



Inspire 2022

Final Evaluation Report



Made possible by:



Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport



COMMUNITY FUND

In partnership with:



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What Was Inspire 2022?

Taking inspiration from the tenth anniversary of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games, Inspire 2022 was a youth-led, events-based, social action programme, **funded by £1.2M from Spirit of 2012 and £500,000 from the #iWill fund** (a joint investment between the National Lottery Community Fund and Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport) and designed in partnership with the Local Trust. It was **delivered by UK Youth, in partnership with British Red Cross, Youth Action Northern Ireland, Youth Cymru, Youth Scotland and regional youth organisations** who support young people in their local communities. The programme used national and local events as a springboard for young people to design positive activities for their own communities, bridging community divides and giving young people a voice in a year of national celebration

[\(https://www.ukyouth.org/what-we-do/programmes/inspire-2022/\)](https://www.ukyouth.org/what-we-do/programmes/inspire-2022/)



“Running the event was very exciting and challenging. Organising the logistics and the lessons kept me on my toes but at the end, I felt a unique sense of fulfilment because I knew this was going to be the start of something great in the lives of the youths that participated”

-Inspire Participant-



Executive Summary

Executive Summary

Introduction to this report

This report sets out the learning and impact from the Inspire 2022 programme, a youth-led, events-based social action programme that was delivered from April 2022 to September 2023. The report details why Inspire 2022 was created, how it was delivered, the impact of the programme and the learning from the programme to help set a future direction for youth-led social action in the future.

In this report you will find detailed recommendations that draw together our key learning so that we can continue to make youth-led social action a reality for all young people going forward.

We want to thank Spirit of 2012 and the #iWill Fund for supporting us with this programme, as well as our 26 strategic and local delivery partners and finally the 2,354 young people who helped make Inspire 2022 possible.

Developing our learning

Through the Inspire 2022 programme we wanted to ensure that learning could be taken forward to further embed youth-led social action across all communities. To do this we set out a series of goals to define our learning ambitions:

-  To understand how developing 'events-based social action' creates impactful grants programmes
-  To understand how to empower young people and youth organisations to organise and lead on events-based social action activities for their communities
-  To understand how this leads to inspiring and impactful social action events that brings communities together in a spirit of collaboration and social cohesion

Executive Summary

Project delivery of Inspire 2022

Inspire 2022 was delivered from April 2022 to September 2023, **working across the 4 nations with 26 strategic and local delivery partners**, each with expertise in delivering youth social action, community youth work, community participation and local and national events. Taking inspiration from national and local events, **young people delivered 321 community events during the course of the 18 months (nearly 18 per month)** embedding lasting valuable social action in their communities to leave a legacy of community cohesion

What we achieved



Inspire 2022 successfully **distributed £334,631 in grants** out to young people across the UK with an **additional £25,136** distributed through an 'Access Fund'



Inspire 2022 successfully reached over 2,000 young people to deliver events-based youth-led social action, **introducing up to 1,800 new young people to youth-led social action**



Through youth-led, events-based, social action, Inspire 2022 **successfully reached over 22,000 people across the 4 nations**

Impact of Inspire 2022



78% of young people participating in Inspire 2022 had never led on social action before – this equates to up to 1,800 new young people being introduced to youth-led social action for the first time



88% of young people on Inspire 2022 said they would participate in social action again. We have seen young people beginning to follow-up their events with continued social action projects.



70% of young people told us they feel that their voices are likely to be heard in local decision-making, up by 37% from the 33% who stated this at the beginning



We saw a 17% increase in young people telling us that 'people from different backgrounds now get on well together' and an 18% increase in young people feeling 'proud of their local area'



In a difficult external environment, we still saw some positive changes in young people's wellbeing. When asked 'How happy did you feel yesterday?' positive responses rose by 11.6% by the end of Inspire 2022.



Youth workers developed their knowledge of events-based youth social action through training and guidance developed by UK Youth. They also developed new partnerships with other organisations to further embed youth social action in their communities.

