



# UK YOUTH

## RSP Meeting April 2021



**Vision:** All young people are equipped to thrive and empowered to contribute at every stage of their lives



**Mission:** As a nationwide movement, we work together to deliver innovative youth services, grow effective practice and campaign to increase support for youth work.

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# UK Youth Covid-19 Response

1

Partnered with NYA to provide support for youth workers & young people [www.youthworksupport.co.uk](http://www.youthworksupport.co.uk) and has received Youth work support site has received over 90,000 page views

2

All our **events continue online**; We've hosted **38 events** engaging **2, 890** youth workers and practitioners including 2 new collectives; youth worker wellbeing and outdoor learning centres

3

Movement newsletter continues – including policy, funding and general sector updates. Launching Regional newsletter in Autumn

4

Published a **report into the impact of COVID-19** on the youth sector

5

Regular innovator **engagement** – weekly calls and WhatsApp group to stay in regular contact with regions

6

**Open letter** to the government on harnessing the power of the youth sector in the COVID-19 crisis

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# UK Youth Covid-19 Response

7

UK Youth along with the Back Youth Alliance continue to **meet with DCMS** (Department of Culture, Media and Sports) regularly.

8

The **reimagine the future of youth work** and how to support young people beyond COVID-19, a series of events to bring together cross sector leaders and young people

9

Created guidance on **digital youth work** and trained **226** youth workers on engaging young people safely online

10

Distributed IT hardware to young people across the UK

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Continuing to engage  
movement opportunit  
and have their



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## The impact of Covid-19 on England's youth organisations

“

Our building closed in March 2020 and is not opening until April 2021, so [we have] no income and we cannot operate in person or deliver group work. There is currently a reduction in young people receiving our services and support, staff have no wages and we will close after Christmas without funding.

”

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20%

temporarily

close

prep

perm

close

# The pandemic has had significant financial implications for the youth sector

“

We had to change the staff composition by reducing the number of staff from 12 to 5. The staff left are the Director, Administrator and 3 Youth Workers. The Director took 60% salary reduction and the Administrator took 50% salary reduction with the 3 Youth Workers taking 50% reduction in hours worked.

”

**83%** of youth organisations report that their income has decreased since Covid-19 hit

# The long-term impact of Covid-19

- Without action, grassroots youth organisations will be lost from our communities
- Young people will lose vital support to overcome the effects of the pandemic

**64%** of youth organisations report that they are at risk of closure in the next 12 months

“ Young people are suffering with increased mental health issues and feeling even more socially isolated since COVID-19. ”

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# What does the sector need to survive?

- Sustainable financial support

Covering operational costs and responding to local need

Rebuilding the workforce

Facilitating adaptation of services, including investment in digital infrastructure

- Non-financial support

Delivering digital services (e.g. digital equipment\*, training opportunities)

Accessing funding (e.g. training and pro-bono work in fundraising and bid development, advice, and communications regarding funding opportunities)

Developing an updated organisational strategy and future planning (e.g. advice, training, and pro-bono work)

Overcoming a reduced workforce (e.g. volunteers, training to replace lost skills)

Responding to the increased needs of young people during the pandemic (e.g. staff and volunteer training in key issues such as vulnerability to negative experiences, partnerships to facilitate referral to specialised support and employment providing mentoring and work experience oppo



# #YoungAndBlack

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# Aim of #Young&Black

Improve lived experiences for young Black people in the UK



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# Amplifying Young and Black voices by creating opportunities to share their experiences and stories



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# Celebrate & showcase the achievements of young Black people

- **6 online events:**

1. Black male identity within the UK
2. Black female identity within the UK
3. Black LGBTQ+ people identity within the UK
4. Being Black in rural Britain
5. Misplacement of black people in Secondary school Education
6. Being Black in the Workplace



# Celebrate & showcase the achievements of young Black people



- Graphics designed by young Black creatives to encapsulate the stories and expressions of the people within the #YoungAndBlack events.

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# Enable young and Black people to be heard by developing tools and resources to create safe spaces

In order to make long standing change we must equip people to make changes that can be embedded within their organisation and wider society. We've developed these resources with Black cross sector leaders and young people.

We've engaged with youth organisations on their role in tackling racism. This work has developed into a working group in the UK Youth Movement, called TRIUMPH, to look at barriers and solutions to hearing more diverse voices, especially in leadership and influencing policy.

<https://www.ukyouth.org/what-we-do/youngandblack/>



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# Upcoming priorities

- **May 2021**

Launching our new strategy

Outcomes of the DCMS Youth Review

Re-opening of Avon Tyrell (our outdoor centre)

- **Summer 2021**

#iwill Movement – in partnership with Volunteering Matters

Youth Card Launch



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Thank you for listening!

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