

# NEW MIDLANDS PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

This is a live document that we will update as questions arise. It covers the following:

- A. *Application and review process*
- B. *Conversations with shortlisted applicants*
- C. *Partnership set-up*
- D. *Partnership focus*
- E. *Additional information about Save the Children*

Please send any questions or points of clarification to [england@savethechildren.org.uk](mailto:england@savethechildren.org.uk).

### A. Application and review process

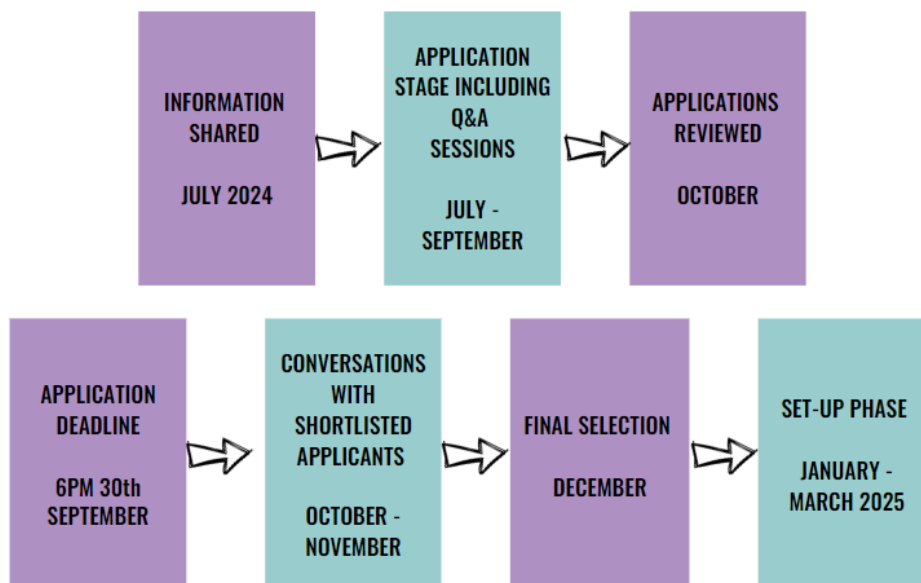
#### 1. What specific decisions will Save the Children be making in this stage?

Applications are due by **6:00pm, Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024**. An internal panel will review all completed applications and agree a shortlist by mid-October. We are hoping to identify one partner or partnership to work alongside. Shortlisted applicants will be contacted to arrange conversations that will take place before the end of November.

#### 2. Who will be involved?

We will be able to confirm nearer the time. However, we anticipate that the following roles are likely to be involved: head of country, England; place-based lead; influencing lead; practice development advisor. There will be support from colleagues with expertise in safeguarding and diversity, equity and inclusion.

#### 3. What are the timeframes for this stage?



#### **4. Why is Save the Children asking for an overview of safeguarding policies and procedures at this stage?**

Safeguarding isn't just one person's job, it's a shared responsibility. Collectively, we can all play our part in keeping children, young people and families safe.

Save the Children wants everyone to feel safe when working with us and our partners. There is a safeguarding section in the partnership proposal form. This part of the application is an opportunity to outline your safe practice and policies to help us understand your approach to safeguarding.

As part of our collaborative approach to partnership working, Save the Children can support with aspects of safeguarding systems, processes and practice if this would be helpful. This includes making our child- and family-friendly reporting resources and mechanisms available to our partners.

#### **5. What types of organisations is Save the Children hoping to hear from?**

We are keen to hear from a wide variety of organisations. This includes – but is not limited to – combined authorities, local authorities, statutory services, national organisations with a local presence, and community, voluntary and grassroots organisations.

We are particularly interested to hear from BAME-led organisations and those working with minoritised and underrepresented communities.

We welcome joint applications from existing partnerships or networks. Please outline who is involved and, where possible, who the lead organisation would be in a partnership with Save the Children on the proposal form when submitting your application.

#### **6. What if my organisation / service covers more than one of the seven areas?**

The seven areas that we are interested to hear from are: Birmingham, Leicester, North Northamptonshire, Nottingham, Sandwell, Walsall, and Wolverhampton. We are looking to work with one partner or partnership within or across these areas, not one partner in each area.

Please use the partnership proposal form to outline which area or areas your organisation or service covers. We welcome proposals from people working across areas as well as in individual geographic areas. This might be a hyperlocal context within a community, at local authority level, or across geographic areas.

The expression of interest form asked you to specify which area you primarily work in. This was to help us gauge levels of interest from across the seven areas without double counting the responses.

### **B. Conversations with shortlisted applicants**

#### **7. What will the conversations entail?**

We are viewing the conversations as 'two-way interviews'. We are keen to ensure that both parties are comfortable with what a potential partnership might entail. During the

conversations, we would like to discuss mutual expectations and ways of working. We will share our questions in advance and invite questions from the applicants to ensure the process is reciprocal.

#### **8. How and when will these conversations take place?**

We would like to meet shortlisted applicants in person at their place of work or a convenient local venue. Conversations will take place between mid-October and the end of November 2024.

#### **9. Who will be involved?**

We will be able to confirm nearer the time. However, we anticipate that the following roles are likely to be involved: head of country, England; place-based lead; influencing lead.

#### **10. When will a final decision be communicated?**

We are hoping to make a final decision by mid-December 2024 and communicate this before the end of the year.

