

# YWF NEEDS ANALYSIS: RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF YOUNG PEOPLE DURING COVID-19

## INSIGHT FROM WESTMINSTER'S YOUTH WORKERS

### LISTENING TO YOUNG PEOPLE

Prior to the coronavirus outbreak, YWF had been working in partnership with King's College London, Rocket Science, Partnership for Young London and Westminster City Council to conduct a peer researched needs analysis; examining the experiences of young people across Westminster. This would be an update to our 2017 study, A City Within A City.

We hoped this research would support the YWF community to identify and address the challenges faced by young people growing up in Westminster, all the while ensuring that they are truly at the heart of the conversation. Following the lockdown, we took the decision to pause the project.

In the weeks that have followed it has become clear that we are witnessing one of the most significant challenges of our lifetime, the pandemic has disrupted the life of every young person and family in Westminster. Young lives have been disrupted at crucial stages of education and transition. Whilst we are yet to fully understand the impact this will have on young people & our colleagues in the sector; what is clear is that we will need to listen to young people to inform our long-term approach to the crisis, funding and future programmes. There is a great deal of research being conducted at a national level. We hope this project provides the hyper-local Westminster context to ensure we're responding as well as we can during these challenging times.

### WHO ARE WE SPEAKING TO & HOW?

Following consultation with our research partners, youth workers and young people we have developed a new methodology; committing to flexibility in our approach as the situation changes over the months ahead. Our aim is to keep the research simple, report regularly and lean into the existing trusted relationships between youth workers and young people; which are more important than ever.

- Bi-weekly online focus group with 10 Westminster youth workers, working with young people in a range of settings.
- We will jointly set 3 themes of focus each week. Youth workers reflect on these questions in their interactions with young people and ask for young people's views.
- This insight will be regularly shared with the YWF community in a bi-weekly bulletin
- Long term aim to undertake meaningful youth participation as part of this research, potentially as part of summer programmes

## THANK YOU

To all the youth workers & YWF members who are involved in the focus groups and help make this research happen. We look forward to our continued collaboration.



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