

**ASSESSMENT CATEGORY: Cornerstone Fund**

**Partnership for Young London**

**Adv: Jenny Field**

**Amount requested: £138,000**

**Base: City**

**Benefit: London-wide**

**Amount recommended: £138,000**

**The Partnership**

This proposal is led by Partnership for Young London (PYL) in partnership with London Youth and the Centre for Youth Impact under the auspices of PYL's Vision for Young Londoners. Each partner has a strong track record of convening, building capacity and providing insight in order to influence policy and practice in relation to young people.

Partnership for Young London (PYL), well known to the Trust, aims to provide leadership and vision about young people's services across London and is hosted by the City of London.

London Youth (LY) is also well-known to the Trust. Its mission is to improve the lives of young Londoners, challenging them to become the best they can be. It has a network of over 400 community organisations enabling it to reach tens of thousands of young Londoners annually.

The Centre for Youth Impact (CYI) works across the youth sector to create a step change in thinking and practice in impact measurement as it relates to youth work. Its vision is for all young people to have access to high-quality programmes and services that improve their life chances.

**The Lead Partner**

Partnership for Young London (PYL) aims to provide leadership and vision about young people's services across London. It is hosted by the City of London and a member of the Court of Common Council sits on its board. It provides information, networking and brokering opportunities, consultancy, research, professional development and policy and practice updates to its members. The charity facilitates a number of strategic initiatives such as the London Policy Network (which covers such subjects as Youth Innovation Zones, Future Models of Commissioning, Cabinet Office review of youth services), and the Strategic Youth Engagement Board.

PYL has been actively involved in the development and implementation of The Way Ahead<sup>1</sup> and was a recipient of funding from your Bridge Fund<sup>2</sup> with two grants of £48,500 and £23,100 respectively. It is one of the organisations you are funding under your partnership with the GLA's Young Londoners Fund with a grant of £180,000 over three years to deliver a programme of specialist support to organisations in receipt of Young Londoners Fund grants. It also currently holds a

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<sup>1</sup> The Way Ahead is a collaboration which aims to improve, and secure the future of, civil society support by putting London's communities at the heart of what we do.

<sup>2</sup> The Bridge Fund was a 'pot' of £1m which you established to enable organisations previously funded by London Councils to remain engaged with The Way Ahead.

grant under your 'Investing in Londoners' programme for a project helping youth organisations improve their monitoring and evaluation systems and impact reporting.

### **The Proposal**

This partnership is one of 11 organisations that went through the first stage of the Cornerstone Fund<sup>3</sup>. It was awarded a development grant of £19,400 in order to work up its second stage application, the subject of the proposal before you today.

PY, alongside its partners, has established a research network of partners<sup>4</sup> who have identified that young people rarely, if ever, have the opportunity to influence and shape social action research that affects them. A twin-pronged approach is proposed, whereby mainstream research institutions will be encouraged to ensure that young people are consulted in a meaningful way when research that affects them is being undertaken; and different approaches as to how young people can use research methods and data in order to shape the policies and practices that affect them will be piloted.

PYL and its partners used their development grant to:

- Establish a cross-sectoral steering group which has met twice, agreed terms of reference, identified priorities and developed a work plan.
- Develop a research network with the wider pool of partners (asset out in footnote 4 below). It is hoped to widen the membership of the network during the project with a particular wish to engage with Public Health England.
- Map where research is being carried out and how it is being shared with youth work practitioners. This exercise highlighted the need to build stronger links between research and practice.
- Establish a partnership with the Operational Research Society which is providing pro bono data modelling services.
- Consult with young people who are keen to contribute to and shape research that reflects their views and experiences but who, at the same time, feel their voices are rarely heard by mainstream researchers.
- Bring together a network of groups leading on peer-led research to identify good practice and to review how research can be used to influence policy.

The main aims of the next stage of this partnership are to improve services for young people in London through better use of data and research; improve relationships between researchers and young people to both create and share insight; and to use that insight to develop effective and responsive services for young people in London.

Over the next two years, it is proposed to engage at least 80 organisations with the research network which will continue to meet quarterly and to hold three sector-wide events that aim to engage a wider group of stakeholders with emerging trends and issues. It is proposed to test and disseminate different research methodologies and to provide placement opportunities for student researchers to work within youth organisations. In addition, there will be a development programme for youth work

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<sup>3</sup> The Cornerstone Fund is the Anniversary Infrastructure Support programme of £3m originally which you have developed in partnership with a cross-sectoral advisory group and in consultation with the voluntary sector in London.

