

Our Space Capital Grants: A summary of young people's participation



Between April 2022 and June 2022, Kirklees Council had £1 million of funding to help Community groups and organisations develop their youth places and spaces.

This scheme is part of the Youth Development Programme Board



Applications could be made for:

large grants	small grants
£25-75,000	£10-25,000



Community groups were invited to apply for money.

Applications started to arrive...

43 bids for funding were made by local community organisations

As this money is for the community youth offer, It was really important young people were included in the decisions being made.

We asked local young people to help, by sharing what they thought about the applications.



12 panels took place, in Spen, Batley, Dewsbury, Huddersfield and The Valleys to gather young people's feedback.

84 young people participated. Their ages ranged from 12 to 22.

Secondary Schools, Alternate Provision, Colleges and Six Forms, Community Groups and young people who are Home Educated all volunteered. This helped us to include people with a wide range of experiences and views.

Applications were 'matched' with young people from the local area wherever possible. If a group offered limited feedback, the application was seen by another panel.

For Special Educational Needs (SEND) focussed applications, young people who experience SEND were the assessors. Over a quarter of the young people who participated stated they have an EHCP.

To try to assure consistency and quality, 10 Groups did a preparatory training session to understand the criteria for funding. Two groups discussed the criteria, fairness and expectations at the beginning of their panel session.

We want to say a **HUGE THANK YOU** to each and every young person who volunteered their time in this process. We could not have done it without you :) Thank you too, to the staff at the provisions who helped organise the sessions and support the young people. Now, turn over, to see what we found out.



So now we all understand 'how we did it', what did we learn?

Learning about the process:

Involving young people in the development of the application pack/process would mean more creative methods could have been used to present the applications. Video's have been really successful in our recent recruitment practices and using this in a future round, would be more inclusive. It would also add context to the information being shared. Our Voice has recently received some Ipad's and virtual reality to engage young people, using assistive tech approaches. We could build scoring and feedback into these methods too. This could be useful in analysis and make the process more time efficient too.

It should be noted, we have to have the time to ensure provisions have the connectivity and systems for young people to access any applications submitted digitally. Not all of the provisions we visited had WIFI and some had security features that would disable the watching of videos. We'd need planning time to 'smooth out' arrangements with provisions and ensure the panels could run consistently and issue free.

Due to timescales and accessibility issues in this round, the approach used refined a 6 page adult application onto a side of A3. It is important to note, the summary form was created by young people in an alternate provision. This is an achievement and outcome. We are evaluative and reflect constantly on our approaches and so adapted the information as we went along to ensure it was more refined/simplified. This was of particular use for young people who experience Special Educational Needs and or Disability (SEND). We've learnt a lot (as always) from the young people who have volunteered and can utilise this knowledge and build on the approach for any future grants schemes.

Learning about a future youth offer-general messages:

Young people are analytical and great evaluators. They see both small details and 'the bigger picture'. The things they felt needed to be considered by community providers and our decision makers in relation to any youth offer are...

- Apply only for what you truly need. We believe in equity. We want to try to share limited funding to the benefit of as many young people, as possible.
- Consider fundraising. It shows you are dedicated to your project and the young people you support. Bringing some funding along 'from the off' is important, even if it's a small amount. It shows you are invested and willing to work at a project.
- If you've been around a while-we have faith in you. That's not to say we don't value 'new projects', but if you are inexperienced, consider how you can reassure us, you can make real changes with any funding. How have you engaged with young people and what commitment do you have from them to ensure there are benefits and outcomes from any funding.
- If you are local to another organisation-why can't you share? Surely there are benefits in working together and 'pooling' resources. If you work together, you could achieve twice as much. It would free up money to buy more essential items. We feel this way especially about 'big' purchases like minibuses.
- If you are receiving public funding, make sure you can pass the savings onto us. We know 'income generation/sustainability' are important, but we don't earn anything to be able to 'pay' for the resource that's been funded. We struggle to see how this is 'fair'.

So what's the outcome?

The young people's feedback has been considered alongside that from Community Providers and Council Officers. Some applications have been successful, some need to supply more information and some don't meet the criteria for this funding. As soon as we can let you know an outcome, we will...**PROMISE!**

