

2. Grants process

How we will promote the Fund to attract the most promising interventions;

SIB will bring its extensive experience of managing large grant programmes, using tried and tested systems for disbursing grants and strong financial controls to protect funds and ensure value for money throughout. Grant management will be seamless from application to disbursement.

SIB has received and processed over 5500 grant applications totalling over £1bn since 2012; the YEF assessment process would apply three principles that have underpinned that work:

- Clear and consistent **criteria**, openly published – this leads on to clear and consistent assessment of applications by the grants team and grants committee
- **Support** to applying organisations, including applicant workshops – to ensure the fund works effectively for all sizes and types of organisation and intervention
- Transparent **decision-making** – YEF guidance notes will detail how decisions will be made, by whom, by when, and what feedback can be expected

The support component is often neglected in large grant programmes. We've seen from other funds and endowments that a grant plus evaluation does not necessarily produce long term impact. We need to invest in organisational capacity and resilience to build a stronger sector capable of taking good interventions, making them better, and scaling them. Both Impetus and SIB have a long track record in providing organisational capacity support to grantees, including support with governance, impact management, HR, IT, business and financial planning and programme design and evaluation. Our portfolios of high performing grantees, many of whom have been with us for the long term, are achieving impressive growth and benchmark-beating impact.

The YEF must avoid the trap of funding evidenced interventions during its lifetime through time-limited and restricted budgets but leaving behind a sector that can't continue to operate at a sufficient level of rigour when the fund closes. We'll support individual organisations, and the wider 'market', including commissioners, local areas, and coalitions of delivery partners, to build a system that can deliver rigorous impact beyond the life of the fund.