, confidence, and hope for young women aged 16-25 who are already in, or on the edge of, the criminal justice system. When Chloe first came to us, she had already been exploited, arrested, and written off. This grant will make sure the next Chloe is reached sooner, and before she is criminalised for her own victimisation.

How the grant will be used:

1. Frontline staff (£46,000)

The majority of funding will pay for a specialist 0.6 FTE Outreach Worker, including

salary, NI, and pension costs. This worker will walk alongside up to 80 young women over two years, helping them navigate trauma, manage mental health, and make safe, positive choices. They will co-produce recovery plans, deliver WRAP sessions, and link young women with training, education, and employment opportunities.

2. Programme delivery (£10,500)

Resources will fund creative group work and restorative activities that inspire connection and belonging, from art and photography projects to volunteering and skills workshops. Funding will also cover travel, refreshments and volunteer expenses, ensuring that no young woman is excluded through poverty. These activities help replace destructive peer influences with positive identity, purpose, and hope.

3. Specialist training and partnership development (£6,000)

This will deepen our work on Contextual Safeguarding, shining a light on how harm happens in relationships, peer groups and communities - the spaces where exploitation and coercion begin. Staff and partner agencies will be trained to recognise and disrupt these risks, ensuring early intervention rather than criminalisation.

4. Monitoring and evaluation (£4,000)

Using Outcome Star and WRAP tools, we will track improvements in wellbeing, confidence, and resilience. Case studies, reflective journals, and partner feedback will capture lived experience and measure how lives change.

5. Project management and overheads (£3,500)

A modest contribution to management, insurance, utilities, and premises directly linked to delivery.

The difference it will make: This grant will be more than funding, it will be a lifeline. It will help up to 80 young women rewrite their futures, rebuild trust, and rediscover their worth. It will train 30 professionals to identify and prevent exploitation, creating safer systems for years to come.

At its heart, Beyond the Label will ensure that young women like Chloe are no longer punished for surviving, but supported to thrive. Every pound will help transform fear into stability, isolation into belonging, and crisis into confidence. The Triangle Trust's investment will not only prevent offending, it will change the trajectory of young women's lives

Who will be responsible for overseeing and delivering this work?

'Beyond the Label - Preventing the Criminalisation of Vulnerable Young Women' will be delivered by YWCA Yorkshire's experienced operational team under the leadership of a highly skilled, women-led management structure. The project will be embedded within our existing safeguarding and quality-assurance framework to ensure safety, accountability and impact.

Strategic oversight will be provided by Diane Offers, Chief Executive, who has over 25 years' experience in women's services and local-authority partnerships. She will report regularly to the Board of Trustees, who bring professional expertise in safeguarding, health and finance, and will monitor progress against agreed outcomes and budgets. Day-to-day management will sit with Janine Egan, Head of Operations, who has over two decades of experience designing, implementing, and evaluating trauma-informed programmes across South Yorkshire. Janine will oversee delivery, partnership coordination and reporting to the Triangle Trust, ensuring that learning from this project contributes to both local and national evidence on preventing female criminalisation. Frontline delivery will be led by a dedicated 0.6 FTE Outreach Worker, recruited for their experience in trauma-informed and gender-responsive practice. The Outreach Worker will:

- Provide one-to-one and group support to up to 120 young women over two years.
- Deliver WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Planning) sessions and creative group work.
- Coordinate referral pathways with Youth Offending Teams, Police, schools, and probation.

- Support peer mentors to co-deliver sessions and contribute lived experience to programme design.

The Outreach Worker will receive clinical supervision and reflective practice support from an experienced Project Manager to maintain professional resilience and uphold best practice when managing high-risk cases. We will also partner with the Contextual Safeguarding Network, whose specialist trainers will guide the implementation of contextual safeguarding across the project and help build capability among staff and partner agencies.

Regular progress reviews, data tracking through Outcome Star and WRAP tools, and quarterly reports to the Board will ensure strong governance and continuous improvement.

Together, this team combines strategic leadership, operational strength and specialist frontline expertise. We have the capacity, partnerships, and credibility to deliver Beyond the Label safely and effectively, ensuring young women like Chloe are no longer punished for surviving, but empowered to thrive.

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

From the outset, our project will be designed for sustainability. The Triangle Trust's investment will not only change lives over two years but will create a lasting shift in how YWCA Yorkshire and its partners identify and prevent the criminalisation of young women.

Our aim is to embed the learning, partnerships, and methods developed through this project into our core delivery model so that support continues long after the funding ends.

1. Embedding the model within existing services: YWCA Yorkshire has been delivering commissioned services for women and girls under contract to local authorities for over 20 years. We will integrate Beyond the Label's trauma-informed and contextual safeguarding approach into our existing supported housing, outreach, and family services across Sheffield, Rotherham, and Doncaster.

By training staff across all sites and sharing resources, the project's methodology will become a standard part of our practice, ensuring ongoing prevention work without full reliance on external funding.

2. Building local partnerships and referrals: The project will establish strong referral pathways with Youth Offending Teams, Police, probation and schools that will remain in place beyond the grant period. These partnerships will strengthen early intervention across the region and enable joint funding bids for continued delivery. We will work with partners to explore commissioning opportunities through community safety and health inequalities budgets, positioning the project as a tested prevention model ready for local adoption.

3. Developing a volunteer and peer mentor network: Women who complete the programme will be trained as peer mentors, enabling them to co-facilitate future groups and support other young women with minimal cost. This peer-led model will ensure lived experience remains at the heart of the work while providing meaningful pathways into volunteering, education, and employment.

