

Programmes for young people



What we have learned



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Print

Also available upon request in Braille, on audio-cassette, disc, in large print and community languages

We care about the environment

The Big Lottery Fund seeks to minimise its negative environmental impact and only uses proper sustainable resources

Our equal opportunities commitment

The Big Lottery Fund is committed to valuing diversity and promoting equality of opportunity, both as a grant maker and employer. The Big Lottery Fund will aim to adopt an inclusive approach to ensure grant applications and recipients, stakeholders, job applicants and employees are treated fairly. It is the responsibility of all staff Board members to uphold and implement our equality policy

Big Lottery Fund is the joint operating name of the New Opportunities Fund and the National Lottery Charities Board (which made grants under the name of Community Fund).

The Big Lottery Fund has run and evaluated a wide range of programmes specifically for young people. Some of the main findings from this work are as follows:

Activities for young people

England

Giving young people information and guidance can make a real difference to their decisions about future choices.

But it's important to be clear about aims and target groups for programmes: not all disadvantaged young people are disaffected, and working to raise young people's self-esteem will not necessarily lead them to stay on in education.

Northern Ireland

The programme came at a time of significant policy change and successfully promoted new approaches to joint working.



Many projects were keen to share their experiences and to introduce co-ordinated systems for tracking young people through and beyond their participation.

Wales

Providing activities throughout the year and on a reasonably permanent basis seems to be more effective than simply running activities over the summer.

It is important for projects to consider how and when participants will move on, and what further support needs may have to be met.

Do It 4 Real

Summer holiday programmes can bring young people from many backgrounds together, but it is important to understand and to take account of differing cultural sensitivities and norms when planning and running activities. Participants reported that the programme had allowed them to meet new people, to learn new skills and to increase their self-confidence.

Splash extra

In the areas where the programme ran, reported crime fell. Running activities in the afternoon and evening is likely to have more of an impact on crime.

Out of school hours learning

Funding out-of-school-hours learning activities helped support the transition from primary to secondary school, and there was some evidence that projects helped improve attitudes to learning and social interaction.



It was often hard to determine whether to offer activities to all or whether to target those considered most at need. The most effective approach – which helped avoid stigmatising – involved targeting within the context of mainstream provision.

New Opportunities for PE and sport in schools

Our biggest initiative is successfully providing facilities not only for schools, but also opening them up to the wider community. It is stimulating increased participation in PE during school time, as well as improving access to and use of sports facilities outside the school day. There is evidence that staff and pupil morale have both increased.



In addition, we have produced a number of more general reports for people developing and running programmes or projects for young people. These include:



Engaging young people in evaluation and consultation

This publication outlines various aspects of the question of how to engage people in planning and running projects. While many providers and indeed funders are keen to seek the views of participants at the end of their involvement in a project, this study argues that bolting on involvement is neither useful nor desirable. In addition, it sets out various creative approaches, as well as good practice in using focus groups, questionnaires and other methods.



Developing youth activities programmes: issues to consider

There is a wide range of programmes and projects operating to support young people in various ways – notably in supporting future choices, diverting them from crime and/or developing their self-esteem and social skills. However, all too often programmes rely on an implicit shared understanding of what a programme is meant to achieve, who it is aimed at, and who it aims to target. Designed as a checklist or series of prompts for policy-makers and others involved in developing activities projects for young people, this booklet should help promote useful discussion and a more explicit consensus about the logic underlying programmes in this field.

Copies of reports and summaries about these and other programmes are available at:

www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/evaluationandresearch-uk.htm

E-mail us at: e&r@biglotteryfund.org.uk

or phone us on: 020 7211 1860 to find out more.

