

**YOUTH
INVESTMENT
FUND**

**Our
impact**



At Social Investment Business, we finance social change. Since 2002 we've deployed over £0.8bn in loans and grants, supporting more than 6,000 charities and social enterprises to build stronger communities and a fairer society.

In 2022 Social Investment Business was selected to deliver the UK Government's £300M+ Youth Investment Fund to invest in young people by building or renovating youth services in the most deprived areas of England. It was the largest fund we had ever delivered, and it came with a hugely challenging timescale.

Partnership has been our bedrock, working with partners Key Fund, National Youth Agency, Resonance, Fusion21, Turner & Townsend, Sharpe Pritchard; and, above all, with the Department for Culture, Media & Sport. This was supplemented by the hugely significant contribution of our independent decision-making committee members. In combination, their collective reach and expertise and trusted relationships have been invaluable to the Fund's success.

Over the last three plus years we've worked round the clock to support over 270 youth organisations complete and open their buildings, whilst supporting them to become more resilient and

sustainable. We've made sure that young people's voices are front and centre: creating spaces that they can identify with. And we've enabled more quality youth work, providing training to grow the number of qualified youth workers.

The impact is far greater than we could have imagined. When the fund completes, more than one in seven young people will live within walking distance of a youth club that has been built or renovated by the Youth Investment Fund. Tens of thousands of young people are already using these new spaces every week.

It's been a privilege to deliver the largest investment in the youth estate in more than half a century. The Youth Investment Fund has been a vote of confidence in young people and youth work, transforming young people's opportunities and giving them access to trusted youth workers, in safe and modern spaces; all at the heart of communities that need it most.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nick Temple".

Nick Temple,
CEO for Social
Investment Business



"My favourite part of the week is coming to Brighton Youth Centre, having a conversation with the youth workers. I enjoy making new friends and having a space that feels like my own, where I can be myself and not worry about judgement." – Young person, Brighton Youth Centre

Crying out for investment

“Our building had more holes than a sieve!”

– Karen Green, 61st Doncaster (Bentley) Air Scouts

For decades, youth centres have been at the heart of communities offering places where young people find safety, belonging, and trusted adults. But years of declining investment left many buildings cold, leaking, outdated, or on the brink of closure.

“I like coming here, but the building is rubbish. The roof always leaks. I want to use the gym, but I can’t get upstairs very well so the lift will be fun.” – Umar, Young person at Nottingham Mencap

Youth workers told us the hardest part wasn’t demand; young people weren’t coming because the buildings simply weren’t safe or big enough to welcome everyone. And many spaces weren’t accessible. Narrow corridors, broken lifts, and steep steps meant many young people were excluded before they could even get through the door.

“Investment in Chichester’s young people was long overdue. Young people had nothing to do after school. The Youth Investment Fund is an opportunity to turn young people’s frustration and boredom into a positive force for good.”

– Clare de Bathe, former CEO for Chichester Community Development Trust

That’s why the UK Government created the Youth Investment Fund, providing over £300 million to rebuild, modernise and expand youth facilities in England where they were needed most.

“The investment was something that St Helens had been crying out for. And we’re really proud of the fact that the young people helped design it. They have built a legacy for St Helens for years to come.” – Matt Moreton, Director of Development for YMCA St Helens, Merseyside





