

Report of: Head of Locality Partnerships

Report to: Outer West Community Committee
[Calverley & Farsley, Pudsey, Farnley & Wortley]

Report author: Mike Stevenson – Localities Officer – 07891 277427

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To note

Outer West Community Committee Youth Activity Fund Consultation Report

Purpose of report

1. The report provides the Outer West Community Committee with background and context on the decision to not have a Youth Summit in 2021/22.
2. The report provides the Outer West Community Committee with an update on the Youth Activity Fund Consultation with children and young people. The consultation aims to inform the Community Committee's Youth Activity Fund spend for the 2022/23 financial year.
3. The report provides the Outer West Community Committee with reflections from the last year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges that this has presented Community Committees, the Communities Team and youth activity providers.

Main issues

4. 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.
5. 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 at each stage of the funding process and advise Community Committees on the activities they would like to take part in, in their respective areas.
6. 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.

7. In preparation for the planning for this municipal year's Youth Summits, the Communities Team met with the Voice & Influence Team. At this meeting, both parties offered their support to reflect on previous year's events and learning to inform future ways of working, however expressed concerns around bringing young people together from different schools/groups for a physical event, as there continued to be concerns over COVID-19 infection rates, particularly in schools and the proposal was made to push back the Youth Summits so that they were delivered in the new municipal year.
8. This approach was discussed and agreed with Community Committee Chairs in the Community Committee Chairs Forum meetings, as it would allow the Communities Team to hold further discussions with members of the Children & Families Sub Groups and Children's' Champions and explore options to inform future Youth Summit arrangements, alongside the latest guidance regarding the safety measures that schools may be putting in place over the following months.
9. So that the Community Committees were still be able to consult with young people on priorities for the Youth Activity Fund Budget spend, a Youth Activity Fund Consultation Survey was created. Capturing this feedback would ensure that young people were still able to inform the budget spend for each committee in 2022/23 and in this respect the survey would still produce the same desired outcome as a physical Youth Summit: <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/OSCECI/>.

Reflections from the last 12 months

Youth Activity Fund Projects: Responding to the Pandemic

10. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused a number of complications for activity providers that work with young people over the last 12 months. It has been a particular challenge for organisations to keep up to date with the changing Government advice and guidance regarding COVID-19.
11. Staff in the Community Committee Team have spent a proportion of their time, once again, liaising with projects and organisations that wanted to work with young people over the last year, making sure that projects were still able to demonstrate that they were ready to deliver their activities in accordance with Government guidance and legislation regarding COVID-19, making sure that organisations had the correct policies, procedures and risk assessments in place.
12. Over the course of the last 12 months organisations and youth providers have continued to adapt to the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has presented them and the young people they work with once again, often working differently, for example by moving their activity provision to an online virtual platform.
13. Adapting responses and approaches for projects to meet the needs of individual communities demonstrates the committee's and the organisations flexibility and

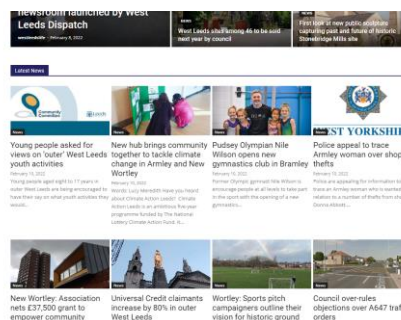
willingness to be agile in an ever-changing environment, as well as the desire to reach out and connect with young people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Youth Activity Fund Consultation Survey

14. The online consultation survey ran from November 2021 and stayed open until the 31st March 2022, where all feedback from young people was collated and fed into the Youth Activity Fund Consultation Report for the Outer West Community Committee, which will, in principle, inform the Youth Activity Fund Budget spend.
15. Promotion of the online consultation survey was ongoing by the Communities Team, with publicity posters and video graphics being posted regularly on the committee Facebook pages, publicity being sent out to all our school & cluster contacts, youth groups, Scouts, Guides and other organisations that are funded, or work with young people in the Outer West area. As well as being circulated to mailing lists, physical posters were also sent to our Community Hubs and Libraries, as well as Housing Leeds contacts.
16. Facebook posts relating to the Youth Consultation Survey have been some of the most engaged with posts on the Outer West Community Committee Facebook page in the last 3 months, with one of the posts achieving a reach of 1,079, with 34 engagements and shares.
17. The design and format of these posts were bright and engaging and placed the Outer West Community Committee name at the heart of the publicity. They encouraged young people to connect through mediums that are familiar to them, and easy to access.



18. In addition to this, information on the Youth Consultation Survey was shared with local online media company West Leeds Dispatch, who promoted a story on the survey to their readership in February 2022.



19. The Communities Team also created and introduced a bespoke QR code that linked to the YAF Consultation Survey (image attached). This was embedded into posters so that it could be scanned with smartphones/QR reader apps which most phones have, taking the user straight to the survey and giving us another valuable avenue for capturing feedback and engaging with young people.



