



Stronger
together

5 Years of Young K&C





To create a thriving voluntary and community sector, where all children and young people in Kensington and Chelsea can access outstanding opportunities.



Contents

- 04** A Message from Our Chair
- 05** A Message from Our CEO
- 06** A Message from Our Young Ambassadors
- 08** Our Aims and Objectives
- 10** Key Roadmap of the 5 Years
- 12** Our Borough
- 14** Our Members
- 16** Our Partners
- 18** Our Grants
- 21** Developing Our Members
- 24** Advocacy and Influencing
- 26** Our City
- 28** Achievement Awards
- 30** Our Future
- 31** Thank You and Acknowledgment



*Five
years of
Impact!*





A Message from Our Chair

Andy Evans

*On behalf of Young
K&C's trustees, I'd
like to welcome you
to Young K&C's 5th
Anniversary Report.*

Having grown up in Kensington and Chelsea and worked closely with local youth and community groups, it means a lot to me to chair this charity, supporting children and young people in our borough.

It's been an honour to serve as Young K&C's first chair of trustees and to see the organisation grow from the original proposal developed by John Lyon's Charity, to the thriving organisation that is Young K&C today.

Back in 2020, we were aware that local voluntary organisations were working in isolation, struggling against a backdrop of cuts to the youth sector. Children and

young people were facing cuts to services and support, while the community was experiencing the impact of the Grenfell Fire.

Young K&C was set up to raise and distribute more funding, bring voluntary organisations together and promote best practice in the sector.

These aims remain as important today as when we first started in 2020. Kensington and Chelsea has a dynamic and thriving voluntary sector providing year-round support for the most disadvantaged families.

We would like to thank Young K&C members for their incredible commitment and the amazing work that they do. And we would like to thank our incredible staff team for their dedication and hard work.

We are looking forward to working with our members, partners and with local young people to continue to develop Young K&C's strategy and priorities for the next five years.

A Message from Our CEO

Nicola Butler



I am delighted to present Young K&C's 5 Year Report.

Working as Young K&C's first CEO, with Deputy CEO Niamh Graham and all of our wonderful staff team and Young Ambassadors, is a dream job.

I'd like to thank Young K&C's board of trustees, who volunteer their time and expertise, for their wisdom, guidance and support during the last five years.

It's been a joy for me to be able to use my skills and experience of running voluntary sector services for children and young people to support others in a similar position.

I am inspired by our members and their tireless work, serving and supporting local children, young people and families.

I've enjoyed learning more about local Supplementary Schools, after school and holiday programmes, youth clubs and community adventure play.

My highlights include securing funds for local voluntary organisations, bringing people together for training and networking, working with our fantastic Young Ambassadors and visiting members to learn more about their successes and the challenges.

In 2023, I was honoured to receive an MBE for my work supporting children's play.

Seeing so many local voluntary organisations being able to develop their services and support for children and young people is for me, the most rewarding part of the job. I look forward to working with our members to help them to flourish and thrive in the years to come.

A Message from Our Young Ambassadors



We joined the Young Ambassadors programme for different reasons, some of us were encouraged by friends, others were looking for a new challenge. We were all drawn in by the chance to make a real difference for young people in our community.

At its heart, the Young Ambassadors programme is about making sure young people have a seat at the table. We've been involved in decisions that really matter: giving over £1 million in youth funding, assessing holiday and food activities,

consulting on grant programmes, and shaping projects that support the very communities we come from.

It's rewarding to know that because of our involvement, funding reached youth groups, Supplementary Schools, and grassroots projects that genuinely support young people. We didn't just talk – we saw the difference it made. We spoke directly to project leads, visited organisations, and sat on funding panels. We helped shape the borough's youth services from the inside.



*£1m given
in youth
funding!*



The Young Ambassadors programme has been personal. Being a Young Ambassador has helped us build confidence, ask tough questions, and work alongside community leaders. Some of us launched our own community projects, like a girls-only football programme, and were supported every step of the way – planning and safeguarding to delivery and advertising. That level of hands-on support empowered us to lead, not just participate.

Young K&C didn't stop at panels and projects. They helped us prepare for the future. Through their network and belief in our potential, we accessed internships and professional opportunities we didn't even know were out there. We gained skills, experience, and insight all of which we now proudly include on our CVs and university applications.

What makes this programme different is that it doesn't just ask young people what they think – it acts on what we say.

It proves that when young people are trusted as decision-makers, the outcomes are better and more just.

Young K&C values the knowledge we hold from our lived experience growing up in Kensington and Chelsea, and it creates space for us to lead change in the very communities that raised us.

