YOUTH VISION PROJECT

Year One End of Project Report

August 2021-July 2022



August 2021 to July 2022

OVERVIEW

The Youth Vision project has delivered its first year of activities from August 2021 to July 2022. Below details the project performance with evidence and the impact it has made on the project participants.









Below details activities delivered in the Youth Vision Project year one.

PRE-DELIVERY ACTIVITIES		
Proposed Activity	Output and/or Outcome	
Set up management systems including budget performance, risk register, baseline data to keep track of the project, participants and data collection process.	We set up the following: Budget performance spreadsheet, registration forms, attendance register, feedback forms, case study forms and evaluation records.	
Update the Highlife Centre website with new project information and to acknowledge the grant from National Lottery Community Fund.	Highlife centre website updated with information for YV programme. We are in the process of developing a new website for YV which will present all activities and evidence of work in one place.	
Recruitment of Project Manager	We conducted an open recruitment for a Project Manager via Indeed. As we did not receive candidates with the relevant experience for the role, we appointed a Trainee Project Manager with the most potential to develop a career within YV and who will relate to the young people. They started their post on 1st October 2021. In the meantime, the CEO/Project Manager managed the project the first two months of the project.	
Publicize to attract participants, contact those already on the waiting list.	We contacted participants on the waiting list. Created and distributed through various outlets. Main promotion for year one was for This is Africa events.	
Induction of Project Manager	Induction to the programme completed on 28 th September 2021.	
Confirm 5 volunteers to work on the project.	7 volunteers were recruited in year one to support with coordinating This is Africa events and to help with promotion and coordinating of the project activities. The volunteers are: (1) Ebony-Events Coordinator, (2) Carol - Promo & Black History, (3) Agatha-Volunteer Coordinator, (4) Rosemond-Marketing and Promotion (5) Rashad - Social Media Marketing, (6) Deborah - Digital Design & Marketing, (7) Marie – Youth Coordinator.	



5 young people initially formed the steering group to support management with the

Confirm 3 young people to be on the steering group.

5 young people initially formed the steering group to support management with the different strands for the project. These are: Dante-Leadership and Peer Mentoring, Rossi-Music Studio, Stella-Performing Arts, Deborah-Fashion, and Favour-Hair and Beauty. At the end of year one, we had increased the number to the young people on the steering group to 10. Further information is detailed in the Plan for year two section.

Engage and contract with all Sessional staff

Our intention was to continue working with two of the existing project sessional facilitators, however, one of the facilitators moved on from the role at the start of the project. For his replacement, we decide to train 6 young people who will support the lead facilitator, champion and lead on the different strands of the project activities. These 6 leads are 18 years and over. These are:

(1) Christabell-Lead facilitator, (2) Dante - Facilitator & Peer mentor, (3) Precious - Facilitator - Black History, (4) Stella - Performing Arts - Youth Choir, (5) Tim - Facilitator - Leadership and Financial Resilience, (6) Rossi - Music Studio, and (7) Keenan - Performing Arts - street dance.

Deliver one day training for staff and volunteers

All facilitators have received Safeguarding training and relevant policy. Service level agreements/employment document, and DBS forms completed for their roles. Ongoing support and training is provided to all facilitators.





"I feel that this project has helped me to develop communication skills, has taken me out of my comfort zone and has helped me to deal with my social anxiety. Working as a facilitator with people of my own age has broaden my knowledge in understanding people from different backgrounds and families.

Rossi-Youth Sus Lead





PROJECT ACTIVITIES – THIS IS AFRICA 2021-2022

Activity

Deliver Youth Empowerment and Volunteering

Empower and inspire young people by creating volunteering and work experience opportunities across different fields, leading to aspirational development and increase in active citizenship amongst young people.

60 project participants will support the activities and events being planned for 'This is Africa 2021' delivered by the black community during Coventry City of Culture.

Output and/or Outcome

The Highlife Centre delivered 10 events for This is Africa as part of Coventry City of Culture between October 2021 and May 2022, I.e.: Living Culture, Business Expo, Sankofa Fashion Show, Drum Circle, Youth Conference, Regenerate, Christmas in Africa, Wellbeing conference, International Women's Day, and Africa Day events.