The Youth Investment Fund's impact

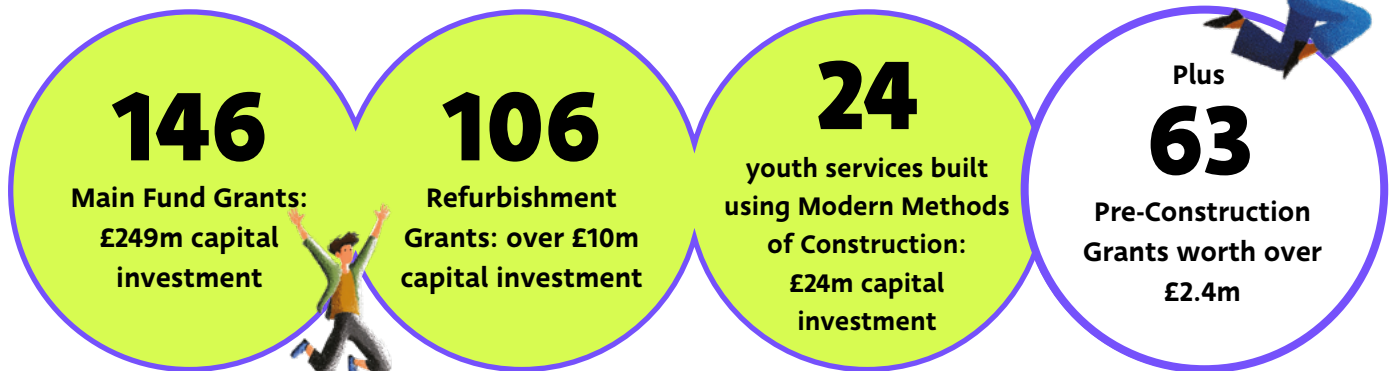
The Youth Investment Fund launched in August 2022, with a call for youth services in the most underserved areas in England to apply for a slice of a fund worth over £300 million to improve the health, wellbeing, skills, and opportunities for young people.

- It was the largest investment in the youth estate in more than half a century.
- The need for funding was overwhelming with 1,008 organisations applying, requesting over £1.06 billion in funding: a powerful signal of a sector in need of support and investment.

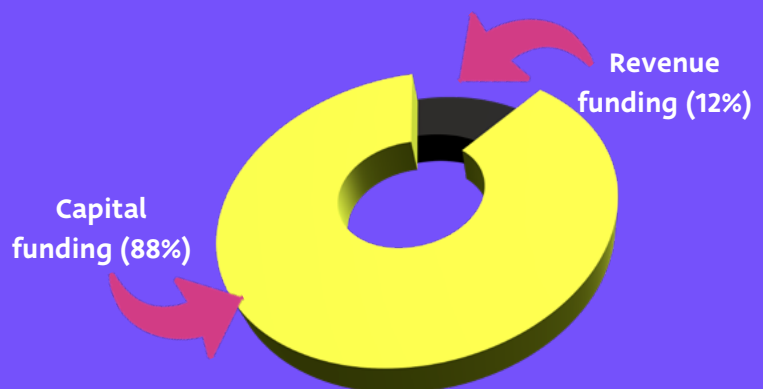
The Youth Investment Fund was delivered by Social Investment Business in partnership with colleagues at the Department for Culture, Media & Sport; and bringing together Key Fund, National Youth Agency, Resonance, with support from Fusion21, Turner & Townsend and Sharpe Pritchard.

Youth Investment Fund Grants

276 youth centres were funded by the Youth Investment Fund:



Youth service grantees were granted both capital and revenue funding, and given additional support to build resilience:



Where did the Youth Investment Fund grants go?

- All eligible local authority areas had youth centres that were awarded Youth Investment Fund grants.
- 70% of funded centres are in the most disadvantaged communities (Index of Multiple Deprivation 1-3 areas).

Reaching more young people



Greater youth access across England



Stronger, more resilient youth centres

We created a Central Support Offer to provide expert support to help youth services become more resilient

82%

of grantees benefiting from our Central Support Offer said its impact was transformational

90%

of grantees said the Central Support Offer meant they felt better equipped to achieve their goals

Delivering the Youth Investment Fund

Managing the fund meant navigating the realities of a large-scale national capital grant programme. It required complex orchestration, technical expertise, and a highly coordinated delivery environment to ensure public money was invested responsibly. Our team reviewed thousands of evidence items, including building surveys, architectural drawings, planning documents, payments, procurement evidence, environmental, health and safety certifications and much more.