<sup>4</sup> In addition to London Youth and Centre for Youth Impact, these include NPC, The Young Foundation, King's College London, George Williams College, London Metropolitan University, Young People's Foundations, Student Volunteering Network (London Region), GLA Data Store and Big Lottery Data and Evidence Team.

practitioners to help them understand how data and research can inform and shape their services.

It is envisaged that the project will:

- Improve services for young people through better use of data and research.
- Increase co-ordination and reduce duplication of effort on data gathering and research.
- Create closer links between research and practice by increasing youth work practitioners' use of research and by increasing researchers' impact on youth work practice.

### **The Recommendation**

Membership of the research network is impressive bringing together some key players in this field. PYL has identified a lack of health representation in the network and this will be addressed over the coming months. The three lead partners have a strong track record and funding is recommended at the level requested.

**£138,000 over two years (£68,000; £70,000) towards a project designed to improve how young people's lived experience can shape and influence data collection and research thereby improving services that affect them.**

### **Cornerstone Outcomes**

The project will contribute to the following Cornerstone outcomes:

- Improved access and use of data and intelligence by all stakeholders informs service design and policy-making;
- Londoners have increased voice and influence;
- Improved collaboration between organisations and across sectors that deliver real change to systems.

### **Funding History**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Decision</b>
31/01/2019	£180,000 over three years (3 x £60,000) to Partnership for Young London to deliver a programme of specialist support to organisations in receipt of Young Londoners Fund grants. (CBT Partnership with the GLA).
07/09/2018	£18,500 towards a pilot of different approaches to how young people can use research methods and data to bring about systems change. The grant is subject to receipt of compliant accounts for 2017/18. (Cornerstone Fund)
06/07/2018	£106,000 over two further and final years (£52,500; £53,500) for the costs of the Development Lead (4 days per week); admin support (0.5 days per week); and associated running costs. Release of the second quarter of the grant will be subject to receipt of compliant accounts for 2017/18. (Investing in Londoners)
14/03/2018	£23,100 towards PYL's core costs to enable its continued active involvement with The Way Ahead. (Bridge Fund)
11/05/2017	£48,500 towards the cost of the Strategic Director's salary and a part-time intern and associated project costs. The grant is to be spent over a minimum 10-month period to support the

	organisation's involvement in The Way Ahead and is subject to a review after 6 months. (Bridge Fund)
12/03/2015	£142,000 over three years (£47,300, £47,000, £47,700) for a part-time (4 dpw) Development Lead, related admin support (0.5 days per week), associated running costs, and the costs of events and training sessions.

### Financial Information

PYL was established in 1997 with an endowment from the former London and South East Regional Advisory Council for Further Education. No restrictions were placed on the charity being able to convert the endowment into income if required in order to deliver its charitable objectives. Its reserves policy is to hold free reserves equivalent to three months' operating costs together with sufficient funds to wind-up the organisation should this become necessary. The balance sheet for 2017-18 shows that of the £102,777 held as free reserves, £96,749 of this is held within the expendable endowment. Whilst the total free reserves held is above the target, officers are of the view that they are not excessive especially in the current economic climate.

Year end as at 31 March	2018 Audited Accounts	2019 Forecast	2020 Budget
	£	£	£
<b>Income &amp; expenditure:</b>			
Income	298,658	273,442	296,220
- % of income confirmed as at 11/04/2019		72%	47%
Expenditure	(279,533)	(269,507)	(333,439)
Net gains on investments	851	n/a	n/a
Total surplus/(deficit)	19,976	3,935	(37,219)
Split between:			
- Restricted surplus/(deficit)	10,834	(18,219)	(39,319)
- Unrestricted surplus/(deficit)	9,142	22,154	2,100
	19,976	3,935	(39,319)
Cost of Raising Funds	49,511	43,000	42,000
- % of Income	16.6%	15.7%	14.2%
Total expenditure	279,533	269,507	333,402
<b>Free unrestricted reserves:</b>			
Free unrestricted reserves held at year end	102,777	124,931	85,612
No of months of total expenditure	4.4	5.6	3.1
Reserves policy target	69,883	67,377	83,351
No of months of total expenditure	3.0	3.0	3.0
Free reserves over/(under) target	32,894	57,554	2,262