- 58 young volunteers were recruited to support these events. Collectively they contributed 365 hours to the project.
- Case study, testimonial, feedback, photos and video evidence were collected.
- A database of young people who volunteered were kept.

Those who participated acquired and/or improved practical skills. Their roles included; planning the events, marketing and social media, On the day of the event, volunteers helped set up the stage/marquees, traffic and crowd management, managed the artist and performers, handled the stalls/ food counters, managed kids and children's activities, welcomed guests and assisted them during the events.

Young volunteers reported reduced isolation and loneliness by meeting new people and socializing with peers, increased aspirational pathways, gained work experience.

Impact evidence







August 2021 to July 2022

PROJECT ACTIVITIES - THIS IS AFRICA 2021-2022 Output and/or Outcome Impact evidence **Activity** Delivered on 16th October 2022. **Black Business Expo Event** "October's business expo was an amazing In total, 11 volunteers worked on the project; 5 Young people lead and event. In this event I had an opportunity to young people and 6 adults. All 11 contributed work with adult volunteers meet many people for the first time, who I 15 hours of volunteering time. The event to deliver first public event. still am friends with. The atmosphere was attracted over 70 visitors. very social and filled with positivity. I loved being able to support black businesses as well as gaining positive experiences from it." Marie













August 2021 to July 2022

Impact evidence Activity Output and/or Outcome "The Sankofa fashion show was more than an event, it was a whole Sankofa Fashion Show delivered on 16th experience. From the music, to the fashion to the involvement of the African Fashion Week October 2022. youth, it was amazing to bring people together to celebrate African

Young people lead on and work with adult volunteers to deliver second public event.

This event was led by young people. In total 30 young volunteers worked on the project. Collectively, they contributed 91 hours of volunteering time. The event attracted 83 audiences.

Culture and share it with the community here in Coventry.

The event lead me to explore working in a different environment -I'd never coordinated a fashion event before and I learnt the different components that made a good show. It was hard work, but proved to be worth it in end as we had a really good turn out."

Ebony



#HIGHLIFE(



August 2021 to July 2022

Youth Conference and Job Fair.

Young people lead on and work with adult volunteers to deliver third public event.

Delivered on 30th October 2021.

The Job fair at the youth conference was a success with a great turn out of young people.

Over 50 young people attended the conference registered for the Youth Conference, with 23 new.

5 organisations presented opportunities to provide much required career advice.

6 young volunteers coordinated this event. Collectively they contributed 28 hours of volunteering time.











August 2021 to July 2022

PROJECT ACTIVITIES – CONFIDENCE BUILDING, LEADERSHIP AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP			
Project Activity	Output/Outcome	Impact evidence	
Publicize to attract participants, contact those already on the waiting list.	Leaflets were created and distributed through various outlets, and participants who were on the waiting list were also contacted. We also recruited a sessional marketing officer to support with social media and engagement activities.	48 young people were recruited and engaged as a result of the marketing activities.	









PROJECT ACTIVITIES - CONFIDENCE BUILDING, LEADERSHIP AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

Project Activity Output/Outcome Impact evidence

'Deliver Project Activity 1 - Leadership and Social Activism - Develop confidence and resilience of young people to challenge and influence social change, including racism in schools.

No Limits - 5 weeks of confidence and self-esteem 'development.

12-17 years olds to help them to nurture more entrepreneurship skills, confidence/team building and tackling identity and racism issues.

48 young people registered for No Limits session; however, 29 participated in active engagement in the confidence and self-esteem 'development sessions the remaining 19 participated in the other strands of the programme.

The sessions delivered were:

- Confidence building
- Black History, Identity and Navigating racism
- Personal and Financial Resilience
- Leadership development
- Team Building and Peer Mentoring

We used attendance records, session records, feedback, photos, and testimonials to collect data and measure the project's impact on people.

Of the young people who participated in the No Limits sessions, all 29 young people reported an increase in Confidence and self-esteem, gained a sense of purpose, increase in personal resilience to overcome challenges, and acquired/improved theoretical leadership, interpersonal and mentoring skills.