Investing in young people

"It just brings everyone together, creating friendships. I've friends that will last a lifetime."
– Young person, The Boyzee, Knowsley

The UK Government's Youth Investment Fund focused on supporting youth services in areas where youth need is high and provision is low, creating a level playing field for young people to have equal access to youth services.

"The Youth Investment Fund came along at the right moment. It was like a white horse charging over the horizon to secure our future." – Simon Morley, 1st Buxted Scouts Group Scout Leader

Over the past three and a half years, Social Investment Business has delivered the fund with our partners using a data-led approach to reach the communities that most need extra provision.

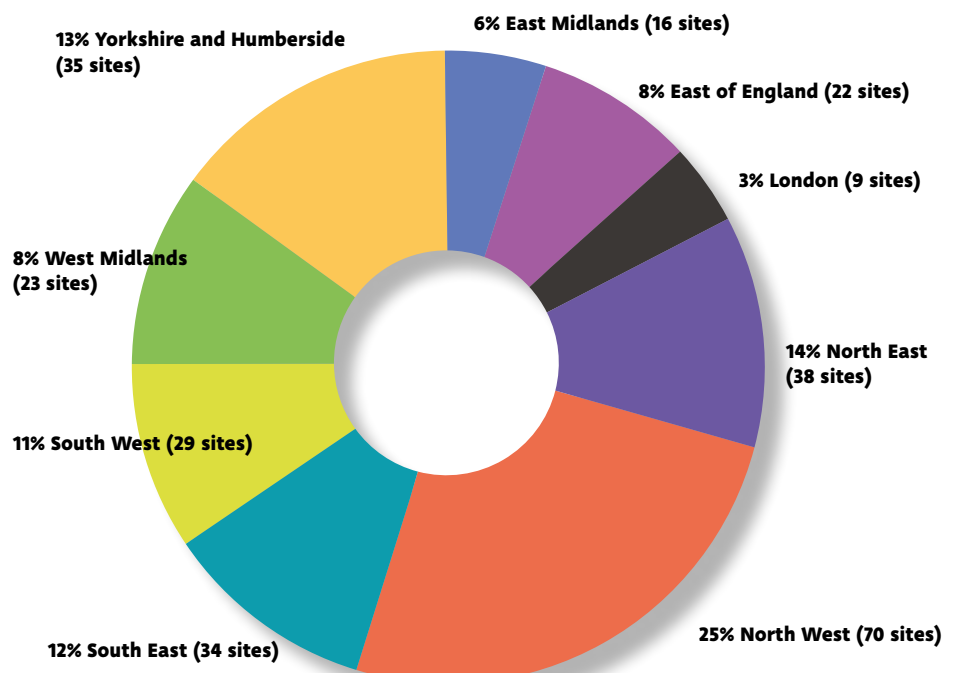


"The new Youth Hub is a first for Shotton Colliery, the area has not received any major youth investment before. The funding is far greater than the sum of its parts. It has had a ripple effect and opened new doors, helping us secure even more funding to realise Shotton's dreams." – Rona Hardy, Shotton Partnership, County Durham

Although there are always challenges in delivering large capital projects, around 90% of grantees will have completed by the end of the fund, outperforming almost all major government capital programmes.

Where the funding went

The Youth Investment Fund focused on supporting youth services in areas where youth need is high and provision is low, creating a level playing field for young people to have equal access to youth services. The UK Government developed a detailed methodology underpinning the selection of areas in England.





St Giles Youth Centre, YMCA Lincolnshire

The Youth Investment Fund has supported youth centres of all shapes and sizes. From small scout huts and community youth centres to large local authority multi-site youth centres, from Liverpool to Lowestoft and from Sunderland to Southampton. Capital grants were tailored to meet the needs of youth projects, from modest scout hut refurbishments costing less than £150K, through to multi-million-pound Youth Zones.

"Places like this will keep kids off the streets, doing things that are better for kids our age and making the right choices and just living. You can just start a new talent at a young age, so you can achieve your dreams." – Young people, Alt Valley, Liverpool

And through its Modern Methods of Construction programme, new youth buildings are designed and assembled offsite, which means they are delivered faster, more efficiently, and more sustainably than traditional builds.

