

Youth Review

Engagement Findings



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

Introduction

The Council has been reviewing the youth services offer within the borough, including both commissioned and non-commissioned youth services as well as the wider offer available through schools, libraries, parks and open spaces and leisure facilities. This will shape the future of youth services locally.

- This is an opportunity to review and renew priorities to ensure that we meet changing and emerging needs, build on what's already working well and identify opportunities to strengthen our offer through co-design with children and young people and the voluntary sector.
- For example, strengthening pathways between youth services and libraries, leisure, and schools, maximising Council buildings and community assets to promote more partnership working, and better promoting youth services across the borough so that children, families, and schools have choice and are better informed about what's available in the local area.
- The vision: Our youth services will provide excellent opportunities and outcomes for children and young people through activities, projects and services.

Contents

Background	4
The consultation, coproduction, and engagement process	6
What young people told us	7
What the voluntary and community sector told us	11
Overview of themes	12
Our commitments	14

Key

SEND: Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

HAF: Holiday Activities and Food programme

VCS: Voluntary and Community Sector

NEET: Not in Education, Employment or Training

BAME: Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic

Background—the 2018/19 review

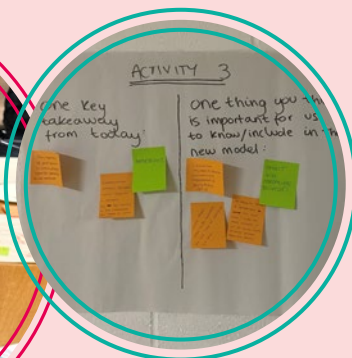
In 2018 a fundamental youth review was carried out. Its ambitions were to:

- Diversify funding across a wider range of local providers drawing on the strengths and richness of the local VCS. Prior to the review in 2018 the vast majority of Council funding went to one organisation
- Refresh the offer and design of services linked to co-designed priorities identified by local young people
- Strengthen youth voice and youth engagement, including establishing a Youth Council
- To support and capacity-build within the sector through the establishment of a Youth Foundation
- Better promote youth services through a dedicated digital platform
- Establish a set of principles to which all commissioned providers adhere to drive up standards, robust monitoring and reporting frameworks to better measure impact

The **2018/19** review resulted in the launch of the delivery model below across eight commissioned providers:

- Two youth hubs – Council coordinated with VCS delivery
- Five youth clubs – VCS coordinated
- Outdoor education and water sports from Canalside Activity Centre and Cremorne
- London Youth Games
- Community Based Sport
- A youth foundation (Young K&C)
- Youth services are now advertised on the Our City website
- Youth Council has been established
- Clear performance measures are now in place across commissioned provision

We also have a mixed model with an established Youth Council and the Detached and Outreach Team.



Annual impact and uptake 2023/24. By funding the commissioned VCS services, we have achieved:

6,178 young people attending commissioned youth settings annually*

20 per cent of children and young people attending settings annually are SEND which is consistent with HAF rates

75 per cent attending settings annually are from a BME background

5 per cent children and young people attending settings annually are not in employment, education, or training (NEET)

2,879 children and young people attending community adventure play settings annually*

* across Council funded youth provision only, not including the Youth Council and the Holiday, Activities and Food Programme.

Since 2020, some key achievements include:

134 member organisations and partners from the public and private sector secured

£1.4M funding distributed to the VCS

£883K match funding generated and distributed to the VCS

27 training sessions with over 600 attendances from 75 organisations delivered

This has led to more funding going to the sector to enable a greater range of activities and support to families in the local community.

The consultation, coproduction, and engagement process

- » A borough wide consultation gathered views on current activities for children and young people in the borough, key priorities, strengths, and areas for improvement through surveys, focus groups and facilitated sessions
- » We engaged with 368 children and young people (aged 5-19, up to 25 with SEND) and 237 adults (parents/carers, voluntary sector organisations, youth focused groups, youth workers and internal teams working with children and young people)
- » We held 49 engagement events across 31 locations in the borough, ranging from one-to-one conversations to large scale facilitated sessions
- » Following the initial consultation feedback, four targeted co production workshops with the VCS and groups of children and young people were held as another opportunity for stakeholders to reflect on the initial findings, explore ideas and design solutions. Additional one-to-one sessions were also undertaken with more than 14 VCS organisations
- » Creating an iterative process to engagement has been an essential way for us ensure that key stakeholders are involved in exploring and testing ideas, providing additional feedback and developing proposals to renew youth services in the borough.

