

Positive Futures for Young People Fund 2024-26 (LGBTQ+) Commissioning Framework and Grant Specification

1.0 Introduction:

Thank you for your interest in the Positive Future for Young People Fund (PFYPF) - Universal Provision. Please read this information carefully and in full before completing the online application form.

These Guidance Notes will assist you in making an application to the Fund, provide details on how we will assess applications and what to avoid when completing the application form. They also provide information about how we process successful applications.

Applicants are encouraged to contact us for clarification on points unanswered within the Guidance Notes, at pfypf@southwark.gov.uk.

2.0 Background

Youth services provide young people an essential opportunity to participate in peer-group activities and build trusted relationships, supported by qualified staff. They harness skills of young people not fulfilled by formal education and provide safe places for them to learn together, be supported and have fun. This collective impact ensures that no young person is 'left behind'.

With 85% of a young person's waking hours spent outside of school and formal education, vulnerable young people can fall prey to loneliness, poor mental health and fear of violence or at risk of exploitation. Investing in universal, open-access youth services shows the council's positive commitment to young people's inclusion in decision-making, community engagement and increased life skills. Southwark Council acknowledges the importance of prioritising support for young people and in this context, it launched the Youth New Deal in 2021 to enable young people to have positive lives now and in the future, linking Leisure, Education, Local Economy and Children's Services closely together to deliver for Southwark's young people. Southwark Council also acknowledges the crucial role youth and play services have in delivering this vision and has developed an extensive youth and play offer that includes both direct delivery and commissioned activity.

The commissioned activity is funded via the Positive Futures for Young People Fund (PFYPF) 2024-2026 current programme, which was established as part of the aforementioned Youth New Deal. The PFYPF brought together a variety of grant streams for a one council joined up approach to youth commissioning.

We currently have a range of project being delivered by a diverse range of Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise organisations operating in the borough, including services targeted at particular groups of young people. We are now linking for a similar organisation who can provide support targeted at those young people from the LGBTQ+ community.

This document sets out the proposed commissioning framework for identifying this provider.

3.0 Evidence of need

Southwark is an area of high ethnic and religious diversity with one third of children at state schools speaking English as a second language. It is also estimated that almost half (43%) of all children in Southwark were living in poverty in 2019/20, and there is a high local rate of childhood obesity concentrated in the north and central wards of the borough. In this context the Positive Futures Fund for Young People seeks to provide an inclusive and responsive youth service which aims to address these inequalities by supporting, informing, upskilling and encouraging young people.

It is estimated that there are approximately 33,000 young people in Southwark between the ages of 10 and 19, with the largest concentration within the wards of Old Kent Road, Peckham and South Bermondsey. It is estimated that around 2,700 16–24-year-olds in Southwark identify as LGBTQI+.

Unfortunately, we have no conclusive data on the numbers of these young people who identify as LGBTQ+, but if we apply the data to those over 16, as identified by the Office of National Statistics whom are identified as lesbian, gay or bisexual (LGB) we estimate that figure, once we add in those who identify as trans or any other sexuality, is between 900 and 1,500.

A number of these young people will be accessing universal services that already exist; however we are aware that there is a need for open access provision targeted specifically at young people, from the LGBTQ+ community. This is particularly important when considering the following from the NSPCC [website](#):

‘LGBTQ+ children and young people face the same risks as all children and young people, but they are at greater risk of some types of abuse. For example, they might experience homophobic, biphobic or transphobic bullying or hate crime. They might also be more vulnerable to or at greater risk of sexual abuse, online abuse or sexual exploitation’ (Barnardo’s and Fox, 2016; McGeeney et al, 2017; Xu and Zheng, 2014).

For more statistical information upon young people in Southwark please refer to the Document entitled [Data overview of the children and young people population](#) supplied by Public Health.

Youth Consultation 2023

264 young people between 18/05/2023 to 02/07/2023 were consulted in youth and community about what they wanted from a youth offer. Results of these findings can be found at [Youth Consultation results July 2023](#).

