**DOCUMENT 2: SPECIFICATION**

**Young Londoners Research and Engagement Programme**

1. **Context**

**Recovery mission: A New Deal for Young People**

We know that young people have been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic. During 2020 and 2021 they have endured an interrupted education, restricted social and physical activities, and now face poorer employment prospects. We know that many more young people are suffering from poorer mental health than before COVID, and that as a result many more young people are vulnerable to exploitation and violence.

Before the pandemic, City Hall was already investing in young people, for example through the £45m Young Londoners Fund, funding 300 projects that will reach 110,000 10-21 year olds by December 2022. You can read more about the Young Londoners Fund [here](https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/education-and-youth/young-londoners/mayors-young-londoners-fund/about). However, the impact of the pandemic on young people’s lives and prospects means that additional support is now needed.

The London Recovery Board, which is co-chaired by the Mayor of London and the Chair of London Councils, is committed to developing a ‘new deal’ for this generation of young people. Our mission is that by 2024, all young people in need will be entitled to a personal mentor and all young Londoners will have access to quality local youth activities. You can read more about the New Deal for Young People mission [here](https://www.london.gov.uk/coronavirus/londons-recovery-coronavirus-crisis/recovery-context/new-deal-young-people#acc-i-61493). Young Londoners are playing an integral role in developing, commissioning and evaluating the policy and programmes that sit within the New Deal for Young People mission. Alongside careful consideration of what additional support and investment is needed, policy makers and young people have been investigating how we can improve access for young Londoners to the capital’s youth offer.

As part of the mission we want young Londoners to have better access to mentoring, personal support and activities. More young Londoners, particularly those most in need, should know how to find mentoring or personal support and feel confident to continue to engage with this support once they access it.

**Young Londoners Research and Engagement Programme**

Building on the development work currently underway for the New Deal for Young People, the GLA is looking to commission a new programme that will fund and support young people, their youth or support workers and their youth organisations to investigate the question: ‘How can we help young people in need of support who don’t access youth activities to take up London’s youth offer?’

The Young Londoners Research and Engagement Programme will empower young people to research this question and develop and trial innovative youth-led approaches to engaging young people that do not currently access youth activities, mentoring or personalised support. The research findings and evaluations of the pilot projects will shape how knowledge of the support available to young people can be effectively shared.

**Participatory Learning and Action**

The GLA is interested in building on the youth participation work currently taking place across City Hall by investing in a programme that uses a participatory learning and action approach. At the heart of this approach are ‘processes of critical reflection, analysis and collective action by local people’[[1]](#footnote-1).

Participatory Action Research or ‘PAR’ is a methodology that supports this approach. It ‘involves researchers and participants working together to understand a problematic situation and change it for the better.’[[2]](#footnote-2)

‘PAR focuses on social change that promotes democracy and challenges inequality; is context-specific, often targeted on the needs of a particular group; is an iterative cycle of research, action and reflection; and often seeks to ‘liberate’ participants to have a greater awareness of their situation in order to take action.’[[3]](#footnote-3)

The GLA is looking to fund a programme that will use PAR methodologies to support young people to take action within their community by identifying peers not engaging in youth activities, particularly mentoring and personalised support, and helping them to engage.

1. **Brief**

Deliver a grant-giving, training and support programme that enables small groups of young people, supported by a youth worker and youth organisation, to:

1. investigate how we can help young people in need of support who don’t access youth activities to take up London’s youth offer and
2. develop and trial innovative youth-led approaches to tackling this issue.

The programme should use a participatory learning and action approach, providing the guidance and tools young people need to carry out Participatory Action Research projects.

Young researchers will be:

* Londoners aged 14-25
* from a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences

The programme will support the young researchers to take action within their community, for example by:

* **identifying** young people in need that could benefit from youth activities and are not currently accessing them
* **researching** how these young people can best be supported to engage with youth activities, and what kind of activities they are interested in
* **trying out** activities that engage young people who are not accessing mentoring, personalised support or other youth activities
* **reflecting** **and analysing** how effective the approach was and how it could be adapted or developed
* **making recommendations** about future approaches and activities that could be used

We are particularly interested in research projects that are conducting research related to young people from the following groups:

young people

* from lower income families
* with SEND
* with poor mental health
* who have been excluded from school or socially
* who are homeless young people
* who are young refugees and / or asylum seekers
* experiencing or affected by domestic violence and abuse
* from the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community
* with no recourse to public funds

We are particularly interested in supporting young researchers from youth organisations that carry out personalised support or mentoring.

