

Report of: Head of Locality Partnerships

Report to: Inner North East Community Committee
(Chapel Allerton, Moortown and Roundhay)

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For decision

Community Committee Youth Summit/Youth Activity Fund Consultation Report

Purpose of report

1. The report provides the Inner North East Community Committee with an update on the Community Committee Youth Summit.
2. The report provides the Inner North East Community Committee with an update on the Youth Activity Fund Consultation.
3. The report asks the Inner North East Community Committee, that consultation with young people, conducted via the Youth Summit and Youth Activity Fund survey, informs the Youth Activity Fund spend for the 2024/25 financial year.

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 in 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. Youth Summits are an opportunity for young people aged 8-17 years living in Leeds to learn about local democracy, as well as influence the decision making of the Youth Activity Fund, by taking part in a consultation exercise that informs the Community Committee's budget spend.
8. 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.

The Future of Youth Summits

9. The pandemic provided us with an opportunity to reflect upon the Youth Summit model and consider how we adapt responses and approaches to meet the needs of young people in our respective communities, as well as reviewing the aims and objectives for the Community Committee Youth Summits.
10. Following meetings with officers from the Communities Team, the Voice & Influence Lead for Children & Families and the Youth Service, a standardised baseline approach was agreed in 2022, that set out clear aims and objectives, as well as demonstrating measurable and specific outcomes.
11. These aims and objectives were subsequently agreed with our Executive Board Member, Community Committee Champions and Community Committee Chairs and discussed with Children & Families Sub Groups. These same aims and objectives were applied to Youth Summits in 2023.

Aims/Objectives from the Youth Summits and Youth Activity Fund Consultation

12. Standardised baseline for all Youth Summits/Youth Activity Fund consultation:
 - Age range of young people 8 – 17 years (links to the Youth Activity Fund Budget delegation to the Community Committees).
 - Opportunity to learn about local democracy & take part in the decision-making process/influence Youth Activity Fund Budget spend for the Community Committees.
 - Promote the Youth Council and the various Youth Matters Groups throughout the city.
 - Build relationships with schools/partners and provide an opportunity for networking.
 - Consult with as many young people as possible (hybrid approach) by ensuring that alongside the Youth Summits, other YAF consultation is coordinated (i.e., via online consultation/Breeze Summer Events).
 - Ensure we are engaging with a diverse range of young people from different backgrounds and not just young people who are academically inclined, or naturally engaged with these types of events.
 - Provide feedback on Youth Summits/other consultation methods via a "You Said, We Did" Youth Summit Report, that clearly outlines in each respective committee area, exactly what projects have been funded, or proactively commissioned from the Youth Activity Fund Budget.

How we Measure Success

13. Standardised baseline for all Youth Summits/ Youth Activity Fund consultation:

- How many young people have been involved in the physical summits?
- How many young people have been involved in other forms of Youth Activity Fund consultation?
- How many schools/organisations have been involved in bringing young people along to the Youth Summits and/or involved in any other consultation?
- How many projects have been funded, or proactively commissioned from the Youth Activity Fund Budget as a result of the Youth Summits/and or Youth Activity Fund consultation?
- Has the “You Said, We Did” Youth Summit Report been prepared and delivered?

Reflections from the Youth Summits/Youth Activity Fund Consultation

Youth Summit

14. Localised conversations have been taking place regarding the Inner North East Community Committee Youth Summit, in accordance with the Children’s Champion and the Finance Sub Group.
15. As we appreciate and understand that each community is different, the specific arrangements for the summit have been worked through, using a collaborative approach and progressed by officers in the Communities Team, the Voice & Influence Team and the Children’s Champion, with the Inner North East Community Committee Youth Summit taking place on Thursday 7 March 2024.
16. A key objective for the Inner North East Community Committee is that we engage with a wide variety of young people and that this engagement reflects the true diversity of the area, not just young people who are academically inclined, or naturally engaged with these types of events.
17. With this in mind the Communities Team attended the SEND Youth Summit, alongside the Voice & Influence Team, to consult with young people that have special education needs & disabilities. At the SEND Youth Summit which took place on the 14th November 2023, the Community Committees engaged with 36 young people that have special educational needs & disabilities, from Green Meadows Academy, Brigshaw Partnership, John Jamieson, Oulton Academy and West SILC: [SENate Evaluation 2023 \(cloudinary.com\)](#)
18. Another key objective for the Inner North East Community Committee Youth Summit is that we promote the Youth Council and the various Youth Matters Groups throughout the city. This was done at the Youth Summit event on the 7th March 2024.

19. Primary schools continue to find it easier to make the commitment to attend the Youth Summits, which is understandable, although at the Inner North East Community Committee Youth Summit we had representation from two Secondary Schools. All wards have been represented by schools and organisations that make up the committee area.

