

YOUNG CAMDEN FOUNDATION

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES FUND 2020



CHIEF EXECUTIVE STATEMENT

2020 was a mercurial year with many youth services either temporarily closing or significantly reshaping their offer to local children and young people. The huge challenge this period has presented to the sector cannot be understated.

I have been inspired by stories about local community organisations demonstrating ingenuity, adaptability and resolve during such a difficult time. Some youth centres responded immediately by partnering with schools to set up food distribution centres. Others re-purposed their buildings to provide care and assistance to vulnerable families. Local organisation that normally only provide face-to-face services invested in digital infrastructure to develop a new virtual programme of support and interesting activities.

I was pleased that the Summer Opportunities Fund (SOF 2020) could support many of these creative and needs-led activities throughout the summer holidays. This report is both a summary of the projects funded through SOF 2020 and a celebration of the sectors resilience and determination.

The Summer Opportunities Fund was set up by YCF in 2017 to provide children and young people in Camden with more opportunities to have fun. We know that play has proven value for children's physical, emotional and psychological wellbeing. Through the Fund children and young people have access to more opportunities to: get active; make new friends; grow in confidence; try something new; and have fun in a safe and supportive environment.

The mental health and wellbeing of whole societies have been severely impacted by the pandemic and lockdowns. Young people in particular have been adversely affected with disruptions to school, education, exams, lack of opportunities to socialise, and diminished access to positive activities. I'm pleased that through the the Summer Opportunities Fund community organisations were able to provide respite to so many children and young people in the borough. This report highlights the impact that these projects have had on the young people who participated.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the organisations that delivered the summer activities through YCF's Summer Opportunities Fund.



Keith Morgan, Chief Executive Officer

ABOUT

The Summer Opportunities Fund was designed to enable organisations to deliver fun, new and accessible activities for children and young people during the summer break.

Young Camden Foundation (YCF) opened its third round of the Summer Opportunities Fund in 2020.

On behalf of YCF, a panel comprised of young people, youth organisations and business partners awarded grants of up to £5,000. Grants went to voluntary organisations in Camden planning to deliver summer activities for local children and young people.

Voluntary organisations were encouraged to develop and deliver projects that would achieve the following outcomes:

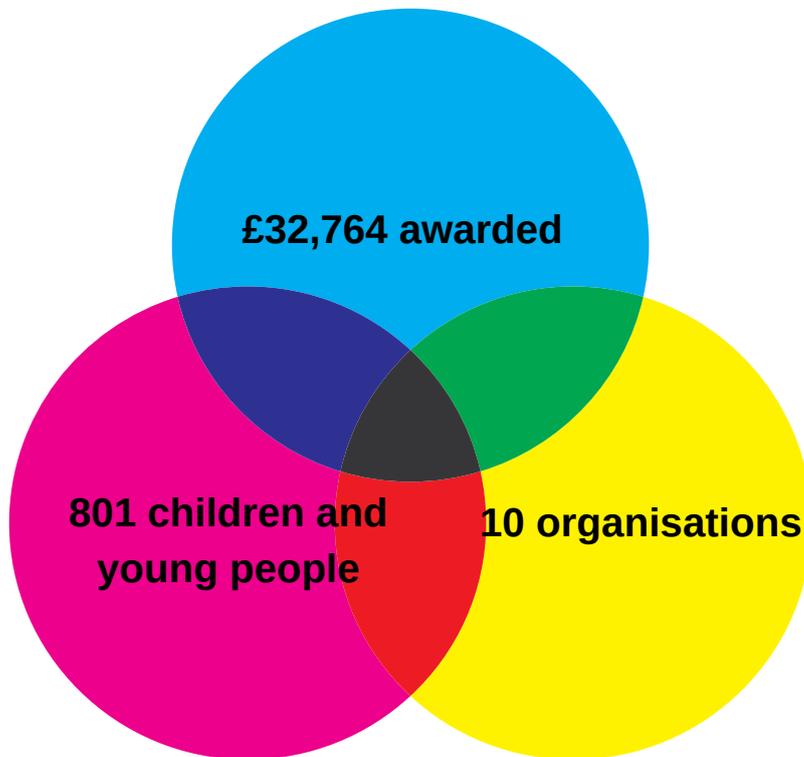
1. Children and young people will have increased confidence
2. Children and young people will have access to new activities and opportunities
3. Organisations will have worked in partnership to deliver their activities



