



YWF model of youth provision in Westminster



A collaborative approach to outcomes:

YWF, Early Help and Family Hubs place emphasis on collaboration through partnerships and a shared aim of **improving the life outcomes of children and young people**. Through this model, young people and families will have access to a varied range of appropriate support/opportunities in the community, have better transitions to adulthood, understand better what is on offer by organisations in the borough and lead healthy lifestyles.



Westminster City Council delivers Early Help through a Family Hub approach. The Young Westminster Foundation (YWF) has become an integral part of the **local Early Help system** and created the framework for youth provision in the Family and Youth Hubs.

Background context:

GLA estimates that £35.5 million was removed from council youth services budgets (2011-2020), leading to structural problems in the sector e.g. youth club closures, weaker capacity and lack of coordination of services.

Youth providers were competing for the same funding pots, and were disparate organisations siloed in delivery.



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Strategic leadership for the sector: YWF's Theory of Change includes the behaviours and outcomes of the Early Help Strategy as a way of demonstrating connection to the wider system. **YWF has become a strategic leader for the sector** e.g. co-chairing **The Early Help Partnership board** and **leading funding applications** replacing voices of lone commissioners or individual youth clubs who are not well placed to represent the entire sector. YWF acts as a broker/advocate between youth organisations and wider partners across the private and public sectors.

Community research to understand need: A particular strength of the YWF is its closeness to the community – 2 x **peer led needs analysis research** reports, together with smaller thematic research projects and The **Young Ambassadors** programme have informed the Foundation's work and the Early Help Strategy. **YWF has improved financial sustainability** within the sector e.g. attracting funding and giving out 214 grants to their members totalling more than £2m. Enabling youth organisations to focus on development and growth.

Youth hubs and services: YWF has led the formation of **5 Youth Hubs across the borough**. These have become an integral part of their local Family Hub with the youth manager / leader becoming an active member of the **Family Hub integrated leadership team (ILT)**. This has significantly increased local collaboration and joined up working including with other grassroots community organisations in each locality.

Workforce development: YWF has driven improvements to the quality of the youth work sector with a focus on **professional development** for staff. Staff are benefitting from the specific opportunities (**specialist training, capacity building, networking/information sharing, monitoring and evaluation support**) created by the YWF and from being a part of a wider Early help system. With further funding, there is an opportunity to work to 'test' new professional development opportunities for the youth sector as a part of family hubs.

Westminster Youth Hubs are locality-based organisations across the borough running safe, informal club spaces and programmes for young people. As part of **Young Westminster Foundation** and **Westminster City Council's** model, emphasising collaboration and innovation, the Hubs are supported to take on local leadership and forge partnerships to deliver youth-led initiatives that have a lasting impact on provisions for all young people in Westminster.