20. At the Inner North East Community Committee Youth Summit, we engaged with about 70 young people.

Seven Child Friendly Leeds wishes for the city was covered by the Youth Summit /engagement with the young people:

21. **Children and young people have safe spaces to play, hang out and have fun -** Children and young people have time and opportunities to play, hang out and have fun across the city. They feel safer as there is less crime, vandalism and litter.

22. **Children and young people express their views, feel heard and are involved in decisions that affect their lives -** Children and young people have a greater awareness of the different ways they can share their views and ideas. They know how to influence change within their school and community. They have access to support and training to develop their skills and confidence to enable them to have a voice and influence.

23. **Differences are celebrated in Leeds so children and young people feel accepted for who they are. They do not experience bullying and discrimination -** People in Leeds have a better understanding of diversity and therefore celebrate differences in abilities, ethnicity, family background, language, religion, sex and opinions. Children and young people feel accepted, included and valued. They have a greater awareness of their rights not to be bullied or discriminated against and know what to do if it happens.

24. **Everyone takes more action to protect the environment from climate change -** Children and young people have a greater awareness and understanding of what actions are being taken in Leeds to address the climate emergency and protect the environment. They know how they can get involved and make a difference.

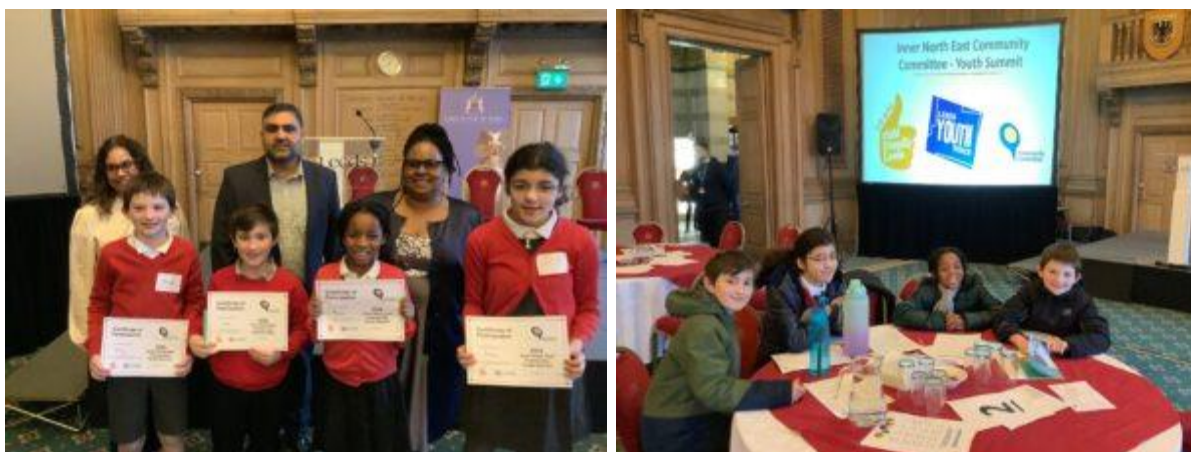
25. **Children and young people know about different things to do and places to go across the city. They enjoy different cultural experiences including art, music, sport and film -** Children, young people and families feel there is better promotion and communication of fun and particularly free things to do and places to go within the city including events, activities, groups, cultural experiences and days out.

26. **Children and young people have the support and information needed to make healthy choices. They have opportunities for regular physical activity -** Children and young people know about different opportunities to take part in physical activity and are supported and encouraged to join in. They have access to the information they need to make healthy choices and have healthy and safe relationships.

27. Leeds is an inclusive city for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities - Children and young people feel there is more awareness and understanding of different disabilities and that there are more activities and places to go that are accessible to all

Testimonials/Feedback from the Youth Summit

28. Today, the Year 5 and 6 Junior Leaders from Moortown Primary School visited the Leeds Civic Hall to attend the Inner North East Youth Summit. It was a great day where the children had the opportunity to meet and hear from councillors, ask questions and give their say when thinking about things they would like to change and improve about their local area.



We even got to sit in the chambers with Leeds City's Mayor and asked her questions on the microphone, "How many candidates were there for mayor?" "It can depend, sometimes there are 4, 2 or even just 1!". The pupils were in a room with lots of other Junior Leaders from around our locality, so it was great to meet them as well.

29. School Councillors from Chapel Allerton Primary School attended the Inner North East Leeds Youth Summit on the 7th March 2024. They represented the school brilliantly and showcased how much they knew about Democracy to everyone who was there. They sat in the Council Chambers and met the Lord Mayor and asked her lots of questions. They then grilled our local Councillors by asking questions such as 'How are you taking climate change seriously?' 'How are you going to get more children involved in politics?' 'How hard is to manage all the things you have to do? They also took part in an activity to help our Councillors decide how to spend part of next year's budget on youth activities for children and young people. This wasn't as easy as they

thought it might be!. The teacher who attended was very proud of their School Councillors and how they seized the opportunities that the day offered.



