

Royal Docks Youth Workshop Event, 2nd June

Summary Notes

This document summarises the youth **challenges** and **priorities** discussed at the Youth Workshop Event as well as specific **event and activity ideas** across the different Royal Docks Team priorities.

Summary

- 1) [Over-arching & Cross-cutting themes](#)
- 2) [Economy](#)
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Attendees summary:

25 attendees including 14 young people, 4 young facilitators and 7 youth workers.

Attendees represented five youth organisations including Fight for Peace, Sea Cadets, West Silvertown Foundation, Community Food Enterprise and Shipman Youth.

OVERARCHING & CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

Challenges	Priorities	Recommendations/ ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication: Low awareness about the different facilities, projects and places available for young people • Accessibility, Inclusion and Diversity: Discrimination- feel stereotyped, especially in relation to youth violence, disadvantaged youth from low-income/ troubled backgrounds/ with SEND needs- get left out of opportunities. Lack of space and activities for 7+ crucial phase for development • Community centres & Youth spaces/ venues: over-burdened and under-funded, closures • Poverty: poses a barrier and prevents access and engagement • Youth Safety & Crime: Fear for safety, gangs and violence, especially knife crime • COVID recovery & Health & Wellbeing: Overburden from Covid pressures, class catch up, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better communication and help with finding places to go to / things to do • More empathy and listening from authorities • Make active efforts to remove barriers to participation and create opportunities for everyone regardless of background, race, gender etc. • Tackle the root causes of anti-social problems involving youth. • Enable young people to take a pro-active role in the creative and innovative possibilities emerging to shape a new better post-Covid future 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting activities in places where young people are: physically and online, flyers promoting events • Improve communications between youth and authorities: e.g. improve communication methods, more interaction with Mayor and young people, mayoral visits to troubled areas • Provide specific support to families living with poverty: e.g. free/reduced cost access to activities and events & other targeted support • Support the role of community centres – across economy, place, culture: Expanded services post-Covid – multi-purpose one-stop shop to access extra-curricular activities, education, skills, social connection and welfare and support • Organise more youth-specific activities and events with • Create better relationships between youth and the police and enforcement so young people feel safer. • Engagement with parents: parent involvement/ awareness of activities via visible branding, direct communication and safeguarding protocols can increase confidence and reassure them of safety. • Engagement with schools for youth safety and crime: School representatives are important for addressing causes, prevention and support • Create more easily accessible ‘safe-spots’: e.g. in Youth centres, community organisations etc.

additional family pressures, social isolation.

organisations and in dedicated spaces

ECONOMY

Challenges	Priorities	Recommendations	Event/Activity ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Poverty: prevents families from enabling youth to access education, employment and skills opportunities• Inequality: disadvantaged youth (e.g. from low-income, SEND or troubled backgrounds) get left behind in traditional education and training routes• Pandemic burdens: education catch up e.g. extra online classes leaves less time and energy for creative/future-looking activities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completing quality Education• Supporting families living with poverty• Expanded approaches to employment access, training and skills• A pro-active role for youth in innovation for COVID recovery and a better future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth-relevant, real-life career pathways e.g. work experience, shadowing, networking, earn while you learn, advice & exposure to understand skill requirements & opportunities available.• Diverse and practical skill-sets: everyday financial, leadership, project leading, entrepreneurial and business skills• Specific access and inclusion pathways e.g. for ex-offenders, SEND, other disadvantaged youth often excluded typical training schemes• Support small businesses for lively high-streets e.g. shopfronts activated by local enterprise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth talent showcase/fair• Schools event: Inspirational talks and performances from celebrities• Youth business events: pitching or other entrepreneurial skills/dragons den.

PLACE

Challenges	Priorities	Recommendations	Event/Activity ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing amenities and spaces don't meet needs of young people: made to feel they have to travel elsewhere, not much to do • Lack of free/ cheap, sustainable travel options • Lack of inclusion in public spaces: youth made to feel unwelcome, discriminated and moved on by enforcement officers and landowners • Anxieties about safety, violence and knife crime in public spaces: always looking over own shoulder, no safe spots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better housing, good education, schools, amenities and infrastructure • Inclusive, welcoming and safe spaces • Maximising access and opportunities on the water • Safer, cleaner air 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better access and improvements to existing amenities: more shops and leisure centres, parks, gathering spaces that cater to younger audiences and youth centres that meet local needs • New infrastructure to enable cultural & outdoor activities: sports, rock climbing, skate park, music and film studios, cinema • Better relationship with police and landowners: to help young people feel safer and reduce stereotyping • Introduce easy, cheap and sustainable travel options: e.g. e-scooters • Enable and promote a variety of water sports: canoeing, paddleboarding, inflatables • Provide opportunities for learning on the water: providing non-traditional learning environment particularly for SEND children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reserve a section of the water for everyday water activities and access for everyone e.g. one-off boat rental • Activities to introduce young people to the water and enable learning • Water sports and national water sport competitions • Big community events and concerts on the water

CULTURE

Challenges	Priorities	Recommendations	Event/Activity ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not enough suitable, high quality activities for young people: currently few structured activities, not pitched at the right age groups and in the right places • No outlet for creativity: feeling creativity is hampered, with few opportunities and spaces for creative production and projects • Difficulty re-engaging with young people post-lockdown: new challenge of encouraging young people to get involved in activities face-to-face 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing alternative pathways for those at risk of being involved or are involved in gang crime • Providing opportunities and encouraging young people to be creative and express their authentic selves • More high-quality activities • Valuing, celebrating and rewarding local youth talent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More studios and performance spaces: to nurture local talent and provide a creative outlet for those at risk of and involved in gang crime • Organised and structured activities: enabling young people to have fun together and make productive use of their time, targeting young people at critical age to divert from gang crime (e.g. from age 7) • Youth-led activities: opportunities to shape and select activities and performers • Free, subsidised and accessible activities: particularly targeting families and parents in poverty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community events such as block parties bringing together young and old • Regular, free youth-led concert and talent showcase with paid roles for young people • Inviting schools to come together on one day for a large-scale concert with famous performers, enabling all children to get involved in a safe, community-friendly environment • Everyday and seasonal sports and activities- cinemas, summer camps, water sports etc.