

National Youth Social Action Fund: feedback on expressions of interest

Due to the large number of expressions of interest we received we are unable to provide individual feedback. Below we have summarised general feedback on the applications we received

Addressing the barrier or challenge (Reflective and challenging)

Not all applications stated they would specifically target young people aged 10-20 years old, from rural areas and/or from lower socio-economic groups (C2DE) to take part in social action. For example, some applications specified other target groups for their project, such as young people with disabilities, from BME communities, or they included groups of young people aged 20+.

A large numbers of applications focused on the challenges that young people faced in engaging in education, work or training, rather than the specific barriers they faced to participating in social action itself. Strong applications clearly outlined the challenges their project was seeking to address – for example, cost of travel in rural areas or lack of awareness of volunteering opportunities. They then clearly stated how their project would address these challenges.

Impact on young people and community (youth-led and socially impactful)

Almost all applicants described the impact of their project on young people, but the majority did not outline how young people would be involved in making decisions about the type of social action they took part in. Not all applications made reference to the impact of the project on the wider community.

The strongest applications also drew on evidence from evaluations of similar activity to demonstrate the likely impact of their proposed project.

Sustainability of the programme (progressive and embedded)

Evidence of sustainability was relatively under developed in the majority of applications. Applicants needed to demonstrate that projects had a strong likelihood of being scalable and sustainable in the long term. The strongest applications outlined proposals to adopt innovative approaches to create new cross-sector partnerships or build on existing structures to develop their projects in the long term.

We hope that you've found the above feedback useful and that you will continue to look for changes to develop opportunities for young people to take part in social action.