30. As a result of feedback from the previous year some of the young people suggested that the shopping activity task was more tailored towards pupils of primary school age. So, this year pupils from Carr Manor Community School took part in Child First Framework Development consultation run by West Yorkshire Violent Reduction Partnership (VRP).

The Child First approach is all about putting children's voices at the centre of everything VRP do, involving them in decisions whenever possible. This involves seeing children as individuals, recognising their strengths and building positive relationships. VRP know there are fantastic examples of this work across West Yorkshire, so they wanted to build on this to create a co-ordinated, consistent approach so all services a child comes into contact with will work in this way. Pupils enjoyed the session and contributed towards co-producing a framework which would also involve other children from across West Yorkshire outlining what Child First looks like in practice.

Youth Activity Fund Consultation

31. Alongside the physical Youth Summit, the Communities Team also created a consultation survey for young people, as another objective is that we, "consult with as many young people as possible (hybrid approach), by ensuring that alongside the summits, other consultation is coordinated; for example, online consultation, Breeze Summer Events": <https://surveys.leeds.gov.uk/s/H5X5TG/>
32. This online survey has been circulated far and wide throughout the committee area and has been created using some new & innovative ways of engaging with young people, such as creating a QR code that directs young people straight to the survey, after being scanned with a Smartphone.



33. The Inner North East Community Committee received 143 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 in 2023 and at the Youth Summit event.
34. The consultation survey ran from July 2023 until the 31st March 2024, with the feedback from young people collated. This will, in principle, inform the Youth Activity Fund Budget spend for 2024/25.

Measurement of Success

35. Below are some key facts and figures from the Inner North East Community Committee Youth Summit and Youth Activity Fund Consultation. These are provided in response to the standardised baseline measurement of success, agreed with Children's Champions and Community Committee Chairs.

- 70 young people have been involved in the physical summit.
- Over 100 young people have been involved in other forms of Youth Activity Fund Consultation.
- 8 primary schools and 2 secondary schools have been involved in bringing young people along to the Youth Summits and/or involved in any other consultation.
- 13 projects have been funded, or proactively commissioned from the Youth Activity Fund Budget as a result of the Youth Summits/and or Youth Activity Fund consultation.
- The “You Said, We Did” conversation took place at the Youth Summit & the Youth Summit Report will be discussed with appropriate audiences.

36. The report, referenced as the Youth Summit/Youth Activity Fund Consultation Report, is the Community Committee “You Said, We Did” Youth Summit Report outlined above. Further conversations will take place with young people at appropriate opportunities over the coming months, regarding the Youth Summits and Youth Activity Fund Consultation, after the report has been discussed with the Inner North East Community Committee.

Lessons Learned

37. The proposal is that all feedback from the Community Committee Youth Summits will be analysed, with a review taking place once all the events have finished, in a Community Committee Youth Summits: Lessons Learned meeting, with the Executive Board Member and Children’s Champions.

38. A report will also be taken to the Community Committee Chairs Forum.

39. As we are keen that we continue to work closely with the Children’s Champions to develop the Youth Summits across the Community Committee areas, these conversations and feedback will help inform the Youth Summits in the next municipal year.

Youth Activity Fund Consultation Survey Recommendations

40. The consultation surveys submitted by young people from the Youth Summit and online survey in the Inner North East Community Committee area, suggest the following Youth Activity Fund priorities for 2024/25:

- a. Youth activities on offer in a mix of local venues such as community centres, youth clubs and sport centres as well as activities offered away from the local area and a mix of indoor and outdoor activities
- b. Majority of provision taking place regularly after school, in the school holidays and on the weekends
- c. Ensure the activities are fun, active and create new friendships. Good quality staff should be delivering the events.
- d. Popular activities include.

1. Sports (Football, Swimming, Basketball, Netball)

2. Outdoor Adventure
3. Drama
4. Dance
5. Music
6. Cooking

41. It is recommended that any projects funded by the Inner North East Community Committee from the Youth Activity Fund, focus on these key themes and activities in 2024/25.

42. To ensure that the Inner 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 3: Infographic outlining the Youth Activity Fund Consultation Survey

Appendix 3 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 Youth Summit proposals and Youth Activity Fund 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 & 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

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 2024/25.

Recommendations

10. Members are asked to note:
 - a. Reflections from the last 12 months (paragraphs 16 – 32).
 - b. Details of the Youth Activity Fund consultation survey (paragraphs 33 - 35).
 - c. That the Youth Activity Fund survey informs the Community Committee's Youth Activity Fund for 2024/25.
 - 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 in 2024/25.