Executive Summary

Learning from Inspire 2022

The benefits of team-based youth social action

On Inspire 2022, funding for up to eight young people per team ensured peer support for young people, building their collective capacity in delivering the social action event.

Grassroots organisations reach into under-represented communities

Directly funding local, grassroots youth organisations enabled Inspire 2022 to quickly branch out to young people who do not traditionally participate in social action.

Reducing pressure on young people to promote meaningful engagement

Flexibility in the curriculum, youth-centred practice and funded development time created space for young people to develop their ideas with tailored support from youth workers

Inspire 2022 provided credibility to young people's social action projects

Event grants, coupled together with the 'Inspire 2022 brand', demonstrated trust and recognition of young people and enhanced the legitimacy of their projects.

Organising events in the community develops young people's skills

Therefore, a strong focus on wellbeing outcomes on programmes like Inspire 2022 is likely to understate the true positive impact on young people

Major national events can be a catalyst for youth social action

Meaningful events-based youth social action necessitates and encourages collaboration across local organisations. The 'Inspire 2022 brand' helped to get buy-in from other organisations.

Executive Summary

Key Recommendations



Directly fund grassroots organisations to reach under-represented young people

Smaller, local, youth organisations are able to reach 'under-represented' young people and engage them in youth-led social action. Explicit targeting of funding at these organisations will help to further close the 'participation gap' in youth social action.



Prioritise development time and multi-year funding to build legacy

Dedicated development time and longer-term funding will **enable young people to develop their ideas, bring them to fruition, follow-up on their events and inspire others to get involved in youth social action**



Allow flexibility in delivery and protect budget for young people's ideas

This ensures that young people can develop their social action ideas and bring them to delivery with support from youth workers that adapts to young people's needs



Build 'events-based' social action into guidance and training

UK Youth can enhance its social action offer and Social Action Guidance by incorporating the role that major national events can play in youth social action



Integrate 'team-based' social action into youth social action modelling

Funding 'teams' of young people and opportunities to engage in team-based social action **offers peer support (from other young people) and collective capacity**



Build on existing approaches to evaluating youth social action

Evaluation approaches should focus outcomes measurement on young people's socio-emotional skills. The community impact of youth social action can also be captured over a longer timeframe with the right resource in place and by using more creative data collection methods.

What Was Inspire 2022?

What Was Inspire 2022? The Concept



The inspiration behind Inspire 2022 was the tenth anniversary of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games where a promise was made to 'Inspire a Generation' and the multiple national and international events which took place across 2022-2023. It was designed to be a flexible programme of youth-led social action and community events across the UK, putting young people in the driving seat, but with laser-sharp focus on the needs of the whole community.

With grant funding, young people would be supported to work with their community to research, plan, organise, promote and deliver events which respond to community needs, and leave a legacy of skills and knowledge for future social action.

What Was Inspire 2022? Our funders

Spirit of 2012



The legacy funder of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Building sustainable social legacies from the inspiration of events investing in projects that improve how people feel about themselves, other people and their communities. Spirit of 2012 invested £1.2million for Inspire 2022, delivering a grants programme for events-based youth-led social action.

#iWill Fund



A UK-wide Movement helping more young people make a difference in their communities through social action. This includes activities like campaigning, fundraising, volunteering, befriending or mentoring. The #iWill Fund is made possible thanks to £54million joint investment from The National Lottery Community Fund and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to support young people to access high quality social action opportunities.

The #iWill Fund invested £500k in UK Youth to deliver Inspire 2022.

What Was Inspire 2022? Our Partners

Local Trust



A place-based funder supporting communities to transform and improve their lives and the places in which they live. Inspire 2022 worked with 30 'Big Local' areas during delivery

British Red Cross



A global network of volunteers who respond to natural disasters, conflicts and individual emergencies. They help people in crisis, wherever and whomever they are

Youth Scotland



Youth Scotland is the largest national youth work organisation in Scotland, supporting 97,018 young people, 1,999 youth groups and over 10,775 youth workers.

