



## Youth Action: Keyfund

**London Youth** is a network of over 400 youth clubs, serving 75,000 young people and their families in all corners of the capital. Our **Youth Action** team brings young people from different backgrounds together to design, lead and learn from their own projects. The results are extraordinary – building confidence, stretching minds and seeing young Londoners achieve things they themselves didn't think possible. Now we are expanding the programme to work with hundreds more young Londoners a year.

To achieve this we are proud to be partnering with The Keyfund Federation, replicating their extraordinarily successful approach in delivering positive outcomes for young people, proven over 16 years in Newcastle and the north east.

What is Keyfund?

Keyfund offers a structured and resourced model to engage and develop young people.

The Keyfund project's key objectives are to engage young people (including disadvantaged and hard to reach young people) and help them to develop social and emotional skills so that they may make successful transitions to adulthood. This distinctive model combines a highly accessible youth-led learning process with high quality training of individuals working with young people (Facilitators) and money to resource projects designed and delivered by young people.

Keyfund has a proven ability to engage and develop all young people, including the most vulnerable and disadvantaged young people in society, evidenced by a comprehensive outcome measurement framework.

The Keyfund process not only engages young people in positive activities, but can also enable young people to build essential personal and social skills through planning their own activities and can provide a tool with which they can build a solid and impacting relationship with a trained, professional adult (Facilitator).

How does it work?

London Youth awards incremental grants of £250-£2000 to groups of young people, giving them the opportunity to run projects and gain experiences previously beyond their reach. It uses these grants as an incentive for young people to organise something beyond their present capabilities and to progress through the four stages by designing and delivering increasingly more complex projects. It provides a tried and tested way for young people to develop the 12 Keyfund skills with the support of trained Facilitators.

The core principles of Keyfund are accessibility, youth-leadership and a positive nurturing relationship with Facilitators. Young people start where they are at and measure their own distance travelled at each stage. They then generate their own ideas and decide for themselves what their projects will be. Groups are able to access the support they need to prepare for their

For more information on how to get bring Youth Action projects (including Keyfund) to your young people, contact:  
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activity and the panel through their facilitator. As they work together through the process, relationships are built up in the group and peers start to inspire, support and motivate each other.

Once the Keyfund process is underway progression through stages (up to the final stage where £2,000 is available) will be promoted and prolonged participation encouraged.

Throughout the entire process, the 12 Keyfund skills are of key importance. Young people not only develop these skills, but also gain a real understanding of how they have done so and how they can transfer them to other parts of their lives in order to help them develop and succeed.

Live panels are used to support the process, giving young people the opportunity and challenge to demonstrate their learning face-to-face in an environment they choose. Panelists will determine if young people have developed the 12 Keyfund skills and if their project has been well planned and are able to decide there and then if the group have been successful. This panel is there to encourage the participants' confidence, give them experience in talking and presenting to a range of people and as an opportunity for them to talk about the skills and lessons that they have learned in preparing for their activity. We see the panelists as role models, aiming to pass on advice, raise aspirations and encourage the next generation.

Young people often need...

- an alternative to formal education
- a way to balance their aspirations with reality
- practical opportunities to incrementally develop their skills
- opportunities and incentives for longer term engagement in positive activities
- support from a non-threatening adult who engages with them on their terms

The Keyfund process can achieve all of these things, providing young people with the opportunity to challenge themselves to meet their own potential.

For more information:

London Youth's Youth Action Team:

[www.londonyouth.org.uk/projects/projects\\_whatsnext.html](http://www.londonyouth.org.uk/projects/projects_whatsnext.html)

Keyfund Website:

[www.keyfund.org.uk](http://www.keyfund.org.uk)

Keyfund's Website for young people:

[www.keyfundworld.com](http://www.keyfundworld.com)

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