

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

AN EVALUATION OF GLASGOW EAST YOUTHBANK SUMMARY OF FINDINGS



BACKGROUND

In November 2009 we commissioned the Centre for Youthwork Studies at the University of Strathclyde to evaluate the impact YouthBank has had on the lives of young people and their communities.

We are going to use the findings of the report to improve how we run our YouthBank and how we help young people make the East End of Glasgow a better place to stay!

For more information on GE YouthBank, this evaluation and the YouthBank model please contact us on info@yomo-online.co.uk or visit www.youthbank.org.uk

WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED OVER THE PAST FIVE YEARS?

Over the past five years we have:

- Enabled **90** young people to get more involved in decision making and active citizenship activities.
- Supported **730** young people make their good ideas that benefit their community a reality.
- Funded **310** community projects run by young people for the benefit of their community.

- Enabled **15,000** young people and their communities access services and amenities that better meet their needs.

In addition to this we have created a GE YouthBank Diversity Fund, established YouthBanks across Glasgow, influenced the development of the Big Lottery Fund's Young People's Fund and have been involved in supporting young people to influence policy and practice across the local community, Glasgow and Scotland.

We have also been involved in the development of Youth Network's across the East End of Glasgow and we have supported young people to become more involved in decision-making processes such as the Big Lottery Fund's Young People's Fund, the Scottish Youth Parliament, YouthBank Scotland, YouthBank UK and the distribution of CashBack for Communities funds.

THE FINDINGS

The evaluation found that its not just Young Grant Makers and young people receiving grants that benefit from our work, like ripples in a pool the work of GE YouthBank reaches far and wide.

The researchers found that GE YouthBank benefits young people, local organisations and local communities, this includes:

PRIMARY BENEFICIARIES

Young Grant Makers felt that they were able to "make a difference" through their work at GE YouthBank and that by being involved they were able to improve their personal, group and community development.

Grant Recipients were able to build their confidence, assertiveness and leadership skills by applying for a grant. Through managing and delivering their community project they were able to develop project management skills (including financial planning and literacy skills), their self-esteem, team building and interpersonal skills.

