**London Funders: Children and Young People Network**

**Wednesday 11th December, 10am-12pm**

**Venue:** The Artworks Classrooms, 60a Weston Street, London, SE1 3QJ

**Chair**: Gemma Juma

**Participants**

 James **Ross** Buzzacott

 Egle **Banelyte** Caras

 Ed **Anderton** Centre For Youth Impact

 Benjamin **Linsley** Childhood Trust

 Andy **Turner** Goldsmith's University

 Sarah **Willis** Hyde-Housing

 Gemma **Juma** Jack Petchey Foundation

 Trudy **Kilcullen** Jack Petchey Foundation

 Debbie **Howitt** John Lyon's Charity

 Karen **Millen** John Lyon's Charity

 James **Fitzpatrick** Joseph Levy Foundation

 Libby **Burkeman** Kusuma Trust

 Lee **Parker** Laureus Foundation

 Louis **Osman** London Boroughs Of Richmond And Wandsworth

 Grace **Perry** London Funders

 Geraldine **Tovey** London Funders

 Melanie **Antao** London Sport

 Kelly **Dummer** London Youth

 Sonia **Mehta** National Lottery Community Fund

 Leigh **Middleton** National Youth Agency

 Jaynar **Patel** Premier League Charitable Fund

 Emma **Hill** Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

 Annick **Metefia** Toynbee Hall

 Debra **Yardley** Young Barnet Foundation

 Rachel **Phelan** Young Ealing Foundation

 Adeela **Khan** Young Harrow Foundation

**Presentations**

Andy Turner (Lecturer and researcher in Community and Youth Work, Goldsmiths University of London)

* National and local policy drives the impact and routes into youth work.
* Youth services funding has received drastic cuts since 2010
	+ 60% cut in Treasury’s Revenue Support Grant to local authorities
	+ Increase in 2020 spending on English public services of £1.3 billion
	+ Average spend on youth services per local authority from £7.79m in 2010 to a planned expenditure of £2.45m in 2020
	+ A third of local councils plan cuts to youth services, a decline by 80% since 2010-11
* In the last decade there has been vast amounts of social change and government cuts
* April 2019 – The APPG on [‘The Role & Sufficiency of Youth Work’ report](https://nya.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/APPG-Summary-and-Recommendations-FINAL.pdf) was released which:
	+ Endorsed a clear message’ for help to address this, ‘youth work remains an important element of the support wanted and needed by young people today’ and so as having a ‘key role’ in ‘the eco-system of Services for Young People’.
	+ Youth work is ‘non-formal education that focuses on the personal and social development of participants’, achieved by ‘peer group activities and trusted relationships’.
	+ Creation of a ‘national body for youth work’ to oversee new revised statutory guidance setting ‘a minimum and protected level of youth service’ to be ‘discharged’ by an identified ‘lead role’ in each local authority.
* In May a second APPG hosted [‘Youth Services & Knife Crime: A Conversation with Young People’](https://nya.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/APPG-Youth-Work-Inquiry-Final-Report-April-2019-ONLINE.pdf)
	+ This highlighted the need to reinstate Youth Services and youth work practise based on a ‘growing link between cuts to youth services and the country’s knife crime epidemic’.

What has the funding response been?

* £195million to youth programmes, covering sport, digital and culture
* Youth employment programme to be implemented via ‘£90 million Youth Futures Fund’, allocated via social investment bonds, raised via ‘dormant bank accounts’ rather than State. Youth Endowment Fund with its £200 million Home Office allocation ‘to support programmes and communities working with children at risk of being drawn into crime and violence’

What does this mean for youth workers?

* Job conditions and security have declined, which has in turn led to a de-skilling of the workforce via a loss of qualified and experienced workers into other sectors; this has increased the administrative and service pressure on those that remain.
* This all affects the quantity and quality of youth work

Leigh Middleton (Chief Executive, National Youth Agency)

Young people deserve a productive, fulfilling future. Society needs the spark and energy of young people to make it tick. Yet somehow thousands of young people feel blocked by the complex, sometimes disheartening challenges the modern world throws at them.

Youth work (the science of enabling young people to believe in themselves and to prepare for life) has never been more important.

NYA is the national body for this vital, but under-recognised discipline. Our vision is rooted in our steadfast belief in young people and their ability to shape the world.  By championing, professionalising and enabling youth work, we strive to find better, more inventive ways to empower more young people.

Our plan then has three key elements…

* **Championing youth work in all its many forms** – incubating new approaches, celebrating its many thousands of practitioners.
* **Professionalising youth work**– training youth workers, setting occupational standards.
* **Enabling youth work** – making it happen through our networks of front line youth work providers.

Our strategy

* **Togetherness** – We collaborate with over 200 organisations in support of our mission. We lead the youth work sector together with the sector through our Education, Training and Standards Committee and National Advisory Board.
* **Bold** – We’re ambitious for young people and the youth sector and happy to take calculated risks, try new things and learn from our failures maturely.
* **Integrity** – We take being the national body for an entire profession seriously and so strive for our work and practice to be of the highest standard.
* **Make a Positive Difference** – We only exist to improve the lives of young people; through our own work with them directly or supporting the 10,000 youth workers in England.

