

YOUNG CAMDEN FOUNDATION

Summer Opportunities Fund 2021



**YOUNG
CAMDEN
FOUNDATION**

Introduction



£160K

invested in Summer Opportunities Fund

48

projects were supported

3,436

children and young people benefited in Camden

Young Camden Foundation believes that play, organised and free play, has an important positive impact on children's development. Play helps children and young people make sense of the world they live in and helps them explore and learn about likes, dislikes and learn about social interaction. Play is a great way to start and build relationships with other children, siblings, parents, and play workers.

The unfortunate health emergency of 2020 & 2021 brought huge deprivation of free play outdoors and in groups. The situation strongly emphasized the importance of play on children and young people's mental health, development and enjoyment of life.

Young Camden Foundation has been supporting the children and youth sector to expand and create play opportunities for children and young people in Camden since 2018.

YCF has invested over £160,000 in the Summer Opportunities Fund since its conception back in 2019, supporting 48 projects/organisations and benefiting a total of 3,436 children and young people in Camden.

This has only been possible due to the generous donations from: Shaftesbury, The general public through The Big Give (Childhood Trust), and John Lyon's Charity.

About the grant

Summer Opportunities Fund (SOF) provides children and young people with access to educational and fun activities during the school holidays. Designed in response to the growing concern about anti-social behaviour and youth safety, SOF invests in positive and inclusive activities, with a particular focus on disengaged, disadvantaged children & young people aged 5 to 18 years (up to 25 with special learning needs).[1]

Residential, street dance classes, business-enterprise training, drama-based workshops and more.

These programmes have contributed to better outcomes for young people and reduction of anti-social behavior.



[1] Investment in youth provision across London has either stagnated or been significantly reduced since 2010. This coupled with the increase in demand for services including, mental health, homelessness and youth offending has meant that now more than ever children & young people need to have access to positive activities during school holidays. Local challenges include, high levels of child poverty (4th highest in London), increases in serious youth violence and loss of investment youth activities.

SOF indicators of success

1,087

children and young people
benefitting



OVER £36K

invested



16

projects funded



In **2021** YCF invested over **£36,000** to support **16 projects** in Camden benefitting over **1,087** children and youth. The projects varied from taking children to Hampstead Heath to cycling through the forest and climbing. One of the children's feedback was,

"I FELT THAT, FOR THE FIRST TIME, I WAS ON HOLIDAY"

This sentiment is what drives YCF to continue to support the children and youth sector to provide opportunities for young people and children to have fun, enjoy themselves in a safe environment during the six weeks of summer.



Children and young people
will have increased
confidence



Children and young people
will have access to new
activities and/or opportunities



Organisations will have
worked in partnership to
deliver their activities

About the projects

Scene and heard ran an exciting project where over 2 days 12 young people developed their writing, communication and acting skills through playwriting. The young people performed the play they had written at the end of the project.



PACE worked with young people excluded from education or at risk of this. They provided physical activities (rock climbing, canoeing, cycling), team building challenges, cultural trips and healthy eating/food security classes.



KTCC took young people on outdoor adventure trips (bike riding in Epping Forest, Go Ape high ropes, Southend Adventure Island).

By organising these trips young people affected by the pandemic have had the opportunity to have fun with their peers and increase the confidence.



About the projects



KCBNA ran a variety of activities and trips including: go carting, family trip to sea side, young women's group, first aid and employability training.

Metrobox London ran two boxing sessions a week, encouraging young people to take part in boxing as a positive engagement activity. Their work also promotes positive relationships between young people and the police.



Somers Town Community Centre's project provided fun and engaging activities to reintroduce young people into the youth program cooking sessions, tournaments, exercise sessions and sports activities. Outings and trips such as: go karting, Thorpe park, & canoeing..

About the projects

Regents Part Time

Bank project organised trips (London Zoo, Regents Park, Kew Gardens, Hampstead Heath), immersive and imaginative play days in partnership with the Royal Parks and hosted an end of Summer party.



Head Held High delivered "Stand up for yourself" a comedy workshop for young people to help them alleviate anxiety and loneliness, build confidence and communication skills. The workshop ran over 5 days ending in the young people showcasing their new skills in a live 3 to 5 minute stand up comedy set.



Heath Hands offered young people the chance to explore the nature and wildlife around Hampstead Heath's green spaces. Young people reported they felt an increase in confidence and were happy to of taken part in an activity they had never done before.



About the projects



Sidings Community Centre ran a project providing food parcels and fun activities for young people from low income families. This activity was complementary to delivering the Holiday, Activities and Food programme for children on free school meals. This project increased access to those families who needed it the most.

Maiden Lane Community Centre offered one trip a week for young people from Maiden Lane and Canteloves they went to: Gullivers World, Thorpe Park, Woburn Safari Park, Legoland Windsor and a seaside trip to Margate.



Fitzrovia Youth in Action involved youth volunteers to deliver a street party. Young people spent 6 weeks planning the event which brought together residents, businesses and community organisations. The young people developed their personal skills and felt empowered.



About the projects

Hampstead Community Centre provided water sports activities (kayaking, canoeing, bell boating) with qualified coaches at Phoenix Outdoors Centre. They also worked in partnership with Camden's Children Services to identify SEND young people who would benefit.



The Thanet Youth and Community Centre ran a 4 week summer activity programme 20 sessions of 6 hours each. Provided a range of fun, educational, environmental and sporting activities, as well as a healthy lunch each session.



New Diorama planned a tour of a new interactive theatre production, "EVERYTHING HAS CHANGED", aimed at young people aged 7 – 11 to around community spaces Camden. The show was followed by a 30 mins movement and art workshop for young people and their families.



About the projects



Urban Outdoors project provided forest school activities to young people activities included: fire-lighting, cooking on campfires, rope-work/shelter building, weaving, green woodwork, felting and other nature based crafts; activities that appeal to the sensory and physical connection to nature and the environment.

With the support of:



JOHN LYON'S CHARITY

Shaftesbury

theBigGive

 **The Childhood Trust**
Alleviating the impact of child poverty

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