What young people told us:



“ Welcoming youth clubs, being part of a community and knowing we matter to others is my favourite thing ”

“ Coming to meet my friends at the youth club and is important to me ”

“ Providing young people with more things to do would make us feel safer in our local areas ”

“ I love taking part in the sports activities and there are lots of creative things to do as well ”

“ We should have more say on what the youth club looks like and what activities there are – adults shouldn't make all the decisions ”

“ I like going to a youth club to see my friends but would also like to learn something, developing leadership skills or having discussions ”

“ Please make youth clubs more inclusive for children with SEND who can't always take part in the regular activities ”

“ Word of mouth is the best way to promote activities especially if it was a positive experience ”

“

Homework clubs, sports and arts activities should be available at more spaces, not just from the youth club

”

“

I want to use leisure centres more to take part in activities

”

“

More activities at the parks, especially in the summer

”

Inclusivity

- ⦿ reaching young people who don't normally access services to create an offer that is accessible for all
- ⦿ more girls only sessions including football and swimming
- ⦿ more activities for children and young people with SEND
- ⦿ welcoming environments for LGBTQI+ communities
- ⦿ building trust with parents and families in the local area to get more young people involved in activities
- ⦿ the right balance of sports and creative activities in different spaces across the borough
- ⦿ a mix of programmes that teach something as well as hang out spaces for young people to socialise
- ⦿ more age-appropriate activities
- ⦿ favourite thing about being a young person in the borough is being a part of a diverse community
- ⦿ youth activities are important for young people to build connections & be exposed to other young people in the borough
- ⦿ more opportunities to have an active voice in developing services that are available to children and young people and holding services to account

Learning and Employability

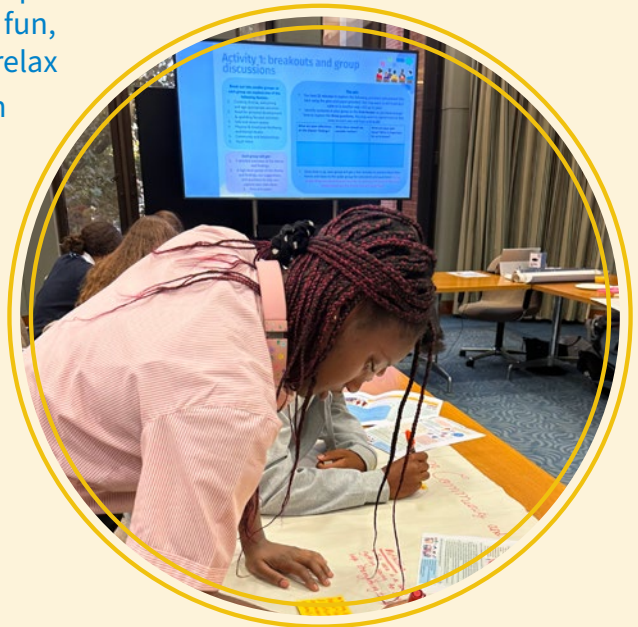
- ⦿ 44 per cent of young people do not know where to look to find employment support
- ⦿ 30 per cent of young people expressed they have lack of connections to secure opportunities
- ⦿ More activities that focus on personal development which supports young people to obtain new skills, be exposed to new experiences and adopt entrepreneurial mindsets
- ⦿ more opportunities to realise employment ambitions through mentoring, paid for work experiences and signposting to learning and development programmes
- ⦿ more access to study support and revision spaces from libraries and after school homework clubs
- ⦿ focus on developing confidence and leadership skills through activities and qualifications
- ⦿ learning from positive role models