Youth Cymru



A major youth work charity operating within the whole of Wales. Working collaboratively with members and other youth-facing organisations to provide unique, innovative and life changing opportunities

Youth Action Northern Ireland



A leading youth work charity that has successfully strived for 75 years to make a significant difference to the lives of young people and their communities

What was Inspire 2022? Delivery model



Local Trust support UK Youth to embed community engagement and Big Local into the model



Inspire 2022 – The Context

Firstly – What is Youth-led Social Action?

Learning from the [#iWill learning Hub](#) ([YMCA George Williams College](#)) tells us that **youth social action can be defined as youth led activities that produce a benefit for communities as a result of the action, and for young people, as a result of taking part in the social action.** Youth social action can be flexible in delivery and must involve at least one of three core mechanisms that improve the skills, well-being or increasing knowledge of others and sense of belonging of a young person.

These are:

- Young people have a safe yet challenging space in which to develop practical, vocational and socio-emotional skills.
- Young people take self-directed action which gives them a sense of purpose that contributes to their well-being, self concept and/or self-efficacy.
- Young people have the opportunity to engage with different communities, increasing their knowledge of others and their sense of belonging.

Inspire 2022 – The Context

In 2012 the London Olympic and Paralympic games showed the **potential power of events in creating pride, positivity and community to inspire people across the nation**. In 2013, Spirit 2012, the London 2012 Games legacy fund, was created to inspire and create something more permanent through positive, inclusive experiences, learning and sharing what works so others can too.

Inspire 2022 forms part of the legacy intentions of the London 2012 games

In the same year, **the #iWill Movement was founded to showcase the Power of Youth social action and encourage others to better involve young people in the decisions that are being made**. Inspire 2022 continues to add to learning developed through the movement, building on the potential for youth-led social action in improving outcomes for young people and their communities

Inspire 2022 builds on learning developed through the #iWill Movement

Learning developed through the #iWill movement ([#iWill Fund Learning Hub](#)), coupled with further inquiry into the power of events in connecting communities ([Spirit 2012 inquiry](#)), have raised **important insights into both the benefits and the challenges of young people leading on events within their communities, reflecting the need for more focused learning in this area**. Inspire 2022 adds to this portfolio of work

Inspire 2022 also forms part of a wider programme of learning helping us to develop youth-led social action

Inspire 2022 – The Context

Building on the power of youth - Young people are eager to make a difference to their communities

Evidence from the National Youth Social Action Survey 2019 (Ipsos Mori, 2020) tell us that **82% of young people surveyed want to make the world a better place, with 74% also believing they can make a difference to their communities.** This shows there is enormous energy amongst young people to make a real difference in the world provided they have the right opportunities to do so.

Whilst building on the benefits of Social Action on young people

Further evidence shows that participating in social action is indicated to **have positive benefits on young people's personal outcomes including their confidence, sense of belonging, civic engagement and active citizenship** (DCMS, 2021). We also know that social action can have very real benefits for young people's socio-emotional development (Dartington Service Design Lab, 2021)

Previous UK Youth social action programmes have also shown benefits to young people

Evidence from UK Youth programmes also shows the benefits of participating in social action. UK Youth has found that participating in social action **has benefited young women's and girls mental well-being, confidence and resilience, sense of responsibility and ability to take the lead in group activities** (UK Youth 2021). In addition, this has improved all young people's **social and emotional capabilities** (UK Youth 2021).

Inspire 2022 – The Context

Prior to the Covid pandemic, **young people's participation in youth social action was shown to be steadily declining, with participation rates falling from 59% in 2015 to 53% in 2019** among those surveyed (Ipsos Mori 2020). Unfortunately, there has been no major census on young people's participation in social action since.