"Having a new purpose-built youth centre means we can create a space that truly meets all young people's needs. We've got a great opportunity to engineer out all the issues we've had in the past and make intelligent use of the space." – Christie Spurling, CEO N-Gage Catalyst Youth Centre, Manchester

Delivering safe and modern spaces

Young people told us they needed a safe place to go and have a trusted youth worker to talk to.

"This is probably the most important thing in my

life now. And I love it. It's like a big family. You make a lot of friends, and everyone is welcome here. You can be yourself. It helps with your health and keeps you out of trouble." – Amelia, South Cheshire Amateur Boxing Club and Crewe Youth Club

"I've made a lot of friends and it's a safe space. Young people have other people to talk to, if they don't want to speak to people at home." – Rae, Tokko Youth Hub, Luton

Nurturing young people

"Working with Tiber has shown me creativity can unite a diverse community, turning individual stories into a shared story." – Daisymay Austin, Tiber Community Hub, Toxteth

For many young people, especially those living in deprived parts of the country, youth centres are relied on for safety, warmth and a hot meal.

"Money is tight for many of the young people we see, so making sure they get a nourishing hot meal is a vital part of our offer. Now we've got a modern and accessible kitchen we can make sure no one goes hungry." – Tony Brewis, Lambton Street Youth and Community Hub, Sunderland

When the Chichester Community Development Trust asked young people to share their vision for a new youth hub, they said they wanted a space free from judgement and somewhere they could get a hot meal. One young person drew a picture of a cow; they wanted a cow as there's never any milk at home.

Youth spaces shaped by young people



"The Swannery has been built by young people, for young people. We are so incredibly proud of everything that young people have achieved." – Beth Wilson, Wellspring Settlement, Bristol.

From the very beginning, the Youth Investment Fund made one thing clear: these spaces must be shaped by young people, not just built for them. Through Youth Advisory Boards, Young Assessors, and youth-led design sessions, young people directly influenced decisions about what their centres should be like.

"When I took part in the video, I didn't think we'd get the money – when I was told, it felt like I'll be part of history." – Young person, Shotton Youth Hub, Country Durham

National Youth Agency (NYA) led the Youth Investment Fund's youth assessment pillar. The NYA Young Assessors Panel assessed each grant applicant's proposed approach to youth provision, ensuring genuine and meaningful youth involvement in that aspect of the Fund.

Teän was inspired to become a Young Assessor to make a difference to other young people.

"The Youth Investment Fund is enabling young people to have a say in what their youth service should be like. The whole

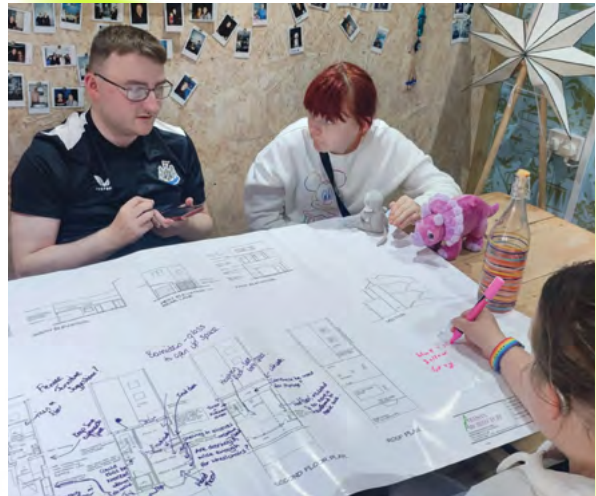
country needs more places for young people to go to. It's been exciting to see how diverse the youth services are across the country. It makes me very hopeful for the future."
– Teän, Young Assessor

Young people were encouraged to get involved with their Youth Investment Fund grant application, like Rhiannon at The Foxton Centre.