AWARDS

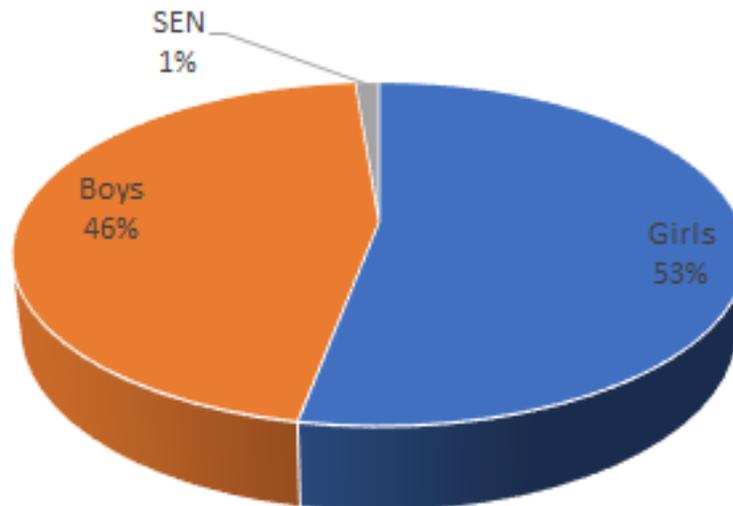
YCF awarded a total of £32,764 to 10 local voluntary, community organisations. Organisations delivered a variety of indoor and outdoor activities including trips, the Arts (painting, dance, drama), business enterprise training, and sports. Despite social distancing guidelines, over 800 children and young people aged between 4 and 19 years of age (up to 25 years for SEN) benefited from these projects.

Funded projects targeted traditionally disengaged and hard-to-reach/easy to ignore children and young people. With a particular focus on maintaining good proportional representation of girls, and BAME children and young people. All of the children and young people that participated in the projects reported either having more fun, feeling safer, increased level of participation, learnt a new skill, or improved their self-confidence and feelings of self-efficacy.



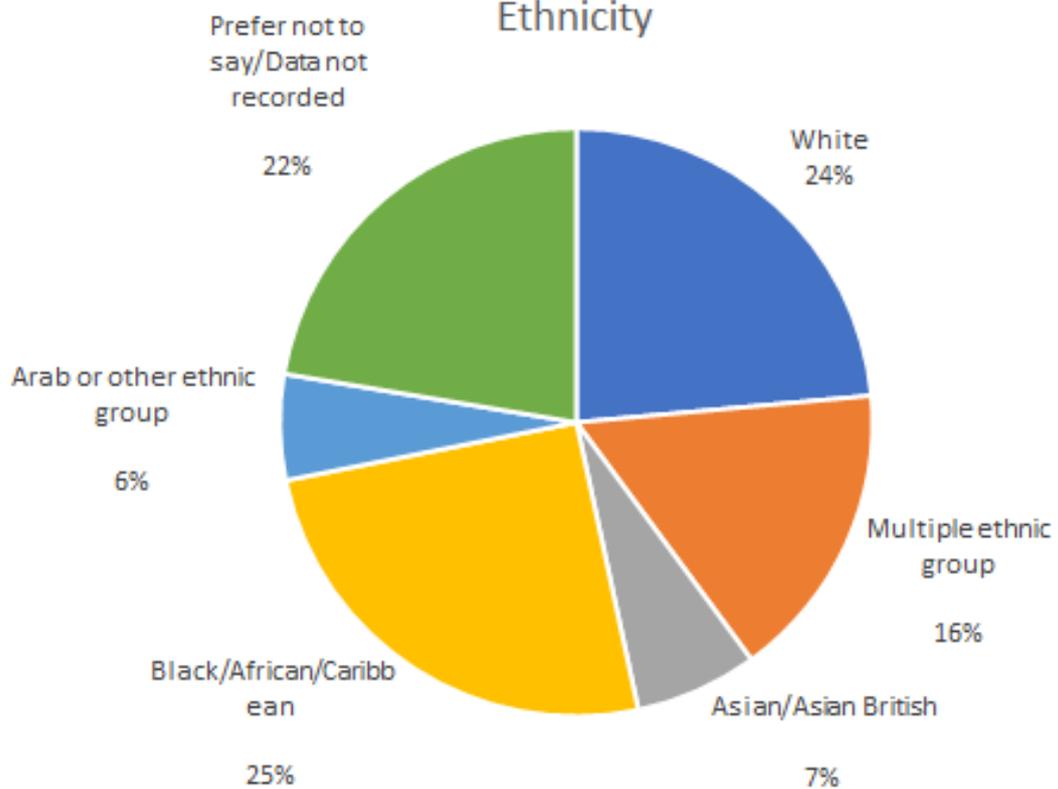
BENEFICIARIES

Total Beneficiaries: 801 of which:



■ Girls ■ Boys ■ SEN

Ethnicity



ORGANISATIONS & PROJECTS



Fitzrovia Youth in Action (FYA)

FYA worked with nearly 200 young people across their summer programmes: Youth leaders, Peer Education, Peer Mentoring, & Football. Due to the continued contingency related to COVID-19 FYA moved most of their activities online, and where possible organised socially distanced events and sports.

Young People were reported to have improved in confidence and general physical and emotional wellbeing. All of the programmes were youth-led, with staff only providing light-touch guidance. There was even a Young People's Digital Steering Group, which made sure that online sessions were carried out in a safe and appropriate manner.

A total of 198 AQA accreditations were achieved by the young people involved.

KENTISH TOWN COMMUNITY CENTRE (KTCC)

KTCC used their grant to engage 10 young people in a venture that delivered food parcels to vulnerable members of the community. The programme provided young people with the opportunity to volunteer safely during COVID-19 restrictions and acquire logistic skills.

Young people organised food deliveries twice a week, with the number of deliveries in a day ranging between sixty and one hundred. Young people created a rota to ensure that the packages had assorted contents from week to week. The young people involved were required to complete a handling and food hygiene course so as to improve their general knowledge.

Young people on the project were reported to have increased self-esteem and confidence as a result. Their actions had a positive visible impact on their community. The local community openly recognised the young people's effort and were impressed with those involved for making such a positive contribution at a difficult time.

ORGANISATIONS & PROJECTS

BLOOMSBURY FOOTBALL FOUNDATION

Bloomsbury Football Foundation ran a successful camp for a range of girls from multiple backgrounds. They primarily focused on football activities, and also included workshops on strength, conditioning, nutrition and social media. Bloomsbury reached 100 participants due to a network of schools, parents and social media activity.

The activities allowed girls to improve their sporting abilities whilst working on their social engagement with others. This led to increased self-esteem, confidence and teamwork skills.

The overall goal of the project was to provide a safe and inclusive environment in which girls could develop their skills and remove the stigma of girls in sports.

Bloomsbury will continue the Girls programme in the future.



THE WINCHESTER PROJECT (THE WINCH)

The Winch involved children in a scheme that focused on games, sports and art. These activities encouraged 35 children to rebuild their fitness and physical wellbeing. They also provided a safe environment for them to express their feelings about loneliness and forging friendships coming out of the lockdown period. This project eased children's return to school.

In addition, The Winch set up a planting scheme, which brought children closer to nature and encouraged them to take on new responsibilities. They also helped to prepare young people for the return to normality by creating their own 'classroom' in the playground.

A crucial partnership was formed with Holy Trinity Primary School and Camden Council allowing the project to target the most disadvantaged/vulnerable children in the local area.

ORGANISATIONS & PROJECTS

NW5 COMMUNITY PLAY PROJECT

The NW5 project ran for 5 weeks. For three days a week, NW5 organised different activity stations including, sport, art and craft, gaming, dance, & cooking. The project culminated with an excursion. All participants received a free meal throughout the project.

This project reached young people from multi-ethnic communities and mainly disadvantaged backgrounds. It provided some respite from the stress of COVID-19 and allowed participants to improve their mental health and wellbeing.

Workshops were put in place to support the needs of young people who were struggling, after missing out with necessary direct interaction during the lockdown period.

NW5 experienced a vast turnout in the number of 15-18 year old (especially for meals), which has encouraged them to start youth employment programmes and free pizza Friday nights in order to allow these adolescents to bond.

SHAK

SHAK delivered online activities, young people learned how to plan and produce podcasts, participate in live cooking session and how to work with music. Combined with the YCF Digital Youth Work Fund young people developed the skills to conduct peer-interviews using digital recording technology and editing software. As a result, young people produced an inspiring and insightful podcast called 'the lockdown tapes' for the public to download.

Shak added a service of "check in" phone calls with young people and one-to-one outreach, in accordance with social distancing rules.