Being a Young Ambassador isn't just something we did. It's shaped who we are and how we'll continue to show up for others.



Our Aims and Objectives

Young K&C is a charity dedicated to supporting and resourcing opportunities and provision for children and young people in Kensington and Chelsea.

Our vision is that all children and young people in Kensington and Chelsea are able to access outstanding opportunities and services, supported by thriving local voluntary organisations.

What we do

Our small team works with partners to support local voluntary organisations that work with children and young people by:

- £ **Raising and distributing funds**
-  **Developing training, advice and partnerships**
-  **Empowering children and young people as decision makers**
-  **Advocating for and with local young people and voluntary organisations**

We target support for most underrepresented and under-resourced groups in our community including smaller, Global Majority-led organisations, disabled children and young people, girls, young women and LBGT+ young people and children eligible for free school meals.



Our aims

Ensure that all local children and young people can access high quality opportunities

Reduce inequalities

Develop and fund a thriving voluntary and community sector (VCS)

RBKC is a great place to work because of Young K&C!

Hornimans Adventure Playground

Charities and Community Interest Companies become members of Young K&C. It is free to join and any voluntary organisation that works with local children and young people can become a member.

Members are eligible to apply to our funding programmes, attend training and networking meetings, receive membership offers and participate in the Young K&C Achievement Awards.

Young K&C works with public sector partners, arts organisations, and companies to provide funding, donations, in-kind support, free and reduced price offers for our members and for the children and young people that they work with.

Our work is guided by the experience of the local voluntary and community sector and by children and young people in the local area.

Our small team brings together lived experience of many of the issues affecting local children, young people and families, along with professional experience and qualifications in managing and delivering services for children and young people in the voluntary sector.

How Young K&C Works

The difference Young K&C makes

Young K&C's work makes a difference in the lives of local children and young people by developing:

More and better opportunities for children and young people

More equitable and inclusive support

Higher quality services and support

Better resourced and more sustainable local voluntary organisations



April 2022

Young K&C begins a comprehensive training programme for our members, funded by The K+C Foundation

Key roadmap of the 5 years

YOUNG
K&C

August 2019

Young K&C (Kensington and Chelsea YPF) is set up by our founding board of trustees, with Andy Evans as Chair



May 2020

Our first grant programme provides laptops and small grants to 14 Supplementary Schools in the borough, funded by John Lyon's Charity



Summer 2020

Young K&C launches membership programme and starts to deliver 1-2-1 support for members

January 2020

Nicola Butler starts work as Young K&C's first CEO, visiting 30 local voluntary organisations to learn more about their needs and wishes



July 2021

Our first training session in partnership with RBKC and Metropolitan police trains 50 local youth workers to respond to serious incidents and youth violence



March 2020

Young K&C brings together 30 youth and play organisations to coordinate the response to COVID-19 and Black Lives Matter



Winter 2020

Young people are grant panel members for the first time for our Exploring Culture Heritage and Identity grants programme, funded by John Lyon's Charity



December 2021

Young K&C wins Best Collaboration at the YPF Trust Awards



July 2021

Our City is launched in partnership with Young Westminster Foundation



Easter 2021

Holiday Activities and Food programme begins with 10 Young K&C members, in partnership with RBKC



Summer 2022

Participatory grant making with young people is established as part of the Making Space grant programme for inclusion of disabled young people, funded by Julia Rausing Trust and RBKC



October 2022

"A Day In Your Life" photography project celebrates with over 300 attendees at the Saatchi Gallery, in partnership with Alison Jackson, funded by The K+C Foundation, Rockspring Charitable Trust, Cadogan, the Drapers Company, Mark Husson Photography and the Lightbulb Trust



November 2024

First Rising Voices Network launches for Global Majority staff members at the V&A



March 2023

Young K&C launches Our Choice grant in March 2023, dedicated to girls and LGBT+ young people

September 2024

18 young people from across the borough join our Young Ambassadors programme

100

Summer 2023

Young K&C membership reaches 100



March 2025

£957,000 distributed as part of the Youth Empowerment Grant Programme to over 20 organisations in Kensington and Chelsea, funded by RBKC, Julia Rausing Trust and John Lyon's Charity



September 2024

Shortlisted for Charity of the Year at the KCW Chamber of Commerce and for the 2024 LGC Comms Award for "WeGotU"



May 2024

First Achievement Awards honouring the work of our members and showcasing the We Are Young K&C film

Summer 2023

Young K&C brings youth and play workers together in our first youth work forum, funded by London Propel and City Bridge Foundation



Summer 2023

First Supplementary Schools grant programme, funded by Lightbulb Trust

Our Borough

Unique in its rich history, culture, and diversity Kensington and Chelsea is a borough like no other. Kensington and Chelsea is one of the wealthiest boroughs in the country, but it is also one of the most unequal.

