

**Report of:** Head of Locality Partnerships

**Report to:** Outer East Community Committee  
(Cross Gates & Whinmoor, Garforth & Swillington,  
Kippax & Methley, Temple Newsam)

**Report author:** Carl Hinchliffe, Community Committee Team Manager

**Date:** 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024 For decision

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

### **Purpose of report**

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

### **Main issues**

3. 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.
4. 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 participate in the funding process and advise Community Committees on the activities they would like to take part in, in their respective areas.
5. 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.

6. 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.
7. 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**

8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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/Youth Activity Fund consultation in 2023.

### **Aims & Objectives from the Youth Summits & Youth Activity Fund Consultation**

11. 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 divergent 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

12. 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 Activity Fund Consultation

### Youth Activity Fund Consultation

13. The Outer East Community Committee did not arrange a physical Youth Summit Event in 2023, so this report concentrates on the Youth Activity Fund Survey and the consultation and engagement that took place with young people across the committee area.
14. Alongside the physical Youth Summit events, the Communities Team created a consultation survey for young people, as an 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/>
15. This online survey was circulated far and wide throughout the committee area and 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.



16. The Outer East Community Committee received **397** 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 Youth Clubs delivered by Leeds Youth Service Team.

17. 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 **5** responses.
18. 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**

19. Below are some key facts and figures from the Outer East Community Committee 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, as outlined above.
  - How many young people have been involved in the physical summits? **N/A**
  - How many young people have been involved in other forms of Youth Activity Fund consultation? **402**
  - How many schools/ organisations have been involved in bringing young people along to the Youth Summits and/ or involved in any other consultation? **N/A**
  - 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? **This is being collated.**
  - Has the "You Said, We Did" Youth Summit Report been prepared and delivered? **The Youth Summit Report will be discussed with appropriate audiences.**
20. 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 Outer East Community Committee.

### **Lessons Learned**

21. 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.
22. A report will also be taken to the Community Committee Chairs Forum.
23. 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**

24. The consultation surveys submitted by young people in the Outer East Community Committee area, suggest the following Youth Activity Fund priorities for 2024/25:
  - a. Youth activities delivered outdoors, either locally, or away.
  - b. Majority of provision taking place after school.
  - c. Ensure the activities are fun, active and creating new/maintaining friendships.

Popular activities included:

1. Mixed activities
  2. Outdoor activities
  3. Sports (rugby, football & swimming in particular)
  4. Other popular activities include cooking and arts & crafts
25. It is recommended that any projects funded by the Outer East Community Committee from the Youth Activity Fund, focus on these key themes and activities in 2024/25.
  26. To ensure that the Outer 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: Infographic outlining the Youth Activity Fund Consultation Survey**

27. Appendix 3 is attached with this report.

### **Corporate Considerations**

#### **Consultation and Engagement**

28. Community Committee Chairs, Children's Champions and Community Committees have previously been consulted on the Youth Summit proposals and Youth Activity Fund survey.
29. 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**

30. 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**

31. 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**

32. 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**

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

## **Risk Management**

34. Risk implications and mitigation are considered on all Youth Activity Fund applications. Projects are assessed to ensure that applicants can deliver the intended benefits.

## **Conclusion**

35. 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**

36. Members are asked to note:
  - a. Reflections from the last 12 months (paragraphs 13 - 18).
  - b. Details of the Youth Activity Fund consultation survey (paragraphs 24 - 26).
  - 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.