Physical and emotional well being and mental health

- ⦿ 75 per cent of young people said that sports/leisure was one of the most important things to young people in the borough
- ⦿ Two thirds of children and young people don't know where to get support for their mental health
- ⦿ more competitive sports across the borough that bring young people together
- ⦿ more support with low level mental health needs such as anxiety and stress during exams
- ⦿ more youth activities from leisure centres and parks
- ⦿ more signposting of how to access mental health support as services can be confusing to navigate
- ⦿ a variety of activities and events linked to wellbeing alongside sports

Safe and secure spaces

- ◉ a wide range of activities taking place regularly after school and on the weekends from schools, leisure centres, parks, libraries, youth clubs and other community spaces
- ◉ more use of outdoor spaces such as football pitches and MUGA's, especially in the summer
- ◉ more activities in the south of the borough
- ◉ value places and events that give them opportunities to socialise with family and friends
- ◉ places where young people can take part in something fun, meet new people and relax
- ◉ advice and information on personal safety from the police and community safety teams
- ◉ more opportunities to have an active role in responding to environmental issues in the local area so that spaces look nice
- ◉ improved environments around youth clubs e.g better lighting, cameras or signposting of the clubs
- ◉ more education and signposting of support around risks of drug-related behaviour and young people's rights



What the voluntary and community sector told us:



“ Youth Services should approach local businesses and help facilitate opportunities ”

“ Youth Services should develop values, create a sense of belonging and develop self-worth ”

“ An inclusive place where young people can meet and socialise with others from a different background ”

“ We need to build relationships with parents in the local community ”

“ Strengthened partnerships between the police, schools, Council, and youth Services can help us to tackle youth violence more effectively ”

“ Services need to offer unique and positive activities and events that children and young people wouldn't ordinarily be able to access elsewhere ”

“ There are lots of underused spaces in the borough that we should be utilising to deliver activities ”

“ We need to avoid duplication, ensure better signposting and celebrate organisations delivering successful programmes ”

Overview of themes

What's important to children, young people and the sector?

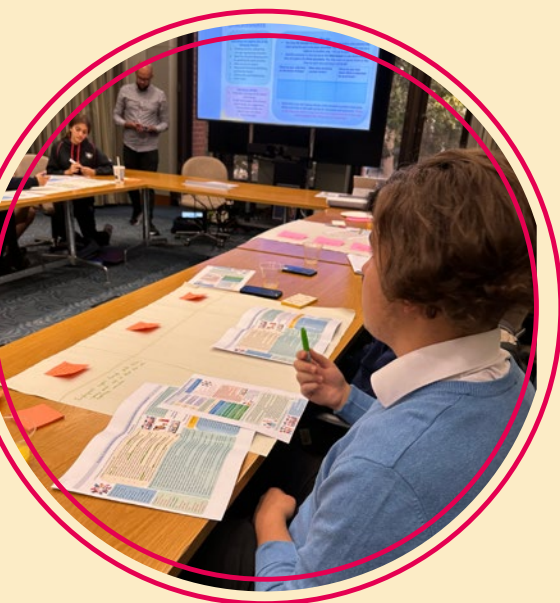
Five key priorities were identified from the engagement:

- 1. Inclusivity:** Make youth services more inclusive, especially for children and young people with SEND by developing sector training and working with partners to improve the offer
programmes and upskilling youth worker staff to manage low level needs
- 2. Learning and Employability:** To work with partners to celebrate, strengthen and connect the sector and better promote the diverse range of youth services available across the borough to ensure young people lead happy, healthy lives
- 3. Physical and Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health:** Strengthen the role of youth clubs in improving young people's physical, mental health and emotional well-being by maintaining the mental health worker offer, delivering competitive sports
- 4. Safe and Secure Spaces:** Strengthen pathways between youth services and libraries, leisure, and schools to maximise the use of Council buildings and ensure activities are offered from a range of sites for children and young people to engage with the offer
- 5. Celebrating and strengthening the sector via meaningful partnerships:** To work with partners to celebrate, strengthen and connect the sector' .

Inclusivity:

What have young people and the sector told us is a priority for them and what differences do they want to see?

