NIGHTSTOP



INVITATION TO TENDER:

Independent Nightstop and Social Return on Investment Evaluation October 2026

Maximum tender value	£60,000 including VAT (where applicable)
Delivery period	January 2027 to March 2029
Deadline for submission	4th December 2026

INTRODUCTION

Depaul UK invites proposals from suitably qualified organisations and consultants to undertake an independent Impact Evaluation and Social Return on Investment (SROI) Assessment of the Nightstop Network.

Nightstop is a community-based response to youth homelessness, providing emergency accommodation through trained volunteer hosts across the UK. The service supports young people facing homelessness by offering safe accommodation, practical support and pathways into longer-term housing solutions.

The purpose of this commission is to develop a contemporary evidence base demonstrating the impact, social value and wider system benefits of Nightstop, building on the findings of the 2018 More Than Bednights evaluation. The findings will build the evidence base for community hosting models, and will help us to:

- Build a resilient and strong Nightstop network, by equipping network partners to make data-driven decisions in their fundraising and host recruitment activity and will arm them with the evidence needed to leverage funding and local partnerships.
- Influence national and local youth homelessness policy, by forming a key piece of evidence to inform understanding and recognition of community hosting models as a response to youth homelessness.
- Shape the future of prevention intervention, by generating new and innovative ideas for preventing youth homelessness earlier, utilising evidence from the Nightstop model and what the young people it supports can tell us.

This evaluation is integral to the 'Nightstop Transformation Project'; a three-year investment programme designed to strengthen, modernise and grow the UK's Nightstop network at a time of rising youth homelessness and new opportunities to expand engagement in community hosting. Delivered by Depaul UK in partnership with LandAid, the project will address critical challenges facing the network, including volunteer recruitment and retention, service sustainability, digital infrastructure and impact measurement, ensuring more young people can access safe emergency accommodation before reaching crisis point.

We particularly welcome proposals from organisations with demonstrable experience of evaluating homelessness, housing, youth support or prevention services, alongside expertise in Social Return on Investment (SROI) and social value methodologies. Bidders should be able to demonstrate experience of undertaking complex, multi-site evaluations, working with vulnerable populations using trauma-informed approaches, and managing sensitive personal data in accordance with GDPR requirements.

ABOUT NIGHTSTOP

Nightstop provides emergency accommodation for young people at risk of homelessness through trained and vetted volunteer hosts. Alongside a safe place to stay, hosts offer meals, basic amenities and emotional support, while local Nightstop teams work with young people to address the causes of their housing crisis and secure longer-term solutions. Led and accredited by Depaul UK, the Nightstop network is delivered by charities and community organisations across the UK and is a key component of the wider Nightstop Transformation Programme.

In recent years, the Nightstop network has operated within an increasingly challenging environment characterised by growing demand, reductions in volunteer host numbers, local service closures and wider pressures on service sustainability and funding. These challenges have increased the importance of developing a contemporary and credible evidence base that can demonstrate the model's effectiveness and value.

At the same time, funders, commissioners and policymakers are seeking stronger evidence of both impact and value for money. This evaluation will help demonstrate the contribution Nightstop makes to preventing homelessness, improving outcomes for young people and reducing pressure on public services.

SCOPE OF THE RESEARCH AND EVALUATION

The appointed consultant will be expected to review existing evidence relating to Nightstop and comparable interventions. Utilising LandAid's existing framework to measure Social Return on Investment, the evaluator should improve the framework and calculate Nightstop's SROI. The consultant will also be expected to carry out research as detailed below.

The commission has two parts:

- **Part A:** Social Return on Investment. Apply and refine LandAid's existing Social Return on Investment (SROI) framework to calculate the social value of Nightstop. This should also include outcomes it does not currently capture, such as the social capital value of volunteer hosting. For this research, social capital means the value created by volunteer hosts who open their homes to young people experiencing homelessness, with particular attention to small rural communities

- **Part B:** Research and learning: Generate research questions and evidence on what makes Nightstop distinctive, how young people come to need it, and what this tells us about new ways to prevent youth homelessness.

For part B, the research objectives are:

1.
Develop research questions that identify what is distinctive about the Nightstop model compared with other forms of emergency accommodation for young people. In particular, the research should seek to demonstrate the value of Nightstop in achieving a range of outcomes, including:

- Financial savings for local authorities, by comparing investment in Nightstop provision with the costs associated with other forms of temporary and/or emergency accommodation.

- Improved outcomes for young people, by quantifying the benefits of Nightstop compared with alternative emergency accommodation options, with particular focus on the quality, suitability and safety of accommodation.

- More appropriate support environments, by evidencing the value of placing young people in host households rather than in settings shared with older adults or entrenched rough sleepers. The research should explore how this contributes to better short- and long-term outcomes, including wellbeing, engagement with services, and housing stability.

The research should help us evidence how Nightstop can act as an effective "bridge" or "launchpad" for young people who experience a sudden housing crisis, providing a safe and supportive environment before they move into supported accommodation or more permanent housing options.

The research should also examine the specific benefits of the Nightstop model in rural communities, including its ability to reach and support young people who may be less likely to engage with mainstream services. This includes those living in geographically isolated areas, young people with additional needs (including SEND), those excluded from education, those with experience of the criminal justice system, and young people who identify as LGBTQ+.