25,000+
*children and young
people live in K&C¹*

1 in 4
*children and young
people live in poverty²*

Kensington and Chelsea is a vibrant cultural hub with residents from over **50 nationalities** speaking over **80 languages** and many faiths being represented across the borough.³

58%
*of children and young people in Kensington and Chelsea
identify as being members of the Global majority.⁴*

Culture and heritage are a key part of the local community and is widely celebrated in events such as community Iftars to the world-renowned Notting Hill Carnival.

17% of children and young people attending local schools have special educational needs and disabilities and the numbers are growing.⁵ Families with disabled children are significantly more likely to be living in poverty than non-disabled families.

28% of households in Kensington and Chelsea are living in poverty.⁶ The Grenfell Fire in 2017 highlighted the deep inequalities experienced by the borough's poorest residents with long-lasting effects across the community. Local voluntary and community organisations have been at the forefront of the response.

Inequality continues to play a large role within Kensington and Chelsea, which includes some of the wealthiest areas in London, along with some of the poorest. 33% of children in the borough are eligible for free school meals, and the proportion is growing.⁷



Social activism and campaigning run deep within the social fabric of the borough. This can be seen from anti-racist campaigns such as the Mangrove Nine protests in the 1960s and more recent campaigns to save North Kensington Library and Kensington and Chelsea College.

Local voluntary organisations play a vital role in mitigating these challenges. Youth clubs, community adventure playgrounds and Supplementary Schools enable children and young people to socialise, learn, develop and grow. All deliver life changing opportunities and outcomes for local children and young people.

¹ Bi-Borough Children and Young People's Plan 2023-26, RBKC, December 2022

² Poverty and Prosperity in Kensington and Chelsea: A Deepening Divide, K&C Foundation, February 2024

³ Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, Greener, Safer, Fairer, the Council Plan, 2023-27.

⁴ Bi-Borough Children and Young People's Plan 2023-26, RBKC, December 2022

⁵ RBKC Strategy for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, 2021-24.

⁶ Trust for London website, 2025.

⁷ Poverty and Prosperity in Kensington and Chelsea: A Deepening Divide, K&C Foundation, February 2024

*Member:
A voluntary or
community organisation
that supports children
and young people in
Kensington and Chelsea.*

Our Members

The youth and play sector within Kensington and Chelsea offers exciting opportunities to children and young people, with some of the longest running play and youth organisations in London, alongside new and innovative organisations. Young K&C is proud to call **136 voluntary and community organisations working with under 25's in the borough our members.**

As a local charity, Young K&C works with and alongside our members, experiencing many of the same experiences and challenges that members face. We believe we should do nothing for them, without them.

Young K&C members reach over 10,000 local children and young people each year, including some of the most disadvantaged and isolated young people.

- **58% of members are smaller organisations with turnover under £250,000.**
- **60% are charities & 40% are community interest companies.**
- **60% of members are Global Majority-led.**
- **40% of members are female-led.**
- **22% of children & young people participating in holiday programmes have special educational needs & disabilities.**

How our members make a difference

Our members provide life changing support for children and young people across the borough. Their work covers everything from youth clubs, performing arts and media, mentoring, art therapy, educational support and even kayaking!

The work delivered by Young K&C members addresses a range of needs experienced by children and young people by:

- **Providing culturally sensitive support for children, young people & their families**
- **Delivering inclusive sessions for children and young people with additional needs & disabilities**
- **Helping young people stay safe**
- **Allowing children & young people to develop skills and aspirations**
- **Increasing access to education & employment**
- **Building friendships & community bonds**
- **Exploring creativity & expression**

Teit Ethiopian Supplementary School

Teit Ethiopian Supplementary School delivers holistic services to children and young people from Ethiopian and East African heritage, many of whom experience disadvantage. Through a wide range of programmes, Teit offers a culturally responsive curriculum education that includes maths, English, basic coding, arts, and Amharic.

Teit Ethiopian Supplementary School nurtures a strong sense of identity, pride, and cultural belonging through its teaching and activities. Specialist community arts practitioners lead workshops in spoken word, drama, poetry, and music. Community volunteers bring lived experience and cultural knowledge that reinforce intergenerational learning and connection.