20. The approach to promoting the online survey in Outer West has built on last year's efforts and introduced new and dynamic mechanisms as outlined above. Through engagement with a wider range of participants and youth groups in the area, a blueprint has been set for managing this approach in future years.

21. The Outer West Community Committee received **115** survey responses to the Youth Activity Fund Consultation Survey. This result sees an increase of 85% on the number of responses from last year 2020-21. With a share of 13% of the total responses across all 10 Committee areas in Leeds, the area has performed at an above average level.

22. The vast majority of these were completed online, however a number of the survey responses were completed in paper format at the Breeze summer events, with consultation led by the area Localities Officer and Engagement Support Officer.

Youth Activity Fund Consultation – Breakdown of responses

23. The below tables provide a demographic oversight of the responses received in Outer West, including number of responses received, breakdown by gender, age and by ward:

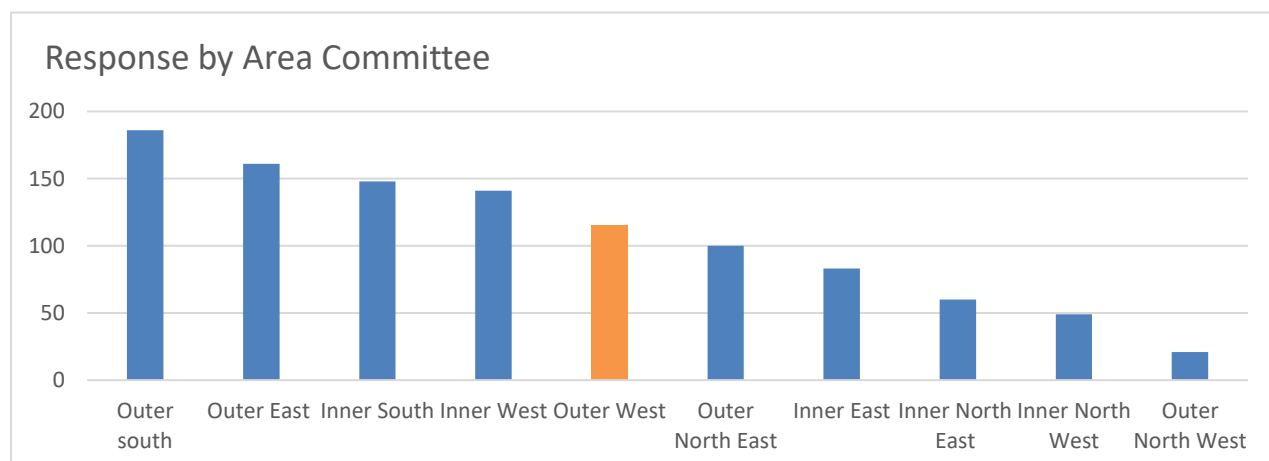
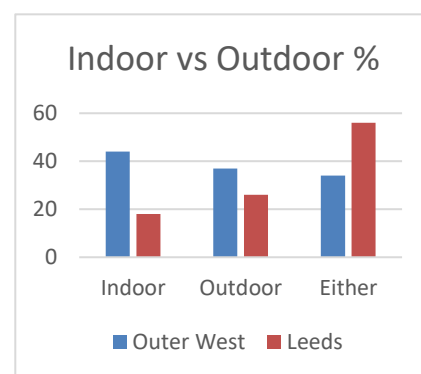
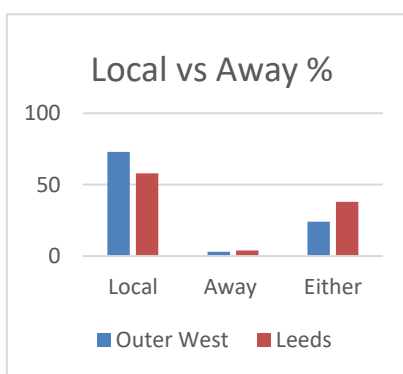
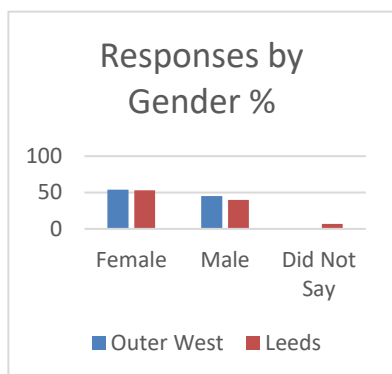
Number of participants who completed the Survey	
Total	115
Male	52 (45%)
Female	62 (54%)
No mention of Gender	1 (1%)

Participants Age Groups	
8	13
9	17
10	14
11	16
12	16
13	10
14	16
15	12
16	1
17	0

Ward	Responses
Calverley & Farsley	29 (25%)
Farnley & Wortley	35 (31%)
Pudsey	51 (44%)

Outer West vs Citywide response

24. As the below graphs show, Outer West responses demonstrated a similar trend to the overall responses for Leeds. Outer West recorded a higher response level for local activities compared to the city average, and a higher level of responses for indoor or outdoor activities, rather than a response of 'either'.



