

For release  
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## **The Heywood Foundation launches its 2022 Heywood Prize**

***This year's Prize will encourage entries from younger generations with innovative ideas to improve life in the UK***

*7th September 2022 – Today*, The Heywood Foundation announces the launch of its 2022 Heywood Prize for innovative public policy proposals.

With a closing date of the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022, the Prize is seeking fresh proposals from all UK citizens who have innovative and impactful ideas with the potential to improve UK public policy. Entries can be in audio, video or text formats and the winning ideas will receive the Foundation's full backing for fast-tracking with UK government policymakers.

The competition is open to all ages, but this year The Heywood Foundation is particularly keen to encourage proposals from younger generations, be they groups (schools, youth groups, community groups) or individuals, via a number of dedicated prizes to be awarded to any winner under the age of 21.

Last year's top prize went to a proposal to establish an NHS Reserve Force, a reserve 'army' of medically qualified volunteers to support the UK's health service, and especially in times of health emergencies. This idea was quickly shared with government and has since been implemented by NHS England. The NHS Reserve Programme, launched in March 2022, already has more than 4,100 reservists who are providing tens of thousands of hours of care in UK communities.

*“This is an amazing example of how our contestants can see their ideas rapidly translated into substantive policy and real-world actions that can change many people’s lives in the UK for the better”* said Suzanne Heywood, Chair of the Heywood Foundation.

Another award-winning entry in 2021 proposed that the support disabled students receive in education be extended to help them find their first job on leaving higher education. The Department for Work and Pensions is now piloting an Adjustments Passport to support a smoother transition into employment for the disabled and to raise awareness of Access to Work.

Suzanne Heywood added: *“Building on the success of the inaugural Heywood Prize in 2021, in 2022 we also want to tap into the often unseen and unheard insights and creativity of our younger generations. Never has the need to bring their bold, new ways of thinking to the attention of policymakers been more important than it is today.”*

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The Heywood Prize – The prize was created by the Heywood Foundation to reward the most impactful and innovative ideas for improving public policy in the UK. The Foundation believes that the best ideas sometimes come from unexpected people and places, so our institutions and public dialogue need to be as open and inclusive as possible. The prize breakdown – The prize is broken down into the main prize and, new for 2022, a youth prize. For the main prize the top award is for £25,000, second is £10,000 and third is £5,000. There are also 15 runners up awarded £1,000 each. The youth prize has a top prize

of £5,000 and 10 runners up of £500 each. Youth entries will all be entered into both the main and youth prizes.

Jeremy Heywood and the Heywood Foundation – Jeremy Heywood served 4 UK Prime Ministers and was Cabinet Secretary, the UK’s most senior Civil Servant – until 2018. Jeremy was extremely open to new ideas and always sought out alternative perspectives. He was more interested in the quality of an idea than the rank or seniority of the person who proposed it. He would make a point of regularly getting out of Whitehall to spend time in ‘frontline’ settings, from job centres to charities, to seek out innovations and unusual perspectives.

The Foundation seeks to continue that spirit of inclusivity and innovation. The Heywood Foundation was set up in Jeremy’s memory to support innovation in public policy and diversity within the public sector.

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**For more information, press only:**

James Green  
james@jgreen-st.co.uk

**For more information on the Foundation and the competition please visit**

[www.heywoodfoundation.com](http://www.heywoodfoundation.com)