

A photograph of three young women, two wearing black hijabs, looking intently at a tablet held by the woman on the left. They are in a casual setting, possibly a school or community center. The woman on the right is smiling slightly.

ELEVATE®
SHAPING & UPLIFTING FUTURES

Experiences of young East Londoners and
**THE REFLECTIONS ON THE
LEGACY OF LONDON 2012**





**Youth voice will
remain central to
our mission**

INTRODUCTION

Over the last two decades, East London has transformed. From the announcement of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2005 to the present day, this area has been shaped by ambition, resilience and a shared vision of legacy.

The journey has unfolded in three phases. The first focused on establishing a bold vision and successfully hosting the Games. The second created Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park; repurposing world-class sporting venues, developing thriving new neighbourhoods, and establishing business and cultural districts such as Here East and East Bank.

We now enter Phase 3; a new chapter in activating the full potential of the Park. This next phase is about optimisation, blending vibrant visitor experiences with opportunities to work, learn, innovate and engage with culture. At its core is a commitment to Inclusive Growth, ensuring that the young people of east London are not only included but empowered with access to high-quality careers and experiences that inspire and excite.

For the past 15 years, London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC) has worked to place young people and their lived experiences at the heart of regeneration by creating the spaces for them to actively participate. Our aim has always been to shape a place that reflects their needs and aspirations, one that delivers a sustainable and positive impact for generations to come.

Yet we cannot ignore the challenges we face. The cost-of-living crisis, coupled with the lasting social and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, continue to disproportionately affect young people and vulnerable communities. That's why it is more important than ever that we listen—and act.

Youth voice will remain central to our mission. Their perspectives, ideas and leadership will be essential to delivering a legacy that is truly inclusive and enduring. The findings of this report will inform our future strategy framework and strengthen collaboration with boroughs and Park partners so that together, we deliver a legacy that leaves no one behind.

Shazia Hussain,
CEO London Legacy
Development Corporation

For the past 15 years, Elevate has played a pivotal role in shaping the legacy of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and its surrounding communities. Throughout this time, our work has continually evolved to reflect the shifting landscape of East London and the changing needs of its young people. At the core of everything we do is a steadfast commitment to uplifting, empowering and now also investing in young voices — ensuring they are not only heard, but actively shaping both the present and future of the area.

From championing youth governance to exploring and testing what meaningful co-design truly looks like in practice, Elevate has worked to place young people at the centre of decision-making. Our youth-led research is not just about gathering insights — it's about learning from them, using what we hear to refine, adapt, and strengthen our approach to co-design and youth engagement in real time. Supported by Spirit of 2012, this research captures how young East Londoners understand and experience the legacy of the 2012 Games.

The findings are not only a reflection of the current state of affairs but also an important call to action. They provide a valuable opportunity to hold institutions accountable for their commitments to young people, highlighting where progress has been made and where significant gaps remain. This research opens up a conversation that is not only rooted in the lived experiences of young East Londoners, but also backed by data, driving a more informed and impactful dialogue. While some of the issues raised can be addressed by local organisations, others require systemic changes that must be tackled at a national policy level.

As we look to expand Elevate's impact in the coming years, these insights will directly inform our strategy and strengthen our efforts towards meaningful, systemic change. Elevate recognises that the challenges young people face are complex and interconnected, and while we are committed to driving change, we know that we cannot do it alone. Creating lasting solutions requires a collective effort from all sectors — working together through collaboration and co-design to build solutions that are inclusive, equitable, and truly reflective of young people's needs. We understand that real, systemic change takes more than any one organisation; it requires the combined commitment and action of everyone involved.

Lola Martinez,
Chair of Elevate Board



**Elevate has
worked to place
young people at
the centre of
decision-making**



**We wanted
to understand
more around the
views on legacy
from young
people living in
East London**

FOREWORD

As the London 2012 legacy funder, Spirit of 2012 is highly invested in sustaining the positive impacts that came out of the London Games, especially around that iconic promise to Inspire a Generation. We know that major events can be momentous for communities and provide significant opportunities for the young people that live near them. We were established to sustain the spirit of the Games not just in London but across the UK and support work that builds on this legacy. We have spent the past 12 years funding and learning from projects that support our mission.

We were set up with the intention to spend-out. As we planned for closure and the allocation of our final grants, we reflected on our beginnings and on the ongoing legacy the London Games will build beyond our own lifespan. We wanted to understand more around the views on legacy from young people living in East London now and potential future legacy. As investors in youth social action, the Elevate Board were a natural fit for us to partner with on this, with the support of the London Legacy Development Corporation. As a future-facing initiative, we knew it was important that this work be youth-led and to actively involve young people in its co-design.

Of course, some of those consulted will barely remember a time before the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, which can make it more challenging to unpick their perspectives on legacy. We know that the world, and London, has changed dramatically over the last 12 years and this has impacted the opportunities and opinions of young people. The enduring legacy of a major event, however, is not just about sports or infrastructure, but about opportunity and inclusion. Only 40% of the young East Londoners consulted felt that the Games had benefitted them. It is important to understand the reasons behind this and how the legacy of the Games can evolve to bring this figure up.

What comes out strongly in the report is that young people historically don't feel their voices have been heard. With this project, led by the Elevate Board, they have been consulted, and it is vital that we continue to listen and to work together to turn insight into action. We must also remain vigilant on ensuring that plans and opportunities are inclusive and ensure that all voices are heard. We will follow the ongoing work of the Elevate Board with interest and are excited for the next steps which will build on lessons from this consultation and take them forwards.

Ruth Hollis OBE,
Chief Executive, Spirit of 2012

Spirit of 2012 is the London 2012 legacy organisation. It was founded with a £47million endowment from the National Lottery Community Fund in 2013 and will undertake a planned closure in 2026. Their research, learning and insights from over a decade of funding projects to inspire a social legacy is available at www.spiritof2012.org.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Legacy of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games has left a significant mark on young people of east London. This research reveals that **55% of young people aged 16 – 24 years old from the growth boroughs of Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest believe the Games benefited their community.**

More than 1 in 3 young people were either neutral or didn't know, with 1 in 10 feeling that the legacy has not personally benefited east London. However when asked about personal benefits only 40% feel they personally benefited, this is particularly notable among those under 16, who have had less exposure to the direct impact.