Young K&C supported Teit Ethiopian Supplementary School's journey of growth and development. Through 1:1 support with charity registration, policy frameworks, and through grant funding, Young K&C has helped Teit to secure its future.

Training and networking opportunities have strengthened staff capacity, while direct grant funding has enabled Teit to expand its reach and enrich its programmes.

Young K&C has been supporting children and young people in Kensington and Chelsea, and children of Teit have hugely benefited from that. Support from Young K&C has allowed us to scale up our work, to reach more young people, and for our young people to feel valued—who would have otherwise been unobserved.

Teit Ethiopian
Supplementary School

Teit Ethiopian Supplementary School has transitioned from a grassroots group into a sustainable organisation with the systems, recognition and partnerships to deepen its impact. The result is a trusted community organisation that strengthens academic progress, emotional wellbeing, and cultural identity for children and young people.

Our Partners

Providing more and better opportunities for children and young people

We are bridging the gap between the voluntary, public and private sectors. Young K&C aims to create thriving sector sharing experiences, resources and capacity to provide the best future for children and young people.

We work in collaboration with local and regional voluntary organisations, cultural organisations and museums, corporates, statutory services and the local authority. By bringing people together and building long-term partnerships, we provide vital support to our members and enable children and young people to make use of the wealth of opportunities available across the borough.



A Day In Your Life

A Day In Your Life Photography Project is a community education project that offers life-changing opportunities to aspiring young photographers and artists from disadvantaged backgrounds, funded by The K+C Foundation, Rockspring Charitable Trust, Cadogan, the Drapers Company, Mark Husson Photography and The Lightbulb Trust.



Young K&C partnered with BAFTA and multi-award-winning artist Alison Jackson to deliver photography workshops with Young K&C members, including Dalgarno Trust, Earls Court Youth Club, Fit for Life Youth, London Sports Trust, Harrow Club and St Mary's Ukrainian School.

Aimed at tackling educational inequalities in access to the arts, the project gives local young people access to professional cameras, mentorship, work experience and creative training.

The partnership worked with local youth clubs, arts professionals, funders, development companies, and venues including the Cadogan Hall and the Saatchi Gallery to make this project a reality.

The Science Museum, the Design Museum, the V&A, Chelsea Physic Garden and Chelsea Football Club all provided unique opportunities for young people to develop their skills and experiences.

900 children and young people participated in workshops led by postgraduate photography tutors, producing more than 120,000 photographs over 3 years. Children and young people learned skills such as photography, editing, directing and modelling.

Each year the project culminated in an exhibition that celebrated young people's achievements and introduced them to professional networks and career pathways in the creative industries.

A Day in Your Life shows how sustained, cross sector partnerships can unlock transformative opportunities and aspirations for local children and young people through financial and in-kind support.

Our Grants



Funding more sustainable local voluntary organisations for children and young people

Since 2020, Young K&C has distributed over £2.5 million in grants to over 80 local voluntary organisations across Kensington and Chelsea, in partnership with key stakeholders such as the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

(RBKC), John Lyon's Charity, The Lightbulb Trust, NHS CNWL and Julia Rausing Trust.

Over the past 5 years, Young K&C has distributed the following:

Grant Fund	Funder	Description	£ Distributed amount	Number of grants
Digital Inclusion for Supplementary Schools	John Lyon's Charity	Distribution of laptops and grant funding to 14 Supplementary Schools across the borough	7,500	14
Detached Outreach	RBKC	Supporting 4 local youth clubs to support young people during the COVID-19 lockdowns	7,213	4
Holiday Activities and Food Programme	Department of Education and RBKC	Providing free holiday clubs for children and young people who are eligible for free school meals	1,455,345	120
Exploring Culture, Heritage and Identity	John Lyon's Charity	Funding small organisations to deliver projects that explore culture, identity, and heritage	80,500	25
Our Choice	John Lyon's Charity	Funding small organisations to support girls, young women and LGBT+ young people	51,375	12
Lancaster Youth Hub consortium	RBKC	Delivering youth activities at Lancaster Youth Hub	157,600	12
Young Adult Mental Health Pathways	Central North West London NHS	Funding youth clubs to support young adults mental health pathways in partnership with the NHS	65,970	6
Supplementary School Fund	Lightbulb Trust and John Lyon's Charity	Core funding for local Supplementary Schools to support learning and education.	105,000	25
Wellness From Within	Central North West London NHS	Helping to address the risks of disordered eating for young people	65,000	4
Making Space	Julia Rausing Trust and RBKC	Supporting inclusion of disabled children and young people in local youth activities	215,880	12

Grant Fund	Funder	Description	£ Distributed amount	Number of grants
Youth Empowerment Main Grants	RBKC	Funding core cost for youth clubs and community adventure play	757,500	17
Youth Empowerment Small Grants	RBKC and John Lyon's Charity	Small grants and project grants for local voluntary organisations	93,815	11
TOTAL			3,062,698	262

We worked with RBKC to support their grant programmes to fund local voluntary organisations to work with Parent Carer Champions and to develop community responses to reduce serious youth violence.