Sadly, young people's participation in social action has been declining

Those from more affluent backgrounds (41%) are more likely than those from less affluent backgrounds (29%) to participate in meaningful social action (Ipsos Mori, 2020). This called for a programme that could directly reach those young people who were under-represented in meaningful social action.

Young people from less affluent background are also less likely to participate in social action

Through the National Youth Social Action Census 2019, the main reasons given by young people who were not participating in social action included: **'it not occurring to them to take part'; 'friends not doing this type of thing'; 'few/no opportunities in their area'**. This suggests that the opportunity is not clear to certain groups of young people or the offer is not attractive enough for them to want to participate.

The opportunity and benefits of social action are not always getting through to all young people

Inspire 2022 – The Context

Findings from DCMS (2021) and UK Youth EmpowHer and Outdoor Activators programme (UK Youth 2021) suggest that participation from groups of young people would improve if:

Social action programmes directly engage with local organisations already reaching young people

On-going resource support and guidance is provided to young people to develop social action

Connections are made with local community groups and organisations to provide infrastructural support

Young people have agency, choice and control over the delivery of the social action project

Young people are given direct financial support to get involved (for example transport costs)

Young people are enabled to critically engage in important topics that are meaningful to them and their community

Inspire 2022 – The Context

There was a need for a programme that could directly reach and empower young people in social action events, including:

Resourcing directly to youth organisations that we know engage across groups of young people

Directly reaching out to young people who had not led-on social action before

Providing young people with meaningful resource and support to develop their social action projects from design to delivery

'Communicating out' and raising awareness of the opportunity of social action, inspiring others to get involved

What Was Delivered

What was delivered

The main components

Funded youth organisations with reach across young people aged 11-25

Working closely with our Delivery Partners, we funded youth organisations from across the UK Youth Network to deliver the Inspire programme. All delivery partners had specific reach to young people who may never have led on youth social action events before

Funded youth worker time to offer 'wrap around' support to young people through the project

Youth workers were funded to support young people from initiating their ideas to the delivery of the social action event. This was designed to help young people navigate any challenges they faced in delivering their events, provide peer support or organising capacity where it was needed to bring ideas to life

Deliver flexible curriculum to develop young people's events-based social action ideas

A flexible curriculum without set time periods was designed to allow young people to engage at their own pace and create space for developing ideas and organising their resources.

What was delivered

The main components

Young people conduct community research to understand its needs and plan ideas

Training and guidance were provided to young people to develop community research through a 'community listening campaign guide'. Designed to help young people navigate their own community research, these were used to also develop their social action event ideas and make sure they were relevant and accountable to their community