Over half of young people rate East London positively for its rich **cultural diversity, green spaces, and accessibility**, with 53% of young people feeling a part of the local community, however, 24% do not, indicating a need for greater social cohesion.

The research uncovers **widespread concerns about crime, gang violence, and mental health challenges**, amongst 16 – 24 year olds compounded by the rising living costs, housing struggles, and lack of community infrastructure. However, **65% of young people express optimism about their future prospects** and there is an overarching hope that east London becomes a safer, more inclusive community where young people can thrive.

The insights from this research report:

- Highlights strong demand for accessible, practical initiatives to improve future prospects—particularly in the areas of job opportunities, mental health support, and community engagement
- Confirms the top priorities for funding and interventions, to include job creation (90%), skills training (88%), and health & wellbeing support (88%).
- Highlights where the continued legacy of the London 2012 Games has the potential to drive meaningful improvements for young East Londoners.





ELEVATE
RESEARCH

Elevate is a pioneering youth leadership programme created for young people, by young people, rooted in lived experience to drive innovation, shape change and elevate futures. For over 15 years, Elevate has played a vital role in shaping the long-term vision for Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in partnership with the London Legacy Development Corporation (LLDC). The Elevate Board recognises the power of youth governance, co-design, and peer-to-peer research, ensuring that the Park continues to reflect the voices, needs, and aspirations of local young people.

This research project was commissioned by Spirit of 2012 and delivered through the London 2012 Legacy Partnership project. Elevate was tasked with exploring public perceptions of the legacy of the London 2012 Games—what has been achieved so far, and what future potential remains.

Designed and delivered by Elevate, the research involved a broadly representative sample of young people across East London, with a particular focus on traditionally under-represented communities. The findings provide insights into how young people view the legacy, the challenges they face, their future ambitions, and how programmes like Elevate can continue to support their journeys.

The research was commissioned by Elevate with the aim to find out

What are the views of local young East Londoners on the legacy of the London 2012 Games?

What are the challenges, needs, and aspirations of young East Londoners, and how can these be impacted or supported by the continued legacy of the 2012 Games?

The research was undertaken by the Kaizen Partnership (Kaizen), with over 25 years experience of wide ranging community engagement, research and consultation expertise. Members of Elevate aged 18 – 27 year olds were part of the research stage from design, to co-design to analysis.

METHODOLOGY



A range of different methods were used:

Direct outreach in different parts of Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest, was used to engage with young people through a mix of individual and small group conversations

Peer-to-peer structured interviews conducted by young East Londoners from Elevate

Online survey shared by Elevate to their networks and by the Kaizen outreach team

Focus groups with local youth groups, led by members of Elevate

The breakdown of people engaged via the different methods was as follows:

Method	How many people
Outreach	564
Peer to peer engagement by Elevate	125
Online survey	166
Focus groups	31
Total	886

The approach used direct outreach as the primary mechanism to reach and engage young people as it offered the benefit of going into the community in various areas of East London and speaking to people on their terms, in their spaces, in the community.

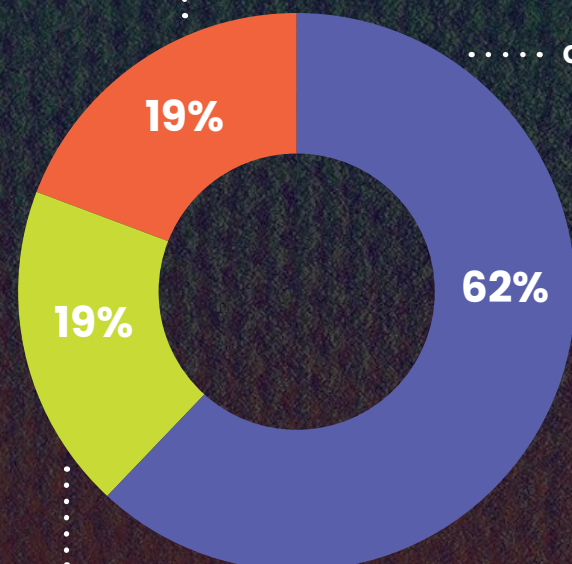
Who was engaged



886

people shared their views

aged 25-34 years old



aged 24 years old & under

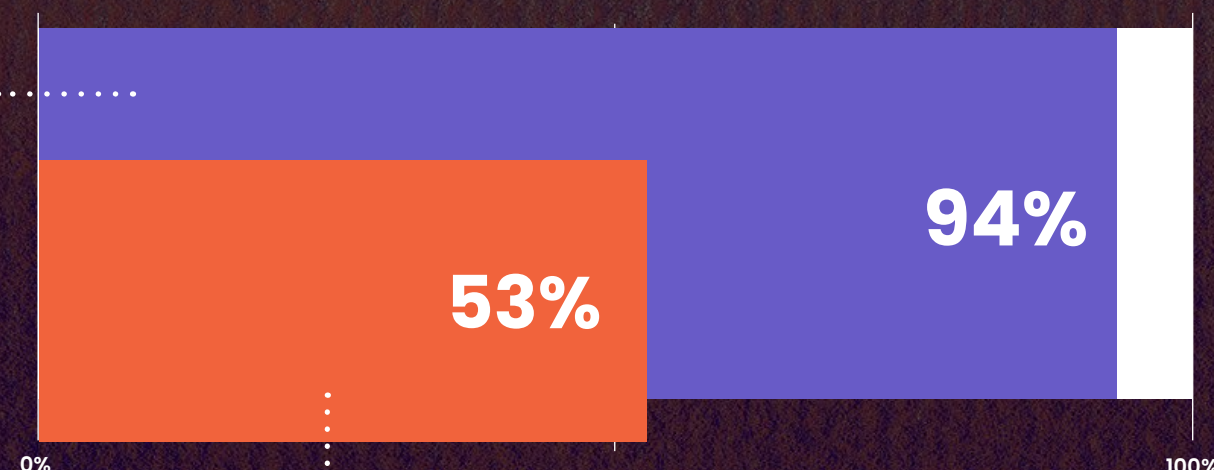
above 35 years old



census

More people engaged from **Asian, Black and Mixed/Other backgrounds** compared to the 2021 census

