

Report of: Head of Locality Partnerships

Report to: Outer North East Community Committee
(Alwoodley, Harewood and Wetherby)

Report author: Carl Hinchliffe, Community Committee Team Manager

Date: 24th July 2023

For decision

Community Committee Youth Activity Fund Consultation Report

Purpose of report

1. The report provides the Outer North East Community Committee with an update on the Youth Activity Fund Consultation.
2. The report asks the Outer North East Community Committee, that consultation with young people, conducted via the Youth Activity Fund survey, informs the Youth Activity Fund spend for the 2023/24 financial year.

Main issues

3. Each Community Committee has been allocated a Youth Activity Fund which it is responsible for administering. The Youth Activity Fund has been made available to provide local activities for children and young people aged 8-17 years across the city.
4. The Youth Activity Fund requires the engagement and participation of children and young people in the decision making and evaluation of the fund. Children and young people are involved in the funding process and advise Community Committees on the activities they would like to take part in, in their respective areas.
5. The Youth Activity Fund can provide money for activities that offer opportunities for play, arts, sport and culture, which enable young people to have fun, get creative and have new experiences both after school and during the school holidays.
6. The Youth Activity Fund survey provides an opportunity for young people aged 8-17 years living in Leeds, to influence the decision making of the Youth Activity Fund, by taking part in a consultation exercise that informs the Community Committee's budget spend.

7. Building on a commitment to engage and involve children and young people in decision making in their own communities, young people get involved in choosing which activities should be supported by the committees.

Reflections from the Youth Activity Fund Consultation

8. Localised conversations took place with the Children's Champions.
9. As we appreciate and understand that each community is different, the specific arrangements for the consultation were worked through, using a collaborative approach and progressed by relevant officers in the Communities Team, the Voice & Influence Team and the Children's Champions.
10. Alongside attendance at physical events such as the Breeze Events (to consult with young people), the Communities Team also created an online consultation survey, as a key objective is that we, "consult with as many young people as possible (hybrid approach)": <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/YouthActivities2022/>
11. This online survey was circulated far and wide throughout the committee area and was created using new & innovative ways of engaging with young people, such as creating a QR code that directed young people straight to the survey, after being scanned with a Smartphone.



12. The Outer North East Community Committee received 85 survey responses to the Youth Activity Fund survey. The majority of these were completed online, however some of the survey responses were completed in paper format at the Breeze Summer Events in 2022.
13. The consultation survey ran from September 2022 to the 31st March 2023, with feedback from young people collated. This will, in principle, inform the Youth Activity Fund Budget spend for 2023/24.
14. As time progresses, the Communities Team will be able to assess how many projects have been funded, or proactively commissioned from the Youth Activity Fund Budget as a result of the Youth Activity Fund consultation.

Lessons Learned

15. A review has taken place in a Lessons Learned meeting, with the Executive Board Member and Children's Champions.

16. A report has also been taken to the Community Committee Chairs Forum in April 2023.

17. As we are keen that we continue to work closely with the Children's Champions to develop Youth Summits and the Youth Activity Fund Consultation Survey across the Community Committee areas, these conversations and feedback will help inform work in this municipal year.

Youth Activity Fund Consultation Survey Recommendations

18. The consultation surveys submitted by young people from the Youth Activity Fund Consultation Survey in the Outer North East Community Committee area, suggest the following Youth Activity Fund priorities for 2023/24:

- a. Activities taking place either inside or outside.
- b. Majority of provision taking place locally.
- c. Ensure the activities are fun, challenging and create new friendships.

d. Popular activities include:

- 1) Sport (football, basketball, swimming)
- 2) Outdoor adventures
- 3) Coding/Minecraft & Arts/Crafts

- 4) Cooking was the other noticeable mention.

19. It is recommended that any projects funded by the Outer North East Community Committee from the Youth Activity Fund, focus on these key themes and activities in 2023/24.

20. To ensure that the Outer North East Community Committee can make an informed decision when being asked whether they support funding for projects from its Youth Activity Fund, the Communities Team will advise the committee if the project meets the priorities identified by young people as a result of consultation that has taken place.

Appendix 1: Infographic outlining the Youth Activity Fund Consultation Survey

1. Appendix 1 is attached with this report.

Corporate Considerations

Consultation and Engagement

2. Community Committee Chairs, Children's Champions and Community Committees have previously been consulted on the proposals for the Youth Activity Fund Consultation Survey.
3. The survey has been promoted far and wide across the Community Committee area, with publicity being posted on the Community Committee Facebook page, publicity

being sent out to all school contacts, youth groups and any other organisations that are funded, or work with young people in the Community Committee area, as well as being circulated to local Councillors and the committee mailing list.

Equality and Diversity/Cohesion and Integration

4. All Youth Activity Fund funded projects are assessed in relation to Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration. In addition, the Communities Team ensures that the wellbeing process complies with all relevant policies and legislation.

Council Polices and City Priorities

5. Projects submitted to the Community Committee for Youth Activity Fund funding are assessed to ensure that they are in line with Council and City priorities as set out in the following documents:
 1. Vision for Leeds 2011 – 30
 2. Best City Plan
 3. Health and Wellbeing City Priorities Plan
 4. Children and Young People’s Plan
 5. Safer and Stronger Communities Plan
 6. Leeds Inclusive Growth Strategy

Resources and Value for Money

6. Aligning the distribution of Community Committee Youth Activity Fund funding to local priorities will help to ensure that the maximum benefit can be provided.

Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

7. There are no legal implications or access to information issues. This report is not subject to call in.

Risk Management

8. Risk implications and mitigation are considered on all Youth Activity Fund applications. Projects are assessed to ensure that applicants are able to deliver the intended benefits.

Conclusion

9. The Youth Activity Fund Consultation Report provides up to date information on the Community Committee’s Youth Activity Fund consultation survey position and invites committee members to use the consultation to inform its Youth Activity Fund spend for 2022/23.

Recommendations

10. Members are asked to note:
 - a. Details of the Youth Activity Fund consultation survey (paragraphs 8 – 14).

- b. That the Youth Activity Fund survey informs the Community Committee's Youth Activity Fund for 2023/24.
- c. That any projects funded by the Community Committee from the Youth Activity Fund focus on the themes and activity priorities identified in the Youth Activity Fund Consultation Survey in 2023/24.