ORGANISATIONS & PROJECTS

MAIDEN LANE COMMUNITY CENTRE (MLCC)

MLCC designed their programme to meet the requirements of those in the 10-19 age group. The programme incorporated DJ classes, podcast making, cooking, video making workshops and guitar classes. These innovative, challenging and enjoyable activities facilitated the young people to learn new skills and gave them a sense of fulfilment. Young people felt proud of their achievements.

Further to this, face-to-face activities worked to introduce young people and local families to a range of new arts and crafts skills. A positive outcome of this project was that paternal relations within local families were strengthened through the turnout of fathers at events, allowing them to spend quality time with their children.

MLCC formed many relationships which were paramount to the success of their summer programme. In particular, their partnership with Eat Club was so successful that it continued throughout October half-term.

WAC ARTS

Wac Arts provided activities for 32 young people. The activities included: Improvisational drama workshops; music technology workshops; and drama masterclasses. Wac Arts also delivered bespoke activities which catered specifically to the needs of participants from the SEND community – such as creative workshops and virtual theatre-making projects.

Through engagement in this project, young people improved their mental health, resilience and wellbeing in tandem with gaining new friends and skills.

Beneficial partnerships were formed with Noise Solution and Theatre Noir – both of whom aided in the delivery of online workshops.



ORGANISATIONS & PROJECTS

LIGHTHOUSE LONDON COMMUNITY TRUST

The programme carried out by Lighthouse worked with young people aged 16-25 not in education, employment or training (NEET). The programme helped these young people to access the skills and aptitudes required for the workplace and further opportunities for education/training. Online sessions covered multiple topics designed to enhance participants understanding and attitude towards different industries. The programme included mock interviews and one-on-one sessions with coaches to look at personal targets. Time was also set aside for self-directed tasks such as CV writing, completing applications and preparing professional e-mails.

Those who completed the sessions experienced an increase in their work readiness indicators: attitude, self-leadership, confident communication, mindfulness of others and professional behavior.

UNLOC

UNLOC used the grant to upskill their staff and adapt to delivering activities online. All staff were trained and received equipment to adapt to delivering activities for young people online. As a result, UNLOC were able to launch their Enterprise Programmes, High Achievers Programme and Camden Young Changemakers programme digitally.

The feedback from young people on the programmes was very positive. For example a young person, aged 17 and a student at Westminster Kingsway College, said

“Unloc’s support and attitude allowed me to no longer limit myself, aspire to succeed and strive to innovate.”



WHAT PEOPLE SAID



THIS PLACE IS AMAZING, ALL OF THE TIME, EVERYDAY, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, OR WHO COMES."

Young person

"[THE PROJECT] TOOK MY MIND OFF THINGS AND MADE ME FEEL LIKE LIFE STILL GOES ON, AND I LEARNT A NEW SKILL."

Young person



"IT'S THE BEST THING EVER, IT FEELS LIKE I'M IN A DREAM."