Visited the Olympic Park



Visited Many times



QUEEN ELIZABETH OLYMPIC PARK

73%

said their views had **never been consulted** before, or not much before

53%

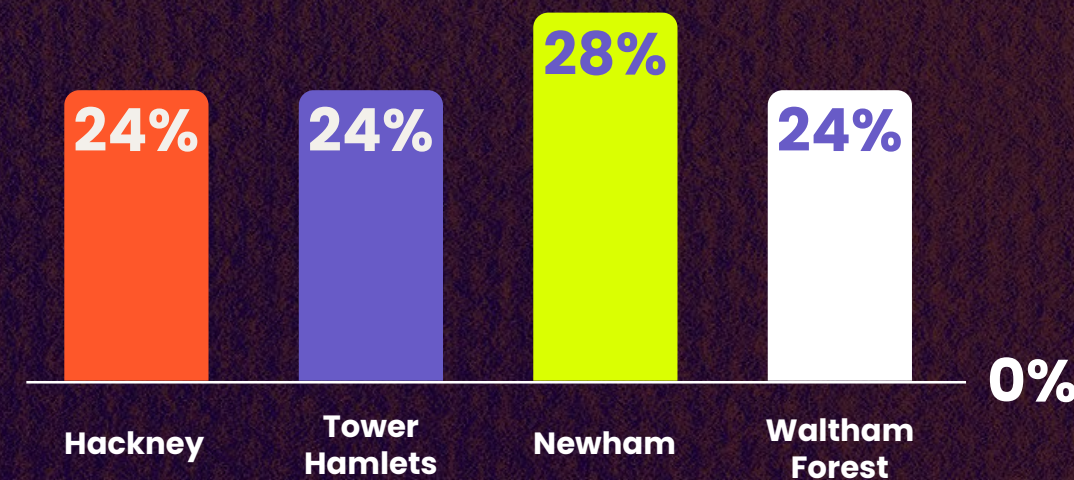
Women/Girls

46%

Men/Boys

Slightly more women/girls engaged than men/boys

Good spread across the 4 local Boroughs



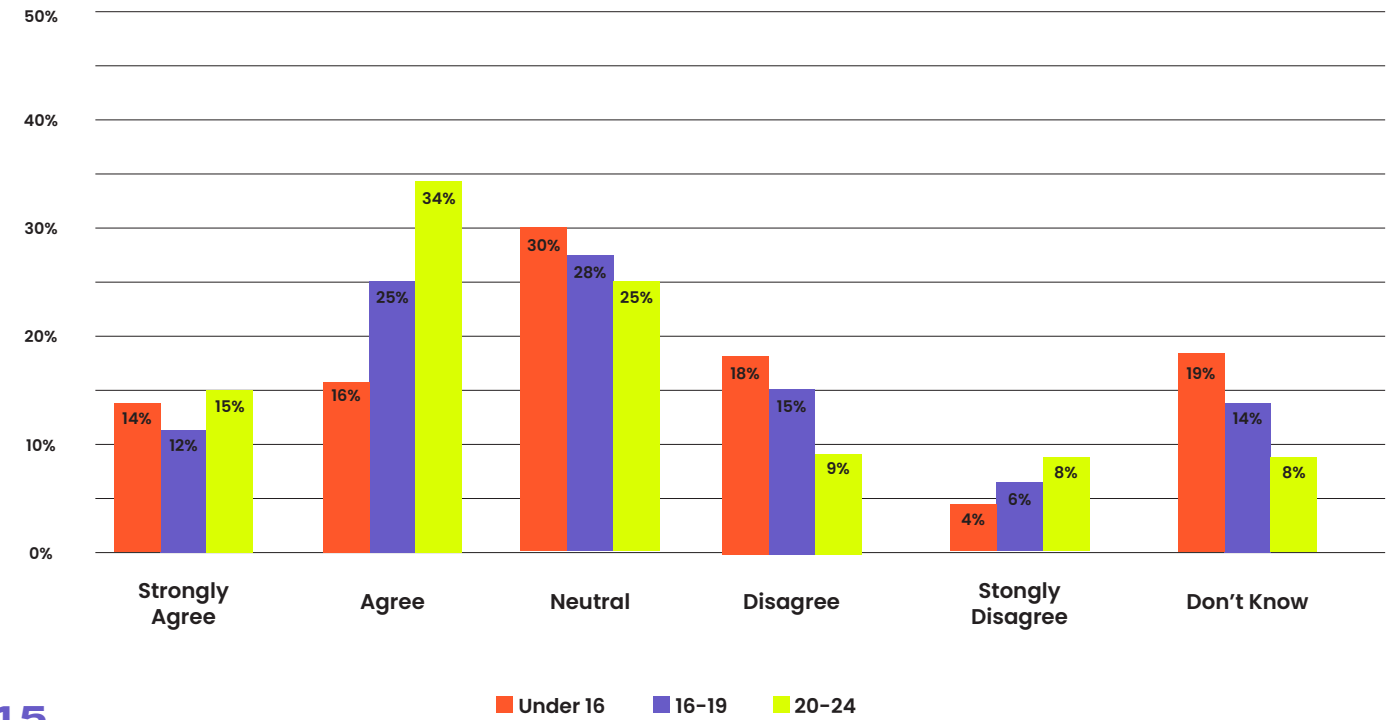
FINDINGS:

Perceptions of the London 2012 Games and East London

The legacy of the London 2012 Games has been met with mixed reactions from young East Londoners. While 55% of respondents felt that the Games had positively impacted the area, with one respondent stating “Investment in regenerating the area... It might have started with the Olympic Park but it has reached beyond that.” however a significant 37% remained neutral or unsure—often due to their young age at the time. As one respondent put it, “I honestly don’t know what the legacy impacts are and if I’ve benefitted from them or not.” The remaining 8% felt that the Games have not benefitted East Londoners at all. However, the differences noted amongst those with a disability with 44% stating that they felt the games had benefitted east London.

