

Partnership For Young London

Working together for success Impact report 2009-10



Partnership for Young London (PYL) is London's strategic regional youth unit, working to promote, support and improve services for young people across the capital. We operate collaboratively with London boroughs, the voluntary youth sector and private organisations, along with regional government and other relevant bodies. Our remit is wide, and covers the breadth of services for young people, including information, Advice and Guidance, youth work, and the 14-19 Reform programme. You can find out more about us and our work at www.pyl.org.uk.



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“Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success.” (Henry Ford)

Partnership For Young London

Introduction

PYL is five years old this year, having been officially incorporated as a company and charity in June 2005, although its first two members of staff were in post just prior to that. Since those early days we have grown to three full-time staff, and have established our reputation as a significant feature within London's youth sector. It is not our intention to grow the centre any bigger, but to concentrate on further improving services for our members.

The last five years have seen major changes in the way services for young people are provided: Youth Matters, Aiming High; Integrated Services for Young People; Targeted Youth Support; Positive Activities; 14-19 Reforms; commissioning, and all the rest. We've seen changes to Connexions and the delivery of Information, Advice and Guidance Services; greater collaboration within the voluntary and community sector, and between sectors, too. Within all of these changes we've worked hard to help our members and partners always to offer the best possible services for the young people at the heart of all our work.

In these straitened times we face challenges alongside our members, both financial and in the sheer volume of work to undertake.



We are always glad to welcome new and returning members, and we have plans to improve still further the offer we make to our members (see The Future, page 11). We firmly believe that collaboration between organisations and between sectors is the best way forward: we can accomplish more if we share knowledge and experience and commission together, reducing duplication and achieving greater creativity. We hope you'll help us to celebrate our fifth birthday year by working alongside us to continue to improve the lives of young Londoners.

Aiming High

Communications: briefings and seminars

PYL's strength lies in its ability and willingness to bring people together from different areas of the youth sector to learn about new initiatives, share existing ways of working and develop new projects. We do this through our working groups and our seminars, both those we develop ourselves and those we undertake in partnership, for maximum benefit to the sector.

This year's highlights included seminars on

- Quality universal positive activities
- Safeguarding and the Youth Sector Workforce
- The Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Fund Co-ordinators event

as well as the five training events on behalf of Government Office for London and London Councils.

Guest speakers included representatives from DCSF, the myplace support team, the Independent Safeguarding Authority, Safe Network, Government Office for London, London Borough of Hackney, London Youth, and Substance.

We also worked with Children England and the London Development Agency to develop and host an event for VCS organisations to give them advance notice of new funding to be introduced in 2010-11 in relation to working with young people not in education, employment or training. This event explored the implications of the requirement for organisations to work in consortia to be eligible to apply to the fund, and further work will follow throughout 2010, in line with learning from the event.

On behalf of Youthforce, one of our member organisations, and other partners, we

managed and supported Women Leading the Way, a conference to allow aspiring leaders to hear the secrets of success from women who have already achieved highly, and to attend practical workshops to develop particular skills and interests.

We also co-ordinated two major London-wide events with partners, which you can read more about elsewhere in this report: the launch of the Achieving Excellence programme for the Regional Planning Group (14-19 section) and the launch of the VCS Framework for Action, with Government Office for London and others (VCS section).

If you are interested in linking with us to develop events, to utilise our experience and skills, or simply to find out about our programme of forthcoming events, please contact Lucy Sandford on 020 7332 3599 or at lucy@pyl.org.uk.

We are also asked to provide presentations at events run by others. Last year these included

- a workshop on the 19-25 Agenda at the Westminster Briefing on Integrating the UK employment and skills agenda. (The invitation to do this came in recognition of the role PYL has taken in working closely with LLUK in the region.)
- one of the keynote speeches at the national *Every LGBT Youth Matters* conference in April 09, offering challenges to both the LGBT sector and the local authorities who commission their services, to get better at communicating and co-ordinating what young people want and the services that are available
- policy briefings and workshops at members' events.

