



## Restart Youth

A platform for young people to influence decision making, post Covid-19

Proposal deadline 7 May 2021

### What is it?

Thanks to National Lottery players, The National Lottery Community Fund has awarded the Blagrove Trust funding to support youth organisations through the Covid-19 crisis to give decision making power to young people who are being overlooked by mainstream services. Funding for the programme, called Restart Youth, is awarded and managed by the Blagrove Trust.

The strategy behind Restart Youth funding has been shaped by a group of 6 Young Advisers – young people from the region who bring their experience of services. These are their priorities. All grant making decisions will be made alongside them.

### What's the ambition?

The last year has been a period of huge uncertainty and change. Young people's lives have been in constant turmoil with confusion over educational futures and a changing employment landscape. Every young person has been impacted and youth organisations will need to listen closely to young people to ensure their support and services meet young people's needs.

The pandemic period also offers society the opportunity to rethink, reprioritise, and restructure. It's a time for funders to reflect on our own practices - which we ourselves have started doing by working with Young Advisers - and for youth organisations to do the same. Learning from other crisis situations<sup>1</sup> shows that organisations that change power structures and decision making processes to be more equitable, make better decisions<sup>2</sup>. Closing the gap with the young people youth organisations seek to serve means that they can become more flexible and agile as organisations, so are able to respond quickly when crisis strikes.<sup>3</sup>

Restart Youth funding can help you take the first steps in examining your power structures and decision making processes, and so be in a better position to address the challenges that young people are facing.

This funding is for a short term (6 month period), so we know this seems ambitious, but the Young Advisers believe that with the right intention and used strategically even small amounts of funding can create a lasting difference.

The Young Advisers want Restart Youth funding to enable you to start the journey on a youth led response to structural inequalities in the pandemic. They want to support you to plant the seeds so that young people will always have the power to shape the services they need and hold their organisations to account in the future. We know there will be questions around sustainability: this

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<sup>1</sup> IVAR [Review of emergency response](#)

<sup>2</sup> Listening Fund [case studies](#)

<sup>3</sup> Listening Fund [evaluation](#)



funding should be seen as a pathway for organisations to secure further funding from the Blagrove Trust or the National Lottery Community Fund for successful work.

### **Who we want to support**

The Young Advisers would like applicants to demonstrate how their project will reach and impact young people whose needs are not currently being met through applicants' (or other) services: young people whose needs have been overlooked in mainstream media debate or public discussion, and whose lives have been most adversely impacted by Covid-19.

For example, they would be interested to hear about work which will focus on young people who use drugs, are hidden homeless, are estranged from their families, from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities, involved in sex work, are refugees or asylum seekers, are care leavers at transition or are new arrivals to this country. There are many more. **Restart Youth aims to support youth organisations to give the young people that services are currently missing a platform, and the confidence and support they need to engage with it.**

### **Features of the funding**

The Young Advisers welcome applications now from youth organisations in the South East of England (Berkshire, Hampshire, Surrey, Kent, Oxfordshire, the Isle of Wight and Sussex) who want to achieve specific pieces of work to ensure young people are at the heart of decisions as they continue to respond to the protracted pandemic. They particularly want to fund work that will invest directly in young people whose needs are not currently being met, i.e. are new or on the margins of your service.

You are able to apply for funding for a specific, identified activity or set of activities with immediate start. Grants are for a 6 month period, and must be spent in full by December 31st 2021. We anticipate grants will be about £7,500, but we want to fund work which will have the most impact, so please let us know how much the work you want to do will cost as we'd like to offer you flexibility.

We want to support work responding to Covid so funding is not available for ongoing activity (eg salary of existing participation worker) or pre-existing projects.

We are happy to fund core costs or project costs, however, the Young Advisers **do not want to pay adults for any work that a young person could do**. They would expect any young person involved in the work to be paid at least at [Real Living Wage](#) levels.

### **What we are looking for**

We want to make it as easy for you to apply, so we want to be clear about what we are looking for. We won't offer funding unless your proposal:

1. Gives young people power and control in decisions you are making about services in response to Covid, as well as provide essential services to them
2. Is for a specific identified activity or activities that will complete in 6 months
3. Invests directly in young people who are being overlooked in mainstream service delivery, and are new or on the margins of your service.



The following points are desirable but not essential: work that

4. Provides a stepping stone to further embed young people in design, decision making, learning and leadership within your organisation
5. Ensures young people are genuinely listened to inside and outside the organisation
6. Explains why additional resources are needed to enable this specific action within your organisation
7. Brings new insight and learning

This is a new fund, and both the funders and the Young Advisers want to learn from its development. So, as well as reviewing proposals alongside the criteria above, we hope to achieve a balance of organisations with different areas of focus, that are different sizes, and working with different groups of young people.

These are initial thoughts, and we're keen to hear young people's own ideas for what they think is needed. We would expect all funding applications to be completed alongside young people and request their endorsement of the application.

### **What we won't fund**

We will NOT fund

- Proposals that do not contain specific, focused action
- Work that is not responding to the immediate or protracted challenges of Covid-19
- Ongoing organisational voice activity that was pre-existing before this funding (eg a youth ambassador scheme) and that won't have an identifiable impact within 6 months.
- The expansion of one-off or piecemeal participation initiatives that are not reflected in the whole organisational culture
- Adult led initiatives where the funding will not invest in young people
- Projects where the aim is more relevant for organisational marketing and awareness raising; for example, the production of stand-alone video content.
- Stand-alone projects that do not have the buy-in of senior management and potential to impact whole organisational approaches.
- Applications where political activity and campaigning are the primary focus of the projects.
- Capital costs above £5,000

### **Support and community**

Alongside funding, you will be invited to share in learning and support activities. Each funded partner will be encouraged to involve young people to support the learning and make recommendations for the future.

- initial gathering of partners (probably online) to allow for sharing of experience and to make connections
- The opportunity to share materials, lessons learned and expertise across the community of partners involved
- A final gathering of partners to pull out the specific learning.



### **Timelines**

We anticipate successful organisations will be notified in June / July 2021. All funding should be spent within 6 months.

### **Impact and reporting**

You will be asked to tell us what has been achieved with the grant and how it has been spent. Impact will be measured by evidence of the concrete impact young people have had in decision making, in the light of Covid recovery.

### **To apply**

We ask all organisations interested to apply to tell us how young people were involved in the process, and provide an endorsement from them.

Please see [our website](#) for an application form and submit this, alongside a proposed project budget, your safeguarding policy, and your constitution to [grants@blagravetrust.org](mailto:grants@blagravetrust.org) by **May 7th 2021**.

Decisions will be made in June. The Young Advisers are committed to ensuring all applicants receive feedback.