1. **Aims**
2. To provide grants of between £6,000 and £8,000 that enable young people supported by a youth worker and youth organisation to develop and deliver 8-12 PAR projects.
3. To provide a comprehensive training and support programme that equips young people aged 14-25 with the skills to develop and deliver PAR projects. This could include workshops, masterclasses and coaching/mentoring sessions and be delivered online and/or in-person. Young people may gain accreditation – e.g. a leadership skills qualification.
4. To support young researchers to achieve one or more outcomes from the MOPAC youth outcomes framework found [here](https://project-oracle.com/uploads/files/MOPAC_Outcomes_Framework.pdf), e.g. improved self-esteem / peer relationships / mental health and wellbeing.
5. To evaluate the PAR projects, producing materials that present analysis of their impact and draw together recommendations in compelling formats to influence policy makers. These could include an evaluation report/s, slide deck, case studies, a film, a series of events, and a set of social media assets.
6. To offer short-term progression support, signposting young people exiting the programme to further opportunities that will enhance their professional and personal development.
7. **Resources**

Please see below links to reports about similar youth-led research projects that may be a useful reference point:

* **‘Involving Young Londoners: A Review of Participatory Approaches in the Youth Sector’, Partnership for Young London, 2020**

A review of how a range of youth organisations are navigating their own participatory approach with young people; from funding, to recruitment, to the impact they have seen.

<https://3532bf5a-d879-4481-8c8f-127da8c44deb.usrfiles.com/ugd/3532bf_7bb71c480285441e8ae1c7fdd3bb814e.pdf>

* **‘A Guide to Actively Involving Young People in Research’, Patricia Kirby, Involve Support Unit, 2004**

A guide about why and how to actively involve young people (aged 12 to 21 years) as researchers within health and social care research, aimed at researchers, research commissioners and managers. <https://www.invo.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/InvolvingYoungPeople2004.pdf>

* **Youth Researching Youth: The Triumph and Success Peer Research Project, Alan France, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, December 2000**

This sets out the key principles and methods used and highlights some of the difficulties and challenges faced in implementing a youth-centred peer education project. <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/youth-researching-youth-triumph-and-success-peer-research-project>

* **Youth-Led Participatory Action Research Hub, University of California, Berkeley Graduate School of Education**

A website bringing together ‘YPAR’ resources for use by practitioners and young researchers**.**

<http://yparhub.berkeley.edu/>

* **‘This is Harrow’ Youth Survey, Harrow Council and the Young Harrow Foundation, June 2018**

A survey taking in the views of 4,358 young people (around 15% of the Harrow 10 –19 population) alongside young people’s focus groups and an analysis of borough-level data. <https://youngharrowfoundation.org/images/downloads/ypfWebsite/This-is-Harrow-Report-Final-Low-Res_190613_133641.pdf>

* **‘Hear by Right’ – National Youth Agency**

An organisational development tool which describes best practice in youth participation, supporting organisations to plan, develop and evaluate their participation practices and provision.

<https://nya.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Hear-by-Right-.pdf>

**5. Programme delivery**

It is anticipated that the programme will be delivered by an umbrella youth / VCS organisation with expertise in training and supporting young people to complete social action or research projects, and that they will be supported by an organisation or team with research and evaluation expertise.

1. **Umbrella youth / VCS organisation**

**Role: Manage programme and deliver training and support**

The umbrella youth / VCS organisation will need to work with young researchers, youth workers and youth organisations across London, and will be responsible for the overall management of the programme, including:

* Inviting and assessing applications for grants
* Distributing grants
* Organising sharing events
* Delivering the training and support programme for the young researchers
* Liaising with the GLA.
* Overseeing the work of the evaluation team or organisation

We would like this lead provider to offer a comprehensive programme of training and support that will equip young researchers and, where needed, those supporting them, to develop and deliver PAR projects. This programme could be delivered online, in person or via blended methods and could include:

* Workshops – e.g. in project management, budgeting, engaging young people, event management etc.
* Masterclasses delivered by specialists or peers with experience
* Coaching/mentoring/ personalised support sessions
* Accreditation e.g. [L1 OCN Award in Developing Leadership Skills (8GLH)](file:///%5C%5CDC1-FILE02%5CY%26V%24%5CProjects%5CYoung%20Londoners%20Fund%5CYouth%20Participation%5CPeer%20Research%20and%20Engagement%20Project%5CInvitation%20to%20tender%5COCN%20Level%202%20accredited%20Young%20Ambassadors%20Award)
* Peer network sessions / an online peer network forum
* A showcase or celebration event/s

Young people should be involved in defining what support is needed and how and where that support will be delivered.