Youth Activity Fund Consultation Survey Recommendations

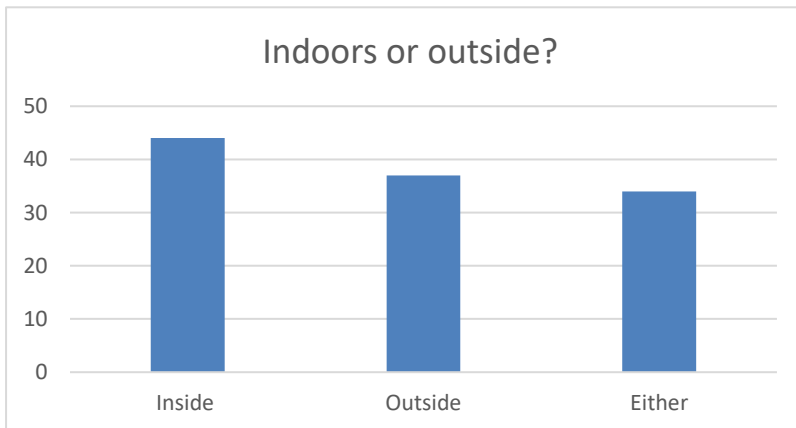
25. The consultation surveys submitted by young people in the Outer West Community Committee area suggest the following Youth Activity Fund priorities for 2022/23:

- a. Youth activities on offer in indoor venues such as community centres, youth clubs and sport centres, as well as activities delivered outdoors.
- b. Majority of provision taking place locally, rather than away from the area.
- c. Youth activities made available in the summer holidays, weekends, and after school.
- d. Ensure opportunities to make new friends, learn something new, and be active.
- e. Popular activities included:

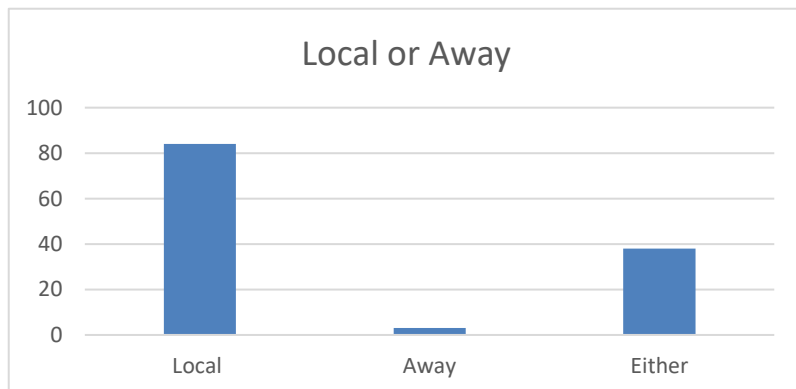
1. Sports
2. Youth Clubs
3. Outdoor Adventures
4. Dance

(Other activities mentioned: Music, Cooking, Coding, Mixed Activity Fun Days)

26. In terms of Indoors vs Outdoors activities, Outer West returned an even split. 44 selected Indoors (38%), 37 selected Outdoors (32%), and 34 selected Either (30%).



27. On the question of 'Local' or 'Away from the area', Outer West results showed a much more definite preference. 84 young people selected activities local to them (73%), 28 selected either (24%), and 3 selected activities away (3%).



28. In terms of activity times, Outer West again showed a varied response to the given options. As the table below shows, the highest ranking first preference was School Holiday with 34 votes (31%), then Weekends with 31 votes (28%), then After School with 24 votes (22%), then Evenings with 21 votes (19%). These results indicate a demand for activities covering a range of times and dates throughout the year.

Activity time	1	2	3	4
School Holidays	34	21	15	42
Weekends	31	17	24	40
After school (before 6pm)	24	48	25	15
Evenings (after 6pm)	23	26	48	15

29. It is recommended that any projects funded by the Outer West Community Committee from the Youth Activity Fund focus on these key themes and activities in 2022/23.

30. It is also recommended that options are explored for a physical Youth Summit event in the next municipal year, 2022/23. This will inform the Youth Activity Fund spend for 2023/24.

Appendix: Infographic outlining the Youth Activity Fund Consultation Survey

An Appendix Infographic is attached with this report.

Corporate Considerations

Consultation and Engagement

31. Community Committee Chairs, Children’s Champions and Community Committees have previously been consulted on the proposals for the Youth Activity Fund survey.

32. 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 & cluster 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

33. 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

34. 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

35. 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

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

Risk Management

37. 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

38. 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

39. Members are asked to note:

- a. Reflections from the last 12 months during the pandemic (paragraphs 10 – 13).
- b. Details of the Youth Activity Fund consultation survey (paragraphs 14 - 28).
- c. That the Youth Activity Fund survey informs the Community Committee’s Youth Activity Fund for 2022/23.
- d. 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.
- e. That options are explored for a physical Youth Summit in the next municipal year, 2022/23. This will inform the Youth Activity Fund spend for 2023/24.