

Partnership For Young London

Partnership in practice Impact report 2010-11



Partnership for Young London (PYL) is London's infrastructure body for the youth sector, striving to promote, support and improve services for young people across the capital. We work collaboratively with London boroughs, the voluntary youth sector and private organisations, regional government and other relevant bodies. We provide comprehensive support for managers and practitioners, to keep them up to date with policy, information and practice-based skills, so that young people in London experience the best possible services. You can find out more about us and our work at www.pyl.org.uk.



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Partnership For Young London

Introduction

2010-11 turned out to be the most significant year in PYL's history, giving us cause for both celebration and concern. In June 2010, our fifth birthday conference, *Why partnerships work and matter* was well-attended by members, partners and colleagues from across London's youth sector, which helped us not only to acknowledge our achievements thus far, but to consult and shape our plans for the future. Although we knew that times would be hard for everyone, we could not then conceive just how serious the effects of the spending cuts would be for many of our members by the end of the financial year.

The period between the general election and the announcement of the Spending Review was one of suspense within the youth sector. The freezing of local authority budgets for youth services meant that PYL had to work hard to generate membership renewals from statutory colleagues, who recognised the value of our offer but were less able than previously to take it up. Conversely, however, a glance at our membership list (on page 8) shows that we significantly increased sign-up from other sectors, and we welcomed two housing associations and a number of Associate Consultants, private and voluntary sector organisations. We believe that this is a reflection of the need for our services and of the significant value they offer in keeping the workforce up to date and in bringing them together to learn and share with each other.

As a result, we worked harder than ever to support those working with young people in London, offering a record number of seminars and meetings, organised either solely by us or in partnership with members



or external bodies. Our more active members became even better at maximising the value of their membership, engaging with us not only through attendance at events, but using our communications channels to promote their work, and drawing directly on our expertise to help them plan their future service delivery. We welcome this development, as it embeds the partnership element of our remit ever more firmly into our day to day activity.

We have also used this year to review our services and to plan for a revised package to provide even better value for money and focusing on the most essential elements of support to our members and the wider youth sector in London. See page 10, The Future, for our plans and new services for 2011–12.

Services for young people

Communications: briefings and seminars

Our programme of seminars has always represented excellent value for money for delegates, and this year we were pleased to be able to offer more activity than ever, with the same high quality of contributors, and an even wider range of subjects, reaching more delegates from very diverse organisations.

This year's programme included seminars on:

- Why Partnerships Work and Matter – our 5th birthday celebration
- Modernising Alternative Provision Toolkit – Workshop
- Qualifications and credit framework (in partnership with Youthforce) – run twice owing to popular demand
- Young People's Role in The Big Society
- Launch of the new ABC Youth Work Qualifications – run twice owing to popular demand
- Launch of the Safe Standards (in partnership with Safe Network)
- Supporting young apprentices and trainees (scheduled for March 2011)

Guest speakers included representatives from ABC Awards, the Cabinet Office, Children England, Children's Rights Alliance England, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, Envision, Futureversity, Hackney Council for Voluntary Organisations, Lifelong Learning UK, London Councils, the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, South London Connexions Sub-regional Unit, Safe Network, West Sussex council, Youthforce.

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

- London Funders conference, Stormy Weather: Opportunities and challenges in a changing London

- Young Londoners Participation Network – Funding and the Big Society

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.

The value of our weekly update service for members continued to be recognised throughout the year, and for the first time its circulation list exceeded 600 individuals within member organisations. We researched ever more opportunities for practitioners and young people, and introduced a resources and funding section, as well as taking the opportunity to keep members better updated on the work we undertake on their behalf, week by week. The update remains the single most talked-about service we offer, and organisations are increasingly recognising the value of using it to promote their services. We will continue to offer the free four-week trial, which VCS and private organisations can sign up to via the home page of our website, to showcase the value of the update as a PYL service.

Workforce development

Although the government policy directive on workforce development diminished significantly, PYL focused strongly on this area, partly because of our continued involvement in the completion of the Youth Workforce Reform Programme, and partly in recognition of the continued need for the workforce to be better skilled than ever, to achieve outcomes for young people when there is less funding available for training and development. Given that our remit is to improve services for young people by working with the practitioners and managers who support them, workforce development is embedded in all our activities.

