



Youth-led Social Action  
Change in Action  
Grants Report

**2019-20**

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# CHIEF EXECUTIVE STATEMENT

In 2019, YCF partnered with London Borough of Camden through the Community Impact Fund to create more opportunities for local children and young people to design and deliver projects that will benefit others. With an emphasis on being youth-led, YCF supported four new projects addressing some of the biggest concerns for young people – health and well-being, youth safety, youth voice, and access to positive activities.

Over 231 young people took part in the various projects, and as a result, they improved their confidence, resilience, and the projects opened up new opportunities for young people to take community action.

YCF believes that when young people are given opportunities to participate and are trusted to take responsibility, they are more likely to be successful in making safer, more informed decisions about their future. Young people, who take practical action in the service of others not only improve their communities and environment, but also develop knowledge, skills and experiences that can have a positive impact on their future.

6 out of 10 young people aged between 10 and 20 are keen to help others, and 4 in 10 are already taking part in youth social action – activities that make a positive difference to others or the environment. However, we know that twice as many young people want to participate but often don't know where to look.

YCF is a strong supporter of the #IWILL campaign that aims to make participation in social action the norm for young people. Like #IWILL, our aim was to transform the role and perception of young people in society through the Change in Action programme.

YCF will continue to encourage and promote youth-led social action and we plan to open up more opportunities for youth participation next year.

I hope that you find this report interesting and are inspired by the projects that are featured.



**KEITH MORGAN**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

YOUNG CAMDEN FOUNDATION



# Highlights

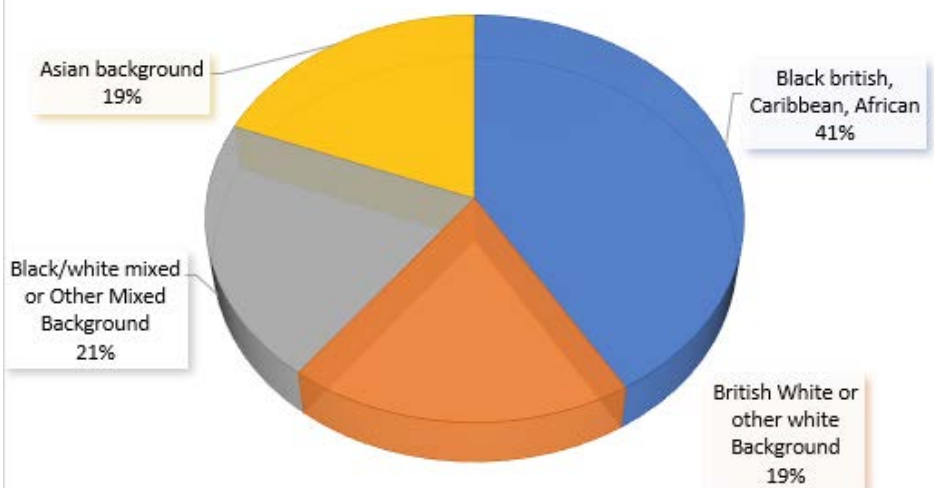


Male participants - 51%  
Female participants - 49%

Age range 12-25

231 local children and young people benefited from the programme  
£19,200 invested in four Projects.

**PARTICIPANTS ETHNIC BREAKDOWN**



“[Young people] felt more positive and empowered to not hold themselves back from trying new things.....

projects like this allow young people to gain vital experience and given the opportunity young people will flourish.”

**Youth Practitioner**

# Young people's voices

***“I had to do in-depth research into sections of the law which applied to help young people like me to understand our rights. [and] how the law can apply to me. [also I learnt] all elements of a pay slip and how to react during a stop and search”*** Young person

***“It was great to have informed discussions about issues with people my own age about important topics”*** Youth ambassador

***“I learnt a lot of information that isn't taught in schools.”*** Event attendee

# Change In Action

Through Change in Action Fund, organisations hosted projects delivered by young people. These youth-led social action projects helped raise awareness of crime and mobilized young people to take community action.

This effort between Young Camden Foundation, Camden Council and four local youth organisations has allowed a unique and significant opportunity to improve the outcomes for those most affected by crime. Whilst equipping young people with lifelong skills that will be utilized when they choose their future paths, be it as students, employees, business owners or other.

The trust placed in the ability of young people to take responsibility has allowed them to be more successful in making safer and more informed decisions about their futures.



# ORGANISATIONS

## EAT CLUB

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### Healthy Eating on a Budget Project

**Description:** The project run by Eat Club placed a primary focus on supporting young people plan healthy meals on a budget. Not only did this increase their fruit and vegetable consumption, but it also led to some participants being persuaded to try new vegetables and adopt healthier lifestyles.

The structure of this project allowed the young people to enjoy the process as well as the end result. Participants were tasked with choosing their desired menus. They were also responsible for planning the end of project party, where they were able to enjoy each other's company, make, sample and share all the food on offer. At this final event two of the centres had the chance to come together in a food bonanza, providing increased interaction between the members.