4. Using evaluation and evidence to attract future investment

We will use robust data and case studies from this project to evidence its impact, demonstrating reductions in offending, improved wellbeing and stronger community outcomes. Evaluation findings will be shared through the Triangle Trust's learning network, local safeguarding partnerships and with future funders including the South Yorkshire Violence Reduction Unit, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and local authority commissioners.

5. Long-term vision: By the end of the two years, Beyond the Label will have created a tested, partnership-based model of early intervention that can be delivered at low cost within our wider services and replicated by others.

The Triangle Trust's support will leave a legacy of prevention, ensuring that young women like Chloe are no longer criminalised for surviving trauma, but supported to

thrive long after the funding has ended.

Is your organisation led by women and are at least 80% of your organisation's total beneficiaries' women and girls? Please provide a breakdown of your beneficiary numbers for the past 2 years.

YWCA Yorkshire is a women's organisation led by women, for women. We exist solely to support the wellbeing, safety and empowerment of women, children, and families across South Yorkshire. Our services are gender-specific, trauma-informed and rooted in over 80 years of experience working with women and girls. Even when we work with families, the woman is always our primary client. Each woman has her own support plan and is the person our staff engage with directly. We may work with male partners or fathers as part of a family unit when it benefits the woman or her children's safety and stability, but we do not, except in the rarest of circumstances, work with men as sole clients.

On the very few occasions where we have done so, it has been in exceptional circumstances, such as supporting a pregnant trans male (biological female) and one young man who retained custody of his child following an assault by the mother. Where men require ongoing support, they are signposted to appropriate specialist organisations. This approach ensures that our resources remain focused on women and girls while recognising the complex family dynamics that can affect their wellbeing. Our model promotes women's safety, independence, and resilience, particularly where domestic abuse, homelessness, mental health, or parenting challenges are present.

Leadership - YWCA Yorkshire is women-led at every level:

- Our Chief Executive is a woman.
- The entire Senior Leadership Team are women.
- All frontline delivery staff across our services are women.
- The Board of Trustees are predominantly women, with the exception of one male Chair who provides external governance experience.

This structure ensures that strategic decisions and service delivery are grounded in lived understanding of women's experiences and needs.

Beneficiary breakdown: Across the last two years, YWCA Yorkshire has supported an average of 300 women and 500 children each year through our accommodation, outreach, and family services in Sheffield, Rotherham, and Doncaster. These figures remain consistent because they reflect our commissioned capacity under local authority contracts (whilst numbers of children do vary each year, the number of women supported remains consistent)

In both years, over 80% of all beneficiaries were women and girls, with the remainder being children supported through their mothers' engagement.

In summary, YWCA Yorkshire is a women-led, women-focused organisation. Every aspect of our work is designed to improve the lives of women and girls, strengthening families and communities through the empowerment of women. Men are only ever engaged when it directly benefits women's safety and wellbeing. Our record shows clear and consistent alignment with the Triangle Trust's requirement that at least 80% of beneficiaries are women and girls-in practice, that figure is close to 100%.

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

YWCA Yorkshire has extensive experience supporting vulnerable young women who have experienced, or are at risk of entering, the criminal justice system. Many of the women we support have lived through multiple and intersecting traumas including domestic abuse, sexual exploitation, homelessness and coercive control, that place them at the very edge of criminalisation.

We work closely with partners across the criminal justice and safeguarding landscape, contributing to multi-agency support plans that balance risk, safety, and rehabilitation. Our staff regularly liaise with Youth Offending Teams, Social Care, Leaving Care Teams, Health Services, and Education Providers, as well as maintaining strong

relationships with South Yorkshire Police, local courts and probation services. For many of the women we support, contact with the justice system arises because they are victims of crime, experiencing violence, coercion or exploitation. Our staff advocate for them within police investigations and court proceedings, ensuring that their voices are heard and their vulnerabilities recognised. We also work with partners to support women whose trauma and exploitation have led them into offending behaviours, often linked to survival rather than criminal intent.

This gives us a deep, practical understanding of the complex relationship between victimisation and offending. We have seen first-hand how young women can become doubly victimised, first by the people who harm them and again by a system that does not always understand the context of their behaviour.

Currently, this work happens largely reactively through our supported housing and outreach services. When a young woman is arrested, referred by a Youth Offending Team, or identified as being at risk of exploitation, we provide intensive wraparound support. We help her stabilise her housing, engage with mental-health services, and rebuild confidence through trauma-informed recovery plans.

Beyond the Label represents the next step: the chance to apply this expertise pro-emptively rather than reactively. By embedding contextual safeguarding and structured WRAP delivery into our practice, we can intervene earlier to prevent young women from entering the criminal justice system at all.

Our existing partnerships mean we are well placed to do this. We are trusted by statutory agencies and are often the organisation called upon to engage women who have disengaged from other services. Staff are trained in trauma-informed, gender-specific and culturally responsive practice, ensuring that interventions are both safe and effective.

In summary, YWCA Yorkshire already operates at the intersection of trauma, safeguarding, and justice. We understand the system, the partnerships, and most importantly, the women whose lives are shaped by it. This project will allow us to use that experience to work earlier, smarter, and with greater impact, ensuring that vulnerability no longer leads to criminalisation.

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

No, we have not applied for funding for this project from anywhere else

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 (£10,000 to £80,000 with a maximum of £40,000 in one year)

£70000

Proposed grant start date

1/1/2026

Proposed grant duration in months

24

How much funding is required each year?

Year 1

£35000

Year 2

£35000

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

£1677847

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

£1605033

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

£385314