

Report of: Head of Locality Partnerships

Report to: Inner West Community Committee
(Armley, Bramley and Stanningley and Kirkstall)

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Date: Tuesday 4th July 2023

For decision

Community Committee Youth Summit/Youth Activity Fund Consultation Report

Purpose of report

1. The report provides the Inner West Community Committee with an update on the Community Committee Youth Summit.
2. The report provides the Inner West Community Committee with an update on the Youth Activity Fund Consultation.
3. The report asks the Inner West 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 2023/24 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. Amongst other things, 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. As the Government removed all remaining domestic restrictions in law from Thursday, 24th February 2022, there was an appetite from schools/youth groups and Elected Members to reflect upon the Youth Summits and develop an approach for this municipal year.
11. Following meetings with various officers from the Communities Team, the Voice & Influence Lead for Children & Families and the Youth Service, a standardised baseline approach was agreed, that set out clear aims and objectives, as well as demonstrating measurable and specific outcomes.
12. 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.

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

13. Standardised baseline for all Youth Summits/Youth Activity Fund consultation are the following:
 - 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

14. Standardised baseline for all Youth Summits/ Youth Activity Fund consultation are the following:

- 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

15. Localised conversations have been taking place regarding the Inner West Community Committee Youth Summit, in accordance with the Children’s Champion and Children & Families Sub Group.

16. 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 relevant officers in the Communities Team, the Voice & Influence Team and the Children’s Champion, with the Inner West Community Committee Youth Summit taking place on the 5th of October.

17. A key objective for the Inner West 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.

18. 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 in November 2022, the Community Committees engaged with 56 young people that have special educational needs & disabilities.

19. We're aware that at one of the Youth Summit events that took place recently, we had a small number of young people that were home schooled, and this is an avenue we would like to explore for future events.
20. Another key objective for the Inner West 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 5th October, with some positive results, as there have been 25 Leeds Youth Council sign ups.
21. Primary schools continue to find it easier to make the commitment to attend the Youth Summits, which is understandable, although at the Inner West Community Committee Youth Summit we had good representation from Secondary Schools. All wards have been represented by schools and organisations that make up the committee area.
22. At the Inner West Community Committee Youth Summit, we engaged with 29 young people.

Testimonials/Feedback from the Youth Summit

23. Below are comments/feedback from the Inner West Community Committee Youth Summit.

Tony Barraclough, Leeds West Academy:

“A great trip today! A truly fantastic idea for young people to voice their thoughts, opinions and ideas around their local community. Lots of different Councillors and city figures appeared for the young people to fire questions at. None other than the Lord Mayor himself was in attendance in full regalia, taking plenty of time with the students to respond to questions and concerns, as well as photo opportunities. There were engaging activities giving the young people a virtual public spending on youth events and amenities. The day really felt like the students were being put in the driving seat of community change.”

Youth Activity Fund Consultation

24. 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/YouthActivities2022/>

25. 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.



26. The Inner West Community Committee received 29 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 2022.

27. An additional online survey was also created to engage with young people that have special educational needs and disabilities. In relation to this survey, we had 12 responses.

28. The consultation survey ran from September 2022 and stayed open until the 31st March 2023, with the feedback from young people collated. This will, in principle, inform the Youth Activity Fund Budget spend for 2023/24.

Measurement of Success

29. Below are some key facts and figures from the Inner West 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.

- How many young people have been involved in the physical summits? 29
- How many young people have been involved in other forms of Youth Activity Fund consultation? 41
- How many schools/organisations have been involved in bringing young people along to the Youth Summits and/or involved in any other consultation? 15
- The number of 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 will be reported at the end of the next financial year.
- Has the “You Said, We Did” Youth Summit Report will be produced ahead of next year’s Youth Summit.

30. The report, referenced as the Youth Summit/Youth Activity Fund Consultation Report, is the Community Committee “You Said, We Did” Youth Summit Report outlined in the list 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 West Community Committee.
31. 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 Summits/and or Youth Activity Fund consultation?” so updates will be provided to Children and Families Sub Groups throughout the course of the financial year.

Lessons Learned

32. 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 in April 2023.
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 West Community Committee area, suggest the following Youth Activity Fund priorities for 2023/24:
- a. Youth activities on offer in both local and away venues such as community centres, youth clubs and sport centres as well as activities to be delivered evenly between indoors and outdoors.
 - b. Majority of provision taking place during the school holidays and on the weekend.
 - c. Ensure the activities are fun, active, create new friendships and provide children and young people more options. Good quality staff should be delivering the events.
 - d. Popular activities included;
 - 1. Sport
 - 2. Music/Cooking/Outdoor Adventures
 - 3. Arts and Crafts

Other activities mentioned; Japanese, Roller Skating, Biking and Football

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

37. To ensure that the Inner West 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

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 2022/23.

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 36 - 38).
 - c. That the Youth Activity Fund survey informs the Community Committee's Youth Activity Fund for 2023/24.
 - 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 2023/24.