Our grant making supports local voluntary and community organisations to deliver high quality services for children and young people by giving them the resources they need to develop and grow their service delivery.

Access to funding for local children and youth services is becoming more challenging every year, particularly for smaller, grassroots organisations. Local voluntary organisations face challenges with rising costs, recruiting and retaining good staff and sustaining support for children and young people.

We reduce the barriers to funding by:

- **Working with Young Ambassadors to ensure decisions are informed by local young people**
- **Visiting organisations in person to give our applicants the best opportunity to showcase their work**
- **Aiming to keep application forms as short as possible, and using plain English**
- **Supporting our members with**

monitoring and reporting, skills and development

- **Building positive relationships with our members, to support them throughout the grant process and beyond**

We believe in participatory grant-making, bringing together the voices of young people, professionals and stakeholders as key decision makers across all stages of the grant process.

"Grant making should not be made in isolation to the people it is affecting."

— Young Ambassador, 2024



By working in collaboration with our members and local young people, we make decisions that are fair and representative of local need. We have built strong, trusted relationships with the organisations we fund and have seen the real impact of our support within communities.

Our Young Ambassadors help to shape a process that reflects the lived experiences and priorities of local young people, ensuring our funding remains relevant, inclusive, and community led.

Fit For Life Youth

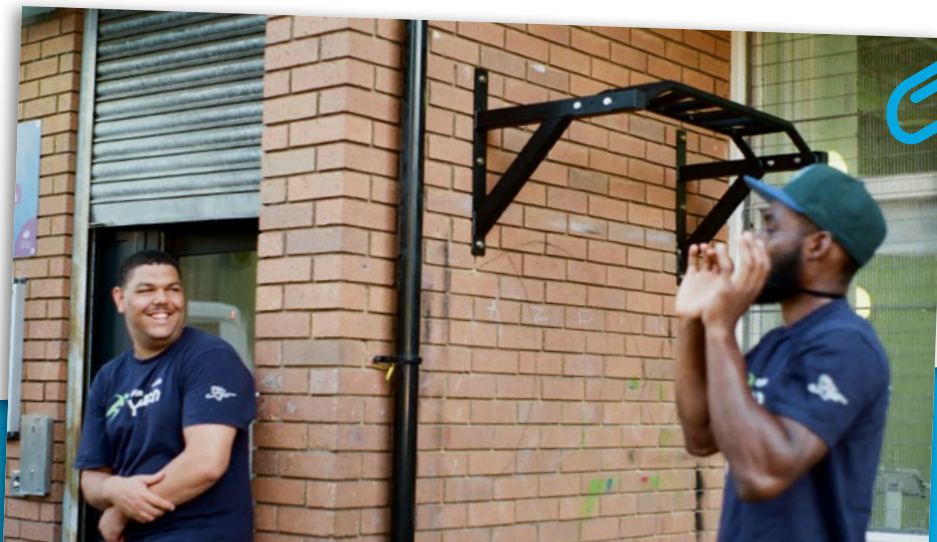
Fit For Life Youth (FFLY) is a youth organisation supporting children and young people through sports, mentoring, and youth work. Their journey from a small community-led CIC to a registered charity has been significantly shaped by the targeted and ongoing funding support of Young K&C.

Through first receiving Young K&C's Small Grants, FFLY were able to run activities focused on wellbeing, fitness, and inclusion. These early investments created space for innovation and community engagement, laying the groundwork for further growth.

As the organisation proved its impact, Young K&C enabled FFLY to scale its services by unlocking longer-term funding. FFLY successfully partnered with London Sports Trust to win the tender to both Lancaster Youth Hub and Chelsea Youth Hub, offering critical continuity for young people in the area.

Alongside grant funding, Young K&C provided 1:1 support with financial planning and fundraising strategy. This guidance helped FFLY to successfully convert from a CIC to a CIO, an important milestone that expanded its eligibility for larger grants and strengthened its long-term sustainability. Young K&C also facilitated introductions to new private funders, broadening the organisation's funding base beyond the voluntary sector.