When asked if the Games had personally benefited them, only 40% of under 24s felt that it had, 20% felt that it hadn’t, and a further 40% were unsure either neutral or didn’t know. Those in the older age group (20–24 years old) felt more personally impacted with 49% saying that they had, reflecting the fact they have had more time to experience the changes versus only 30% of under 16s

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements:
The Legacy of 2012 Games has benefitted me by age
(individual conversations only)



When respondents were asked about the accessibility and inclusivity of the Games’ legacy. While 45% felt it had improved, 11% disagreed, and 44% were either neutral or didn’t know.

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements:
People under 24 (individual conversations only)



Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park received more universally positive feedback, with 66% of young people viewing it as a valuable community asset. As one person shared, “The park has been an amazing addition to the area – it’s honestly just beautiful.” highlighting how the park has become a vibrant recreational space for young people. Still, 36% remained unsure of its wider impact.

ENTERTAINING
STRONG

When young people were asked, what 3 words would you use to describe East London? the below came through

FUN HOME DANGEROUS
POLLUTED COOL GREEN
POVERTY BE INSPIRING PUBLIC RAW DIRTY MUSIC
HIGH-RISK FREE SAD
ACTIVE OVERWHELMING INCLUSIVE
DIVERSE
AMAZING CULTURAL BIG
FOOD LOW-FUNDED GOOD MULTICULTURAL
GENTRIFIED
DISADVANTAGE
CONNECTED
DRUGS
WORLD STUDY ALIVE
HAPPY LIVELY
OPPORTUNITIES
DIFFERENT

Young people noted the positive impacts to be around the Regeneration and Infrastructure, stating that the redevelopment of the area and creation of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park have brought visible improvements to east London, with better transport links, new public spaces, and recreational facilities. This included some noting the sporting opportunities, stating that the Games left behind a lasting legacy of world-class sports venues, such as the Aquatics Centre and Velodrome, which have inspired greater participation in sports and improved access for young people. *"Skating has become more popular, it's great to skate in the park."* Educational and employment opportunities were also commented on noting the arrival of institutions like UCL East and Here East has opened up new educational pathways and job opportunities for local young people, helping to shape the future workforce.

However, young people noted the negative impact of the games leading to with one of the most frequent cited negative impact being gentrification and displacement, with the rising cost of living and the displacement of long-term residents. The development of new build housing has led to a sense of exclusion for some. As one local put it, *"It has undoubtedly changed the area and made it more expensive, but at the same time, it has changed for the better in places."* Many feel the benefits of the Games' legacy have disproportionately favoured people new to the area and big businesses, with a sense that long-term residents have not equally shared in the improvements.

East London is seen as a culturally rich area, with young people appreciating its diversity and the range of cultural experiences it offers. Just over half (53%) of young people feel part of their local community, with a sense of belonging being tied to cultural and religious ties, community programmes, and long-standing friendships. However, factors like the closure of youth clubs have created feelings of alienation for some. One young resident noted, *"When I was younger there used to be a lot of youth clubs, but most have closed down. There have been no new ones created."* However, Green spaces like Victoria Park and Hackney Marshes, alongside Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, were stated by many as providing a welcome respite in an otherwise busy urban environment. These spaces, along with improved transport links, have made East London more attractive to residents and visitors alike."

FINDINGS:

Challenges and Needs of Young People in East London

Young people in East London face numerous challenges that influence their daily lives and long-term prospects. Key challenges include concerns about safety, rising living costs, unaffordable housing, and a lack of career and educational opportunities.

Crime, particularly knife crime and gang violence, was frequently mentioned, with some participants expressing fear of going out at night. One young person noted, *"Keeping safe, it can be a dangerous place. There's always something going on if you're not careful, trouble will find you."* Many young people also mentioned **the negative influences of drugs, vaping, and gang affiliation**, which can lead to dangerous paths. Additionally, there is frustration about police interactions, with some feeling over-policed and unfairly targeted.

The rising cost of living is a pressing issue for young people, particularly as they face challenges transitioning to independent living. Comments often referenced **difficulties with housing costs, food, and transportation**. One respondent shared, *"Access to money and food due to rising living costs"* as a significant barrier.. Unaffordable housing is another major concern. Many young people find it difficult to stay in the area they grew up in due to rising property prices and the pressure of gentrification. As one participant remarked, *"If you're from here and you want to get your own place, you're going to struggle. New people are coming in from everywhere, which is forcing house prices up."* The housing crisis not only affects young people's ability to live independently but also makes studying or focusing on personal growth increasingly difficult, especially when forced to share housing. For many families, poverty is an ongoing struggle, namely overcrowding, making it even harder for young people to focus on education and career aspirations.

Young people in East London also face challenges in finding stable employment. Many expressed frustration about the oversaturated job market and the difficulty of entering high-paying, career-focused jobs. As one respondent explained, *"Despite being a creative and innovative hub, finding stable, well-paying jobs can be challenging for young people, especially without significant experience."* Education is similarly impacted by **underfunding**, leaving some young people feeling unprepared for life after school. One comment highlighted, *"Lack of opportunities whether they be co-curricular or career-related, and a lack of funding to schools means that education becomes a chore rather than a privilege."*