Partnership For Young London

The most significant single piece of work we engaged in throughout the year was Progress – accredited training for the voluntary and community sector children and young people’s workforce. Progress is delivered on behalf of CWDC’s Young People’s Workforce Reform Programme Board by a partnership led by the National Council for Voluntary Youth Services (NCVYS). PYL is the London delivery agent for the project. The overall purpose of Progress is to build the capacity of the voluntary and community sector by offering nationally 25,000 accredited training opportunities for volunteers and paid staff covering the above five priority training areas. The project aims to improve capacity of staff and volunteers to meet the needs of young people, and also the capacity of organisations to develop their workforce.

We continued to support the promotion and delivery of the successful Leadership and Management Development training programmes, funded by CWDC and managed nationally by FPM Training.

We facilitated further work on the London Quality Assurance Framework for non-statutory providers of education for 13–16 year olds, promoting the dissemination of an additional toolkit developed and funded by London Councils, and managing a workshop to help organisations get to grips with the practicalities.

We supported the successful validation process of London Metropolitan University’s BSc in Youth Work by attending advisory group meetings, providing knowledge from the field (including the criteria for student placements developed by our Training and Workforce Development Group two years ago) and offering evidence to the Validation Committee.

All of the events that we ran contributed to the development of knowledge and skills



within London’s youth sector workforce, through both the structured content and the opportunities for networking with colleagues that we always build in. Workforce development remains a key strand of our planned work for 2011–12 onwards.

Other activities

Consultancy

- A presentation at the London Regional Duke of Edinburgh’s Award Capitalisation 2010 event, helping to keep the DofE leaders and managers up to date with relevant initiatives and activities.
- Facilitation of a Planning Away-day for the Health and Youth Participation Team in the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, to help the team plan for the future.
- Exploration with Nisai Virtual Academy of the potential for business development opportunities.
- Policy input to London Youth’s management away-day, facilitating discussion on the external environment and forward planning.
- Support for the Metropolitan Police Service in reviewing their children and young people strategy, with particular reference to consultation and communications.

Representation

Consultations

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

- Good practice in commissioning – Ofsted
- Apprenticeship Frameworks at level 2 and 3 – LLUK
- Education Select Committee review of services for young people
- Building a Stronger Civil Society – Cabinet Office
- London Councils Funding Priorities 2011 review
- London Youth Quality Mark consultation

- For Youth's Sake Question Time debate – Children and Young People Now
- The Spending Challenge – HM Treasury
- A Day in the Life, a work shadowing scheme for voluntary and community sector and government staff. Lucy Sandford was shadowed by a senior civil servant from the Department for Communities and Local Government and in turn spent a day there.

Exhibitions

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expo
February 2011

London Councils Summit
November 2010

London Compact Awards 2010



Developmental meetings

We attended the following meetings aimed at exploring or steering developments within the youth sector in London, which were not necessarily part of a projected series of events:

- a meeting with the Met Police's Specialist Crime Directorate as part of a small group exploring how better to co-ordinate pan-London anti-violence work
- meetings with GLA, UKYP and London Youth in support of the Young Londoners Participation Network

Regular meetings attended by PYL 2010–11 (in alphabetical order):

2012 VCS Partners Advocacy Group (LOCOG)

Anti-bullying Alliance

C4EO Youth Theme Advisory Group

Children England London region

Children's Workforce Co-ordinators group (CWDC/GOL)

Intergenerational Network

London Confederation of Heads of Young People's Services

London Children and Young People Engage (Chair)

London Metropolitan University Partners Forum

London Policy Network (Chair)

London Serious Youth Violence Board Practice seminars

Skills Development Framework Reference Group – CWDC

University of East London BA Youth and Community Work advisory group

University of Greenwich BA Youth and Community Work advisory group

Young Londoners Participation Network (GLA/London Youth)

Other networks/memberships

Children England

City.Comm

Independent Academic Research Studies (IARS)