1. **Research and evaluation team / organisation**

**ROLE: Provide PAR training, expertise and evaluation**

The organisation or team with research and evaluation expertise will be responsible for supporting the young researchers to gather information using PAR methods, and for sharing their findings. Their support could include:

* PAR methodology training for young people and where needed youth workers
* PAR planning resources for the young researchers
* Collation and analysis of data
* Impact measurement for the Young Londoners Research and Engagement Programme
* Production of evaluation materials that present analysis of the impact of the PAR projects and wider programme and draw together recommendations in compelling formats to influence policy makers. These could include an evaluation report/s, slide deck, case studies, a film, a series of events, and a set of social media assets.
1. **Young researcher teams**

**ROLE: Deliver PAR projects**

It is expected that there will be 8-10 teams of young researchers who will be Londoners aged 14-25 from a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences. They are likely to be already affiliated to a youth group, perhaps taking a leadership role on a youth advisory board, via peer mentoring, or working as a trainee youth worker. Young researcher teams will have around 5 members and be supported by an experienced youth or support worker from the youth organisation they are affiliated with. Young researchers should be appropriately compensated for their work from the grant they receive, e.g. in line with the [London Living Wage](https://www.livingwage.org.uk/calculation), or via a voucher scheme.

We are particularly interested in research projects that are conducting research related to young people from the following groups:

young people

* from lower income families
* with SEND
* with poor mental health
* who have been excluded from school or socially
* who are homeless young people
* who are young refugees and / or asylum seekers
* experiencing or affected by domestic violence and abuse
* from the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community
* with no recourse to public funds
1. **Youth / support workers**

**ROLE: Support young researcher teams**

Each young researcher team will need to be supported by a youth or support worker from the organisation they are affiliated with. This individual could provide support including:

* Setting up and facilitating meetings for the young researchers
* Managing the budget in collaboration with the young researchers
* Advising on where to find information / how to engage other young people
* Advising on the ‘action’ young researchers intend to take and supporting them to deliver this – e.g. organising an event within the community / holding activities targeted at particular groups of young people / running a local marketing campaign.
1. **Youth organisation**

**ROLE: Overseeing finance and hosting the young researchers**

Each young researcher team and the youth or support worker helping them will need to be affiliated to a youth organisation that will be responsible for:

* Receiving and administrating the PAR project grant
* Managing the budget in collaboration with the young researchers
* Providing a venue for the young researcher teams
* Advising on the ‘action’ young researchers intend to take and supporting them to deliver this – e.g. organising an event within the community / holding activities targeted at particular groups of young people / running a local marketing campaign.

The youth organisation will be compensated for their input from the grant received.

There should be one youth organisation per group of young researchers, rather than multiple groups of young researchers coming from the same organisation.

We are particularly interested in supporting young researchers from youth organisations that carry out personalised support or mentoring.

**E)** Organisation at which youth / support worker is based

One per team of youth researchers

Provides venue

Receives contribution payment through grant

**C)** 8-12 teams of young researchers

14-25 years

Small teams for focus

Paid / rewarded, e.g. [London Living Wage](https://www.livingwage.org.uk/calculation)

**D)** Youth / support worker supports each team of youth researchers

Takes a facilitation role

Time paid through grant

**6. Proposed programme structure**

**7. Programme timeframe**

The 18 month (1.5 year) programme should be delivered between September 2021 and March 2023. A rough schedule is provided below. Please note there may be some changes to this:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| September 2021 | Programme commencesMarketing of opportunityRolling application assessment begins |
| October 2021  | Training programme begins PAR project delivery begins Monthly / Bi-monthly online update meetings with GLA commence |
| November 2021 | Marketing of the grant opportunity as part of the GLA’s Youth Work Week events |
| January 2022 | **Quarterly progress update due** (re. period Oct-Dec 2021) |
| c. February 2022 | **Sharing Event 1** – initial findings from some PAR projects shared |
| April 2022 | **Quarterly progress update due** (re. period Jan-Mar 2022) |
| c. August 2022 | Interim evaluation report / materials shared**Sharing Event 2** |
| July 2022 | **Quarterly progress update** **due** (re. period April-June 2022) |
| October 2022 | **Quarterly progress update due** (re. period July-Sept 2022) |
| November 2022 | Rolling application window closes.**Sharing Event 3** – as part of the GLA’s Youth Work Week events |
| January 2022 | **Quarterly progress update due** (re. period Oct-Dec 2022) |
| c. February 2023 | **Sharing Event 4**  |
| Jan – March 2023 | Final PAR projects are delivered and conclude |
| April 2023 | **Quarterly progress update due** (re. period Jan-Mar 2023)Final evaluation report / materials shared. |