- Inclusive and accessible provision for children with low level autism and SEND
- Activities that focus on community and building friendships to develop a sense of belonging by bringing children from different backgrounds and youth clubs together to celebrate differences
- Delivering taster activities and sessions within schools to promote uptake and pathways
- Activities tailored to local challenges and the unique needs of children and young people in the area
- A need to establish age appropriate sessions
- More girls only sessions across a range of activities, with football and swimming being the most popular
- An even geographical spread of activities where it is most needed
- A mix of structured and meaningful youth activities alongside unstructured open access sessions
- Utilising peer networks to encourage uptake from vulnerable young people and those not current accessing the youth offer
- Strengthening youth voice to create responsive services that can adapt to emerging needs.



Learning and Employability:

What have young people and the sector told us is a priority for them and what differences do they want to see?

- ◉ 14 –18 year-olds who would like to see more personal development opportunities and upskilling programmes delivered through their youth clubs and wider sector including access to qualifications and industry professionals
- ◉ Children want to access paid for opportunities that build confidence, develop life skills and allow them to give back to their local community
- ◉ More signposting and promotion of mentoring, work experience, volunteering, apprenticeships, and job vacancies available to young people via regular employment market stalls
- ◉ More drop-in homework sessions at libraries and quiet revision spaces during exam periods
- ◉ A balance of physical activities as well as fun creative and learning opportunities
- ◉ More employment support for young people from youth clubs, especially in the south of the borough.



Physical and Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health:

What have young people and the sector told us is a priority for them and what differences do they want to see?

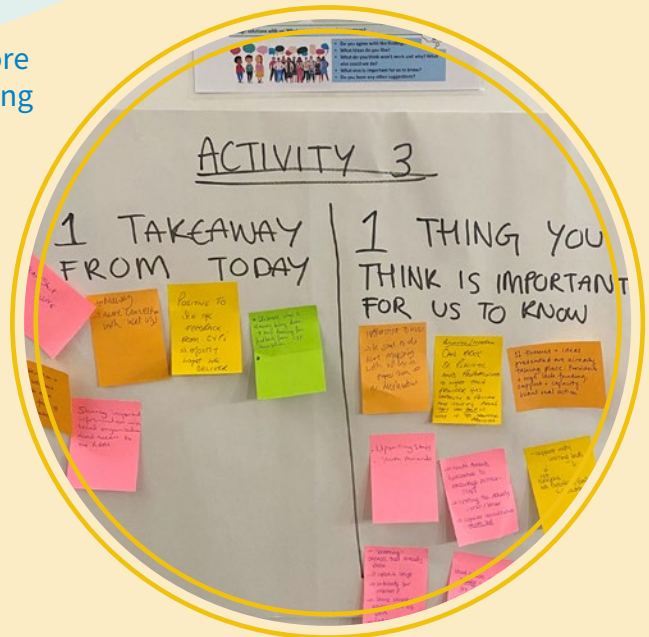
- ◉ Children value group games and competitive sports to improve their physical health and regulate emotions
- ◉ Children would like to see more opportunities to access qualified sports and gym instructors and better signposting on what's available to them at Council leisure centres
- ◉ Strengthen training to youth workers so they can better support children experiencing low level mental health needs e.g. managing stress during exams
- ◉ Maintain the youth mental health workers within youth clubs
- ◉ Clearer signposting around accessing mental health support
- ◉ Sports activities have reduced stress levels and increased the happiness and confidence over time in young people engaging.



Safe and Secure Spaces:

What have young people and the sector told us is a priority for them and what differences do they want to see?

- Children want to see more pop up activities delivered across spaces perceived as safe such as schools, leisure centres and libraries
- A need to improve the environment around youth clubs e.g better lighting, cameras and signposting of the clubs
- A need to establish age appropriate sessions
- Children want to see more education and signposting support around risks of drug-related behaviour and their rights
- Strengthen the pathway between Early Help, Schools and Youth Services to identify the most vulnerable children and integrate them into the youth offer
- Children have a high level of awareness around environmental issues; they want to learn more about practical ways to be sustainable in their day to day lives and want to see more bins and easily accessible recycling centres to help improve their local spaces.



