

Event Report



A discussion between young people and funders
to explore solutions to youth violence in London

Wednesday 21 November
Wallacespace St Pancras

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Executive Summary

A discussion between young people and funders, 21 November 2018, Wallaspace St Pancras

Who was there?

- **17 Young People** from MAC-UK, Rerezent Radio, LEAP Confronting Conflict, Fight for Peace, Lives Not Knives, Project Future, Street Doctors and Project 10/10, and Karl Lokko. Half had attended previous meetings in Nov 17/Feb 18/Jun 18.
- **7 Funders** from Big Lottery Fund, Children in Need, London Community Foundation, City Bridge Trust, Mercers, Battersea Power Station Foundation and London Funders.
- **Facilitators** twenty%extra and co-facilitators from MAC-UK.
- **The Royal Foundation.**

What were the aims?

- Allow funders to hear directly from young people and encourage collaboration/co-creation as best practice.
- Summarise issues brought up by young people at previous meetings under 3 major headings: schools, careers and mentoring.
- Initiate ongoing dialogue between young people and funders.
- Explore and begin to co-create solutions to youth violence in London.

Executive Summary

Agenda:

- Young people convened an hour before the meeting to summarise issues highlighted in previous sessions.
- Breakout session – 3 groups with YP and funders, to discuss schools, careers and mentoring and the ways funders can help.
- Summary from breakouts.
- Closing remarks from young people, funders and The DoS.

Closing remarks from Jamel on behalf of the young people:

- Group/s to stay in touch and meet monthly.
- Young people invited to a meeting of London Funders on 12th December.
- Produce a newsletter every 3 months.
- Can funders stay in touch with young people and find ways to involve them in how funding is spent?

Thoughts from The Royal Foundation:

- Are there other meetings, similar to this one, taking place in London? Could we join them all up to create a long-term strategy that looks at the root causes and early intervention?
- How can we improve relations with the Police?
- Knife crime is a symptom of a greater cause. More work needs to be done on the link between trauma and youth violence and raising awareness of this.
- There is potential for a young ambassadors' movement to go back into communities. How can we spread the word and create a youth-led movement? How can you be the voice in your own community?
- It could be useful to have a poll of all the boroughs in London to show what the problems and existing solutions are.
- Funders are trying to bring positive change but still have to convince their boards.
- The media has to play its part – we need to see positive stories instead of scare tactics and negativity about young people.

Headlines from Breakout Groups

Each group was made up of funders and young people

	Schools	Mentoring	Careers
Key Issues & Ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relatable teachers can have positive influence. Should a proportion be from the local area? • Positive interactions can go a long way – even from the police. People in positions of authority need to be able to relate and interact with YP. • Positive role models should come into schools to give positive messages (e.g. Akala). • Mentors needed + examples of success. • Why is school like jail? • “There’s a shift in the needs of YP that is not being met by schools”. Care and love is missing. • Need support for parents of at risk children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need mentors from same background / life experiences. From the community. • Support must be immediate and long-term (continuing after school/term time). • Mentors need support and training too. Redefine “mentor”. • We need them earlier on – in schools, not just PRUs. • We need mentors from diverse careers/skill backgrounds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better careers advice and work experience needed in schools (& ongoing). • Pay gap: lower wage = lower respect. Pressure to chase money, not dreams. • Skill-based spaces act as youth clubs without the title (e.g. Rerezent). • Peer to peer career advice alongside people from other backgrounds – e.g. tech. • Building connections: community meetings / festivals with YP involved in decision-making. • Positive careers need positive press – not negative comments about YP.
Implications for funders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why is it difficult for organisations to gain access to schools? Joint funding needed between delivery organisations and schools. • Funding for schools to have requirement for the personal development of YP (not just within set curriculum). We need things that empower YP: expression, creativity. • Teaching about emotion management, wellbeing and improving emotional intelligence – are workshops the best format for this? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding should go to trusted organisations who work locally, not people from outside the community (as it takes time to build trust). • Organisations who are trusted by young people should be prioritised. • Funding must be long-term – it takes time to achieve impact. • Funders need to ask the right questions; there are too many tick-boxes in place of proper engagement. • Difficult to get funding: those who don’t understand the process are disadvantaged even if they are doing valuable work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial incentives for businesses to employ YP from local community. • Ensure YP are part of initiatives. “When my friend told me, I went”. • Needs to be mandatory provision, independent of school. “You need to be told that you’re good and you can do whatever you want to do.” • How to use design-thinking to build something now? • Are existing support organisations reaching the harder to reach young people? Needs an organisation to join things up.

Evaluation Summary

Attendees were asked to complete a short survey before and after the event



What went well?

- While previous sessions have focused on identifying the **problems**, this meeting was more about coming up with **solutions**. *“we have begun to reach a place where we are now discussing solutions, instead of just speaking about what the problem is. I feel more motivated.”*
- This was a **new opportunity** for most of the young people and some of the funders. Even those who had met funders/young people before had mostly done so in a consultative way or in a grant application setting, rather than a YP-centred event aimed at co-creation.
- 90% of young people felt **listened to**, funders felt **better informed** and 100% felt **encouraged to collaborate** more with YP going forwards.
- 70% of young people think that this event will **cause positive change**. *“I personally feel empowered to take action for change.”*
- 60% of funders think this event will change **the way they work with young people** *“It prompted me to think of the role funders have to nurture talent / leadership amongst young people (as opposed to consulting / listening)”*.

What could have been better?

- **Time:** a lot of people wanted more time – for future meetings we could have a longer pre-session with young people so that the second part of the meeting is for presentation of ideas and discussion of actions.
- **Action plan:** agreement on actions/next steps was important to attendees and could have been clearer. A longer pre-session would help but we will also ensure that we follow up and communicate next steps with attendees. *“I wanted to see firm plans put in place. Some deadlines and some ownership of specific actions. I don't want this just to be a continuous discussion and bouncing of idealism.”*
- **Facilitation:** some people fed back that we could have kept discussion more focused and conclusions/summary more action-oriented *“the facilitation could have been slightly more active, to encourage funders and young people to be bold in their conclusions / suggestions for solutions”*.
- **Attendees:** there was a mix of new faces and some who had attended previous meeting(s). It would be easier to have everyone at the same stage in the journey, but this is not always possible and we wanted to keep it inclusive, so more thorough preparation or a longer pre-session could help get everyone to the same start-point.

Making a difference together



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