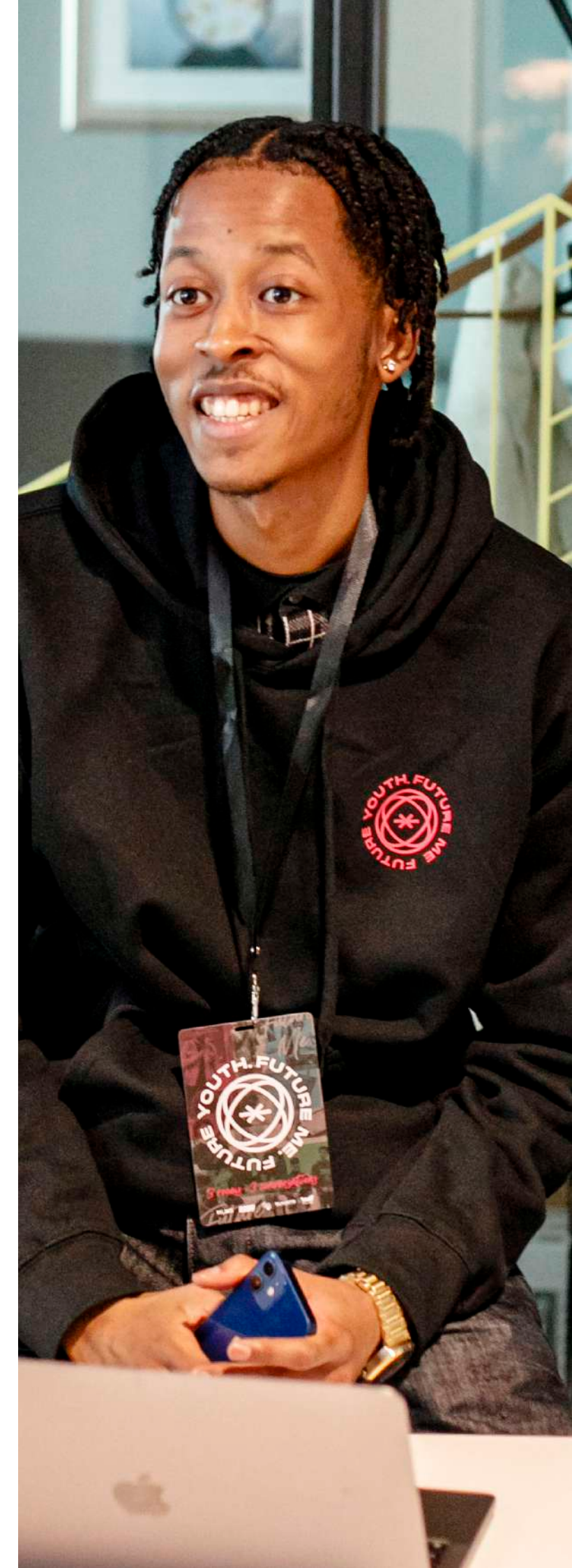
Mental health issues such as depression and anxiety are prevalent among young East Londoners, with many struggling to access support. The pressures of social media, negative perceptions of the area, and feelings of isolation contribute to this issue.

One young person shared, *"Young people's voices are not being heard."* **The lack of safe spaces for young people** to express themselves and the absence of sufficient mental health services further exacerbate the problem. **Social isolation** is also compounded by the lack of physical spaces for recreation or engagement.

The lack of accessible community infrastructure, such as youth centres, safe spaces, and recreational activities, has made it harder for young people to avoid negative influences. One participant pointed out, *"Not enough guidance on life skills, how to get to the places we 'should' get to."* The absence of supportive role models and mentors leaves many feeling disconnected from their communities.

"Dealing with social media and online negative perceptions of the area due to its lower socio-economic status compared to wealthier areas of London," another respondent said, highlighting the external factors that contribute to a sense of alienation.

Many young people expressed concerns about **environmental issues such as pollution and overcrowding**. The challenges of urban living, combined with the lack of green spaces for recreation, further contribute to their struggles. One participant voiced, *"I think the issue of climate change will impact my generation in a negative way. It's a huge emergency not being taken seriously enough, especially here where pollution is so bad, and it's impacting young people and our health."*

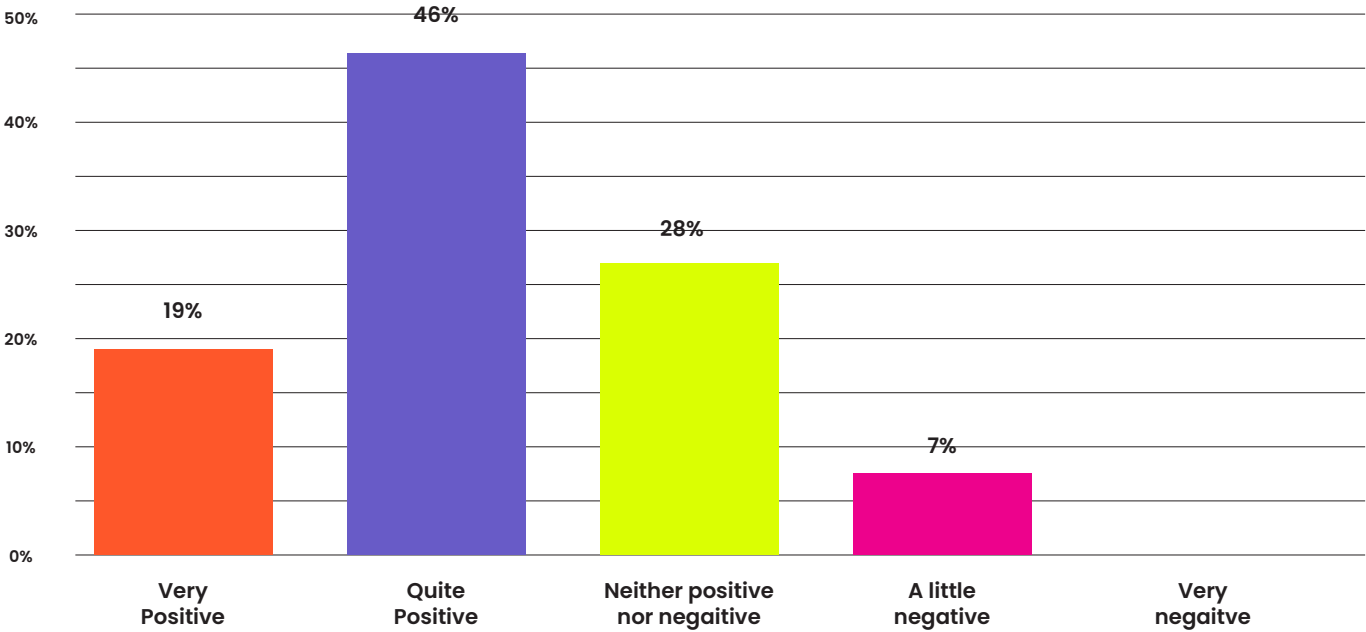


FINDINGS:

Hopes and Aspirations of Young East Londoners

When asked about their hopes and aspirations for both their personal futures and the future of East London, young people shared a broad range of perspectives, shaped by both optimism and concern. Overall, a **65% majority expressed a positive outlook on their future**, yet almost one in three felt ambivalent, and 7% voiced a more negative view. These mixed responses highlight the complexity of young people’s feelings about their future prospects in a rapidly changing world.