**Outcome:** Those involved were able to work on their ability to understand the concept of food preparation and mass cooking (preparing food in bulk for serving on multiple occasions), whilst increasing their confidence, communication and social skills.

**Benefit:** A noteworthy benefit of the project at Somers Town Youth Centre was that the able young people were encouraged to actively assist those with special needs and disabilities. This supportive, positive bonding has led to a year of funding being secured which can be used to work with the 'include' group!





# FITZROVIA YOUTH IN ACTION (FYA)

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## Law and Order Project

**Description:** Twelve youth ambassadors were involved in the design of this project hosted by FYA. The young ambassadors chose to create awareness on relevant topics such as: stop and search rights, hate crime, finances, workplace rights and benefit entitlements. The young people collated detailed information and created resource booklets to allow their peers to learn about their rights.

Young people led these events, allowing the project to be entirely youth devised, developed and implemented.

**Outcome:** As well as educational, this project was fun and the young ambassadors organised activities like: Law and Order launch event, The Hive Summer Jam and BBQ, the FYA Street Party and an FYA Showcase event - all of which allowed the information to reach a large audience.

**Benefit:** Those involved engaged in well-informed discussions, providing others with a better understanding of their rights and responsibilities. A number of those taking part also had the opportunity to develop new skills by helping to manage everything from the budget, to the design and layout of the booklets.





# KENTISH TOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE

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## Voices not violence

**Description:** KTCC developed a project which allowed the centre to explore and build new relationships and partnerships with local businesses. Young people created questions related to the topic - 'views of young people on youth violence'. These questions were used as a framework for activities and to produce a short video. Young people also provided the inspiration for promotional materials.

Chicken shops have become a target for outreach efforts as a multitude of students congregate here after school. Local barbers have expressed the importance for young men to understand personal hygiene and grooming. They have advocated the possibility of potential barbering workshops to help keep the youth away from the streets.

**Outcome:** Young people stated that they felt more positive and empowered when trying new things resulting in improved confidence and levels of communication amongst the youth. Young people at KTCC are now pursuing a new opportunity that will allow the young people to take social action possibly putting together a care package for homeless people.

**Benefit:** KTCC have experienced an increase of membership since starting their project, this has brought an influx of different skills and ideas – in particular, a desire from those aged eighteen and over to begin volunteering at the community centre. Therefore, the venture at KTCC has been able to build the appetite of young people to continue with volunteering, fundraising and campaigning even after the project has come to an end; showing a more permanent change in their behaviour.



# NW5 COMMUNITY PLAY PROJECT

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## NW5 Youth Takeover

*“The choice of topic will be theirs, the planning will be theirs, but the benefits will spread throughout the neighborhood” Youth practitioner*

**Description:** NW5 provided a safe space for open discussions between young people. In this way, young people decided to address issues and found ways to make the community feel more pleasant and secure. Attendees developed a weekly programme to tackle barriers and make the estate feel more communal.

The organisation and development of this project was youth-led, enhancing confidence, providing new skills and knowledge to those involved, as well as teaching them to work in a team. Young people were given the freedom to express their passion and commitment towards a common goal, whilst also developing their abilities to listen and compromise.

**Outcome:** Over the course of the project numerous social problems were addressed, leading to a multitude of social action opportunities. These included: collections for the homeless, fundraising, placing gardening pots (with positive quotes attached) in various locations in Peckwater, providing job packs for adolescents with vacancies, cleaning the local park and attending a councillor’s surgery to engage in a discussion about the closure of the local football pitch. This practical social action helped to create positive social change, benefitting the community as well as the young people themselves.

**Benefit:** Amongst the members of this project were five young people who had either been excluded or were attending pupil referral units. Their constant attendance is indicative of their improved resilience and self-belief.



# CASE STUDIES

## Voices not Violence

KTCC in the summer months of 2019; [this young person] stated he was shy and found it hard to talk to new people but was encouraged by his mum to attend our service to meet new people and come out of his shell a bit more. Initially Child A expressed to the staff that they were unlikely to attend as they felt and uncomfortable going to another area where they didn't know anyone. During the session other young people made an effort to engage with Child A and encouraged them to participate and give ideas. After this session Child A started to approach our sessions with an open mind and their engagement level really increased, showing us when young people are given the opportunity it can really benefit them in a social capacity as well as improving their confidence in what they can achieve.

## Law and order project

S.B was a youth ambassador who was quite reserved at first and would only attend with her friends who joined FYA at the same time as her. However, her confidence levels grew, with her attending FYA without her friends. During the development of Law and Order she was a vital part in ensuring all the activities were presented exactly how they were envisioned. She played a vital part in the day [event] as she took on the responsibility of discussing all the various parts of the event with professionals. S.B has taken an active role...supporting new youth ambassadors with their roles.

# **YOUNG CAMDEN FOUNDATION**

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[www.youngcamdenfoundation.org.uk](http://www.youngcamdenfoundation.org.uk)



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