



Levenshulme Youth Project
Annual Report 2023

Introduction from the Trustees

We are delighted to introduce this year's annual report for Levenshulme Youth Project (LYP), which summarises yet another wonderful year of support and provision for children and young people across our community. Once again, this report demonstrates that Levenshulme Youth Project is a small charity that punches big! We are just bursting with pride at all the project has achieved.

As you will see from all the impactful and diverse projects and spaces, LYP provides exciting, engaging and entirely youth- centered activities for all members of our diverse community. What's more our ever-growing partnerships provide even more opportunities for young people to participate in social action, arts, wellbeing and community-based activity.

We are confident LYP continues to enrich our young people's lives, and as you can see from the brilliant collection of quotes from young people (as well as what they and their families tell us every week), they really do trust and place value in our dedicated staff and provision.

Indeed, as trustees we know our staff 'are' the fabric of project and we thank them with the deepest gratitude and appreciation for their commitment and creativity. Woven throughout the fabric of our organisation is an ethos of doing everything 'with' and 'alongside' young people, elevating their voice and enabling their influence on the direction and flavour of the sessions. In this way, our young people have shaped LYP to become the inclusive and diverse community it is. A fabulous example of this was the girls group cultural celebration! And so, we whole heartedly thank all our young people for the inspiration, and their trust and belief in us.

For 11 years LYP has thrived despite some difficult times, such as a global pandemic and severe challenges to public services. We have managed this by remaining agile and strengths based, for example our lack of 'building' has been used to our advantage to take us directly to where young people spend their time. However, to ensure we continue to work alongside some of the most marginalised members of our community we invite stakeholders and funders to celebrate our uniqueness and join forces to support LYP, allowing us to continue to respond to the challenges that may face young people over the next decade. And so, it goes without saying, we thank all our funders, stakeholders and partners for placing their faith in our project.

So, please read on, and help us celebrate the fabulous youth charity with the biggest heart - Levenshulme Youth Project!

Hannah, Paulina, Ciara, Laurie and Ffion
(The Trustees)

Objectives and activities

The purpose of the charity is to act as a resource for children and young people up to the age of 25 living in Levenshulme and the neighbouring areas by providing information, advice, support and delivering activities as a means of:

- ❑ Supporting young people to develop their skills, capacities, and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as independent and responsible individuals.
- ❑ Advancing personal, social, emotional, political, and developmental education.
- ❑ Raising aspirations.
- ❑ Providing recreational and leisure time activity in the interests of social welfare for children and young people who have need by reason of their youth, status, ethnicity, ability, or social and economic circumstances with a view to increasing their achievement of positive outcomes.
- ❑ Encouraging self-respect, respect for others and the environment.



[A review of our achievements and performance:](#)

How our activities delivered public benefit

During the year to 31 March 2023, the charity (“LYP”) contacted and engaged with 284 children and young people (137 female, 147 male).

LYP met its aim of reaching a diverse range of young people from Levenshulme and the surrounding area (participants were primarily from the areas of Longsight, Levenshulme, Gorton and Burnage) and engaging them in meaningful activities through a variety of opportunities to interact with each other, LYP staff and the wider community.

As in previous years, LYP continued to offer a wide and varied programme, through regular weekly groups, school holiday provision and trips and events. The programme created opportunities for young people to learn, live a healthier, more active life, meet new people, make new friends and, of course, have fun. The young people LYP work with have always expressed how important LYP is in their lives and it has been a privilege to hear about the skills they have learned and the confidence they have gained through participation in LYP.

The staff team had another busy and fulfilling year working with LYP's partner agencies to deliver a dynamic and responsive programme and support young people.



Review of the projects

13+ Provision - Fridays 6:00 - 8:00pm at Arcadia

These weekly sessions continued to provide a 'safe place' for young people to enjoy various activities with other young people their own age/year group. Young people can come and go as they please and they don't have to 'join' or attend every week. This empowers the young people to make their own decisions as to how to spend their time. Young people have enjoyed socialising, participating in creative activities, listening to, and creating music, using computers, and engaging in conversations with youth workers. In every session there is an opportunity for discussion, allowing young people to explore and increase their knowledge of issues that are of importance to them and enabling them to make informed, positive choices. Topics discussed during the year included relationships, physical exercise and sport; community involvement; volunteering; sexual health; diversity & equality.

Highlights for the group during the year included:

- Taking part in The Dandy Portraits project
- Lyric writing and a Music Project
- Podcasting

Club 95 – Wednesdays 6:00 -8:00 pm

LYP specialises in the provision of play and leisure opportunities for young people with additional needs aged 8 – 12 years. LYP believes in equality of opportunity for all, and based on this belief, continued to provide vibrant and energetic spaces for children and young people to play and take part in lots of activities and to connect with others of a similar age. Club 95 activities during the year included:

- arts and crafts
- drama
- sports
- challenges.

During the year there was a focus on projects and activities that promoted young people's health and wellbeing.

'Free play' is encouraged in our setting as this provides children with the opportunity to explore their imagination, develop their own games, take risks and challenge themselves. LYP strives to create a positive and happy inclusive environment where everyone is valued, and achievements are celebrated. Northmoor Community Centre was used for indoor activities and Crowcroft Park for outdoor activities.

Highlights for the year included:

- Partnership work with 42nd Street developing young people's resilience.
- Graffiti Project at Station South, turning an unsightly portacabin into a work of modern art.

'Girls Groups' - 4:00PM – 6:00pm Thursdays at Levenshulme Inspire Centre

This session took place weekly during the year, providing girls and young women with a space to discuss, plan, and lead their own projects. It has developed into a safe and fun environment in which they have grown in confidence, self-esteem and created friendships and a stable network of support.