Overall, how positive/negative are you about your future prospects
People under 24 (individual conversations only)



Young people’s feelings about their future were shaped by a variety of factors. Among those who felt positive about their prospects, **key reasons included a belief in their personal resilience, faith in themselves, and access to educational and career opportunities.** One participant shared, *“I know what I want to do...so that’s a start,”* reflecting the clarity and direction that many felt about their personal goals. However, for many, the future feels uncertain, with concerns ranging from economic instability to social issues. As one participant noted, *“In spite of the barriers young people are currently facing, I’ve done quite well for myself... that being said, getting onto the property ladder and just generally thriving in London as an adult is worrying me to be honest.”* Others expressed anxieties about the job market and housing, with one stating, *“I worry I won’t make enough money to support myself and be able to live by myself...”* These concerns are rooted in the broader economic challenges that many young people in East London face, including high housing costs and a saturated job market.

Some were able to reflect on the pressures they face, with statements like, *“Sometimes I get scared about the future and sometimes I feel like it’s going to be alright.”* Despite these challenges, many young people expressed a **strong sense of personal resilience**, saying things like, *“Although the future is uncertain, I feel equipped to deal with such uncertainty.”* For some, the key to navigating these obstacles was a strong belief in their own abilities and a determination to persevere, as one participant affirmed: *“I am always optimistic about the future.”*

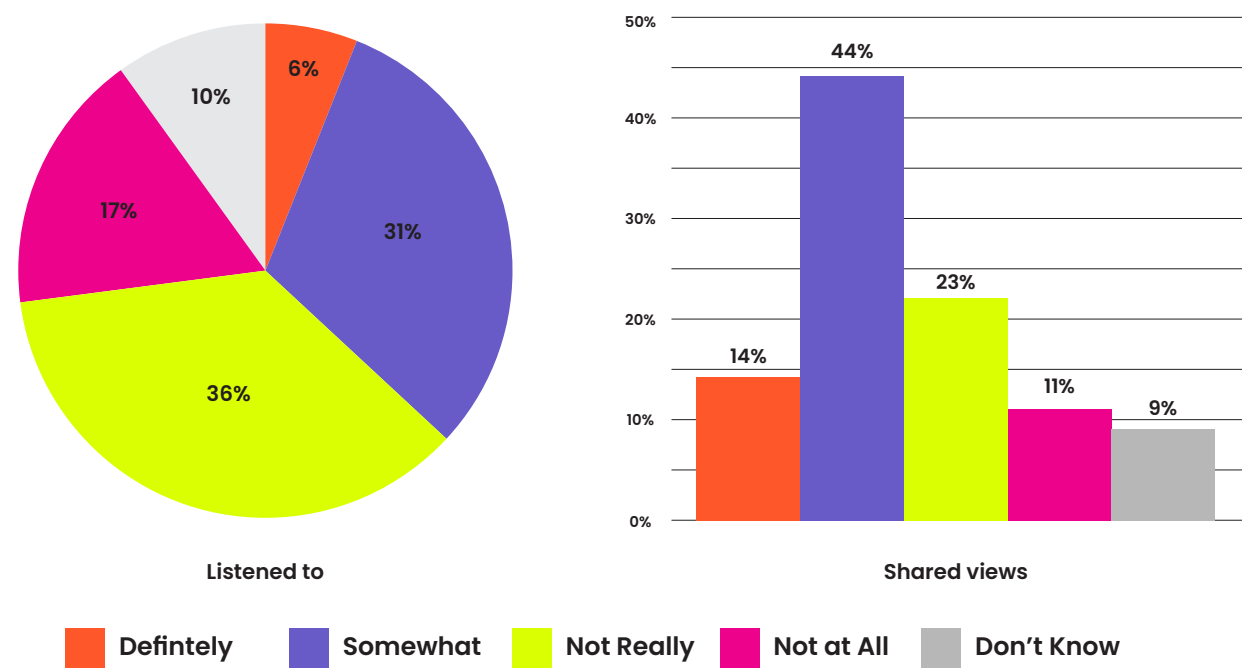
The hopes for East London shared by young people closely reflected the challenges and opportunities they see in their communities. In total, **664 people responded with visions of a better East London—one that is safer, more inclusive, and offers greater opportunities for all its residents. The overarching sentiment was a desire for a community where young people could thrive without fear of exclusion or economic hardship.**

FINDINGS:

Youth Voice and Influence

The ability for young people to have their voices heard and influence change remains a significant concern. Just over half of respondents felt they had opportunities to express their views, but fewer felt that these views were genuinely listened to or acted upon. *“I’m involved in youth-led initiatives, but they don’t actually influence anything at policy level,”* one participant explained, reflecting a common sentiment of frustration. Despite these challenges, there is a strong desire among young people to be more engaged in decision-making. *“I believe that while young people are given a voice, whether that is being listened to is difficult to determine,”* one participant shared.

Do you feel that you have the opportunity to share your views on issues that are important to you, and are the views of young people listened to by people in power so they influence policy at local and national levels?



This feeling of exclusion is compounded by societal perceptions of youth, particularly regarding age. Many young people feel that their opinions are dismissed simply because they are young. *“They don’t want to hear us because we’re kids,”* was a sentiment echoed by many. Yet, despite these frustrations, many still expressed a desire for more opportunities to share their views, especially within their local communities.