London Civic Forum

Network of Regional Youth Work Units

Rota (Race on the Agenda)

Members of Partnership for Young London in 2010–11

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 Greenwich

London Borough of Hackney

London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham

London Borough of Havering

London Borough of Harrow

London Borough of Hillingdon

London Borough of Hounslow

London Borough of Merton



London Borough of Redbridge
London Borough of Southwark
London Borough of Wandsworth
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Barnardo's (London, East and South East Region)
Catch 22
Changemakers
Charles Harrison Associates
Citizenship Foundation
Central London Connexions
Colin Smith – Creating Solutions UK Limited
Duke of Edinburgh's Award – London
Eli Anderson – Eli Anderson Consultant
Fairbridge in London
Futureversity
Fulham Football Club Foundation
HAVCO (Havering)
Hospital and Prison Action Network
Janine Brady – Janine Brady Consultant
Kings Cross Brunswick
Neighbourhood Centre
15 Billion (formerly LECP)
Lesley Derry – Lesley Derry Training and Consultancy
London Metropolitan University
London Youth
Metropolitan Police Volunteer Police Cadets
Nisai Virtual Academy
One Housing
Rathbone – London & the South East Region
Red Onion Theatre Group
Selina Rice

Sharon Cohen – Outcomes Focussed Solutions Limited
Southern Housing Group
Sound Connections
Studio 3 Arts
The Prince's Trust – London Region
Y-Gen
YMCA – London Metropolitan Region
Youthforce

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We are, as ever, grateful to our Board of Trustees, our members and our partners for their continued support during 2010–11, and we look forward to continuing to work with you all in the coming years.

The future

To make it *the* 'go-to' organisation for youth-related issues in London, from April 2011 PYL will:

Provide policy briefing to the youth support and development community in London through

- 6-weekly open London Policy Network meetings open to all managers
- Weekly bulletins with news and summary updates
- Policy seminars as new policy is announced
- A web-library and observatory open to all

Provide training and development for the youth support workforce through:

- Practice-focused seminars
- Emailed updates as new policy and practice developments emerge
- Round-table meetings for members on new policy and practice developments
- Learning Networks

- Brokerage service between business and the youth sector, to include volunteering, placements and careers/training opportunities

Provide capacity building for the voluntary and community sector through:

- VCS Youth Sector Network development
- Learning Networks
- Round-table meetings as new policy and practice developments emerge
- Practice-sharing events to disseminate learning from Learning Networks

Provide a voice for London's youth sector through:

- Representation on strategic London boards
- Strategic relationships with GLA and London Councils
- Lobbying on behalf of our networks
- Improving active relationships with government departments
- Responding to national and London consultations



Standard Membership – New for 2011–12

Weekly Update	Receive our email update every Friday afternoon, with the latest policy, publications, resources, funding, opportunities for young people and practitioners, consultations and news
Round Table Meetings	Discuss new policies and initiatives and how these will feed into your work, as they arise. Network with colleagues.
Funding Directory – PYL members only	Directory of current funding opportunities
Contacts – PYL members only	Directory of our current membership
Learning Networks £20 per delegate (non-member rate £30)	A series of 3 action learning seminars where practitioners learn, develop and share good practice with colleagues from other organisations.
Practice Focused Seminars £60-£80 per delegate	Seminars for major policy changes or essential information you simply need to know will be twice a year. We will provide a certificate of attendance for CPD purposes.
Job Ads – £80 (non-member rate £110)	Reduced rates to advertise jobs on the brand new Jobs area of our website
Consultancy – £POA	Our team can run events for you, carry out a piece of research, write a funding bid, bring people together and host a meeting: just talk to us about your requirements.

Premium membership – New for 2011–12

Everything in Standard Membership PLUS:	
Policy and Practice Focused Seminars FREE	FREE and unlimited attendance at these seminars for major policy changes or essential information you simply need to know will be twice a year, and CPD certified. Why not send your whole team!
Learning Networks FREE	FREE attendance for your staff at these seminars we run where Practitioners learn, develop and share good practice with colleagues from other organisations.
1 FREE job listing	Advertise a job in the new area of our site.

Partnership For Young London



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