"We'd write letters, spend hours researching and budgeting. It was a pinch-me moment when the funding was granted – our hard work had helped make that happen! It's given me a sense of self belief and ambition." – Rhiannon

At AutismAble, in South Shields, young people co-created the youth centre's look, feel and activities, and created their new logo and brand. It's a place that young people can call their own.

"It's built by young people, for young people."
– Young person, AutismAble



Top left: AutismAble, South Shields. Top right: Young people at AutismAble commenting on the plans. Middle left: Rhiannon, The Foxton Centre, Preston. Middle right: National Youth Agency's Young Assessors. Bottom left: Young people at Shotton Youth Hub, Country Durham. Bottom right: The Swannery, Wellspring Settlement, Bristol.



Top left: South Cheshire Amateur Boxing Club and Crewe Youth Club. Top right: Fleetwood Youth Hub, Lancashire. Middle left: Alt Valley, Liverpool. Middle centre: Eloquent Dance, Birmingham. Middle right: The Boyzee, Knowsley. Bottom: Work starts on site at South Cheshire Amateur Boxing Club and Crewe Youth Club.



Top left: Horizon Youth Zone, Grimsby. Top right: SYA, The New Lodge, Shrewsbury. Mid Right: Beamish Football Centre, County Durham. Middle picture: Blackbridge Community and Sports Hub, Gloucestershire. Bottom left: The Grove Community Hub, Leicester. Bottom right: The Midlands Boat Station, Marine Society and Sea Cadets.

Unlocking further funding

"The Youth Investment Fund has absolutely transformed KBSK. It's given us an opportunity to create the space that was desperately needed. It's absolutely changed lives."

– Adie Dove, CEO for KBSK, Bodmin

As applications came in, it became clear that many smaller organisations faced a major hurdle. Before they could apply for capital funding, they needed costly architectural drawings, surveys and planning documents. Without them, their dreams would never leave the application form.

We stepped in with a powerful solution: Pre-Construction Grants. Small, targeted awards designed to level the playing field. Suddenly smaller youth groups with limited resources and infrastructure had the support to move forward confidently.

- **40 of the 63 organisations (63%) that received pre-construction grants were successful in securing a main Youth Investment Fund grant.**
- **That translated to £71.8m of capital funding and 11,254 additional young people reached.**

"We had the extra security of a Pre-Construction Grant, which meant we didn't have to spend our reserves on upfront costs. The funding has made our dreams a reality."

— Sue Baker, 1st Shelton Lock Scout and Guide Group, Derby

Responding to local need

Early on in delivering the fund, we recognised that smaller youth services only needed a modest investment to renovate their service. That's why we developed small Refurbishment Grants of up to £150K, making sure that no eligible youth service missed out.

- **106 youth centres received refurbishment grants, many completing in weeks rather than months.**



SPOTLIGHT :

Hautbois House Activity Centre

Hautbois House Activity Centre, in Norfolk, benefited from a £128K grant to realise their ambitions.

"Our number one priority was to make the space greener and more sustainable. The Youth Investment Fund gave us a golden opportunity to make this ambition a reality. Everyone says that the building is so much warmer. It's much more efficient, in fact our energy consumption has been reduced significantly."

– Fiona Hunter, Hautbois House Activity Centre





Sustainable and accessible spaces for all

The Youth Investment Fund's environmental impact is far reaching; with new facilities having better insulation, solar panels, air source heat pumps and battery storage; reducing bills, increasing sustainability, and helping organisations invest more money where it belongs: in young people.

Welcoming places for every young person

"We are a family here. It's a place that helped heal me. We've had a lift installed, so now all the studios are accessible to people with disabilities, which is phenomenal." – The Seagull Theatre, Lowestoft

Before the Youth Investment Fund, too many young people couldn't access their local youth centre; they weren't built for disabled young people.

The fund has opened the doors to all young people. Hundreds of youth centres have been built with accessibility at their heart, with responsive doors, open spaces, lifts, accessible bathrooms, ramps and dropped counters, so everyone can get involved.