Our weekly update service for members continues to develop with improved content, including more opportunities for practitioners and young people. Its circulation list is

ever-expanding, and we are planning to introduce in 2010 a free four-week trial of the service, to encourage VCS and private organisations to take up at least associate membership as a result.

Workforce development

2009-10 was a busy year on the workforce development front. One of PYL's most significant achievements was our regional involvement in the national consortium led by FPM Training, delivering new Leadership and Management Development training programmes, funded by CWDC. These provided fully-funded training for existing and aspiring leaders and managers in statutory and voluntary sector organisations.

We also worked with the Commissioning Support Programme in London to ensure that learning resources were available to the VCS, and we promoted the development of action learning sets between statutory commissioners and VCS organisations, to improve the experience of commissioning for both parties.

We were commissioned by Government Office for London to provide support for two training events to introduce the London Common Assessment Framework Protocol to the VCS in London; and by London Councils for three events focusing on the London Quality Assurance Framework for non-statutory providers of education for 13-16 year olds, (e.g. pupil referral units). Further developments from this work will be taken forward into 2010-11.

Our Training and Workforce Development Group explored potential pieces of work on Apprenticeships, to be further developed in 2010, and membership of the group was expanded to include regular places for the Commissioning Support Programme and the National Apprenticeship Service, alongside our members from across all sectors, and LLUK.



14-19

Achieving Excellence

This major programme, overseen by the Regional Planning Group (RPG), aimed to identify and develop excellent practice in Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG). It began with a real success for PYL – delivering the launch event at the Emirates Stadium on Friday 22 May 2009. Attended by approximately 90 young people and 70 adults, representing schools from across London, it was conducted as a consultation event with young people, using both electronic voting equipment and group discussion. In all, 15 boroughs were represented on the day, exceeding our target of 10.

As a direct outcome of the event, a young people's group was established, which identified issues that affected them and their peers, and drew up a programme to gain the views of others, to be able to report back to the RPG. They also identified a baseline for a Pan London CEIAG entitlement, and successfully completed a training programme, through which they gained an understanding of a range of methods they could use to gain the views of others through practical consultation using questionnaires and facilitating focus groups.

PYL also managed the strands of work identifying the needs of parent and carers in understanding their children's CEIAG offer, and the needs of youth practitioners who are not CEIAG professionals. Both of these pieces of work revealed strong key messages about the need for greater clarity beyond the world of CEIAG about what was on offer to young people and how it could be delivered. Both groups needed much more information, especially in the light of the 14-19 reform programme, and wanted greater involvement.

Voluntary and community sector (VCS)

London Children and Young People Engage (LCYPE)

In last year's Impact Report, we were able to announce that PYL had been central to the

development of improved communications within the VCS, and had taken on the role of Chair of LCYPE, a network of VCS networks. We have built on this position to strengthen the growing links, with LCYPE meetings focusing on the pan-London CAF protocol, safeguarding and the Safe Network, and the launch of the VCS Framework for Action.

VCS Framework for Action

This document, endorsed by all three regional government bodies and other partners, identifies priorities for joint action across sectors, including improved communications; effective engagement and partnership working; representation and pan London specialist groups; innovation; quality assurance; workforce development. PYL is part of the Overview and Action Group that oversees the implementation of the Framework and uses the influence of



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its members from regional government and the VCS to identify and remove barriers to success.

Maps of influence

PYL, VCS Engage and the London Voluntary Services Council began a very necessary piece of work to identify the major boards and networks across London, in and across the statutory and voluntary sectors, and to produce a map showing where they are hosted, the general make-up of each group, and its sphere of influence. This work will be published in summer 2010.

Other activities

Consultancy

- We provided input to the Duke of Edinburgh's Award to attend their annual residential conference for London Co-ordinators, giving a presentation on current policy developments that might affect their work.
- We also undertook a piece of consultancy for Rathbone, to establish organisation charts with contact details for the ten East London boroughs, to enable Rathbone to identify and communicate with the appropriate staff to improve Rathbone's effectiveness in marketing their services.
- We administered the Women Leading the Way conference on behalf of Youthforce (see Communications section).



