

Report of: Head of Locality Partnerships

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

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Date: 20 May 2022 **To note:**

Community Committee Youth Activity Fund Consultation Report

Purpose of report

1. The report provides the Outer North East Community Committee with background and context on the decision to not have a Youth Summit in 2021/22.
2. The report provides the Outer North East 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 North East 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. Promotion of the online consultation survey was ongoing by the Communities Team, with publicity being posted on the committee Facebook pages, publicity being sent out to all schools in the area, youth groups and other organisations that are funded, or work with young people in the Outer North East Community Committee, as well as being circulated to our mailing lists. Posters have also been sent to our Community Hubs and Libraries, as well as our Housing Leeds contacts.

15. In addition to this the Communities Team also created a QR code that linked to the YAF Consultation Survey (image attached below). 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.



16. The online consultation survey ran from November 2021 and stayed open until the 31 March 2022, where all feedback from young people was collated and fed into a Youth Activity Fund Consultation Report for the Outer North East Community Committee, which will, in principle, inform the Youth Activity Fund Budget spend.

17. The Outer North East Community Committee received 100 survey responses to the Youth Activity Fund Consultation Survey. The vast majority of these were completed online, however some of the survey responses were completed in paper format at the Breeze Summer Events.

Youth Activity Fund Consultation Survey Recommendations

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

- a. Youth activities delivered took place both indoors and outdoors, weather dependent and the activities took place locally to where the young person lived.
- b. Majority of provision taking place regularly after school, in the evenings and on the weekend.

- c. Ensure the activities are inclusive of friendship groups, competitive and engaging whilst learning new skills. The activities should be led by good quality staff.
- d. Popular activities included;
 - 1. Sport clubs such as Rugby and Football
 - 2. Cooking
 - 3. Outdoor Adventures
 - 4. Dance(Other activities mentioned; archery, skating, swimming)

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 2022/23.

20. 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.

Corporate Considerations

Consultation and Engagement

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

22. 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 and 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

23. 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

24. 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

25. 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

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

Risk Management

27. 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

28. 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

29. 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 - 20).
- 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.