"The old building did not meet the needs of our community. It was impossible for anyone in a wheelchair to engage in the space. We now have an inclusive space for everyone; an important milestone." – Weymouth West Air Scouts, Dorset



SPOTLIGHT:

Sheffield High Green Scouts

"The funding has secured the future of our Scout group. The renewable technology in our new building; including solar PV, battery storage and air source heat pumps enables our running costs to be kept as low as possible. It means we can spend more money on young people instead of energy bills." – Tom Hague, Sheffield High Green Scouts



Taking centre stage

"They are making their voices heard, and that's valuable and important. Music is a vessel for young people. They just need a platform to make that happen. If we can give them the building blocks to set them up, it's a job well done." – Youth Worker, Brighton Youth Centre

Last October, after two years of transformation, hundreds of young people gathered to celebrate the grand opening of Brighton Youth Centre. It was a creative arts and musical extravaganza, packed with gigs, dance, art and chance to test your skills at the new skatepark in the sky.

Brighton Youth Centre (BYC) has been supporting young people in the city for over 100 years. The new-look Brighton Youth Centre was made possible through a multi-million investment from the Youth Investment Fund and Brighton and Hove City Council. The rebuild and extension marks a significant investment in creating a modern, inclusive, and sustainable youth space for the future.

Music is the lifeblood of BYC; they have encouraged and supported young people to express themselves through music. Punk bands like Bluebottles and Livid cut their teeth at BYC, they were given a platform to find their voice.





Centre Stage at the Cresset Theatre

Inspired by BYC's love of music, we worked with film-makers Heyday UK to create Centre Stage, a film that follows a touring youth band across England, capturing the energy, creativity and sound of scenes from around the country.

Centre Stage premiered at the opening of YMCA Trinity's Cresset Theatre in Peterborough, funded by the Youth Investment Fund. The transformed theatre was a perfect space for a premiere.

"The Youth Investment Fund secured our future, and has given us a modern, sustainable and accessible space that young people and the whole community can enjoy. The funding is far greater than bricks and mortar, it's also enabled us to invest in our youth work programme and offer more incredible opportunities

for young people to thrive." – Jonathan Martin, CEO for YMCA Trinity Group

Taking it back home

Then Centre Stage made it back home, to where it all started at BYC. It was a fitting way to celebrate the new look BYC. Centre Stage not only captures young people's raw creative power but also shows the importance of youth spaces - backed by the Youth Investment Fund - that keep those opportunities alive.

"Most people don't put events on in youth clubs, youth clubs should really be venues. It's a great and important part of youth clubs' delivery. It's a social thing and young people can play so many different roles. And you get to go and see music that your peer group are creating." – Mike Roe, CEO for BYC



More than bricks and mortar

"The support has been invaluable in helping us shift our focus from day-to-day challenges to the broader possibilities and opportunities ahead...it's enabled us to think strategically about the future." – Barlow Moor Community Association, Manchester

The impact of the Youth Investment Fund is far greater than shiny new buildings. Along with delivering modern youth centres, it's giving more young people access to quality youth workers; and it's boosting funded organisations' resilience.

To bolster capital funding, every youth service had a revenue grant to invest in youth worker and volunteer training, help with project management costs, and to establish stronger youth engagement programmes and youth work teams.

Millennium Powerhouse

The fund had a big impact on Millennium Powerhouse, in Moss Side, Manchester. As well as funding a major capital renovation, it's strengthened their in-house youth offer, funding five new youth workers.

"We needed major investment to make our space sustainable and realise our ambition to become a youth work-led charity. The blend of capital and revenue funding has futureproofed our building and put young people front and centre. It's given real voice and power to young people." – Lisa Samuels, Millennium Powerhouse

Dedicated support

Every grantee was supported by a dedicated relationship manager to walk with them on their journey, through the complexity of delivering a large capital project.