Today, FFLY runs a wide range of programmes through its FFLY HQ, Lancaster Youth Hub and Chelsea Youth Hub, including tailored projects for girls, SEND youth, and those at risk of exclusion. With more than 200 young people engaged per year, the organisation's growth reflects not just community need, but also the impact of consistent, well-placed funding.



Developing Our Members

Developing higher quality services and support for children and young people

Young K&C supports improvements to quality of local children and young people's services through training, advice and support.

Training offer

With many organisations operating on tight budgets, staff and organisational development can feel more like a chore rather than a priority.

Young K&C believes in providing our members access to high quality training and development to ensure our members can grow alongside their children and young people. Our focus is on developing the skills, expertise and resources needed to delivery high quality services for children and young people.

We are committed to empowering a skilled and experienced work force of delivery staff who are able to address the complex needs faced by children and young people in Kensington and Chelsea.

Over the past 5 years, we have delivered over **45 training sessions** for our members, all free of cost.

Our transformational training package has equipped staff from the VCS with the skills and knowledge to provide services to children and young people. Each training session is based on the needs and wishes of our members to fill the knowledge and capacity gaps within the VCS.

We cover topics needed for high quality children and youth services, such as:

- **Youth mental health first aid**
- **Cultural competency**
- **Inclusivity**
- **Responding to serious youth violence**
- **Mental health & wellbeing for practitioners**
- **Safeguarding**
- **First aid & health and safety**

Our Youth Worker Forums bring together frontline practitioners to share skills, learn about best practice and support each other. In shared forums, practitioners can build relationships that provide long term support for the children and young people they work with.

Thank you for this. I felt fully involved. It was great to think and reflect on everything we shared.

Local youth worker

Qualifications

People working in youth and play work can often take untraditional routes into employment. For some this means attending a youth club and later becoming a senior youth worker. For others it can mean a career change from a dancer into play worker!

We understand the importance of qualifications in the workforce which is why we've provided 99 individuals with CPD accredited qualifications over 11 qualification programmes. In some areas of the borough, 25% of residents have no formal qualifications⁸.

Our qualification programmes not only strengthen the capacity of the local sector but provide direct impact to local

826
individuals
trained!

workers, ensuring they have the relevant qualifications to further their career journey and leading to better education and employment opportunities for the local community.

1:1 Support

It can be challenging asking for help or when you're unsure of the next step but in our 1:1 space, we provide the confidential and judgement free space to discuss the realities of running youth and play services.

We have facilitated over **450 1:1 meetings** with our members over the past 5 years.

Young K&C has a staff team skilled in providing information, advice and guidance. Our teams' skills come from both lived experiences and professional qualifications in delivering local children and young people's services, creating a wealth of knowledge and experience to be shared within the sector.

Our approach combines practical advice with strategic questioning to help them navigate the complexities of their work. For questions we can't answer, we work closely with local and regional partners to sign post our members to the relevant support networks.

Nxt Generation CIC

Nxt Generation CIC is a small voluntary organisation committed to empowering young people, particularly those who are vulnerable, NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training), or at risk of serious youth violence. Nxt Generation focuses on early intervention and prevention, providing targeted support through tailored programmes and inclusive group work.

At the heart of Nxt Generation's approach is youth voice and lived experiences to ensure young people feel heard and represented through all stages of engagement.

As a grassroots organisation led by local residents, Young K&C's support has been transformative. Through 1:1 guidance on governance, fundraising, and policy development, Nxt Generation has built a stronger foundation for sustainability and good practice.

Staff from Nxt Generation regularly engage in qualifications and training hosted by Young K&C. This training and development have led to increased skills, confidence and professional knowledge to deliver impactful work for young

people. Staff have been empowered with increased opportunities for personal and professional development within the community.

The skills and knowledge we've gained through this opportunity have directly impacted our work, enabling us to support young people more effectively and share best practices within the community. Overall, it's helped us grow both as a team and as part of a collective for positive change.

Nxt Generation CIC

With strengthened capacity and more robust systems in place, Nxt Generation is now better equipped to respond to the needs of young people facing challenges. Nxt Generation continues to play a vital role in building a more resilient, skilled and connected youth sector in Kensington and Chelsea.

Advocacy and Influencing

Developing more equitable and inclusive support for children and young people

Young K&C's role as the local Young People's Foundation is to act as an advocate for children, young people, and the VCS in Kensington and Chelsea.

We use our connections with our members and community to communicate the needs of those we work with. More often than not, voluntary and community organisations lack the resources and capacity to be able to self-advocate and build meaningful partnerships.

How do we advocate?

