Malachi is a community interest company which has been delivering services in Birmingham since 1991. The organisation works with schools, councils and agencies to identify and support families who are facing difficulties. In Realising Ambition, Malachi replicated its own Early Intervention and Family Support Programme (EIFSP), a holistic intervention which aims to improve life chances and address the underlying issues that often lead to criminal and anti-social behaviour. This is done through bespoke music and drama projects, one-to-one therapeutic intervention and parental support programmes. The Realising Ambition funded replication of EIFSP in Bridgwater represents the first time the programme has been delivered outside of the West Midlands.

About the project

**Funding awarded:** £387,297  
**Duration of funding:** 5 years  
**Number of beneficiaries:** 2,697 young people aged 8 to 14  
**Areas of delivery:** Bridgwater, Somerset

Malachi’s experience illustrates that smaller organisations can effectively introduce and build sustainability into grant-funded services that are replicated in new geographical areas.

Malachi introduced EIFSP into Bridgwater by taking a community development approach to its replication. Prior to introducing the service, it conducted relationship building activities over a period of time so that the local community and stakeholders were able to engage with the organisation, get to know it and to build trust with it prior to delivery of EIFSP. Malachi has continued to contribute to wider community life in this area throughout the funding period. This has led to the organisation being perceived as a key part the community, and it receives good local support which strengthens its ability to attract funding to the programme post-grant.

Malachi has also introduced a ‘try before you buy’ element to the introduction of EIFSP in its new replication areas. Schools received the programme on a fully-funded basis for the first year on the proviso that once outcomes for beneficiaries began to be realised, the schools paid for it themselves. This has built sustainability into EIFSP, as schools are continuing to purchase it post-Realising Ambition funding.

Malachi is contributing significantly to improving knowledge about what works in preventing youth offending in the UK, as it is undertaking one of Realising Ambition’s three randomised controlled trials (RCTs). As a consequence of the RCT, Malachi has worked intensively to further refine EIFSP, develop the necessary tools and resources to be RCT-ready and support its delivery staff during the trial itself.

Lessons learnt

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Five key ingredients of successful replication

The Realising Ambition consortium has mapped each project’s journey against our five key ingredients of successful replication. The key points from this follow below. Find out more about these ingredients.

**A tightly defined and replicable service:** Malachi has worked to ensure that EIFSP is tightly...
defined with implementation manuals, and has developed a logic model which is evidenced by a theory of change. It is consequently a highly replicable service.

**That is effectively and faithfully delivered to those that need it:** Malachi has a very strong focus on staff recruitment and training, and ensures that EIFSP is delivered with integrity and fidelity. It works closely with schools to ensure the right children and families are referred to the programme.

**Evidence is used to learn and adapt, as required:** Malachi is a learning organisation and is consistently contributing to understanding of replication and evidence. The organisation has continually learnt from its Realising Ambition experience, making adaptions to EIFSP to replicate more effectively and to comply with the demands of an RCT.

**There is confidence that outcomes have improved:** Data is still being collected for the RCT, which was introduced in our sixth Programme Insight. The trial will be analysed during summer 2017 with its results anticipated to be published in November 2017.

**The service is cost-beneficial and sustainable:** Malachi has a well developed business case for EIFSP. It is expanding provision in the West Midlands with plans to scale in the region. It has secured funding to replicate the programme in more schools in Somerset as a result of Realising Ambition.

### Outcomes for beneficiaries

Each organisation has sought to monitor the outcomes of children and young people prior to and after service delivery. Find out more about outcome measurement in Realising Ambition.

Malachi’s RCT will help determine with a good degree of confidence whether the outcomes of young people receiving EIFSP differ from a comparable group of young people not receiving the programme. The RCT is still under way. Between October 2014 and September 2016, 265 eligible families were randomly allocated to either receive the programme or be in a control group. All baseline and mid-point data collection has been completed and the final follow-up data collection - 32 weeks since allocation to programme or control group - will be completed in May 2017. The trial will be analysed during summer 2017 with its results anticipated to be published in November 2017.

### What next

Malachi continues to offer its programmes to schools and uses a mixture of grant funding, donations and directly commissioned work to fund delivery. The organisation is now embedded in Somerset and it is seeking to further expand provision using its community development approach to engaging more schools.

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**Find out more**

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