

**Report of:** Head of Locality Partnerships

**Report to:** Inner South Community Committee  
(Beeston & Holbeck, Hunslet & Riverside and Middleton Park)

**Report author:** Robert Hawley

**Date:** 17.04.2024

**For decision**

## **Community Committee Youth Summit/Youth Activity Fund Consultation Report**

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### **Purpose of report**

1. The report provides the Inner South Community Committee with an update on the Community Committee Youth Summit.
2. The report provides the Inner South Community Committee with an update on the Youth Activity Fund Consultation.
3. The report asks the Inner South 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 South Community Committee Youth Summit, in accordance with the Children’s Champion and Children & Families 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 South Community Committee Youth Summit taking place on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024.
16. A key objective for the Inner South 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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. As there was very little interest in a specific LGBT+ Youth Summit event that covered the whole of the city, the Communities Team decided to take a different approach to engaging with young people who identify as LGBT+. Our offer was that we would, if requested, go out to an organisation, at a time that was suitable and convenient to young people, to chat informally about local democracy, whilst also completing the consultation survey.

19. Another key objective for the Inner South 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 event on the 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024.
20. Primary schools continue to find it easier to make the commitment to attend the Youth Summits, which is understandable, although at the Inner South Community Committee Youth Summit we had representation from Secondary Schools. All wards have been represented by schools and organisations that make up the committee area.
21. At the Inner South Community Committee Youth Summit, we engaged with 106 young people.

### **Testimonials/Feedback from the Youth Summit**

22. Below are comments/feedback from the Inner South Community Committee Youth Summit.
23. "I enjoyed the Q&A because I learnt a few things on improving Leeds and what needs improving".
24. "It was amazing".
25. Cllr Gohar Almass – Children & Families Champion said: "I was delighted to welcome so many young people to the civic hall to attend the summit representing different schools from the Inner South of the city and having a great time while learning about democracy, local Government and how it all functions and to hear what they had to say about their priorities in terms of Youth Activity Fund and share ideas.

This generation of young people will be making decisions for the city in the future, so it was an excellent opportunity to welcome them to the civic hall and listen to their ideas and answer their questions.

The feedback was very positive during and after the workshops and the summit. Finally, I would like to personally thank all the participants including the Leeds City Council Communities Team, Voice of Influence and Change Team, my fellow councillors, the Lord Mayor and consorts and all the organisations who participated in making the summit a great success".



## Youth Activity Fund Consultation

26. 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/>

27. 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.



28. The Inner South Community Committee received 367 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 Youth Service’s Activity Day’s.

29. The consultation survey ran from September 2023 until the 31<sup>st</sup> 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

30. Below are some key facts and figures from the Inner South 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.

- 106 young people have been involved in the physical summits.
- 367 young people have been involved in other forms of Youth Activity Fund consultation.
- 15 schools/organisations have been involved in bringing young people along to the Youth Summits and/or involved in any other consultation.
- The “You Said, We Did” conversation took place at the Youth Summit. The Children & Families Champion advised what the top results of the previous consultation were and what the Inner South Community Committee had funded in response.

31. 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 South Community Committee.

## **Lessons Learned**

32. 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.
33. A report will also be taken to the Community Committee Chairs Forum.
34. 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**

35. The consultation surveys submitted by young people from the Youth Summit and online survey in the Inner South 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 some activities offered away from the local area and a mix of indoor and outdoor activities
  - b. Majority of provision taking place regularly in the school holidays and after school
  - c. Ensure the activities are fun, active and create new friendships.
  - d. Popular activities included;
    1. Sports
    2. Cooking
    3. Mixed activity fun days
36. It is recommended that any projects funded by the Inner South Community Committee from the Youth Activity Fund, focus on these key themes and activities in 2024/25.
37. To ensure that the Inner South 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**

Appendix 1 is attached with this report.

## **Corporate Considerations**

## **Consultation and Engagement**

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

39. 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**

40. 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**

41. 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**

42. 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**

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

## **Risk Management**

44. 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**

45. 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**

46. Members are asked to note:

- a. Reflections from the last 12 months (paragraphs 14 – 21).
- b. Details of the Youth Activity Fund consultation survey (paragraphs 35 - 37).
- 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.