

YOUTH OPPORTUNITY FUND (YOF) & YOUTH CAPITAL FUND (YCF) GUIDANCE NOTES

Policy and Aims

- aims to improve the provision of positive activities;
- proposes a discrete amount of resources for young people to control and decide how it should be spent in their area (YOF);
- particular focus on hard to reach and vulnerable groups;
- no restrictions so long as they support the ECM outcomes;
- young people should be supported as they grow into the role of decision makers, grant givers and project leaders;
- YCF to enable local authorities to develop new approaches, particularly in deprived areas and should allow for the active involvement of young people;
- YCF can be used alongside other projects where these are in line with the principles and priorities of YCF;
- YOF & YCF can be used in tandem to allow young people to develop projects;
- YOF and YCF is not a replacement for core funding of youth work;
- £15,000 to be used to support disadvantaged young people participate in the funds;
- local authorities should build on progress made through Transforming Youth Work.

Purpose of the Funds

- give a voice to all young people in relation to things to do and places to go and give a powerful message that their needs and aspirations are important;
- change the way local authorities and their partners provide activities;
- improve things to do and places to go in young people's neighbourhoods;
- provide opportunities for all young people to develop confidence, skills and abilities and gain recognition/accreditation for them;
- increase the well-being of all young people by contributing to the outcomes of Every Child Matters;
- increase young people's engagement with services and the democratic processes.
- YOF and YCF enables young people to shape provision and facilities in their neighbourhood.

KEY POINTS;

- YOF & YCF are ring fenced grants outside the LAA;
- use to be determined by young people;
- use takes place in partnership with other organisations, including the statutory, community, voluntary and private sectors;
- appropriate support is given to young people involved in all levels of participation in YOF and YCF;
- evidence is collected of how funds are being used and the impact of the funds in providing facilities and activities;
- information on expenditure and activities is provided to Government Office.
- each LA to develop in consultation with key stakeholders and young people arrangements for administering the funds with transparency on allocation and decision making;
- publicity to take into account different approaches for different groups;
- local guidelines for funds are set within the needs and priorities defined within the context of the Children and Young People's Plan.
- YCF has roll over facility from year 1 to year 2, with 60% minimum spend by March 2007. Can be used for mobile units and ICT;
- no requirement for match funding;
- LA responsible for any overspend;
- YCF in context of overarching arrangements for managing capital;
- YCF is not a repairs and maintenance grant but can fund remodelling of existing facilities if that is what young people put forward. Remodelling is an appropriate response where young people are reluctant to use a facility because of the poor quality of the existing environment;

- capital assets secured through YCF should continue to be available to young people. (See LAC 2006).

Monitoring and Accountability

Financial Monitoring :

The following conditions apply to both the Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds :

- Funding is to be used in accordance with the decisions made by young people. Where young people's wishes cannot be accommodated an explanation should be given to them.
- LAs must provide assurances that the grant is being spent appropriately by providing six monthly report to Government Offices which should detail committed expenditure and should include the information set out below on data collection and set up of the funds.
- An audit trail confirming the proper use of the funds must be kept.
- The Audit Commission will provide end of year certification that the funds have been spent in accordance with these conditions in line with section 31 audit arrangements.

The first 6 monthly report - LAs will need to provide a report detailing the set up and reach of YOF/YCF in their area :

- Information after 6 months to show how the funds were set up and marketed to young people.
- Information on strategies to engage young people in disadvantaged areas and support co community cohesion policies.
- Information about support and training for grant makers/project leaders
- Information about complementary funding for YOF/YCF
- Information showing the increase and improvement in terms of things to do and places to go.

The year end report for year one and subsequent six monthly reports should focus on : Data collection - for inclusion in six monthly reports to GO :

- LAs must provide assurances that the grant is being spent appropriately
- Spend on YOF and YCF half yearly
- Number of application for grants
- Number of grants approved
- Number of activities/provision
- Type of capital project
- Committed expenditure, where grants may have been approved but not spent and therefore are committed

Data on participation :

The number of young people participating in YOF as:

- Applicants
- Young people involved as decision makers and grant makers
- Number of young people attending the activity/facility
- Data on characteristics of young people ie gender, ethnicity; disability; age; disadvantaged or hard-to-reach groups in the role of grant makers, as recipients of grants, beneficiaries of the project
- Recorded outcomes - including number of young people achieving recorded/accredited outcomes
- Young people feeding back on their experience of the operation and management of the YOF