

Young Camden Foundation

2023 Year in Review

In 2023, YCF has distributed over £1.1m to Camden's children and youth sector, supporting programmes reaching over 12,500 children and young people in 2023 alone, many of whom are in receipt of Free School Meals. I am also very proud of our team for delivering over a dozen trainings and events for member organisations, engaging over 70 unique voluntary and community member organisations. This year also saw our team starting new projects, including our Young Ambassadors programme funded by Land Securities, and our Level Up Youth Worker forum, funded by London Funders, and delivered together with Young Westminster Foundation.

2023 saw lots of opportunities, but also significant continued challenge for the children and youth sector, which is responding to ever growing needs of children and young people, with fewer funding opportunities and resources. This need is demonstrated by lots of indicators, including the fact that over 1 in 4 children and young people in Camden currently live in poverty

in unequal communities, and the fact that the number of FSM eligible children and young people in the borough (currently just short of 8,000) is expected to grow next year.

YCF is committed to addressing the needs of the sector and of the children and young people supported in every way we can, and this year has been bigger and better than ever. As a small team of just 7 members of staff, including myself, these are significant achievements. The report below provides a flavour of our work this year, and we will be publishing a full report in the early new year. You can also view our [financial annual report for the 22/23 financial year here](#).



Figure 1 - YCF team as of December 2023. From left to right: Sam Speer (Partnership Development & Grants Manager), Daisy Srblin (CEO), Shannon Roncari (Operations Administration Apprentice), Grace Maric (HAF Administrator), Sophie Kruger (HAF Project Manager), Ellie Lewis (Membership & Communications Manager), Alev Omer (Membership & Events Assistant)

Representing the Children and Youth Sector across Camden

This year, our team has continued to work closely with Camden Council, to represent the children and youth sector every step of the way. This has included working with Camden's Integrated Youth Team to ensure the voluntary sector continues to be supported, representing YCF and members at community events to ensure the voices and experiences of young people during the cost of living crisis are not forgotten, and co-organising the National Youth Work Week at Camden Town Hall, to continue to give voice to voluntary sector youth interventions.



Figure 2 - YCF team with the 23/24 Mayor of Camden, and YCF members HvH Arts and Camden United FC

We have also worked closely with Camden's Youth Council to ensure that the views and experiences of young people are embedded in our work.

We were also so [proud to be chosen](#) to be the incoming Mayor of Camden's Charity of the Year, in May, for the 2023/24 year of Mayor Councillor Nazma Rahman.



Figure 3 - Building Equal Foundations event, organised by the Equalities team at Camden Council, at the Greenwood Centre, February 2023



The Young Ambassadors Programme

In mid-2023, we launched our flagship Young Ambassadors programme, working with 12 young Camden residents each year, aged 16-25, with the overall aim of helping to contribute to a more equal and socially mobile borough. Young participants are supported to develop employability skills, and also participate in shaping YCF's work, including through attending our grants panels and informing our work. This work is generously funded by our corporate supporters, Landsec.

Membership Engagement

As of December 2023, YCF has 186 members, and a significant part of our work is engaging our members. In 2023, our events for members have included specialist trainings, including a media and communications workshop (with local experts including the Camden New Journal in attendance), Autism Spectrum and SEND awareness training for youth and play workers (with local experts Asperger London Area Group), our Black History Month celebration (featuring an expert panel discussing black leadership in Camden's youth sector), and our first leadership



Figure 4 - The first meeting of YCF's Young Ambassadors programme, at Swiss Cottage Library, September 2023

forum for Directors and CEOs of local Camden charities and CICs working with children and young people across the borough.



Figure 5 - Moses, aged 15, from YCF member organisation The Apex Project, delivers a spoken word performance at YCF's Black History Month celebration, October 2023

people valued
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by FRANKIE LISTER-FELL

BLACK leaders from Camden's youth organisations met last week to call for more 'safe, racially literate spaces for black people'.

Organised by the Young Camden Foundation (YCF), youth workers joined a panel discussion at Creators House, a project which was set up by Batauala Alexander and his wife. Creators House offers free studio spaces, mentoring and therapy for 18 to 25-year-olds. Speakers reflected on the lack of places for young people to hang out in. Jo McMillan, Youth Work Coordinator at Sidings Community Centre, said: "If you go to Harrow in the late evenings the bus station is the youth club; that is the hangout because there isn't a Pavilion that's actually



Troy Norbert, Greg Tello, Jo McMillan, Batauala Alexander and Ellie Lewis

because there's a cinema up there that no one can afford. People don't want to build spaces for young people because they think there will be trouble. But if you create that space there won't actually be trouble because they'll be doing something productive." Mr Alexander told the audience: "There's a lack of spaces for young people to go and the more we looked into it the more we look specifically into the creative industry – and we saw the numbers kind of crumble for because it's just natural. "Our response was no, let's create something so high end that when they go into that space, they value what we're giving them. We're telling you subconsciously this is the value we put on you. We've been open for a year and a half. Nothing's ever got stolen." Troy Norbert from the Ignite Trust added: "We need more safe, healing, and racially literate spaces for black people to come together to share ideas and