We were able to make the sessions a lot more interactive with the young people being regularly split into various groups so they become familiar and comfortable with each other, this in turn meant their confidence levels were built up. The young people also took the lead on some sessions asking questions to the wider group and this helped lead to thought provoking conversations around racism and resilience especially.

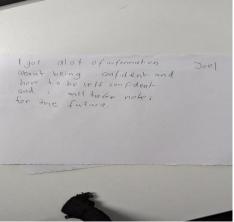


August 2021 to July 2022















PROJECT ACTIVITIES - CONFIDENCE BUILDING, LEADERSHIP AND ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

Project Activity Output/Outcome Impact evidence

'Deliver Project Activity 1 - Leadership and Social Activism - Develop confidence and resilience of young people to challenge and influence social change, including racism in schools.

7 weeks of Leadership in Practice.

In this strand, apart from supporting with the three City of Culture activities, 32 young people (including 29 from No Limits and 19 from previous cohorts) also organised and delivered the following events/activities:

- Regenerate Looking Back to Move Forward during black history month in October 2021.
- Christmas in Africa in December 2021.
- Impact of Mental Health on young people in February 2022.
- Games Night in April 2022
- Summer BBQ event

Young people engaged in leadership and practice learnt a lot, they enjoyed planning and delivering the events. It was evidence how their progressions helped with them increase in confidence, watching them come out of their shells and become the best versions of themselves.





"Marie had the following things to say about the project; when asked what went well she answered: 'I learned a lot of skills through trial and error which made me more prepared to become a facilitator at YV' and when asked how her outlook has changed because of the project and what it holds for the future she answered: 'I now see a future in working with young people since I'm able to make a difference now. I am a facilitator now which means I can continue to learn and be more skilled at leading sessions with young people.' Finally when asked what she liked about the programme she said the following: 'I loved that we were able to go to events and socialise/network with other people our age. In my case, I had many new friends in YV."

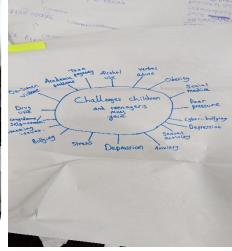




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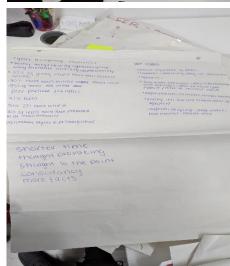
















Project Activity	Output/Outcome	Impact evidence
'Deliver Project Activity 1 - change, including racism i	.eadership and Social Activism - Develop confidence and resilier n schools.	nce of young people to challenge and influence social
A week in the life of	Due to the risk of the pandemic and with most statutory organisations still working from home, we could not place young people within organisations. In the first year, we focused on developing relationships with the organisations and councillors and now have a database to engage with. These include; six councillors, the local authority resilience department, West Midlands Police, the Albany Theatre and three local community organisations.	
4 weeks - Peer Mentoring	This year, 5 young people became peer mentors and supported their peers during No Limits and Leadership in Practice sessions. Additionally, we met with an IT consultant to update the YV Chat Portal, where adult professional mentors and peer mentors will anonymously support young people with any issues they may have. We finalised the pocketbook and this has been printed ready to be used in the peer mentoring training, it contains all the information needed to be a handy guide for the young people, it contains vital information pertaining to confidentiality and safeguarding. It also provides helpful tips as well as general information on how to be a good mentor this includes skills such as listening and empathy. It breaks down the skills and how this relates to being a mentor. We also met with the newly formed steering group, discussed the end of the first year and what the young people would like to see implemented moving forward, we will detail this further below.	



SUSTAINABILITY - 9 PROJECT PARTICIPANTS WORK WITH AN ENTERPRISE COACH (SUSTAINABILITY LEAD) TO INITIATE, PLAN, DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT THREE MICRO-ENTERPRISING VENTURES.

Activity	Output/Outcome	Impact ovidence
ACTIVITY	Output/Outcome	Impact evidence

In year one, the three micro-enterprising ventures have been set up. Young participants who are 18 years and over have worked with the sustainability lead to develop their strands.

(1) Music Studio

3 young people have helped set the music studio up. All equipment purchased and a sound engineer volunteering within the studio.

So far, we've had 3 external paid bookings for sound engineering/beats producing along with music recording.

