

Evaluation of Building Futures

Privacy Notice for Research Participants

1 Why are we collecting this data?

The Youth Futures Foundation (YFF) has commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to undertake an evaluation of Building Futures – an early intervention mentoring programme for secondary school students at risk of becoming Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

NFER's evaluation will comprise an initial scoping and feasibility stage, followed by an impact evaluation. The scoping stage aims to gain an in-depth understanding of how the Building Futures programme is delivered and to prepare for the impact evaluation. It will comprise of interviews with staff at YFF, members of the Phase 1 evaluation team and delivery partner organisations, mentors and schools involved in Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the Building Futures programme. There will also be some analysis of management information. This privacy notice relates to the scoping stage which will take place between June and October 2026.

NFER is the data controller and will make decisions about how and what personal data is used for the scoping stage. Further information about the programme is available <https://youthfuturesfoundation.org/what-we-do/flagship-programmes/building-futures/>

2 What is the legal basis for processing activities?

The legal basis for processing personal data is covered by:

- Article 6 (f) Legitimate interests: the processing is necessary for the data controller's legitimate interests or the legitimate interests of a third party, unless there is a good reason to protect the individual's personal data which overrides those legitimate interests.

A legitimate interest assessment has been undertaken. It demonstrates that it is within NFER's interests in undertaking this evaluation to collect and analyse data on the effectiveness of implementation and outcomes. The evaluation fulfils one of NFER's core business purposes (undertaking research, evaluation, and information activities). The evaluation is also in the interest of schools, delivery organisations, and funders by providing insights to inform programme improvement and support future decision-making. It also delivers broader societal value by generating evidence on the potential to improve outcomes for those at risk of becoming NEET, as well as on the effectiveness of investment in early intervention. The research cannot be done without processing personal data, but processing does not override the data subject's interests.

3 How will personal data be obtained?

YFF will provide NFER with the contact details of its staff, members of the Phase 1 evaluation team, staff in delivery partner organisations and participating schools. NFER will use these details to organise online interviews during which further data will be collected directly.

Participation in all evaluation activities is entirely voluntary.

4 What personal data is being collected by this project?

The personal data required for the scoping stage includes names, contact details and roles.

Interviewees will be asked for information and opinions on previous or planned Building Futures programme delivery. This will vary depending on interviewee role but is likely to include: programme aims and inputs, school recruitment, target student criteria and selection; mentor eligibility and selection; delivery mechanisms, intended outcomes and their potential mediators and moderators, details of management information (MI) and views on the feasibility of potential impact evaluation designs.

5 Who will personal data be shared with?

Any personal data shared between YFF and NFER will be shared securely. Data will not be shared with any other parties.

Microsoft Teams will be used to conduct, record and transcribe virtual interviews. The privacy notice for Microsoft Teams is available here: <https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/microsoftteams/teams-privacy>

NFER will produce an internal report for YFF based on the findings from the scoping stage. Your name will not be included in our reporting, however the names of organisations (both YFF and those of delivery partners) will be used. As only a small number of organisations are participating, we cannot guarantee anonymity as it may be possible for YFF and/or a delivery partner to identify you from the information you provide. If you would like to share information during your interview for contextual understanding that you would prefer not to be included in any reporting, you can request that this information is excluded at the time of the interview (see also Section 8 for further details in your rights in relation to personal data).

6 Is personal data being transferred outside the UK?

NFER only stores personal data in the UK. While Microsoft Teams primarily uses UK-based data centres they may fall back to EU data centres for processing of a live meeting. Any transfer is safeguarded by appropriate safeguards, for example, an adequacy decision or contractual obligation to protect your information to the standard required in the UK. Please contact us for further details.

7 How long will personal data be retained?

NFER will delete any personal data related to Phase 1 interviewees after the scoping and feasibility phase is completed (currently scheduled for January 2026). Any personal data related to Phase 2 interviewees will be deleted within one year of the publication of the scoping and feasibility stage findings (currently scheduled for October 2026).

8 What are my rights with respect to personal data?

NFER handles personal data in accordance with the rights given to individuals under data protection legislation. Under certain circumstances data subjects have the right:

- to request access to information that is held about them (a data subject access request).
- to have personal data rectified if it is inaccurate or incomplete.
- to request the deletion or removal of personal data where there is no compelling reason for its continued processing.
- to restrict processing of personal data (for example, permitting its storage but no further processing).
- to object to processing
- to data portability
- not to be subject to decisions based purely on automated processing where it produces a legal or similarly significant effect.

We may need to request specific information from you to help us confirm your identity and ensure your right to access the information (or to exercise any of your other rights). This helps us ensure that personal information is not disclosed to any person who has no right to receive it.

To exercise any of these rights, please contact the NFER's Compliance Officer at compliance@nfer.ac.uk.

Although we value your participation in this evaluation and its contribution to important findings, you can withdraw from the evaluation activities at any time. If you withdraw, unless otherwise instructed, we will use any data we have collected up to that point in our analysis. If at any time you wish to withdraw from the evaluation activities, or withdraw your data or correct errors in it, please contact: buildingfuturesevaluation@nfer.ac.uk

9 Who can I contact about this project?

If you have any questions about the way NFER processes personal data, please contact the Compliance Officer using the email address provided above, or you can make a complaint as outlined in our [Complaints Policy](#).

After we have responded, if you remain dissatisfied you have the right to raise a complaint about data protection issues with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO), which oversees data protection in the UK, at <https://ico.org.uk/concerns/>.

Further information on this project, including information sheets and privacy notices can be found

Updates

We keep this privacy notice under review to make sure it is up to date and accurate. Any changes will be noted. The date when this privacy notice was last updated is shown in the footer at the bottom of this document.