

YWF MEMBERS SURVEY

SEPTEMBER 2021

**INVESTING IN BRIGHTER
FUTURES FOR YOUNG
PEOPLE IN WESTMINSTER**

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THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO RESPONDED

This summer, we undertook our second annual member survey, asking questions in three different areas:

- Member organisations, their finance, governance and organisational health
- Membership experience
- Looking ahead, what do people consider to be YWF's most important role?

The survey proved yet again to be a really interesting, insightful and useful exercise for us and enormously helps to inform the focus of our work going forward.

The YWF team and board of trustees have carefully reviewed the data and comments received. You can view a summary below of how we are planning to put your ideas into action.

As always, please get in touch if you would like to discuss this insight in further detail.

"It's been fantastic having YWF advocate positively for us in the local community whilst we've established ourselves"

Response rate and key outcomes

We were delighted that the responses were overwhelmingly positive, showing that YWF adds value to its member organisations and to the wider children and young people's sector in Westminster.

75% of respondents said that YWF added significant value to the sector in the last 12 months, and no one said YWF don't add any value.

We received 44 responses which is equivalent to a **42% response rate** (compared to 34% last year).

Ideally we would have liked to get a higher response rate but we have a number of members who engage minimally and we recognise that the members who actively engage with us are more likely to fill in the survey.

Our **completion rate was 91%** (up from 68% last year).

“ YWF continues to be an exemplary example of how a single organisation through being flexible, open, engaging and dynamic can bring together a disparate and diverse set of groups and services to achieve a unified mission with real impacts on the lives of young people ”

Has YWF added value to the children & young people's sector in Westminster in the past 12 months?



Who has responded?



19 SMALL ORGANISATIONS



11 MEDIUM ORGANISATIONS



14 LARGER ORGANISATIONS

Smaller member organisations have a reasonably diverse income stream from a source of funders (58%) or are working towards this (20%). More than half have a robust Monitoring and Evaluation plan in place (58%) or are working towards this (26%). But **only 37% of smaller organisations have sufficient capacity and resource to deliver their services**, and 47% are working towards this. **37% of our smaller member organisations have a waiting list.**

Medium and larger organisations have a very diverse income stream from a source of funders (80%) or are working towards this (12%). 67% have a robust M&E plan in place or are working towards this (29%). 72% of larger organisations have dedicated resource to effectively fundraise. **However, larger member organisations see an even greater pressure than smaller ones on their delivery. Only 44% have sufficient resources and capacity to deliver services** (44% are working towards this) and **42% have a waiting list for their services.**

“ I've found all the team really approachable and supportive. They always have good suggestions for people to talk to for more help. I would put a large part of our recent growth and development down to the support we got from YWF, and in turn we've supported 4x as many young people this year, compared to the previous year. ”

“ The cluster group meetings have helped to raise our profile significantly amongst the youth sector in Westminster. We have developed a range of new partnerships and projects as a result. ”

Membership Experience

73%

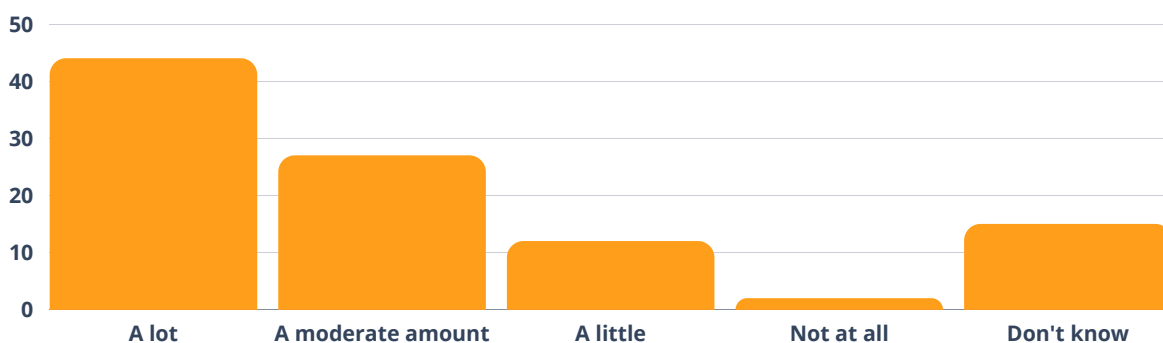
Of respondents have said that they accessed funding as a result of YWF

We asked members if YWF made them aware of:

- New organisations and partners (yes: 83%, no: 5%, don't know: 12%)
- More funding opportunities (yes: 88%, no: 5%, don't know: 7%)

These figures are very similar to last year's results which shows that the uptake of this type of support is relatively consistent, however **there has been an increase in people accessing funding as a result of YWF**: 73% said they accessed funding due to YWF, 15% said no, and 12% said I don't know. (Last year: yes 61%, no 39%).