4.0 Relevant Background Documents

Fairer, Greener, Safer Southwark’s Council Delivery Plan

In 2022 Southwark Council set out its Borough Delivery plan. A link to the plan can be found [here](#). This identified our priorities and commitments to the people of Southwark until 2026, across 7 themes. The Youth and Play Service plays an

important role in delivering many of the corporate ambitions set out in the Delivery Plan priorities.

The service has the potential to support delivery of the following including:

- Close the gap in life chances
- Deliver thriving and sustainable neighbourhoods
- Support residents who face the most barriers to employment into jobs
 - Make Southwark a digitally connected borough
- Create safe, healthy, green streets
- Tackle misogyny and violence against women and girls.

There are additionally several ambitions in the Borough's Delivery Plan which relate more specifically to the Youth and Play Service and must be central to our service delivery. These are:

- Make Southwark safe for young people
- Support Children and Young People to thrive
 - Provide great playgrounds for children of all ages
- Ensuring young people have access to positive activities:
- Ensuring that wherever residents live in Southwark there are local youth and sport activities
- Ensuring access to a mentor for young people who are most in need
- Putting our new Southwark Youth Parliament in the driving seat, working with them to set priorities for all funding for young services as part of our Youth Deal, so together we can ensure it delivers for every Southwark young person.

Southwark Stands Together (SST)

Southwark Council is committed to tackling racial inequalities at all levels. This includes ensuring our grant making and commissioning practices remove any barriers to equal access to funding and delivery opportunities. We will therefore be asking questions about the makeup of your organisation within the process.

We also require that you have signed your organisation up to the Southwark Stands Together pledges – you can do this by emailing SST@southwark.gov.uk. More details about Southwark Stands Together and the pledges can be found at [Southwark Stands Together - Southwark Council](#)

Tackling the Climate Emergency

Southwark Council is also committed to Tackling the Climate Emergency Together in Southwark. In this process you will be asked to outline how your organisation will support [Climate Emergency - Southwark Council](#).

The London Living Wage

It is a requirement of the grant that you will pay the London Living Wage, hence you will be asked to confirm this in the application. For detail on the London Living Wage and its application to visit the following [The London Living Wage - Southwark Council](#).

5.0 Service Specification

All applications will need to explain how their proposal meets the specification. All projects will need to evidence in their application the planned output targets and how their project addresses the Common Outcomes Framework. Below is some guidance to support your application.

The successful project will need to recognise the diversity of Southwark's young people, provide a broad, borough-wide offer of targeted support delivered by qualified staff and trusted adults and represent value for money.

Required Outputs:

The following outputs will be used to measure success:

- Number of youth sessions* delivered between 1st October 2024 and 31st March 2026 (*A session is defined as the time allocated to youth work planning and delivery and will be 3 hours long including 15 minutes briefing and 15 minutes debriefing and a total of 2.5 hours direct face to face delivery.)
- Number of unique individuals attending services over the period above.
- Overall attendance over the whole period.
- Record of young people with Protected Characteristics. It is expected that all successful projects provide all protected characteristics of individuals attending PFYPF provisions through consent.
- Engagement in quality assurance activity as part of the monitoring requirements as least once a year.
- Delivery of a year-round offer

Required Outcomes:

In 2017 the Council adopted a Common Outcomes Framework. This framework was developed by a cross sector group with the ambition to improve commissioning, make it more collaborative, joined up and focussed on outcomes for residents, and to simplify it.

For this process the commissioned activity will focus on delivering the following outcomes from the council's common outcomes framework. It is expected that the successful project will need to evidence how they meet each outcome for LGBTQ+ young people:

Outcome 1: Safer Communities Children and young people feel safe in their neighbourhood & in Southwark

Outcome 2: Healthier Communities: Children, young people & families feel more supported & able to access appropriate health & wellbeing services.

Outcome 3: Engaged Communities: Young people have increased opportunities and support to volunteers and organisations can demonstrate they work more frequently in partnership across communities.

Outcome 4: Greener Communities: Young people and organisations feel more able to use green spaces to support social action & health & wellbeing activities.

Outcome 5: Vibrant Communities: More young people feel ready for work, to train or able to start & grow their own business.

