We are
London Youth

A charity on a mission to improve the lives of young Londoners.
We’ve been championing outstanding youth work for over 130 years.
Introduction

Across London, young people need opportunities outside education and the home to have fun with their friends, to be healthy and creative, to make positive change in their communities and to shape the kind of city they want for the future.

London Youth, together with our network of over 400 community youth organisations, creates opportunities for tens of thousands of young Londoners each year through our sports development, employability, youth social action, arts and outdoor education programmes.

In every London borough, programmes and projects run by our members provide services which are open to all, in a safe place where young people can express themselves, get the support they need and have fun. Every young Londoner deserves these opportunities as they grow up in a rapidly changing city.

With local authority funding greatly reduced and activities for young people being lost as a direct result, it is more important than ever to invest in our network, youth workers and the young people they support.

Rosemary Watt-Wyness
Chief Executive, London Youth
@WattWyness
What we do

Last year, we worked with over 27,000 young people through our sports development, employability, youth social action, arts and outdoor education programmes. Our work gives young people access to opportunities they might not otherwise have had across a range of activities.

Sports development

- Getting Ready, London Youth’s sports development programme, offers young people high quality, fun sports opportunities within their local community.
- Our pan-London calendar of events offers weekly taster sessions and weekend training residential trips, volunteering opportunities and sports leadership training opportunities to our members.
- Young Londoners build their confidence, resilience and relationship skills whilst developing a lifelong love of sport. In turn, our sports programmes enhance local communities and support social integration.

Employability

- Since 2011, London Youth has led a partnership of organisations testing innovative youth-led solutions to unemployment and supporting young people who have been out of education, employment and training for at least 12 months, into sustainable employment.
- Our distinctive ‘youth work’ approach to employability not only gets young people into jobs but also equips them with the skills, capabilities and desire to navigate a fulfilling career pathway.
- We are currently consulting on our new employability programme which will be launching in the near future. Please visit londonyouth.org for more information.

Youth Social Action

- Our social action and leadership programmes bring young people, member organisations and their local communities together and provide young people with opportunities to improve their skills and qualities and boost their confidence and resilience.
- Through becoming active participants and leaders at their youth organisation and in their communities, young people can display their talents and celebrate their achievements.
- City Leaders, YouthLeads, ActiveLeads and the Jimmy Dixon Leadership Programmes are available to members of London Youth interested in youth-led, social action.

Arts and Culture

- In 2018 we piloted our Young Culture Makers programme, working with our members to help them to develop their creative arts offer for young people, by working in partnership with artists and arts organisations.
- We are rolling out the programme over 2018/19, so whether it’s an interest in sculpture, spoken word poetry, theatre, fashion design, music, photography, textiles or something completely new, our programme will create opportunities for young people to learn and create.
- The programme has been designed to inspire a lifelong passion for the arts and to build their confidence, resilience, communication skills and other social and emotional capabilities.

Outdoor Education

- We have a long and impressive track record working with children and young people at our two residential centres.
- Taking young Londoners, many of whom have not left the city before, out to the countryside has a profound and positive effect on their personal and social development.
- The opportunity to learn and have fun outside of formal settings is essential in helping young people develop the skills and confidence they need for the rest of their lives.

For more information on our residential centres, please visit their websites:

londonyouth.org

For more information on what we do please visit our website:

woodrowhighhouse.org
hindleapwarren.org
Why our work is needed now more than ever

London is going through major change, growth and uncertainty. This impacts dramatically on the young people living here at a time when youth organisations are facing challenges to survive.

1. Young Londoners are losing the activities and safe, open access spaces vital for their well-being and personal development.
   - With no statutory duty to provide positive activities for young people outside of school and under pressure to make ongoing savings, early intervention work is sidelined and there are significantly fewer opportunities for young people from less wealthy backgrounds.