Rossi (21 years) is the lead facilitator. Rossi is supported by Tim and Mike T.











SUSTAINABILITY - 9 PROJECT PARTICIPANTS WORK WITH AN ENTERPRISE COACH (SUSTAINABILITY LEAD) TO INITIATE, PLAN, DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT THREE MICRO-ENTERPRISING VENTURES.

Activity Output/Outcome Impact evidence (2) Performing Arts Youth Choir We started two activities Stella (19 years) is the lead. under the performing arts The choir currently consists of 10 young people strand: who practice weekly. So far, they have had opportunities to perform at various events including: Windrush event This is Africa – Grand African Ball St John's Devine City of Culture parade In year two, we plan to deliver 4 ticketed events. Street dance

We started the street dance with Keenan (24) as the lead; however, this activity was not popular with the young people so we will be replacing it with drama sessions in year two.





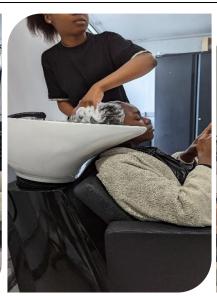


SUSTAINABILITY - 9 PROJECT PARTICIPANTS WORK WITH AN ENTERPRISE COACH (SUSTAINABILITY LEAD) TO INITIATE, PLAN, DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT THREE MICRO-ENTERPRISING VENTURES.

Activity	Output/Outcome		
(3) Hair, Beauty and Fashion Hub	Hair, Beauty and Fashion Hub is also up Favour (14) is the lead for this strand. She 6 young people have used the hub to p space to generate income.	e is a talented young lady	with a passion for hairdressing. wo, promotions will begin for professionals to hire the











Quarterly report

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

We met with the external evaluator (QBQ Research and Consulting) to create evaluation tools for feedback and to measure the success of the project against the KPI's. The evaluator also met with young people in the session and collected testimonials directly from the young people.

We started to collect and collate feedback for the project to measure against out KPI's. Our records show we engaged with 148 young people engaged in the different strands of the project. These include:

- 58 Volunteers for This is Africa City of Culture
- 23 new youth attending the youth conference
- 29 new recruits for No Limits Confidence and Leadership
- 19 new recruits for Leadership in Practice
- 3 Music studio
- 10 Youth Choir
- 6 hair and beauty

31 actively engaging with multiple strands of the project mainly 'No Limits' and Leadership in practice.

The external evaluator collected feedback from 24 out of the 32 young people who participated in and completed 'Leadership in Practice activities'.

His findings are detailed below:

Short face-to-face interviews were held with the users and facilitator to ascertain the following:

- Meeting of expectations
- What went well
- What didn't go too well
- Lessons/Recommendations

Meeting of expectations

Interviewees were asked whether the training sessions met their expectations. Whilst a number of participants joined without any expectations, others had some expectations. Such expectations ranged from 'learning about black lives matter', 'how to deal with racism' to 'learning about my ancestors and culture' and 'seeking inspiration from role models'. According to those in this category, the programme fully met their expectations. Some of the key messages emerging included:

'I came to learn about my culture because we don't do that stuff in school. For example, I learnt a lot about Ghana, my country of origin. It was fun and I enjoyed myself.'

'One of my expectations was to meet role models. We don't have that many coloured teachers in school but at this training session, we had lots of black trainers and really felt inspired by their presence'.

'My expectations were focussed on black lives matter and anything that revolves around us as humans. I have now learnt how to educate people who are racist to me. Before engaging on this project, I used to ignore people who are racist to me but now I will educate them'

'I was a bit shy and liked keeping to myself; but I am now less shy and more comfortable with people. Now I come up with ideas and say things more willingly. My confidence levels has increased'





Quarterly report

What went well

Interviewees were asked to share their experiences on what went well and the results were very encouraging. The results touched on the professionalism of staff, a friendly environment, quality of training sessions etc. Key messages included:

- 'The environment was very friendly and I had a very nice experience. Usually people aren't nice, so I didn't expect a friendly environment'
- 'The confidence building sessions and education about my history went down very well with me. I received tips on being myself and not letting other judgements affect me. Also received tips on how to be resilient, and bouncing from bad experiences in life'
- 'The training sessions offered me an exciting opportunity to widen my circle of friends outside school. I met new people with different talents and personalities'
- 'One of the things that went very well for me, was the opportunity to choose my own character for a play that I was involved in. In school plays or dramas, we are given a character to play, but here, I get to choose my character'.
- 'I liked the opportunity offered me to get out of my comfort zone by trying something new. By doing so, I related to other people and got on well with them.'