Figure 6 - YCF's Black History Month Celebration featured in the Camden New Journal, discussing black leadership in the youth sector, October 2023



Figure 8 - Packed press and communications workshop for YCF members, March 2023



Figure 10 - YCF members at our LGBTQ+ youth awareness training, June 2023



Figure 7 - YCF and Camden Giving grant writing masterclass for members, November 2023



Figure 9 - YCF members are our first Level Up Youth Work network event this year



Corporate Engagement

YCF's [new strategy](#) focuses significantly on engaging corporate and business partners, to make the case for investing and working with the children and youth sector in Camden, and future generations in our borough.

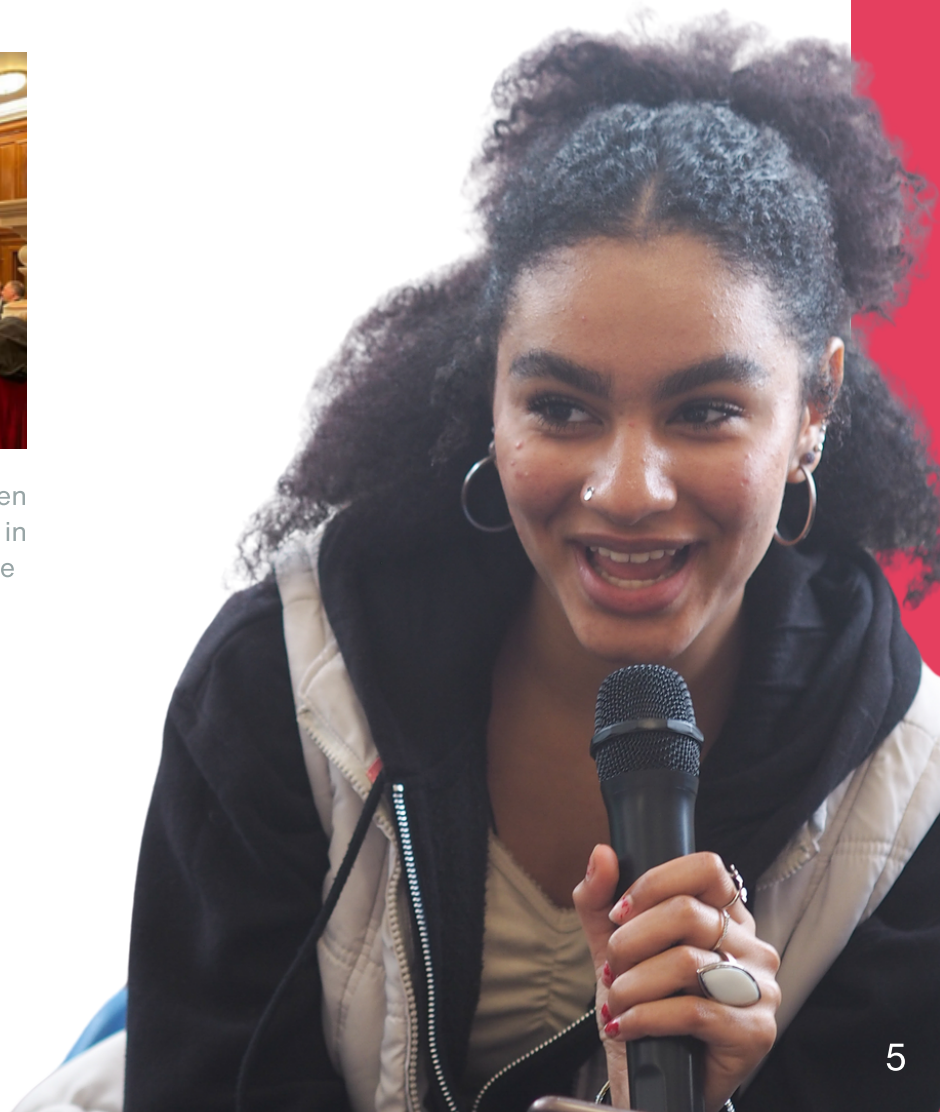
This year we saw the launch of our Business Partnership Programme, which counts 13 in number, with a [network newsletter](#) and ample opportunities for our corporate neighbours to get engaged with the work of our member organisations, to help support Camden's children and young people.



Figure 11 - A YCF business breakfast at Camden Town Hall for corporate neighbours interested in supporting Camden's children and young people

To this end, YCF launched our quarter business partner breakfast at Camden Town Hall this year, to bring together Camden neighbours who share our commitment to investing and supporting the borough's children and young people, as well as our incredible member organisations who support them.