A key objective should be to understand whether Nightstop is particularly effective in supporting young people who are most "at the margins" and to identify the mechanisms through which the model improves access, engagement and outcomes for these groups.

2.
Identify the pathways into homelessness for Nightstop clients, with a focus on the reasons for experiencing homelessness. The purpose of this question is to help us identify the necessary interventions to prevent youth homelessness.

We expect most of the evaluator's time and creativity to go into Part B. Part A should build on LandAid's framework rather than develop a new methodology to calculate SROI.



DATA COLLECTION

The evaluation should incorporate both quantitative and qualitative evidence.

Quantitative analysis should include service user outcomes; housing and homelessness prevention outcomes; network performance metrics; volunteer engagement data; and evidence relating to the extent to which Nightstop guests rely on public services, including the NHS, DWP benefits, and involvement with the criminal justice system.

Qualitative evidence should be drawn from a range of stakeholders, including young people, volunteer hosts, Nightstop staff, partner organisations, funders and external stakeholders. The evaluator should propose the most appropriate methods for collecting this evidence, which may include interviews, focus groups, surveys, case studies, participatory approaches and analysis of existing datasets.

Social Return on Investment:

The evaluator will be responsible for identifying and evidencing material outcomes, developing appropriate financial proxies, calculating a Social Return on Investment ratio and undertaking sensitivity analysis to ensure transparency and credibility. The assessment should demonstrate the wider social and economic value generated by Nightstop for young people, communities and public services.

Capacity Building:

In addition to delivering the evaluation, the appointed provider should support Depaul UK and network partners to develop their long-term approach to impact measurement. This should include recommendations for standardised monitoring processes, support to improve data quality and consistency, and practical guidance that enables the network to sustain effective impact measurement beyond the life of the commission.

We also expect the consultant to propose ways Depaul UK and our Nightstop delivery partners can better understand and monitor these pathways, for example through improved data collection.

DELIVERABLES

The consultant will be asked to deliver the following key deliverables:

1. A report setting out the final methodology, the adapted SROI framework that Depaul UK can use in the future to demonstrate value.
2. A SROI report showing Nightstop's SROI for the last two financial years.
3. A research report covering Nightstop's uniqueness, pathways into homelessness for young people and the programme's role in prevention.
4. Practical guidance and recommendations on improved impact data monitoring to improve Nightstop's data collection practice, with a focus on impact data.

INDICATIVE TIMETABLE

Deliverable	Expected Completion
ITT published	12th November
Clarification period closes	30th November
Submission deadline	4th December
Interviews (if required)	14th December 2026
Contract award	End of December 2026
Inception meeting and mobilisation plan	Jan 2027
Detailed methodology and evaluation framework and Theory of Change and SROI framework	Feb 2027
Commencement of data collection	Mar 2027
Quarterly progress updates	Throughout project
Interim findings report	Apr 2028
Draft final report	Feb 2029
Final impact evaluation report Final SROI report and ratio Presentation of findings to key stakeholders	Mar 2029

INFORMATION GOVERNANCE AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

All information shared by Depaul UK will be subject to appropriate information-sharing arrangements.

The appointed evaluator will be expected to comply fully with UK GDPR requirements and maintain robust arrangements for the secure handling, storage and processing of data. They must demonstrate appropriate safeguarding procedures when engaging young people and vulnerable participants and ensure that confidentiality and anonymity are maintained throughout the project.

Ownership of all evaluation outputs, reports, tools, datasets and associated materials will reside with Depaul UK.

The successful supplier may not publish findings arising from this commission without prior written approval from Depaul UK.

BUDGET

The available budget for this commission is up to £60,000 inclusive of VAT where applicable. It is expected that this be allocated as follows across the three year evaluation.

Year 1: 2026 – 2027	Year 2: 2027 – 2028	Year 3: 2028 – 2029
£10,000	£10,000	£40,000

PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Tender submissions should include:

Organisational Information

- Overview of your organisation
- Relevant experience and expertise
- Key personnel and project roles
- Short biographies of proposed team members

Technical Proposal

Bidders should provide a clear description of their proposed methodology, including their approach to impact evaluation, SROI analysis, stakeholder engagement, involvement of young people, project management and risk mitigation. Proposals should explain how the methodology will generate a credible evidence base while remaining proportionate and achievable within the available budget.

Relevant Experience

Bidders should demonstrate experience of delivering comparable evaluations and social value assessments. At least two examples of relevant work should be included, one of which should relate to homelessness, youth services or a comparable social impact programme. Two references should also be provided.

Other Requirements

- A detailed budget
- Proposed timetable
- Public liability and professional indemnity insurance details

Insurance

The contractor must maintain the following minimum levels of insurance throughout the contract:

- Public Liability Insurance: £5 million
- Professional Indemnity Insurance: £1 million
- Employers' Liability Insurance: £5 million (if applicable)

Evidence of insurance must be provided before contract award.

Safeguarding and DBS requirements

The contractor must have an up-to-date safeguarding policy and appropriate staff training in place. Any staff engaging directly with young people must hold a current enhanced DBS certificate. Depaul UK reserves the right to request sight of policies and evidence of compliance.

Conflict of Interest

Tenderers must disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest as part of their submission.

SUBMISSION DETAILS

Tender submissions should be submitted electronically in PDF format to:

Laura Munt - Director of Prevention and Programmes, Depaul UK
Laura.Munt@depaulcharity.org.uk

Submission deadline: 4th December 2026

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