- We hosted and chaired a meeting of 22 London borough representatives, leading to negotiations between the London Development Agency and the boroughs concerning the delivery of the Mayor's Youth Offer funding. This role of independent broker is one that PYL is well placed to fulfil.
- On behalf of LCYPE (see VCS section) we met with representatives of the GLA to discuss the Mayor's Time for Action plan, and in particular Project Titan, which aims to develop character and responsibility in young people. We emphasised the need for young people to have a sense of their own self-esteem and future potential, supported by high quality CEIAG, to enable them to make informed choices about their lives.



Regular meetings attended by PYL 2009-10 (in alphabetical order):

- Anti-bullying Alliance
- Children's Workforce Co-ordinators group (GOL, London Councils, CWDC)
- Future of Infrastructure (NCVO)
- IYSS Advice and Challenge group (GOL)
- London Confederation of Heads of Young People's Services
- London Children and Young People Engage (chair)
- London Children and Young People's Partnership
- London Compact Group
- London Metropolitan University Curriculum advisory group
- Children England London region
- Leadership and Management programme review group (FPM Training)
- University of East London BA Youth and Community Work advisory group
- University of Greenwich BA Youth and Community Work advisory group
- University of Greenwich Every Child Matters Foundation Degree validation group
- VCS Engage London Region advisory group (Chair)

Representation

Consultations

As part of our ongoing commitment to improving services for young people in London, we contributed to the following consultations/research programmes

- Outer London Commission – GLA
- Pan-London Common Assessment Framework arrangements – London Mobility Board
- Achieving excellence – London Regional Planning Group
- Draft quality standards for Positive Activities – DCSF
- Priorities consultation – London Councils
- Youth professional status and skills development framework – CWDC

VCS Framework Overview and Action Group (GOL)

Young Londoners Fund Panel (LDA/Tribal)

Young Londoners Participation Network advisory group (London Youth)

Other networks/memberships

Children England

London Civic Forum

Network of Regional Youth Work Units – England

Rota (Race on the Agenda)

Members of Partnership for Young London in 2009-10

City of London

London Borough of Barnet

London Borough of Bexley

London Borough of Brent

London Borough of Bromley

London Borough of Camden

London Borough of Croydon

London Borough of Ealing

London Borough of Greenwich

London Borough of Hackney

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

London Borough of Harrow

London Borough of Havering

London Borough of Hillingdon

London Borough of Hounslow

London Borough of Lewisham

London Borough of Merton

London Borough of Newham

London Borough of Redbridge

London Borough of Southwark

London Borough of Sutton

London Borough of Tower Hamlets

London Borough of Wandsworth

Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames

Westminster City Council

Barnardo's (London, East and South East Region)

Catch 22

Central London Connexions

Citizenship Foundation

Duke of Edinburgh's Award – London

Fairbridge in London

Hospital and Prison Action Network

LECP

Lesley Derry Training and Consultancy

London Youth

Point Blank Ltd

Red Onion Community

Sound Connections

Studio 3 Arts

Summer Uni London/Futureversity

The Prince's Trust – London Region

Y-Gen

YMCA – London Metropolitan Region

Youthforce

The future

All services for young people are facing uncertain times, working through the recession and the impact of the general election. Partnership for Young London's role in supporting services in London is more important now than ever, and to do this successfully we need engage with as many members and partners as possible. We believe that a spirit of creativity and collaboration will better enable services to survive and thrive. To this end, we are planning the following activities and priorities:

- Increasing our membership across all sectors
- A new network of accreditation workers
- An associate consultant network

- A continued focus on workforce development, especially apprenticeships and the youth workforce reform agenda
- A new series of seminars, beginning with a fifth birthday celebration focusing on partnership working
- Introducing a free four-week trial of the information service
- Working with a greater number of partners, in the region and nationally
- Recruiting more elected members on the board of trustees.

Board of Trustees during 2009-10

Bill Fraser, Chair

Simon Aulton

Sarah Davies

Chris Heaume

Lenny Kinnear

Graham Lane

Antony Lillis

Tom Mautner

Wayne Wreglesworth

We were all saddened by the loss of Antony Lillis in July 2009

The Team

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