Has YWF supported you in raising your profile?

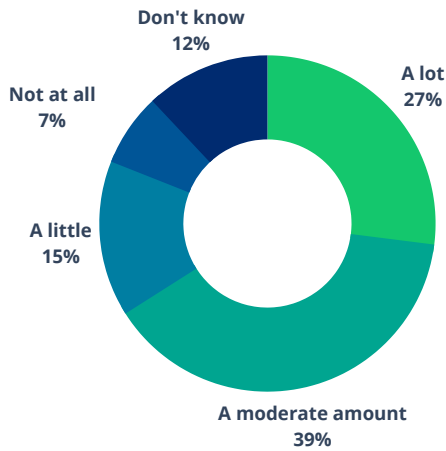


Not surprisingly, **55% of smaller organisations and only 35% of larger organisations have said YWF has helped them raise their profile "a lot"**.

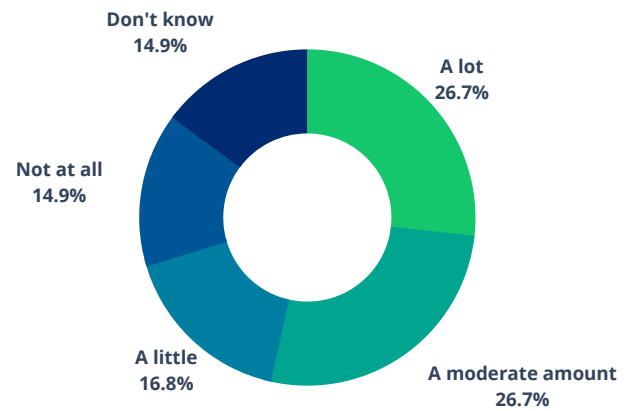
Interestingly, **only 22% of smaller organisations said that they work a lot more collaboratively with others due to YWF – as supposed to 39% of larger organisations.**

Smaller organisations report that YWF has been **very effective in helping them increase opportunities for young people (83%), vs "only" 48% of larger organisations.**

Has YWF helped you provide better services through effective partnerships with other organisations?



Has YWF helped you provide better services through support and training?



Which of our services have you used in the last year?



Which of our services you have valued most during the last year?

71%
of smaller members reported that brokering opportunities/ partnerships and collaboration between members is valued most

79%
of larger members reported that our local cluster meetings were valued most

Looking Ahead

What would you consider to be YWF's most important role?