"Providing dedicated support from application to completion has been incredibly rewarding, working side-by-side with projects to overcome obstacles and bring young people's vision to life. Being part of their journey, collaborating as one team with a shared focus on long-term impact for young people, is what makes this role so meaningful." Youth Investment Fund Relationship Manager

Helping to lever additional funding in Crewe

Thanks to the Youth Investment Fund and other funders, South Cheshire Amateur Boxing Club and Crewe Youth Club have a brand-new boxing gym and youth space, the first purpose-built youth space in Crewe in over 60 years.

"Working with our Relationship Manager was really great. It wasn't a simple process, but with their help we got through it. Working with Youth Investment Fund has put us in a really strong position to go out to other funders." – Mike Morris, Chair of Crewe Youth Club



The grand opening of the renovated Millennium Powerhouse youth hub in Moss Side, Manchester.

Responding to need

Responding to need, we developed our Central Support Offer, providing expert help and training with governance, fundraising, finances, marketing, project management, youth worker and volunteer recruitment and peer learning. Grantees were offered an organisational MOT, to identify need and secure the right support package.

We invested in Central Support packages to build resilience. Grantees really valued the additional support, with 90% saying that they felt better equipped to achieve their goals, and 82% said the impact was transformational.

"This support came at the best time. It's been critical in supporting our internal processes. It's

allowed us to be more strategic in our forward planning." – Kelly Coates, Projects4Change, Newcastle

Double Six is a small volunteer-led youth centre in Sheffield. They needed extra support to help them manage a large capital grant and develop the skills to set up new systems. Our Central Support offer has given them confidence to plan for the future.

"Thank you for the support. You've provided comprehensive financial expertise, identifying issues to consider as well as guidance to make decisions. I've appreciated being able to talk things through with you and the moral support you've provided as we navigated complex issues."

– Linda McDermott, Double Six Youth Club Treasurer, Sheffield

SPOTLIGHT:



Liberdade Community Development Trust is a disability-led organisation that runs Gosforth Civic Theatre. A capital grant of £1.49M paid for a major renovation that transformed the space into a modern, accessible community-focussed venue for young people in Newcastle. The support didn't stop there; we also delivered a comprehensive Central Support package to strengthen resilience and prepare the organisation for growth.

Support included a resilience and capacity review to

diagnose organisational strengths and weaknesses. Change management support and coaching strengthened their leadership capacity. Intensive work on income generation enabled the team to diversify its fundraising strategy, and strengthen reserves, secure £100,000 in funding, recruit a major donor fundraising manager, and improve long-term financial sustainability.

"The senior leadership team didn't have loads of experience in line management. The CSO team shadowed us in review meetings with some of the people we manage, and that was really helpful. The support helped embed a lot of behaviour that continues to today." – Rob Huggins, CEO for Liberdade Community Development Trust



The Youth Investment Fund's Legacy:

Creating hope and momentum

"I would describe it as a happy, life-saving space. I really like it; it feels like my life is saved." – Mathilda, The Space, Bodmin

When the UK Government launched the Youth Investment Fund, its ambition was to ensure every young person in England had access to quality youth services – safe, modern places to have new adventures, make friends, explore passions and gain skills for life and work.

Over the last three and a half years, 276 youth services have been built or refurbished, creating spaces by and for young people. By March 2027, these centres will reach 73,141 young people every week, with 48,236 additional young people

accessing new or renovated spaces to learn, grow and belong.

The Fund's success has boosted momentum to reinvigorate the youth sector, followed by the UK Government's Better Youth Spaces fund and the first National Youth Strategy in over two decades. After years of decline, hope is being restored.

"The Youth Investment Fund is enabling us to grow and enhance our youth offer, generate income, and deliver a shared vision for our community... Our centre will be a beacon of hope." – CEO Abu Shama, Sunderland Bangladesh International Centre



Youth Advisory Board, The Lowdown, Northampton

Successfully delivering a £300M+ fund has provided insights to support delivery of the new National Youth Strategy:

1. Close persisting gaps

While more than one in seven young people are now in walking distance of a Youth Investment Fund-supported service, there is more to do. Cold spots persist in nearly half of local authority areas, where provision fails to meet need. Future funding should prioritise these young people by working even more closely with local partnerships and existing youth infrastructure.