Highlights of the year included:

- Work with 42nd Street Mental Health Charity.
- Developing mental health resources
- Healthy Relationships and Sexual Health projects
- Conservation of the planters at Greenbank Park fields
- Cookery projects.

Cultural Celebration Event

The girls group also planned LYP's cultural celebration. This created opportunities for young people to plan a celebratory community event which provided around 120 participants with opportunities to:

- Explore their creative side through various art and craft activities.
- Support the development of a vibrant and inclusive community that values skill development, teamwork, and creative expression.
- Sample food from different cultures.
-

Emotional and Mental Health Workshops

During the year LYP ran workshops for young people to explore ways in which to manage stress and their mental health. The workshops provided the young people with tools to help them to manage the stresses of life and develop resilience. Various topics were explored - anger, supporting your friends, healthy relationships, and trauma and bereavement, based on the UK 'Heads Up' resources. The young people were able to talk to trusted adults who helped them think about how to control their own thoughts, emotions and behaviour.



Holiday Provision

As in previous years, LYP ran play-focused sessions during the Easter, May half term, Summer and October half term holidays funded by the Holiday Activity Fund (HAF). Whilst the fund is primarily aimed at children who access free school meals, the programme was open to and included support for other children and young people facing hardship as the Project's leaders recognize this is important for a geographical area impacted by high levels of economic disadvantage, obesity and deprivation.

The programme delivered a mixture of drama, games, sports and arts and crafts and the local park was used to deliver some of these activities outdoors when the weather allowed. The children took part in daily nutritional activities in which they explored healthy eating and nutrition and consider how these impact on their lives.



Educational Visits and Trips

During the year, young people took part in numerous additional trips to attractions and parks around Manchester and beyond. These included trips to:

- The Manchester Museum
- Manchester Art Gallery
- The Science and Industry Museum
- Football History Museum
- Cinema
- Go Karting
- Escape Rooms
- Laserquest

Young Leaders

Growing young leaders is an invaluable part of LYP's work. LYP provides young people with opportunities for volunteering and taking ownership of various pieces of work. Young people who have been attending LYP for some time are encouraged to volunteer with delivering the programme and also serving as ambassadors, within the community and with other agencies, to raise the profile of LYP and local young people in general. They are provided with support and guidance in their roles and, through their volunteering, gain self-confidence and valuable transferable skills which they can use in their portfolios/records of achievement or CVs.

Social Action

LYP met its Manchester City Council target for social action and is in the process of working towards a Social Action agenda. During the year, young people were involved in conservation activities, planning community events and attending meetings as representatives of the Project and for local young people.

Quotes from young people and stakeholders...

“The best thing was the games in the park. I felt happy and energized.”

‘LYP is like my extended family. I really look forward to seeing you guys.’

“If I wasn’t here, I would be at home sitting and sleeping.” (young person on HAF project)

“I have really enjoyed being a young leader on the play session. I have learnt so much.”

“Nutrition is about the good things that we put in our bodies.”

“It was lovely seeing the kids have something to do in the holidays.” (Parent)

“I really appreciate the HAF project. It helps me with my daughter in the holidays.” (Parent)

“I was little bit wary about leaving my son as he didn’t really want to go to the play session. However, when I returned, he did not want to come home with me because he had had such a good time!” (Parent)

Key Partnerships

A6 Partnership

Last year was the fifth year of The A6 Partnership, the partnership comprising M13 Youth Project, as lead partner, LYP and Anson Cabin Project, which has delivered play and youth work with Manchester City Council funding throughout the year. M13 and Anson Cabin are well established in their respective communities and have a long history. LYP trustees and staff have valued the support and advice they have been given and have sought to embed systems and process which mirror these successful projects and are proud to work alongside them.

42nd Street

LYP’s partnership with 42nd Street continued throughout the year on various projects.

Arcadia

LYP continues to be a key player in helping to resolve ‘anti-social’ behaviour issues at Arcadia.

Groundwork Trust

LYP again worked in partnership with the Groundwork Trust during the year to build planters in Greenbank Park and other local conservation projects.

Local Venues

LYP runs its activities from various community buildings around Levenshulme, including Arcadia Library and Leisure, The Jain Centre, Levenshulme Inspire and Levenshulme Old Library. LYP has developed good, long-term relationships with the organisations and people operating these venues and they are all supportive of the work LYP does for young people in the community.

Plans for Future Periods

1. LYP will continue to seek and attract funding to be able to grow the team and enable it to be in the best position to respond to the needs of children and young people in the community.
2. LYP hopes to reach even more children and young people through its work, whilst remaining focused on engaging and consulting with them on all aspects of its delivery and designing Programmes in full partnership with them. The trustees believe this approach allows children and young people to build their capacity and develop skills for life, learning and work so that they are able to meet any future challenges they may face.
3. LYP will continue to develop and maintain effective strategic partnerships that will help it meet the needs of the children and young people it works with.
4. LYP is working to develop a more bespoke youth offer on Friday evenings, in collaboration with Arcadia Library and Leisure, which will allow young people who attend LYP sessions to have access to the sports facilities within the Arcadia Centre. It is hoped this will come to fruition in the next 12 months.
5. In the first 6 months of the next financial year, LYP will be involved in a Peer Research project funded by 'GreaterSport', which will see local young people designing and undertaking a research project relating to local young people's participation in sports activities.
6. Using funding from Young Manchester, the trustees and staff team will, in the next 12 months, be undertaking an infrastructure review with the assistance of an external consultant, who will advise on the project's governance, policies and procedures with a view to implementing changes to make the project more robust.