Young person

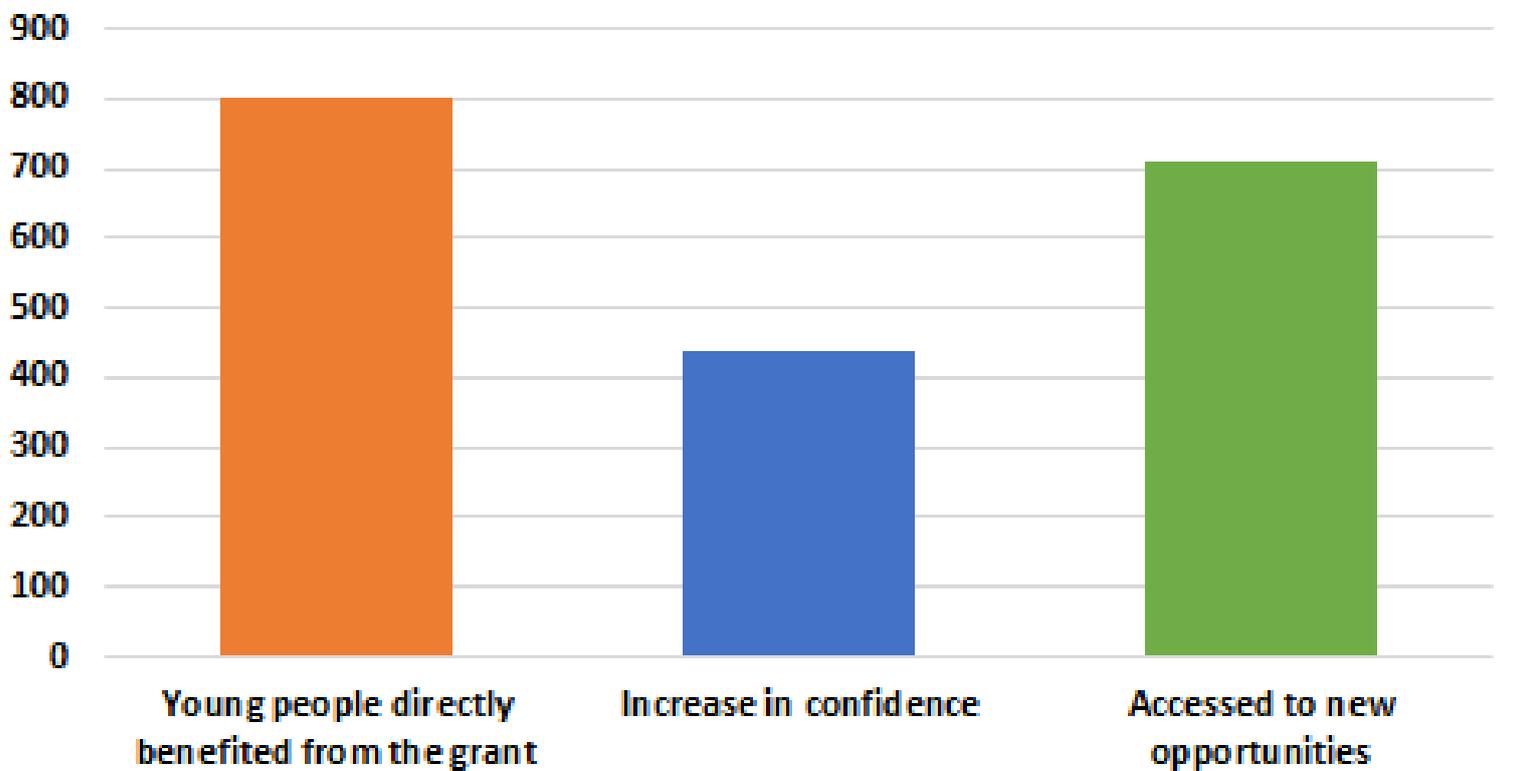


"I learnt how to build Lego properly because people were helping me. I also learnt how to paint pottery and really enjoyed it" Child

OUTCOMES

89% accessed a new activity

Over 50% experienced improved confidence



Case Studies

Case study 1- WAC ARTS

The background

Wac Arts provided 40 engagement opportunities for participants in the form of: improvisational drama workshops, music technology workshops and drama masterclasses.

Impact

Through engagement in this project, young people were able to improve their mental health, resilience and wellbeing in tandem with the development of new friendships and gaining new skills.

Online workshops were of significant importance for those with no other peer interaction and stimulation. This provided some relative continuity in a time of great disruption. This can be shown through the example of 'T', who suffers from anxiety. 'T' was often in attendance at Wac activities and although 'T' would seldom talk, it provided the necessary opportunity for 'T' to see friends and tutors. Coming out of lockdown and leaving the house for the first time in 6 months, 'T' was able to find comfort in returning to a group of peers that 'T' trusted and a calming atmosphere. This example demonstrates the relevance that the grant had, as the provision of online classes allowed 'T' to feel a sense of normality, which helped to ease 'T's anxiety and allow 'T' to bridge the gap of returning into daily life.



Case study 2- Bloomsbury Football

The background

Young person aged 13 attended Bloomsbury Football's Girls Summer Camp. She lives with her three siblings and single mother in a Camden. Throughout lockdown she had no access to the internet or school materials.

Impact

Football provided a respite for her to release her pent-up energy and improve her physical and mental wellbeing. She stated that her favorite part of the week was the football sessions and that she always anticipated them. She was 'over the moon' to receive a free Bloomsbury football kit and the opportunity to be involved in upcoming girls programmes.

"I've always been interested in football, but I could never find an affordable, dedicated girls' session – finally having the opportunity to play regular sport has really helped me get through the COVID crisis so far." (Young Person Aged 13)



YOUNG CAMDEN FOUNDATION

www.youngcamdenfoundation.org.uk

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