



Guidance Notes

£2000+

What is Y Fund?

The Youth Opportunities and Capital Funds are two separate resources used to pay for activities and facilities for young people aged 13 to 19 (19-25 with special educational needs). This money was made available following a government consultation called 'Youth Matters,' where young people expressed an interest in, 'more places to go and things to do.' In Northumberland, the two pots of money are collectively known as Y Fund.

Since the funds were introduced over three years ago we have awarded over £155,000 per year in Opportunities money alone so that young people can gain new experiences, develop their skills and have fun in the process. Through the Capital Fund, we have helped to improve facilities throughout Northumberland, increasing the number of young people participating in activities outside of their place of school or work.

Young people can apply for up to £10,000 from the Opportunities fund and £10,000 from the Capital fund.

Youth Opportunities Fund

This is money that can be used to support projects and activities you would like to do. Our criteria below will give you an idea of the kinds of projects we are hoping to support throughout the year.

Youth Capital Fund

This enables young people to purchase essential equipment or carry out renovation work to a building in order for your activities to go ahead successfully.

Who decides where the funding goes?

A panel of young people have been recruited to form a group called Young People in Northumberland (YPIN). To keep young people at the heart of the decision making process, part of their role will be to encourage and assess applications, and ultimately decide which projects will be funded.

Criteria

As an initiative aimed at improving the lives of young people, we encourage all applicants to continue to meet the following criteria. We also strongly encourage projects to meet as many of the Every Child Matters outcomes (highlighted) as possible.

- Young person led and realistic- We would like the application to be written by a young person with adults support
- Value for money
- Meeting local needs
- Benefiting the Community
- Sustainable (both short and long term)

- **Being Healthy**
- **Staying Safe**
- **Enjoying and Achieving**
- **Making a positive contribution**
- **Achieving economic well-being**

It is really important when writing your application that you tell us how these aims will be met in carrying out your project.

What makes a good application?

Now in its fourth year, the young people who form the new decision making panel were given the opportunity to review and develop the current Y Fund criteria and application process. At a consultation event, they were asked to tell us what issues were important to them and their peers. The outcomes from their discussions have since been included within the criteria.

The decision making panel would be particularly interested to receive applications that look at the issues below. Further guidance and examples are given below the main headings to help you develop your ideas.

Anti social behaviour and crime

What can be done to tackle the problems of anti social behaviour and crime in your community? You could set up an environmental project or arrange an event to bring sections of the community together.

Better facilities and more things to do

We are aware that Northumberland has some good facilities, but do people know about them? Do some youth clubs or community organisations need a make-over? You could access the capital fund to make this happen or why not raise the profile of some of the facilities in your community by tapping into the Opportunities Fund.

Improving image of young people

Young people largely get a bad deal in the press. We know from projects that we've seen develop (not just through Y Fund) over the last few years that this isn't fair. Why not use the funds to challenge people's perceptions?

Rural issues

Large parts of the region are pretty isolated but we've seen young people carry out projects to overcome this in recent years. Where there has been a problem with access to transport, groups have looked into purchasing a mini bus so that they can get around more freely and access more facilities Northumberland has to offer. What other issues occur in rural communities and furthermore, what are the benefits? Are you able to access facilities such as internet cafes and community organisations or does your location make this a problem?

Health

A health project can cover everything from sports and healthy living to bullying and drug abuse. Are these issues that you feel passionate about? Do you know of facilities that young people can access but may not know about? Why not gain accreditation whilst carrying out your project?

Local Culture

Culture is also a massive area to cover. This is an opportunity for you to be really innovative and come up with an original idea.

Enterprise and Education

The young people are keen to see more enterprising ideas. Although we don't encourage groups to make a profit for individuals, we do like to see how projects will sustain themselves long term. In other words, what happens when the funding has been spent? This is a good opportunity to look into both funds and set up a social enterprise for the benefit of the community. Is education an important issue to you and employment for young people?

What projects will Y Fund not consider?

Unfortunately the panel is not able to consider any applications that:

- Aim to make profit for an individual or organisation
- Wish to carry out their project within curriculum hours
- Aim to promote a particular religion or political party
- Wish to pay for overseas travel that have limited or no benefit for communities within Northumberland
- Cover staffing costs such as supply teachers, covering a youth workers salary

Additional opportunities

We are keen for young people gain recognition for the work that they put into application and projects. Anyone aged 16-25 who works on developing a YFUND bid is eligible for a v certificate to recognise their volunteering and contribution to the community. Successful applicants can also register for a v50 award if the project will ask them to contribute more than 50 hours to it. If you would like the opportunity to receive this additional recognition for your work, then please contact Herbie Cooper at Changemakers on 0191 2267330.

If you have any questions regarding the guidelines or the application form, then please contact John on 0191 2267330 or email John@changemakers.org.uk