- **Building relationships with the VCS and decision makers**
- **Listening and learning from those around us**
- **Presenting first-hand experience, case studies and facts**
- **Actively working with decision makers to influence decisions**
- **Sharing changes and opportunities with the VCS**

Our role as a key strategic partner in the borough has raised the profile of local issues affecting children and young people, influenced funding systems, and enhanced service delivery across the borough.



Hornimans Adventure Playground

22% of children and young people attending local voluntary organisations in Kensington and Chelsea are recognised as having SEND, with numbers continuing to grow. The true figure is likely higher, as some disabilities remain undiagnosed and people may be reluctant to disclose them to services.

Young K&C has actively advocated for greater inclusion and visibility of children with SEND across the borough. Our advocacy and programmes ensure that organisations are equipped, supported, and empowered to meet these needs.

Hornimans Adventure Playground is a powerful example of this advocacy in action. With support from Young K&C's *Making Space* grant, they launched a dedicated SEND programme that transformed the accessibility of their services.

Through tailored activities and consistent one-to-one support from a dedicated SEND worker, children experienced reduced isolation and improved emotional regulation. A meaningful partnership with Pursuing Independent Pathways extended this to young adults with more complex

My son loves it here... I trust the staff to help him

Parent of young person

needs, who built practical skills and self-esteem through gardening and animal care. Young K&C's role went far beyond funding. Our advocacy helped Hornimans upskill staff through SEND-focused training and promote their inclusive approach to other funders and providers.

Young K&C's strategic involvement not only helped embed inclusive practice within Horniman's but also strengthened the wider ecosystem of support for children with SEND, laying the groundwork for lasting cultural change on how inclusion is delivered across the borough.



Our City

Connecting young people to local opportunities

Our City is a website advertising free and low-cost activities for young Londoners across Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster, made in partnership by Young K&C and Young Westminster Foundation in 2021.

Our City was created to provide an online hub for West Central London's youth and play sector as well as a place for local

young people and parents to find after-school, holiday or weekend activities.

Our City provides resources on education and training opportunities, mental health, and information for young refugees and asylum seekers.

233
organisations
showcasing their
activities

Over
80,000
active users
per year

Over
10,000
bookings made

Impact for Members and Partners

Our City showcases the work of Young K&C's member and partner organisations. It allows organisations to create their own homepage with contact details, images, videos and a map feature.

Organisations can upload their projects and activities, providing them with a free, easy-to-use booking system. This has been a valuable resource for local voluntary organisations as website development and digital access can be expensive, labour-intensive and time-consuming.



Holiday Activities and Food Programme

Our City allows parents and guardians of children and young people receiving free school meals to find local projects providing enriching activities and a nourishing meal over the school holidays.

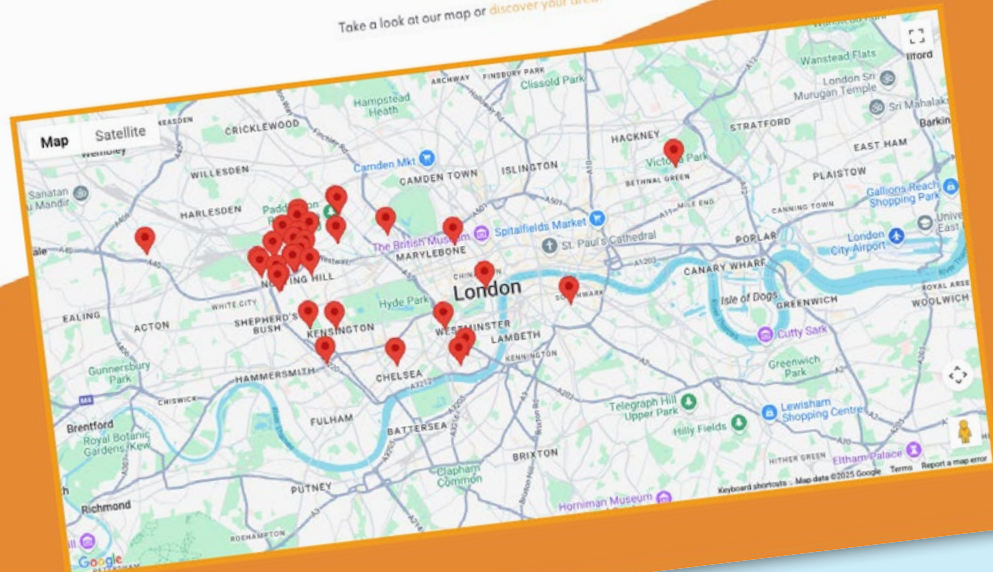
Our City provides a landing page of FAQs relating to the holiday activities and food programme and a map of relevant services across Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster.