What did not go well

Interviewees also shared their experiences on what did not go well for them. This attracted fewer results, mainly focussed on 'managing expectations'. The results were insightful. Key messages included:

- 'I enjoyed it but wish it was a bigger project with more people in the sessions. I know people
 that would have benefitted from the sessions but didn't know what to expect and thought it
 was too late to invite them'
- 'I was told I would get a reward for volunteering but nothing so far. Very disappointing'
- 'The attendance rate could have been better'

Youth empowerment

We also collected feedback from 16 out of the 58 young people who engaged in 'Youth empowerment' activities. We based the key questions around the KPI's and had the following findings:

- 24 out of 24 young people said the project increased their confidence and self-esteem.
- 20 out of the 24 young people said the programme helped them achieve a sense of purpose.
- 23 out of the 24 young people surveyed said the programme increased their resilience to overcome challenges.
- Finally, all 24 young people said the programme helped them to acquire or improve their practical skills.





Quarterly report

Lessons/recommendations - Participant

Interviewees were given the opportunity to reflect on the distance travelled on the programme. There were some very useful tips to inform the future delivery. Key messages included:

- 'I would recommend that in future, we have longer ice breaking sessions to get to know each other better. This would help reduce nervousness and shyness'
- 'This is a training session that I would recommend for those lacking confidence. It allows you to do things outside your comfort zone; in fact the things that you would regret in the future not doing'
- 'It was great learning and knowing more about my culture but I would recommend that we also learn about other non-African cultures e.g. Asian. Also, it would be good to get us a bit more involved in the use of social media to promote the programme e.g. designing and sharing of posters/flyers on social media'
- 'I would recommend younger people to get themselves involved in this programme because through the programme, they could be inspired on what to do for their future ambition or dream. For example, we had a visit/talk on the programme from the Police and they enlightened us on how to join the police service.'

Lessons/recommendations – Project Delivery

One major challenge we face is attendance at the sessions as sometimes parents have other activities prepared for their children which clashed with the sessions planned. We attempted to resolve this by keeping parents and the young people informed throughout the week about the upcoming session, and closer to the session we call parents/young people to give them a gentle reminder of the session.

Another challenge we have faced is attendance. Although we usually have a good number of registrations when the cohort start, some young people become preoccupied and then do not attend when the cohort starts. To combat this, we kept in regular contact with the young people and their parents so both are updated with dates, sessions and other information. In addition to this, we plan to host smaller youth club events with games to encourage more participation from young people. Additionally, we have also restructured our delivery to have a more focused approach to service delivery, as detailed in plan for year 2.

As previously stated in prior reporting, travel is a major factor in disengagement. We continue to pay for travel expenses for young people to relieve the financial burden on their parents. We are looking to secure funding for the purchase of a 'YV' van/minibus and use the budget for travel towards paying for a driver. This will reduce the need for taxis/ during winter periods, and wait times and eliminate any reservations that parents may hold about their children travelling to and from sessions.

Lessons/recommendations - Organisational

As our aim is to develop young people's careers, employing a young adult to the role of a Trainee Manager was a positive approach. However, it was a challenge to keep the trainee manager focused on his role and deliver the outcomes set. This meant that he required more supervisory time and had to be micro-managed which drained an already limited capacity from senior management.

Whilst we recognise that the trainee manager brings youth qualities, is able to build rapport and is relatable to the young participants, it has become unsustainable to keep them in a management role as there is a major risk of lagging behind on managerial duties, monitoring and effectively evaluating the project.

Due to this, we have restructured the service delivery in order to spread managerial, project delivery and facilitation responsibilities to both adult supervisors (Guides) and Young People (Facilitators and Executives).





Quarterly report

For the restructure, we consulted with 11 young people as the executives of the YV programme. They identified other activities that young people are interested in that will help increase engagement and participation in the programme.

