



Partnership for Young London Policy, Influence and Youth Leadership

Section one – Background Context

Ethos why are we doing this

Partnership for Young London believes in a future where every young person's right to wellbeing is recognised and fulfilled. With young people making up a quarter of London's population, we have to respect that they are crucial to its future; as such their views and needs will be embedded across all services we develop and deliver.

We're **connecting** everyone who cares about young people in London – bringing together organisations, local and regional government, and young people themselves.

We're **developing** and sharing knowledge and skills – equipping others to help young people in London access the support they need.

We're **influencing** policy and practice – generating the new ideas that will help young Londoners thrive.

We're laying deep foundations – but a united voice is our strongest tool. Working collectively with the expertise of everyone who cares about young people is the best chance that we have to make a difference

[Partnership for Young London](#) is a small youth policy charity based in the City of London, we take a cross sector, systemic approach to youth policy and engage with key partners such as London Councils, the GLA, Healthy London Partnership, London Funders, Sports and Culture Groups, voluntary and community sector organisations and the private sector to facilitate improved outcomes for Young Londoners.

Asset Based Approach

We take an asset based approach to our work and our engagement with young people, creating tangible ways for young people to be involved and influence the work. We aim to ensure that we address diversity across our engagement recognising the various levels at which young people may want to get involved in our services. Creating the conditions where diverse groups of young people can take part in influencing and delivering the programmes on offer.

Section Two - Young Leaders Programme Planned Developments

Aims - To create a process whereby young people engaged across our work can be supported to develop their leadership skills and taken an enhanced role in the voice and influence work of the organisation.

Partnership for Young London

Background Context – Young people are engaged across many elements of our work and the involvement is linked under the banner of the work via [Vision for Young Londoners](#) and a regional youth policy. The vision aims to put young people at the heart of decision making processes and build their skills, and confidence in a way that links to their future aspirations. This project is a pilot to explore how we can engage young people in influencing policy more effectively. The work aims to create pathways through our various services, develop leadership and influencing skills for the young people who have been involved in our work, in a more focussed way, creating a pathway for involvement.

Target group – This work will be aimed at young people who have been engaged in our work to date as well as key groups of young people who are linked into our partners and the Children in Care Council work that we are developing with the City of London, the GLA and the Association of Directors of Children's Services. The work will engage up to 35 young people across the various aspects of the delivery, in line with their needs and capacity. We are keen to ensure that addressing inequalities is a key focus across the work, we have good networks and connections with young parents, young people from BAME groups, young people leaving care, and we would want to ensure that this group are the target for our programmes. We are particularly keen to build on the work we are doing around intersectionality with various organisations and ensure that any work we develop is truly reflective of the diversity of London's communities.

Programme of work – We have been working with various young people across strands of our work, as youth advisory leads on different aspects of our programmes, peer researchers, volunteers, as well as through learning social media techniques, and co-hosting meetings. We aim to take this work forward to the next stage through a youth leadership programme. This aims to review the priorities for the Vision for Young Londoners and the work of Partnership for Young London moving forward. This programme will create a network of youth leaders who will assess some of the key issues for the region, develop a set of recommendations for future development and develop a youth leaders network who will influence youth policy under the banner of the Vision for Young Londoners.

This work to be delivered will include:

- Youth voice and influence training/skills development
- Peer research training and facilitation of focus groups
- Social media and vlogging training
- Presentation of materials and feedback on priorities to key regional leads
- Young leaders will form the advisory board for the new business plan and deliverables for Partnership for Young London, which will help to ensure that their voices shape and influence our work, as well as the regional priorities for the Vision for Young Londoners.

At the end of this programme, we aim to have tested out a pathway for young people through our work, identified the best way to provide targeted skills development linked to youth leadership and influencing. We will be able to evidence successful ways for young people to influence policy and have a network of young leaders who will use their skills and

expertise in other forums. The programme will create additional capacity within the organisation to undertake this work and we are in the process of reviewing approaches in other areas i.e. Northern Ireland and Scotland to look at lessons learnt.

Skills development

A key aspect of this work is about creating clear roles for young people, that enable them to take the lead in pushing a youth policy agenda forward. Throughout all our work we aim to ensure that there are clear skills development opportunities for young people who have taken part in programmes. This needs to be aligned with their future hopes and ambitions as such we have identified the following as areas in which they will gain skills:

- Research skills and groupwork techniques
- Voice and influence skills including persuasive speaking and public speaking
- Strategy development
- Mapping routes for influence across key thematic areas in London i.e. health
- Social media and digital skills (Vlogging and Blogging)
- Events management and facilitation
- Leadership skills
- Collaboration and negotiation skills
- Political engagement

We have been [challenged](#) by the young people we engage with, (rightly so), to put young people in the lead and this programme enables us to create the environment where this can happen in a way that supports youth voice in policy making, develops skills and takes a truly asset based approach to young people's involvement.

Outcomes - What outcomes are we hoping to achieve from this?

Young People

- Young people have greater control over shaping resources and the services of PYL
- Young people are directly engaged in policy making and influencing youth policy
- Young people are actively gaining new skills and experiences through their involvement with PYL

Success for young people has been identified as the following:

- Clear engagement in setting the direction and influencing the youth agenda across the work of Partnership for Young London and the Youth Policy context for London
- Young people feel confident in taking a lead in the policy discussions and creating solutions with wider cross-sections of organisations
- Young people can clearly articulate the benefits that this work has had on their own skills as well as for wider groups across the region

Partnership for Young London

For Partnership for Young London, there will also be clear benefits from taking this approach and these have been identified as:

- Services reflect our commitment to youth voice and youth participation
- All new services are informed by young people's needs, engagement and influence to ensure that they are reflective of their needs and ambitions
- Policy development is directly influenced by the experiences of young people

Part of this pilot will be on constantly learning and reflecting on what we do, a youth advisory board will steer the work will be in place and we will continuously review our approach and adapt our services as we move through the work. Youth voice will be at the core of all decision making.

Resources Required –

Budget Required

1. Voice and Communications Officer – 21 hours a week
2. Trainers costs and resources 12 training sessions @£400 per day (we will also bring in pro bono support) this will be specialist trainers on key areas i.e. Vlogging, Public Speaking, Campaigning = £4,800
3. Administration and core costs – costs towards travel, stationery and telephone £1,200
4. Events and roundtables – venue hire, refreshments = £1,300
5. Young People's Expenses = £3,400

Added value

Via our networks we aim to engage key stakeholders across services for young people to offer these young people an opportunity to shadow strategic leads across the region, to gain increased experience of work. In line with the recommendations from programmes such as London Ambitions, to support young Londoners to have enhanced experience of work.

Timescale

May to April 2019

Support in place

This will be supported through the following mechanisms:

- A link member of staff for the work
- One to one supervision for key positions i.e. internships, social media champions, peer researchers
- Support prior to meetings and debriefs afterwards
- Safeguarding policies and procedures