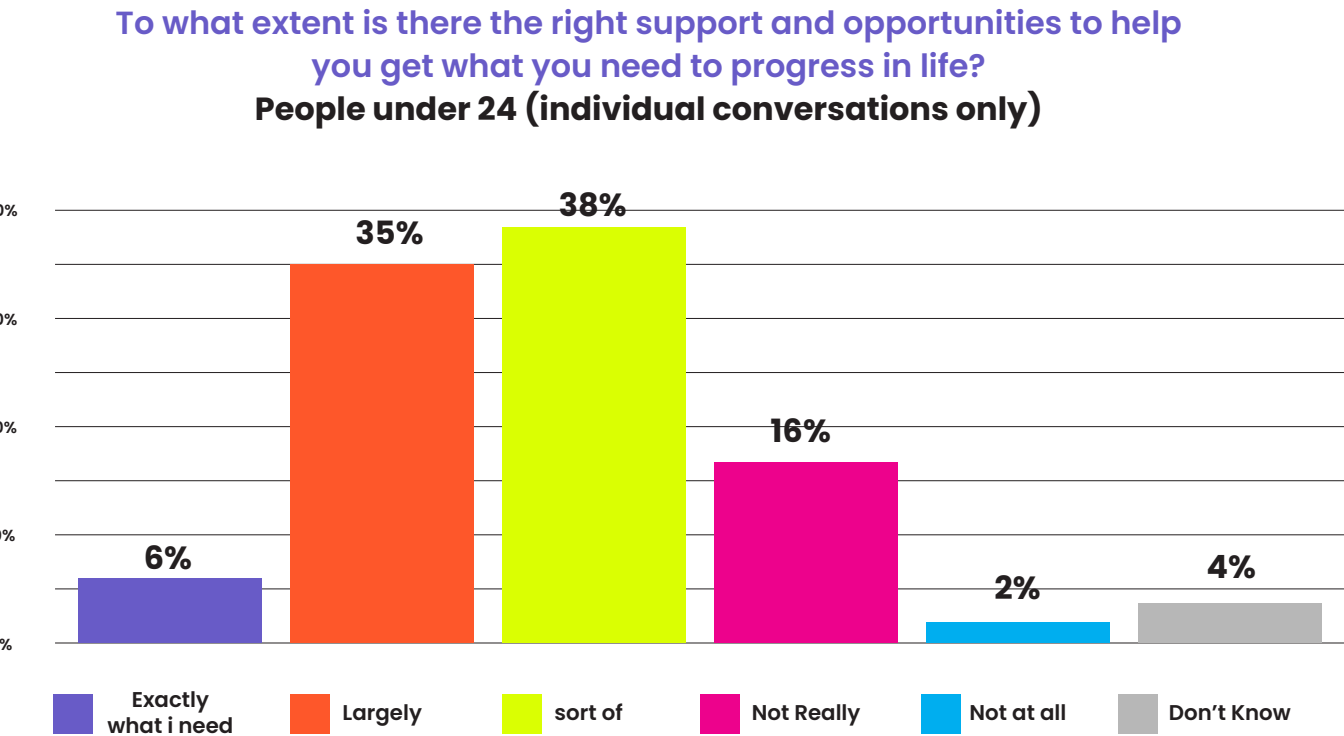
When asked if they would like more opportunities and platforms to share their views, a significant majority expressed a desire for greater involvement. This is particularly true among young women, with 80% indicating a strong desire to be heard, compared to 60% of young men. This discrepancy highlights not only a universal desire for influence among young people but also a potential gendered difference in how youth engage with opportunities to have their voices heard. One respondent remarked, *“I believe that while young people are given a voice, whether that is being listened to is difficult to determine.”*



FINDINGS:

Support and Opportunities for Young People in East London

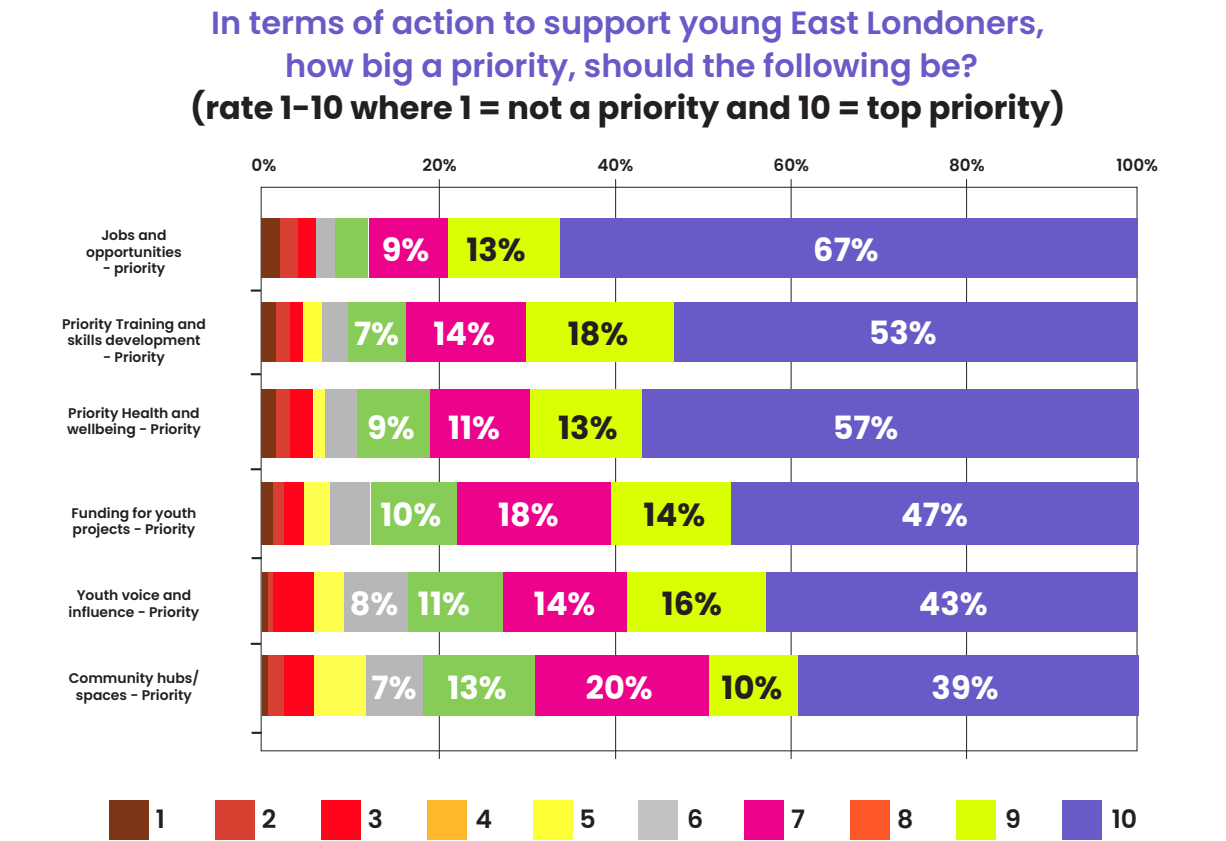
Despite a generally positive outlook on their future prospects, young people in East London feel there is a significant gap in terms of the support and opportunities available to them. Nearly 20% of young people reported that they did not have the support or opportunities needed to progress in life, and only 6% felt they had exactly what they needed. Although further 38% stated they largely had the support they needed, there were noticeable differences across age groups, with those over 20 the most likely to feel unsupported. One participant noted, *“The support I would need, such as training or up-skilling, costs money and takes too much time. If you are currently working, it’s hard to find the time to access the support you need.”* Many young people also highlighted inequality in access to opportunities, with one sharing, “Certain people are usually prioritised and also a lack of advertisement so that leads to missing out on fun opportunities.” *However, others acknowledged the importance of being proactive in seeking out opportunities, with one person commenting, “I feel I have it because I actively search for it, but young people are not pushed to search for it until it is too late.”*



