**Royal Docks Youth Workshop Event, 2nd June 2021**

**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](#_heading=h.30j0zll)
2. [Economy](#_heading=h.1fob9te)
3. [Place](#_heading=h.3znysh7)
4. [Culture](#_heading=h.2et92p0)

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

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| **Challenges** | **Priorities** | **Recommendations/ ideas** |  |
| **• 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, additional family pressures, social isolation. | • 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 | **• 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 organisations and in dedicated spaces** | **• 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. |

# ECONOMY

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| **Challenges** | **Priorities** | **Recommendations** | **Event/Activity ideas** |
| **• 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. | **•** 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. | **• 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. | **•** Youth talent showcase/fair  **•** Schools event: Inspirational talks and performances from celebrities  **•** Youth business events: pitching or other entrepreneurial skills/dragons den. |

# PLACE

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| **Challenges** | **Priorities** | **Recommendations** | **Event/Activity ideas** |
| **• 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 | **•** Better housing, good education, schools, amenities and infrastructure  **•** Inclusive, welcoming and safe spaces  **•** Maximising access and opportunities on the water  **•** Safer, cleaner air | **• 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 | **•** 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

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| **Challenges** | **Priorities** | **Recommendations** | **Event/Activity ideas** |
| **• 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 | **•** 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 | **• 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 tohave 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 | **•** 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. |