2. Youth clubs and organisations who support young people with these challenges continue to face further threats to their future.
   London Assembly Member Sian Berry’s latest research report, London’s Lost Youth Services (2018) identified that:
   - Since 2011, 81 London youth clubs and council youth projects have closed and 800 youth service full time posts have been lost.
   - Annual cuts since 2011 now exceed £39 million. The total amount lost from youth services in London, which would have been spent in the last seven years if budgets had stayed at 2011-12 levels, is now £145 million.

3. As services decline, the population of young people in London is dramatically increasing.
   - Currently, 2,879,900 children and young people aged 0-25 live in London – accounting for one third of the capital’s population.

4. Young Londoners face complex challenges more pronounced than elsewhere in the UK.
   London is the most unequal place to live in the UK impacting heavily on the life choices and opportunities of young Londoners under the age of 18:
   - 57% (1.1 million) live in households surviving on less than the minimum income standard.
   - Youth unemployment in London is two and a half times higher for 16-24 year olds than for 25-64s. Young people of colour who have been unemployed for more than a year has risen by almost 50% since 2010.

5. All of this is taking its toll on young people’s resilience and well-being. Record levels of young people are struggling with mental ill health.
   - In 2014/15, one in six 15 year olds in London reported a low life satisfaction; this is significantly higher than the rest of England and the highest of all regions in the country.
Becoming a member

Members of London Youth include traditional youth clubs, volunteer-led teams and well known charities. We welcome all organisations that work with and support young people in London to join our network.

Whilst some members focus on a specific activity, such as theatres and sports clubs, others provide general community-based services. Several cater for specialist groups such as refugees or homeless young people, others work with all young people in their local area.

Between them they are a powerful, knowledgeable and vital network for both young people and for the communities in which they are located.

What do you get with London Youth membership?

• Access to a broad range of free support and training, including safeguarding and support with our Quality Mark accreditation.
• An evolving programme of support that responds to the needs of our members, designed to strengthen community youth organisations across London.
• Access to our high quality funded programmes for young people in sports development, employability, youth social action, arts and outdoor education.
• London Youth has strong relationships with policy makers and funders and works with and on behalf of our members to ensure the youth sector can influence public policy decision making and tap into funding opportunities.

More information about how to join is available at londonyouth.org

You can contact the Membership Development team at membership@londonyouth.org or by calling 020 7549 8800
Our Impact

Last year we supported over **27,000 young people** through our programmes and residential centres. Some examples of the impact we’ve had are given below.

For members:

- We provided networking & training opportunities for over 500 youth professionals and jointly provided 6,543 opportunities for young people to gain new skills.
- Supported 31 members to achieve one or more standards of the London Youth Quality Mark, with 97 members holding a Quality Mark.

For young people:

**Supporting young people to be physically active and healthy:**

- 89% of young people said they will continue to play sport or be active regularly at the end of our 10-week sports programme.
- 89% of children said the activities at our residential centre helped them feel safe and enjoy the outdoors.
- Over three-quarters (77%) of young people improved their social and emotional capabilities and life skills during our weekly sports programme.

**Supporting young people to work towards their career goals:**

Over the last year:

- 294 young people were supported to move into full-time employment of which 125 sustained employment for at least six months.
- 57 young people went back into education.
- 34 young people took up apprenticeships.
- A further 6 young people were supported to become self-employed.

**Enabling young people to make a positive contribution to their communities:**

- 372 young people participated in youth social action programmes, delivered in partnership with our members.
- 25 youth-led projects that benefit the community.
- Delivery of training for youth workers at 39 youth organisations.

Source: 2016/17 impact statistics

Our latest impact statistics will be available on our website from November 2018

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Support us

We can’t do any of this without the support of funders, corporate partners and individual supporters who fundraise on our behalf. If you would like to get involved, please visit [londonyouth.org/support-us](londonyouth.org/support-us) or email us at [hello@londonyouth.org](mailto:hello@londonyouth.org)