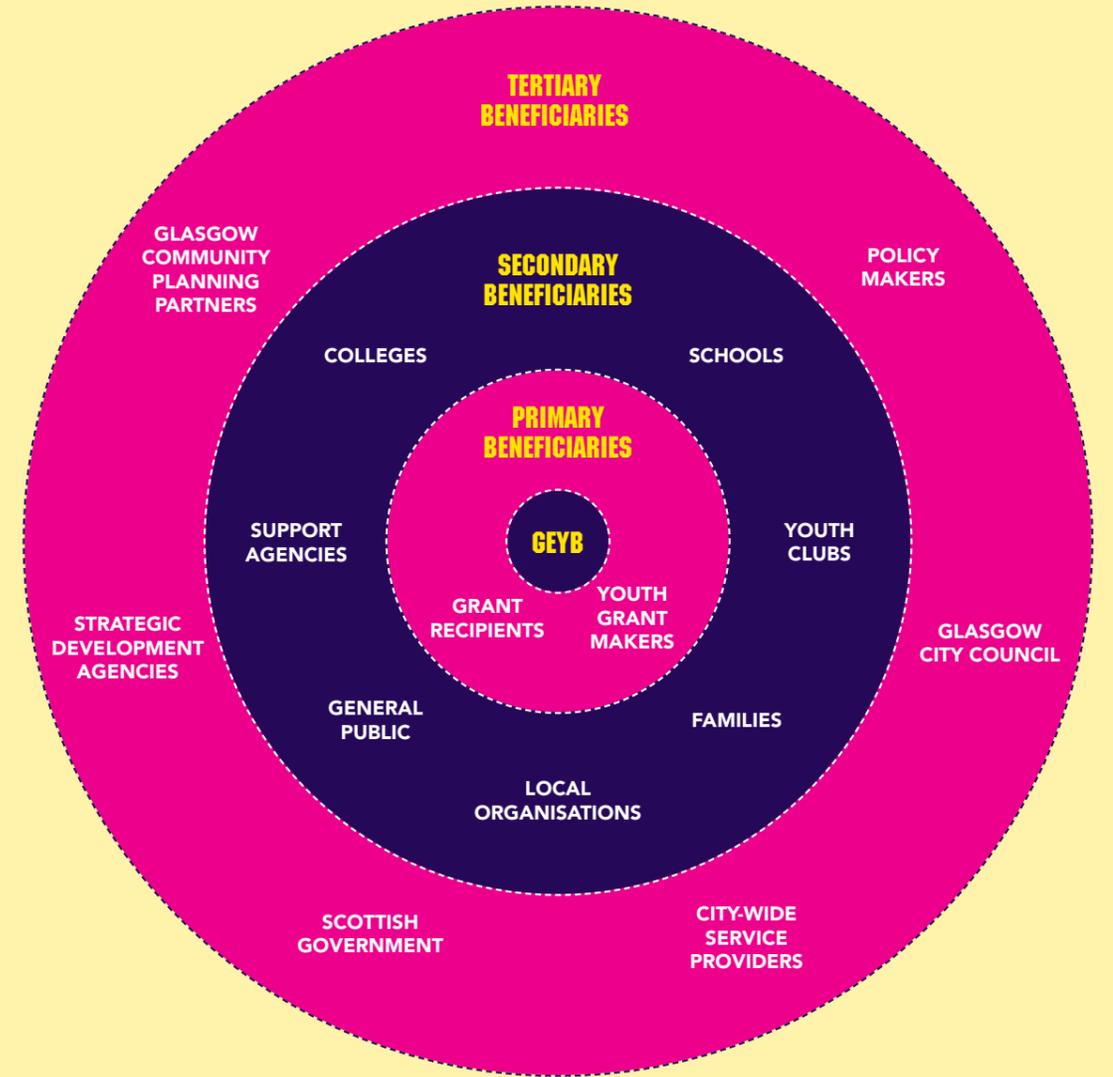
SECONDARY BENEFICIARIES

Families and Communities benefited from an increase in services and amenities being provided within their community, a stronger sense of community and a better representation of young people within the media.

Local organisations and agencies were able to use applying for YouthBank Grants as a means of providing personal development opportunities to young people and to engage young people in decision-making processes within their organisation and community.

TERTIARY BENEFICIARIES

Policy Makers, Local and National Governments have been able to see their strategies and policies implemented in an effective and meaningful way through GE YouthBank. This includes Glasgow's Single Outcome Agreement, Community Plan, and Community Learning and Development strategies and policies.



OUR FUTURE ACTIONS

We are overwhelmed with the highly positive feedback we have received from the evaluation, however we did ask the researchers to investigate the areas in which we had to do better, therefore we have planned the following actions for the following year:

FINDING	ACTION
We need to become more financially sustainable. This means we will have to attract more funding, from a wider range of sources over longer periods of time for both staff costs and the YouthBank Grant Pot.	We have implemented a three year funding strategy that aims to diversify our funding streams over the next three years.
We need to get better at telling young people and other community organisations and agencies about our current work and our future aims.	We have produced a Strategic Plan to help communicate our future aims with partners and a leaflet for young people, their friends, family and communities.
Young people feel that more young people could benefit from GE YouthBank if we promoted and publicised our work more widely.	We have developed and implemented a Marketing Plan. This will include more press releases, better acknowledgement of YouthBank Grants within our communities and more celebration events!

"...there are the young grant makers but it is so much more than just handing out money, you actually see the passion and the drive and commitment of the young people who are involved in YouthBank and like, Linda's there as a worker but it is their YouthBank, they are responsible for every aspect of that and Linda is there as a supporting role..."

Community Stakeholder Grant

Q. And do you think it impacted on your self confidence?

A. "Yeah definitely, when I started I never really talked much in YouthBank and then you give out money and you feel better about yourself... then when you're doing interviews you realise that you're making a difference so I started talking some more and trying to help them with the interviews... like why do you need the money? And then you realise."

Grant Maker

WHAT THEY SAID

Q. What about the impact on the wider community?

A. "Good to know that there are projects out there that are able to get funding, that there is something good going on out there in the community. Like Glasgow and Easterhouse especially gets such a bad name - neds, rogues, just being drunk at weekends, I think its nice for the community to know that there are young people out there that want to meet and do something else, make a difference."

Grant Recipient

"Being a part of a YouthBank creates a certain mindset in young people, I think it's more than just handing out money, they are more aware of money and where it comes from and where it is required within the community to carry out certain events or to support young people to be involved."

Community Stakeholder Grant

"...and I said right well come on and we'll do a site visit and you just walked in and you were like oh my goodness we funded that and we funded that and we funded that, and every bit of money you could see where it had been spent and we interviewed the different young people who had came up for the money..."

They are open six nights a week there are day time clubs there are night time clubs... there are clubs after school, there are clubs in the evening for older people. so they are doing work with all different young people."

YouthBank Coordinator

For more information on GE YouthBank, YoMo and the impact of this evaluation please contact:

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For more information on the evaluation, methodology or the work of the Centre for Youth Work Studies at the University of Strathclyde, please contact:

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