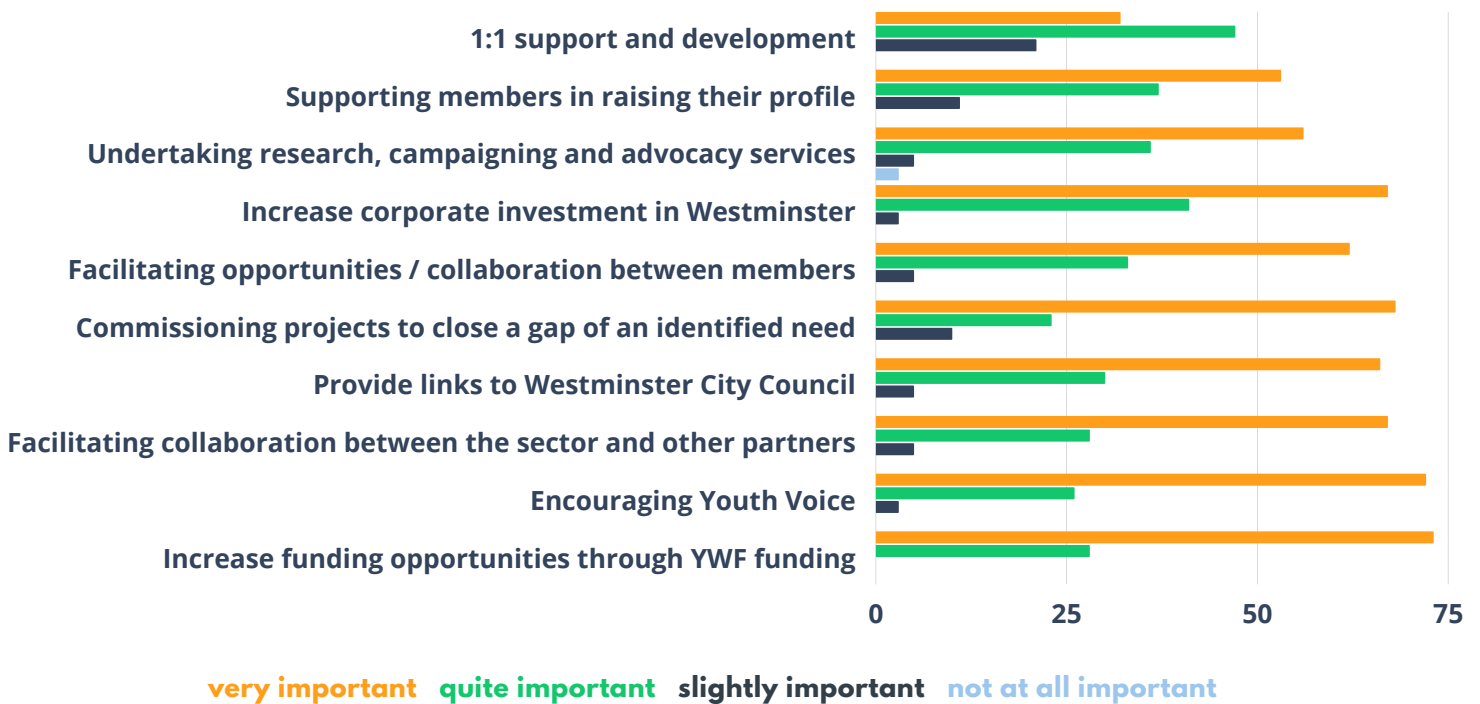
73%

Of members said increasing funding opportunities for members through YWF funding is very important

72%

Of members thought encouraging youth voice is our most important role

The function deemed **least important** was **1:1 support and development** – although 32% still believe this is very important and 47% think it is quite important.



The picture is slightly different for smaller and larger organisations. For **larger organisations**, the most important role is “**facilitating partnerships between the sector and other partners**”, followed by “**increase funding opportunities for members through YWF funding**”.

For **smaller organisations**, there are two YWF functions which are deemed equally important: **Encouraging youth voice** and **increasing funding opportunities for members through YWF funding**, followed by supporting members in raising their profile.

CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

We are delighted to see that YWF takes a meaningful and important place in the Westminster community. Smaller and larger organisations face different issues and have different needs and expectations about YWF's role. However, **"Encouraging youth voice" is a pressing issue for all members** and has been highlighted as a priority for us.

A noticeable shift from last year's result is the emphasis on funding, especially through YWF, and **our role as a local grant maker**.

We were interested (but not surprised) to see that organisations, small and large, **struggle to offer a full service to young people even if they have the funding in place to do so**. This shows that **demand for services is higher than the available capacity**, and **YWF will work towards tackling this pressing issue**.

The YWF team will further discuss the results and reflect on any individual comments we have received. We will draw up a list of recommendations to implement and will use this survey to prioritise and shape the direction of our work over the coming months.

Member Suggestions

- More **in-person events** and informal networking
- Formal **workforce training programme** for youth workers
- Strategic working group between **cultural** leads
- Better support youth service providers who are **new to Westminster** in the **development and delivery of new projects**
- More funding for **estate based youth work**
- 1-2-1 support and direct training

An aerial photograph of London, showing a dense urban landscape with a mix of modern skyscrapers and traditional brick buildings. The Shard is prominent in the distance. The sky is clear and blue.

**THANK YOU TO ALL
OUR MEMBERS FOR
YOUR CONTINUED
SUPPORT &
COLLABORATION**

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO
HEARING YOUR FEEDBACK IN
2022**

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