### **C. Partnership set-up**

#### **11. How long will the set-up stage take and what will it entail?**

We anticipate that the set-up stage will run for the first quarter (January – March) of 2025.

Set-up will involve getting a partnership agreement in place as well as defining the approach for the partnership. This will include agreeing governance, ways of working, and overall aims.

Building on our experience of place-based working, we know how important it is to allow adequate time for this stage of partnership development.

#### **12. Partnership expectations**

Shared roles and responsibilities include:

- Build a trusting and collaborative relationship for the duration of the partnership
- Create a shared vision and purpose.
- Collectively agree Save the Children's role to ensure relevance and added value.
- Secure buy-in and commitment from senior leaders within an area.
- Engage children and families in the partnership so that they help to shape it from the start.

What a partner organisation can expect from Save the Children

- The energy, desire, and willpower to tackle deep-rooted inequality and poverty.
- A commitment to taking a rights-based approach when working with children and families.
- A commitment to work together for the duration of the partnership, with open and transparent communication.
- Community investment including funding, capacity and resources to support partnership activities.

- Putting safeguarding and ethical practice at the heart of our work.
- A commitment to act in the best interests of a local area, working as an equal partner alongside people who live and work there.
- Connection with other place-based work across the UK to share learning and best practice.

What Save the Children expects from a partner organisation:

- The energy, desire, and willpower to tackle deep-rooted inequality and poverty.
- A shared commitment to taking a rights-based approach when working with children and families.
- A commitment to work together for the duration of the partnership, with open and transparent communication.
- An openness to working collaboratively with Save the Children and others – including new ways of working – to leverage the talents and strengths in the community.
- A commitment to creating the conditions for children and families to confidently share their views to shape projects and influence local decision-making.
- A culture of learning and a willingness to share evidence with and learn from others.
- A commitment to working safely and ethically with children, families, partners and each other.

#### **D. Partnership focus**

##### **13. What will the new partnership focus on?**

The focus of the partnership will respond to local priorities and opportunities for change; the details will be defined through co-production with local partners and families in the early stages of the partnership.

Save the Children's role in the partnership will be largely shaped by the context of the local place – the needs, partners, challenges, and opportunities within the system – so naturally we will be flexible in responding to what is needed and where we can add the most value.

The partnership could support existing initiatives to build, expand or accelerate these as required. The focus of the work doesn't necessarily need to be a brand new idea, but may require new ways of working or enable new ideas to be explored together.

##### **14. How will the various elements of a partnership be delivered and what capacity is needed?**

Partnership working will require organisational buy-in. An early step in the partnership process will be to identify and agree shared aims and goals. The accountability for delivering a successful partnership will then be shared between Save the Children and the lead partner organisation.

Partnership activities will primarily be delivered by the partner organisation and other local stakeholders. These activities will be agreed in collaboration with local partners and families.

Part of Save the Children's offer includes capacity building which might involve providing direct capacity to support delivery; training and development opportunities; to build skills and knowledge for our partners, where we have expertise. When required, we can also play a

convening role to connect organisations and services at local, regional, or national levels – we wouldn't expect individual organisations to identify all potential partners in any given area. Please see the 'What is our offer' section in the 'Our Offer' document for more information.

## **E. Additional information on Save the Children UK**

### **15. What elements are important in Save the Children's England strategy?**

**Child and family rights:** Our approach is rights-based. We promote children's right to play, right to be heard and share ideas, and the right to thrive. The success of any place-based approach to change is dependent on the degree to which the experiences, concerns and aspirations of children and their families meaningfully informs decision-making and actions.

**Diversity, equity and inclusion:** Our different perspectives, experiences, and solutions help us to achieve shared goals. We're focused on achieving the greatest change by working closely with children and families with experience of poverty who are more marginalised and underrepresented in decision-making, as part of our wider commitment to tackling inequality.

**Safeguarding:** Safeguarding isn't just one person's job; it's a shared responsibility to keep children, young people and families safe. Together we can support and empower children, young people and families to know that they also have a role to play in speaking out and keeping everyone safe, as part of an empowering, preventative approach to safeguarding.

**Impact:** We view impact as the positive change we achieve for and with children and their families. A shared goal of ending child poverty will be at the centre of our partnership and we will collectively agree the impact we will work together to achieve in our pursuit of this goal.

**Influencing:** Save the Children's work in England is characterised by innovative community partnerships and powerful national-level campaigning and advocacy, influencing both practice and policy. Children and families are central to these influencing efforts, and we create opportunities for them to connect with decision-makers at local, regional and national levels.

**Sustainability:** Large-scale social problems are complex, with no single or simple solution. Our approach to place-based work brings people together to create positive, lasting change. Working alongside community partnerships allows us to strategically use our resources, skills, and expertise to work with and invest in partners and communities. to achieve lasting change.

### **16. What has changed as a result of Save the Children's work with communities?**

You can find out more about the impact of Save the Children's work to date with [communities in the UK](#) through this [interactive resource](#).

### **17. Save the Children's commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)**

You can find out more about Save the Children's work to embed DEI in our workplace culture and to strengthen DEI across our work with children, families, and partners on our [website](#) and in our [Free to be Me Diversity and Inclusion strategy](#).



If you have a question that isn't answered in this document or in the Our Offer document, please email [england@savethechildren.org.uk](mailto:england@savethechildren.org.uk). We will update these FAQs on a regular basis.