The need for **better career guidance, life skills training, and opportunities for social and personal development** was a recurring theme. Some emphasised that career guidance often falls short, with one person sharing, *“I think more could be done to give young people careers guidance and support for their futures so they can make informed decisions about their lives on their own.”* Additionally, the **lack of support for those outside of academic paths** was raised, with one participant saying, *“More job training for jobs that are practical like bricklaying or creative arts.”*

There was also a call for **more inclusive and accessible community spaces**. Young people suggested the creation of youth centres, and other safe spaces where they could study, socialise, and access support services. One respondent proposed, *“Create more youth centres that offer safe environments for young people to socialise, study and access support services.”* Many others expressed the need for **free or affordable activities, especially in sports and arts**, as well as more affordable workspaces. A common sentiment was that *“Everything’s there, you just have to actually take it,”* reflecting the belief that opportunities exist but often require more effort or guidance to access.

Mental health support and guidance on practical life skills were highlighted as essential. *“First of all, some sort of mental health support for people and support groups,”* one participant stressed, underscoring the growing need for accessible mental health resources for young people. Financial literacy and social skills were also areas where many felt additional training was needed. The general consensus was clear, young people are looking for a wide range of practical, inclusive, and accessible initiatives that will help them transition to adulthood while fostering a supportive and engaging community.



In terms of funding priorities, young people expressed strong support for funding opportunities in these areas, indicating a broad desire for resources to support their development, career growth, and personal well-being. As one participant summed it up, *“A lot more life education and work experience at a younger age,”* emphasising the importance of early and sustained support to help young people succeed in an increasingly competitive world. actively search for it, but young people are not pushed to search for it until it is too late.”

CONCLUSION:

Empowering Young People for a Strong Legacy

This research has illuminated the challenges, needs, and aspirations of young East Londoners, providing valuable insights into how the legacy of the London 2012 Games can continue to support and inspire future generations. While many young people acknowledge the positive changes brought by the London 2012 Games, concerns about affordability, access to opportunities, and community engagement remain prevalent. To address these concerns, it is crucial that policy makers in East London—including LLDC, local boroughs, and national authorities—place young people at the heart of future planning.

For the Elevate programme and other local initiatives, this research offers a roadmap for creating more inclusive, accessible, and supportive environments that allow young people to thrive. It is clear that young people need not only access to education and career opportunities but also the support of strong communities, safe spaces, and mental health resources. As one young person said, *“Everything’s there, you just have to actually take it.”*

The call to action is clear: empower young people to seize opportunities and ensure their voices are heard in the decision-making processes that shape their futures.

Ultimately, systemic changes are needed at the national level, particularly in addressing issues like the cost of living, housing affordability, and inequality. However, there is a localised call for action to ensure that young people in East London can continue to benefit from the legacy of the 2012 Games. Policy makers, community leaders, and stakeholders must continue to prioritise young people’s needs and ensure that their voices remain central to any future plans for the area. By doing so, East London can build a future where young people not only have the opportunity to succeed but can also actively contribute to shaping the community they call home.





ELEVATE'S CALL TO ACTION:

Recommendations for Stakeholders

Following this research, Elevate urges stakeholders across Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and beyond to work in partnership with young people to co-create a legacy that is inclusive, equitable, and youth-led. Based on insights gathered, Elevate makes the following key recommendations:

Expand Career Support Pathways

Provide tailored support to help young people navigate their career journeys. This includes better access to local career opportunities, mentoring, and guidance aligned to the unique opportunities emerging from Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.

Invest in Life Skills Training

Equip young people with essential life and workplace skills such as financial literacy, communication, leadership, and problem-solving to build confidence and increase chances of long-term success.

Champion Non-Academic Pathways

Ensure equal value and visibility for vocational, creative, and entrepreneurial routes. This means widening access to apprenticeships, training programmes, and practical learning opportunities.

Ensure Inclusion for Young People with Disabilities and Health Conditions

Proactively break down barriers that prevent young people with disabilities or conditions affecting daily life from accessing opportunities. This includes ensuring physical accessibility, inclusive programme design, and targeted support that meets diverse needs.

Unlock Spaces on and around the Park

Open up physical spaces in and around the Park for young people to use safely and creatively for collaboration, learning, and leisure. These should be shaped with and for young people.

Embed Wellbeing Support Across All Programmes

Prioritise wraparound wellbeing support, recognising the complex challenges young people face. This support must be consistent, accessible, and integrated into all youth facing initiatives.

Create Platforms for Youth Voice and Influence

Offer regular, meaningful opportunities for young people to share their views, ideas, and experiences. This includes supporting their involvement in decision making and governance structures at all levels. Listening to young people is not enough stakeholders must demonstrate how youth input shapes outcomes, feedback loops should be embedded to ensure transparency and accountability.

Elevate welcomes the opportunity to work with stakeholders to challenges outlined in this report, only by working together can we address systemic barriers young people face. Elevate invites partners to join in building a culture that identifies, supports, and celebrates emerging youth talent.



Funded by:



ELEVATE
SHAPING & UPLIFTING FUTURES



For more information go to www.QueenElizabethOlympicPark.co.uk/Elevate