Visit
ourcity.org.uk

WHAT'S ON NEAR ME?

Take a look at our map or [discover your area](#).



Achievement Awards

Celebrating the achievements of the local voluntary sector

We believe in the power of community and the importance of recognising those who make a difference to the lives of young people. With over 100 voluntary and community sector organisations dedicated to serving more than 10,000 children and young people in our borough, the contributions of these unsung heroes often go unnoticed.

The work of local voluntary organisations is rarely given enough recognition or remuneration, locally or nationally, despite the tireless work they put in to helping children and young people thrive.

The Young K&C Achievement Awards are our way of honouring the remarkable achievements of individuals and organisations within the sector in Kensington and Chelsea. We want to change the narrative around local voluntary organisations by celebrating the outstanding contributions of those who consistently deliver high-quality services to local children and young people.

Local voluntary and community organisations can say with pride that they are an award-winning charity following the Achievement Awards.

We are all over the moon. This means so much!

Portobello Dance and Performing Arts School



In 2024, we hosted the first Young K&C Achievement Awards ceremony at the Institut Français in South Kensington. The event brought together over 40 organisations and 120 youth and play workers from across Kensington and Chelsea.

The Achievement Awards celebrated the borough's voluntary sector with a range of awards, including Youth Worker of the Year, Young Volunteer of the Year and Best Work Supporting Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing, amongst others.

It brought home the rich tapestry, range and depth of the local voluntary and community sector, the incredibly committed people who work in it (for less money than they could earn elsewhere), and the selflessness of people who volunteer and give so much of themselves to helping others.

RBKC and Westminster City Council



Meet Some of Our Winners

Ulick Tarabanov – Lifetime Achievement

Ulick has run London Sports Trust for over 25 years. His work has contributed to supporting over 15,000 children and young people across Kensington and Chelsea, Westminster and Hammersmith and Fulham.

Hassan Brighton CIC – Rising Star

Dedicated to addressing socio-economic challenges and limited access to recreational activities in the diverse community, Hassan Brighton CIC work collaboratively with the community to increase access to sports provision.





Our Future

As we look ahead, Young K&C will build on the foundations laid in our first five years of working: **funding, capacity building, advocacy, and youth voice.**

These priorities will continue to guide our work as we grow alongside our members and community.

Fairer, More Accessible Funding

We remain committed to ensuring that funding is fair, inclusive, and shaped by those it's meant to benefit. With local voluntary and community organisations facing rising costs and increasing demand, our role is to keep resources flowing where they can make the most difference. We aim to grow our funding pot through new partnerships and increase the availability of unrestricted and core funding to help organisations build long-term stability.

Stronger Organisations, Stronger Services

Stronger organisations lead to stronger services. That's why we'll continue to expand our capacity-building support in response to the real-world needs of local voluntary organisations. From accredited training and specialist workshops to vibrant peer networks like Youth Worker Forums and Rising Voices, we'll invest in the people behind the services.

Advocating for Change

Our role as a connector and advocate remains as important as ever. We will deepen our relationships with local decision-makers, working to influence borough-wide strategy, policy, and investment in youth and play. We will champion inclusive practice, amplifying the voices, insight, and experience of our members to push for meaningful change.

Youth Voice to Youth Power

At the heart of it all is our belief in the power of youth voice. But we are going further, supporting young people to move from being heard to taking the lead. Through an expanded Young Ambassadors programme, increased leadership opportunities, and more visible recognition of their contributions, we'll embed youth participation across everything we do

Looking Ahead

We're proud of what we've built together. The next three years are about deepening our roots, strengthening our collective impact, and staying grounded in the belief that community-led change is the most powerful kind there is.

Thank You and Acknowledgements



Young K&C would like to express sincere thanks to our members.

Every single member we support has dedicated their time to ensuring the children and young people of Kensington and Chelsea have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Their tireless commitment to improving the lives of the community is proof of what we can achieve by working together. We are endlessly grateful for you.

To our Young Ambassadors, thank you for being the guiding voice that steers our work. Your dedication to equitable funding and capacity building practices helps to secure the future of your peers.

The community of Kensington and Chelsea has welcomed us with open arms. Over the past 5 years we have witnessed joy in abundance across the borough. From the children and young people playing on the street to the elders of the community guiding knowledge, we would like to thank you for building such a uniquely beautiful community.

We would also like to wish a special thanks to our funders and donors across the years, without whom our work would not be possible:





youngkandc.org.uk

Young K&C is registered charity number 1185156