Celebrating and strengthening the sector via meaningful partnerships:

What have young people and the sector told us is a priority for them and what differences do they want to see?

- ◉ More opportunities for the VCS to come together to provide updates, share information and design solutions to emerging needs e.g via an annual youth sector conference or an annual needs analysis
- ◉ More collaboration between commissioned and wider VCS providers by increasing the usage of Council leased buildings through partnership working
- ◉ VCS said it is important to avoid a duplication of offers and there needs to be better signposting of existing activities and programmes that celebrate organisations that are delivering their specialisms well
- ◉ Cross-promotion of activities across the VCS to allow young people to engage with activities in different parts of the borough
- ◉ Strengthened links with VCS, libraries, and leisure to make better use of spaces and facilities
- ◉ Continuity of funding is important to maintain a strong sector
- ◉ VCS want to see strengthened practice by celebrating and building on what's already working well
- ◉ Regular locality meetings between Early Help, schools and youth clubs to create a joined-up approach to identifying young people in need of additional support
- ◉ Better promotion of the offer and a communications campaign to effectively promote activities that improve physical and mental health via a refreshed 'Our City' website.
- ◉ Greater alignment of funding opportunities, application processes and monitoring and reporting arrangements for the VCS across internal Council departments

Our commitment

1. Inclusivity

You said:

More activities that are accessible to all – children with SEND, older groups of young people, girls and groups/communities not currently accessing.

We will:

Build on universal provision with some targeted sessions specifically for identified vulnerable groups. For example, girls only sessions and sports activities for children and young people with SEND. A focus on strengthening youth voice to capture richer feedback from a range of local areas.

Work with partners, internal teams, schools and the voluntary sector to develop projects and programmes that make services more inclusive. For example, strengthening pathways, developing sector training and increasing the number of available places for under-represented groups of young people.

2. Learning and Employability

You said:

More personal development and upskilling programmes through paid for opportunities for young people.

We will:

Increased focus on employability support from youth clubs. For example, youth clubs to provide more signposting opportunities and deliver regular training, learning and educational programmes.

Support the sector in developing and identifying personal development programmes that support young people to learn important life skills and apply this in practice. For example, training up young people to develop their confidence and leadership skills by facilitating games sessions in libraries and youth clubs as a paid for employment opportunity.

3. Physical and Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health

You said:

An increased range of competitive sports programmes and wellbeing activities that manage low level mental health needs.

We will:

Improve young people's physical, mental health and emotional wellbeing by offering a range of sports and cultural activities that bring young people from across the borough together, maintaining the youth mental health worker offer in youth clubs and upskilling youth worker staff to effectively manage low level needs.

Support the sector to respond effectively to children and young people's low level mental health needs e.g. stress and anxiety during exams via strengthened signposting to support and sector training to increase youth worker confidence.

4. Safe and Secure Spaces

You said:

Access to activities delivered from a range of safe spaces and improved environments.

We will:

Continue to focus on strengthening safeguarding and health and safety frameworks alongside more alignment with police and community safety teams to offer regular personal safety sessions for young people. Programmes that allow young people to play an active role in responding to environmental issues in their local area.

Promote the use of a range of safe spaces e.g. libraries, leisure centres and schools to deliver the offer, improving the environment around youth clubs and developing sector training to upskill staff.

5. Celebrating and strengthening the sector via meaningful partnerships

You said:

More fostering collaboration through regular forums, partnership working in council leased buildings and strengthening links with council services e.g. libraries and leisure.



We will:

Develop a local youth quality mark to maintain and drive-up standards, establishing more partnership working to bolster the offer in Council leased buildings and aligning the offer through libraries and leisure.

Develop more opportunities for the sector to come together, for example, developing an annual youth sector conference; setting up strategic partnership forums to share best practice and intelligence; encouraging inter youth club activities.

Work with Young K&C to undertake a sufficiency assessment of youth provision in the borough (responding to the National Youth Agency guidance), taking stock of what we have in place to identify gaps and establish an action plan to implement these changes and ensure the new model reflects best practice.

Your notes

Your notes