Young executives and the guides have both agreed on the following activities going forward, which will be regularly reviewed to ensure effectiveness.

10	Youth Executives	Role
1.	Dante	Peer mentoring programme Lead, and support with overall monitoring and evaluation of the project.
2.	Marie	Lead for No Limits (Theoretical Leadership) and Leadership in practice. Also coordinates activities for the projects and acts as the liaison for parents and young people.
3.	Vivienne	Lead for Active Citizenship/Volunteering, Revision hub (helping young people with revision, homework and various learning techniques/styles).
4.	Beryl	Lead for delivering YV Café, a social safe space for young people to socialise and discuss various sensitive issues in open and honest conversations.
5.	Precious	Lead for Youth Enterprise Club (various opportunities and networking events for young entrepreneurs).
6.	Rashad and David	Leads for the YV Talk Show/Podcast. We plan to pilot the music studio/podcasting station to the general public as a self-sustaining initiative while also providing services to the young people within YV. This will help scope the future of YV as a long-term project being sustained by the music studio and other enterprise initiatives to come.
7.	Stella	Sustainability lead for Performing Arts - Youth Choir, and Drama.
8.	Rossi	Sustainability lead for Music Studio
9.	Favour	Sustainability lead for Hair and Beauty Hub
10.	Deborah	Sustainability lead for Fashion Hub

4 Adult Guides	Role		
Priya	Overall supervisor of the project, in addition to being a guide for Peer Mentoring, YV Café and Progression.		
Shoaib	Guide for Talk shows		
Shabana	Guide for Active Citizenship/Volunteering and Revision Hub		
Christabell	Guide for No Limits, Leadership in Practice, Sustainability Strand, and Enterprise Club		

The above list details the first executives who have actively engaged throughout the first year. These services and activities are what the young people have expressed that they wish to see. We continue to ensure that the young people lead the project; as such, we have created a new progression strand where young people have different milestones to hit. This means that they achieve a range of prizes and a new status where they get a new YV t-shirt to signify the progression within the project. They will get new titles such as YV mentor, YV Champion and finally the lead role of YV Executives; this incentivises their progression and clearly maps it out.

Budget Performance for Year One

Please find attached a separate spreadsheet that details spend in year one.





Quarterly report

PLAN FOR YEAR TWO

With the new structure, we ensure that young people are at the forefront of decision-making. We will develop the strands and begin recruiting for it to coincide with the new academic year and at a frequency, young people decide. As per the project plan, below outlines project activities to be delivered in Year two.

Project Activities
Review management systems to ensure that they are still effective and update if necessary.
'9 project participants continue to work with an enterprise coach (Sustainability lead) to initiate, plan, develop and implement three micro enterprising ventures.
Publicize to attract and recruit 40 project participants for cohorts 5-8.
'Continue to deliver Project Activity 1 - Leadership and Social Activism - Develop confidence and resilience of young people to challenge and influence social change including racism in schools.
'40 Participants in cohorts 5-8. 10 in each cohort engage in: 5 weeks confidence and self-esteem development. 7 weeks Leadership in Practice. 1 week - A week in the life of. 4 weeks - Peer Mentoring Adhoc activities including YV Café, Talk shows, Revision Hub,
Continue to deliver Project Activity 2 - Youth Empowerment and Volunteering - Empower and inspire young people by creating volunteering and work experience opportunities across different fields, leading to aspirational development and increase in active citizenship amongst young people.
10 project participants will support assessment and monitoring of evaluation of the events delivered during city of culture year.
Multiple project monitoring meeting with team. Measure progress of project and make necessary changes, if any.
'Deliver Project Activity 3 *Sustainability monitoring* 3 project participants manage the sustainable ventures. 1 move on to access music studio. 1 move on to engage in performing arts extracurricular workshops. 1 engage in sustainable fashion activity. 3 Join the YV Leadership Network – YV Official. 1 become a steering group member within a local organisation. 1 Project participant gain employment. Collate and assess feedback for year two, measure outcome achievements against outcomes set at the beginning of the project, Evaluation meeting for year two with project

Budget for Year Two

Please find attached a separate spreadsheet.