6.0 Monitoring

- If your project receives our funding, you will be allocated a Grant Monitoring Officer who will be your key point of contact within the Council, providing regular support and monitoring of outputs, making connections to wider council / borough initiatives and joining the dots where possible.
- You will be asked to provide quarterly updates and information about how your activity is progressing, including outputs against the benchmarking figures.
- The information we ask for will be focused on the demographics and protected characteristics of individuals involved in your activity either as audiences, workforce, and governing body or as part of the delivery of artistic content activity.
- Additional performance indicators around youth engagement and climate change / sustainability may be considered, depending on what you are delivering.
- At the end of each financial year you will be asked to provide an evaluation summary of how your project went, how you spent the money, who benefited, what outcomes you achieved and what you learnt. •
- You will need to provide this information in a standard template and will be agreed with your Grant Monitoring Officer.
- Stories of success and challenges that emerge through the evaluation process may be shared publicly where appropriate. •
- We want to encourage current and future applicants to be ambitious, learn from failure and celebrate success. •
- As part of the monitoring process we ask that all successful providers engage in quality assurance activity as least once a year. •
- Organisations will be required to provide qualitative data to demonstrate the impact of their work. Organisations will have to identify which of these outcome measures they will use and which are most suited to their particular activity. Examples are case studies, before and after questionnaires, parental submissions, observations, focus groups with young people, audio and visual diaries, personal portfolios and staff feedback.
- Base line targets will be set each year in consultation with Youth Service Commissioning team which and will be monitored against delivery performance in each quarter. annual performance appraisal will take place

- Where providers to deliver as outlined they will be expected to develop an improvement plan for year 2 to address and mitigate any concerns raised in relation to performance.

7.0 How much can you apply for:

The total funding available for the successful provider is £41,250. The grant will be for 18 months commencing on 1 October 2024 up to 31 March 2026.

Delivery of work is expected to be of a regular nature over the year including during school holiday periods, and especially during the Easter and Summer school holiday breaks.

8.0 What about Premises?

Applicants may already have arrangements in place for delivery of their project. If so they will be responsible for ensuring that the premises are suitable for this work and comply with Health and Safety legislation.

The Youth and Play team are looking to secure property for organisations who may not have access to property to undertake this work. Currently we are still working upon the exact location, however if applicants wish to take advantage of this they should make this known in the application. A sum of £4,500 will need to be included within the financial breakdown to reflect the costs to the service for providing this premises.

9.0 Application Process

The application process will be over two stages

Stage 1 – Application Form

This will need to be submitted online and will be reviewed by the panel, which will include council officers and young people.

This will focus upon;

- the strength and creativity of the project proposal;
- evidence of need and how young people will be involved in developing the project;
- how the project will be quality assured; and
- The financial breakdown and value for money.

This will represent 80% of the overall mark

Stage 2 – Online Presentation and interview

This will consist of an online interview of 30 minutes long.

At this applicants will be asked to present a ten minute presentation to show how you will recruit young people for the project and ensure that it is accessible to a diverse range of young people, including ethnic minorities and young people of all genders.

Applicants will also be asked questions or queries arising from their application.

This will represent 20% of the overall mark.

Eligibility

All applicants will be invited to attend the presentation, unless they are unable to complete the eligibility questions within the application form.

10.0 Application Process timeframe

Stage	Date
Applications open	3 May 2024
Applications close	26 May 2024
Applications review by the Board	Week of 28 May 2024
Presentations	Week of 3 June 2024
Notification of outcome	July 2024
Mobilisation period	August 2024 to October 2024
Grant period	1 October 2024 to 31 March 2026

11.0 If your application is successful

- Successful applicants will be required to work with the Council's terms and conditions of grant funding (PDF, 350kb).
- You will be set up on the Council's finance system so that you can receive your funding. Funding instalments will be in four quarterly payments/year. One at the start of your project, and followings on receipt of your quarterly monitoring report.
- We will introduce you to your Grant Monitoring Officer who will be your main point of contact to ensure that you get the most out of your grant.