2. Keep young people in the driving seat

The National Youth Strategy rightly raises ambition for youth leadership. Building on Youth Advisory Boards, Young Assessors, and youth-led design sessions, future funding can move beyond youth voice to empowerment throughout delivery and decision-making. Apprenticeship roles at the heart of delivery or contractor quotas for young apprentices could support meaningful youth power and skills.

3. Invest in resilience and revenue

Long-term resilience has been central to delivery, integrated through assessment, support and ongoing measurement. Revenue funding was key, while the Central Support Offer provided targeted, high-quality help with minimal burden to grantees, supporting world-class projects in areas of high need, at pace and scale.

4. Collaboration and pace

The Fund's success demonstrates the importance of trusted partnership to mobilise at pace. Collaboration brought invaluable expertise, both with government and the delivery partnership (youth, construction and legal partners).

5. Prioritise energy investment

Applications revealed smaller youth organisations spent up to half their budgets on utilities. While many grantees installed solar PV or heat pumps, future funding should consider energy security more intentionally, reducing bills and contributing to Clean Power 2030 – and mitigating the risk of such features being value-engineered out.

"The impact of this building will be felt across generations and provides a beacon of hope. We wanted to create a space made for and by young people. Investing in young people has raised aspirations and given them a space they want to be." – Sharrow Community Forum, Sheffield

The impact of the Youth Investment Fund will be felt for decades, not only through state-of-

the-art spaces and high-quality youth work, but through the momentum created to restore the sector and raise ambitions for what can be achieved with and for young people.

"The Youth Investment Fund is far more than just bricks and mortar; it's enabled us to create a lasting legacy for young people for many generations." – The Lowdown, Northampton

YOUTH INVESTMENT FUND



Funded by
UK Government



"The Youth Investment Fund has transformed the spaces where young people discover new opportunities and build their confidence. By investing not only in facilities, but also in the organisations that run them through revenue grants and targeted capacity-building support, we have strengthened their ability to sustain and steward these assets. As a result, these spaces will continue to serve young people and unlock even greater opportunity for years to come." – Patrick O'Kelly, Head of Funding Partnerships, Resonance

"It has been an immense privilege for Key Fund to support the delivery of the Youth Investment Fund, working with amazing organisations to ensure that young people are able to access impactful and inspiring services that help them to flourish. We look forward to seeing how the

legacy of the fund develops in coming years." – Matt Smith, CEO for Key Fund

"The National Youth Agency has been delighted to act as a partner in the delivery of the Youth Investment Fund, ensuring that investment in new facilities was paired with strong support for grantees. It's helped enhance the quality of youth work practice, guaranteeing that local provision remains led by the needs of young people and is safe and inclusive for all.

"From the outset, young people have played an integral role in the programme; and it's shown just how much is possible when adults genuinely listen and respond to young people, helping to make youth spaces welcoming and truly relevant to their lives."

– Leigh Middleton, OBE, CEO National Youth Agency

"It has been a pleasure to be part of such a collaborative and transformational programme. Hearing about youth activities delivered at completed Main Fund and Modern Methods of Construction Fund sites has been so rewarding. We have been proud to support the Youth Investment Fund to deliver a generational benefit to young people around the country." – Dave Clowe, Head of MMC at Turner & Townsend

"As procurement partner for the Youth Investment Fund Phase 2, we supported Social Investment Business in delivering over £300 million to create, expand, and improve youth facilities across England. By combining compliant procurement with a focus on social value, we're proud that the programme will have a positive, lasting impact on young people and their communities." – Dave Neilson, Chief Executive at Fusion21

Contact Social Investment Business: info@sibgroup.org.uk

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