To find out more about YCF's Business Partnership programme, and to get involved, contact sam@youngcamdenfoundation.org.uk.



The Camden Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Since 2021, Young Camden Foundation has been fortunate enough to be Camden Council's chosen delivery partner for this national programme, funded by the Department for Education. The programme provides nutritional food and enrichment activities to Free School Meal eligible children and young people across the three main holidays each year: Easter, Summer and Winter. You can read our comprehensive report on the HAF programme in 2022 [here](#) and watch our promotional 2023 video [here](#).

By the end of 2023, the HAF programme will have distributed over £860,000 to the local community and youth sector as part of the programme, providing places for well over 5,000 children and young people as part of the



Figure 12 - YCF team with Debbi Clark, founder and CEO of HvH Arts, at DfE HAF Awards, May 2023

programme, and supporting over 20% of all Free School Meal eligible children and young people in the borough (estimates based on provisional Winter 23/24 figures).

We were also especially proud this year that a YCF member organisation and HAF provider in Camden, HvH Arts secured a national Department for Education award for exceptional delivery. We were also very proud that Camden's HAF programme secured an additional £100,000 of funding from Camden Council's Family Crisis Fund, in recognition of growing need amongst Free School Meal eligible children and young people's families, as a result of the cost-of-living crisis.



Figure 13 - Susan Acland-Hood, Permanent Secretary of the Department for Education, featured in YCF's Summer HAF video



Figure 14 - Children and young people at ZSL London Zoo's Summer 2023 HAF programme



Figure 15 - Children enjoying their lunch at Calthorpe Community Garden's HAF programme this Summer 2023



Figure 16 - Torriano Primary School HAF Programme, Summer 2023



Figure 17 & 18 - YCF office filled with donated toys, and YCF team photographed with boxes



Our Grants Programmes

Every year, YCF prioritises fundraising for and distributing a number of flagship grants programmes, primarily focused on supporting YCF member organisations that are based in the borough and working with Camden residents or educated children and young people, aged 0-25.

This year, YCF has funded 71 different organisations in the borough, accounting for just short of £1.1m being put into the sector. Looking at the impact of this, we estimate that almost 12,500 young people have been able to access opportunities thanks to our funding, seeing us support 11,000 hours of youth work.

We've championed community impact through six grants rounds. The Small and Mighty Fund opened doors for small and micro-organisations, ensuring they access crucial funding. Our Heads Up! Mental Health Fund echoed our commitment to wellbeing, supporting projects dedicated to young people's mental health. As seasons changed, so did our focus — from vibrant Summer Opportunities to heartwarming Winter Community Funds, we

backed activities that made holidays unforgettable for young minds. Culminating the year on a high note, our Brighter Futures Fund reached new heights, disbursing an impressive £117,000 among 5 member organisations. This historic grant, one of our largest to date, propelled projects focused on enhancing youth employability.

We proudly backed diverse projects that resonate with our commitment to community wellbeing. HvH Arts used art as a powerful medium for exploring young people's mental health. The 7th St Pancras Girl Guides orchestrated a magical experience, treating 40 girls to a private screening of the Barbie Movie in a neurodivergent-friendly space, ensuring comfort and joy. Meanwhile, IamIrish celebrated National Potato Day with a poignant project, shedding light on the profound significance of this humble vegetable for the Irish diaspora. In addition to these inspiring initiatives, we provided essential core support to grassroots organisations championing vital causes in our borough. Notably, two grants of £10,000 were instrumental in directly bolstering the impactful work of these essential members.

Below is listed each grant round from this year

Grants round	Distributed	Grantees
Winter Community Fund 2022/23	£25,522.95	11
Small & Mighty Fund	£59,841	10
Heads Up! Mental Health Fund	£27,418	10
Summer Opportunities Fund	£21,736.20	12
Brighter Futures Fund	£117,000	5
Winter Community Fund 2023	£24,782.42	12



Figure 19 - 40 young girls from 7th St Pancras Girl Guides attend a private, neurodivergent-friendly screening of the film *Barbie*



Figure 20 - Children from Belmont Hostel are taken by CARIS Families on a trip to the Children's Story Centre in Stratford



Figure 21 - Brighter Futures Fund grants panel, October 2023

With thanks to our funders this year

Our work would not be possible without the generous support of our funders, which in 23/24 include:



JOHN LYON'S CHARITY

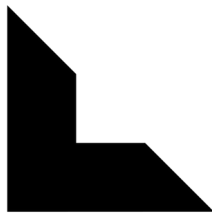


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To find out more about our work, and how you can help children and young people and the sector that supports them in our borough, please visit youngcamdenfoundation.org.uk or get in touch at info@youngcamdenfoundation.org.uk.

Compiled by Daisy Srblin, CEO
December 2023



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