Youth workers need to be highly skilled and trained. There is currently a lack of career pathways for people in this field, with not much development and low wages. It is unsurprising many don’t stay as youth workers for the longevity of their career.

Going forward we have given the APPG a series of recommendations to take this focus on youth work forward. It is currently at a standstill until the election results and future budgets come clear, however we are working cross-sector to get voices heard.

Q. Part of the 75% of youth workers that aren’t trained as a ‘professional’ youth worker, but are working with young people in London and communities. Is there scope that meets the needs of those volunteers / paid youth workers and is that taking part in the youth worker strategy, or is it just looking at entry of professionals?

A. So far we are still mapping, asking organisations about the youth workers they work with and what is needed. What are the routes to keep the senior professional route going so they can support/ supervise the next generation? But also need to be investing in grass roots community workers and supporting young people. There are lots of non-traditional youth services, so its finding these and offering the right levels of support.

We have asked the government for a safeguarding guidelines. But part of safeguarding will always come from experience, built awareness. It needs to be made affordable and at the right, flexible times. How do we ‘bolt on’ training to funding. i.e. £10K for project. Then add £1k on for training?

Cost is interesting when it comes to courses. We’ve seen that day courses which are free are always packed. £45 for a course and we break even, but we go up to £60 and we can’t fill the room and lose money. The youth sector has less money to spend on training and can’t afford the fees of the trainers. That is a big gap from where we need help from funders.

Egle Banelyte (Youth Work Practitioner, Caras)

Elge showed London Youth’s short film: [Youth Work in Action](https://londonyouth.org/youth-work-campaign/). Showing the relationship between youth workers and understanding why good youth work works.

* From personal experience, myself and many of the youth workers I work with, have not had professional training. We ‘fell into’ the job. Often starting as volunteers in youth clubs or ex-teachers / social workers.
* There are 80 volunteers every week in my youth club. A lot of people are getting into volunteering and then seeing what they want to do from that experience.
* Training & Professional Development can be difficult, councils have a duty to the charity sector.
	+ In Wandsworth there is safe guarding training, youth violence and mental health. Mental Health is becoming an important issue and we are seeing a lot of training happening more regular (attachment trauma etc.) but practical advice is missing i.e. county lines, CSE
	+ The time to complete training is always a challenge as it can eat into the youth workers time with the young people

Questions

Q. Why do you think there is such a swing from qualified people to non-qualified? Is it that they can’t be supported in their work and then they leave the sector?

A.

Andy - There is fluid movement, we believe that most people stay within the sector but move to other roles.

Leigh – Again we believe they may retrain to go into social work / teaching or another role still working with young people. Although many have left due to local authority redundancies.

Egle – It’s really hard work, and if you don’t have the support and training it can be too much sometimes.

**Discussions**

* GLA team looking at visualization of borough / ward level of ‘hot spots’ and cold spots. Can the GLA through LF can be pressured to share that data?
	+ GLA can’t share the data yet, but they do plan to in the future when it’s more progressed. What they are doing can be seen [here](https://londonfunders.org.uk/what-we-do/events-training/serious-youth-violence-meeting-1).
* Working pan London is difficult and takes in social issues.
* Some centres that closed, may have deserved to. There was definitely a period where lots of resourced were given, but they had lost the heart. It’s important to hold onto the primary focus, the quality of the relationship with the young people.
* Funders need to be asking ‘What are you doing for your staff? / What can we help you do for them?’
* Targeted funding and measuring impact, creates challenges they don’t have the resources to manage and can skew their work. How does a funder capture the real work? Challenge for funders
* When measuring impact, youth workers aren’t always great at demonstrating to funders what they do in the same terms that funders want to hear. We need to be smart about how we ask for impact results
* Fundamental that evaluations should be about quality of relationship and what is happening in the room. Communication / space/ reflection. The voice of the youth workers and young people need to be heard
* If funders need convincing that youth work is essential, if they don’t know that it brings back to ask who are the funders? Which in turn goes back to experience of the funders and having a diverse funding panel
* What is best for young people shouldn’t be decided by funders. Young people’s voices need to be heard and be a serious part of the discussion
* Digestible and worthwhile training needs to be found for youth workers
* In youth sector we need to build more in communities, so much duplication, value to talk to other organisations and funders to see what they are doing. The best funders are more transparent and talk to others and don’t fund a cause ‘because they want to’
* Lots of good changes have happened, but there is still more to go and more needs to come from funders

**Further Resources**

**National Youth Agency -** <https://nya.org.uk/>

APPG for Youth Affairs’, National Youth Agency - <https://nya.org.uk/appg-inquiry/>

Violence Reduction Unit Area Prioritisation Tool, GLA - <https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1O2ih7QeoShNvBFLls5uBcqkuPk80aJOwFtmQNYFCPxQ/edit#slide=id.p>