**8. Budget**

The maximum budget available for this programme is £120,000. It is expected that 30-45% of the overall budget will be used for the management of the programme and support provided and that 55-70% of the budget will be reserved for the grants.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organisation** | **Service** | **Cost** |
| Umbrella youth / VCS organisation (A) | Management and training and support programme | c. £36,000-£54,000 |
| Research and evaluation organisation / team (B) | PAR training and resources and evaluation |
| Young researchers (C) | Delivery of PAR projects | c. £66,000- £84,0008-12 x grants of £6,000-£8,000  |
| Youth / support workers (D) | Supporting young researchers |
| Youth organisations (E) | Administrating the PAR project grant and hosting PAR projects |
| **TOTAL** |  | **£120,000 maximum** |

**9. Young people’s engagement and participation**

'Through the action of young Londoners comes real change. We aspire to inspire.’

Peer Outreach Team slogan

The Greater London Authority is proud to work alongside a number of groups of inspiring young people whose role is to help shape the Mayor’s policies and inform the Authority’s work. These groups include:

* The Peer Outreach Team - 30 young Londoners aged 15 to 25 years from diverse backgrounds and life experiences. They are commissioned by the Mayor to engage, inspire and gather the opinions of other young people in the capital. Find out more about the Peer Outreach Team [here](https://www.london.gov.uk/peer-outreach-workers).
* London’s Violence Reduction Unit Youth Action Group - The ten 15 to 21 year old members of the Action Group are responsible for contributing to the Unit’s work on violence prevention. Find out more about the group [here](https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/violence-reduction-unit-vru/it-starts-us-young-londoners-taking-stand-against-violence).
* The London Youth Assembly - The London Youth Assembly (LYA) is a body formed to bring together representatives from different youth forums across London to create positive change for young people. Find out more about the Assembly [here](https://www.london.gov.uk/about-us/london-assembly/london-assembly-publications/london-youth-assembly).

This invitation to tender has been developed in consultation with young people from the Mayor’s Peer Outreach Team. Young people from the Team will be involved in assessing the applications submitted and monitoring the work of the provider.

We are looking for a provider that:

* Has experience of supporting young people to carry out research or social action projects
* Is willing to work closely with Young Londoners Fund grant holders and other London youth organisations to engage young people from their projects
* Will reach out to young people from a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences, demonstrating an inclusive approach
* Will consider how to incentivise and recognise the work of the young researchers (e.g. payment at London living wage, vouchers, accreditation, research credit acknowledgement, social media assets etc.) and the young participants taking part in the research (e.g. vouchers).
* Will consider how the research findings could be shared with other young leaders / influencers, youth organisations, youth commissioners and youth policy makers (e.g. promoting via a series of events, or a social media campaign).
* Will consider how social media could be used to encourage young people to engage and to promote their work
* Will consider how young people’s achievements could be recognised externally.
1. **Covid-19 secure delivery**
* The provider must ensure that the activities delivered meet the National Youth Agency’s guidance on managing youth sector activities and spaces during Covid-19 – relevant at the time of delivery – guidance published [here](https://nya.org.uk/guidance/). Additional tools and resources to support this guidance can be found [here](https://youthworksupport.co.uk/).
* As there may be changes to Covid-19 related restrictions during the project’s lifetime, we would welcome a programme design that supports blended and flexible delivery models, making use of both online and Covid-19 secure in-person sessions.
* We encourage providers to put in place a contingency plan for delivery in the event that in-person sessions have to be suspended during the programme’s lifetime.
* We encourage providers to consider how young people that may not have access to digital devices can engage in the programme – we would be open to funding being used for the hire of equipment to facilitate this.
1. Institute of Development Studies, *Participatory Methods* [website] , <https://www.participatorymethods.org/task/learn-and-empower> , (accessed 9 April 2021). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Institute of Development Studies, *Participatory Methods* [website] , <https://www.participatorymethods.org/glossary/participatory-action-research> , (accessed 9 April 2021). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Ibid. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)