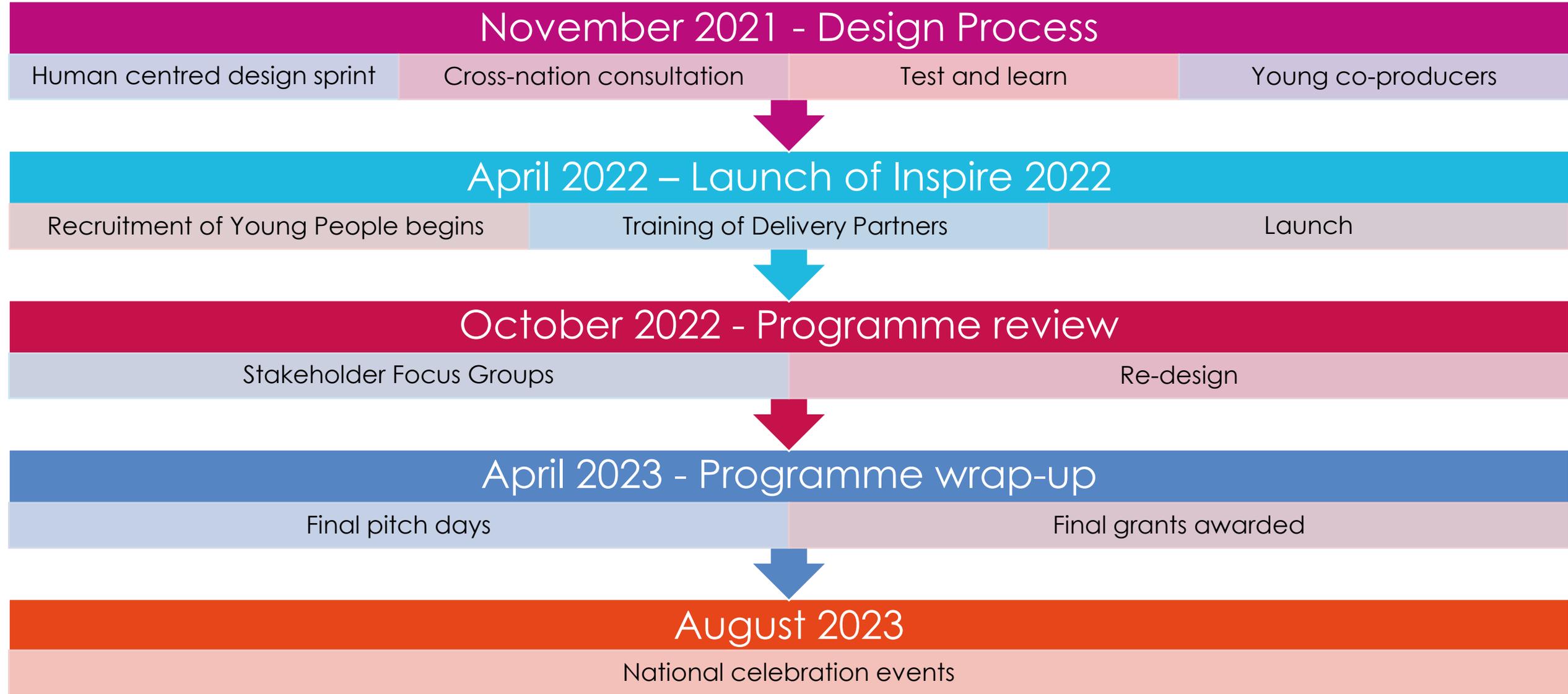
Applications and pitch days for young people for grants-funding

All teams of young people were asked to complete an application for grant funding for their social action ideas and to pitch their ideas to a panel. This was designed to support young people to think carefully about what they were delivering and to build in quality assurance to ensure that the events ideas were delivered for purpose. A 'no rejection' approach was taken by UK Youth so where some teams were initially unsuccessful in pitching their idea they were given feedback to identify areas to make it successful

Direct grant funding of young people's social action events

All teams of young people could pitch for up to £5,000 of grant funding for their social action event. They would have autonomy of the fund once successful and were expected to manage the finances of their events (with support from the youth worker).

Delivery Timeline



Why 'events-based youth-led social action'?

Using the power of 'events' to raise the profile of youth-led social action

Connect to major national events (e.g. Commonwealth Games, King's coronation...)

Use moments of 'unity' and 'connection' to help build social action projects

Raise the voice of young people in major national events in a year of national celebration



How Inspire worked

Bringing events-based youth-led social action to life

Inspire teams formulated their events-based social action project ideas and prepared to 'pitch' their ideas at a pitch day

Inspire Hubs provided community research training to young people and supported Inspire teams with community engagement and preparing their pitch.

Pitch days facilitated by Inspire Hubs (every 4-6 weeks, May 2022-April 2023)

Inspire teams pitched in person or via video pitch to describe their event plan and grant request, using guidance on how to deliver a good pitch.

Pitch day panel, comprised of community members including 50% young people, made recommendations for pitches to go through to the EOI stage.

Inspire Hubs notified Inspire teams of their pitch outcome within 3 days of the pitch day

Where an Inspire team's pitch is not successful in being recommended to submit an EOI, young people were supported to revise their idea and pitch again at the next pitch day or join one of the other local Inspire teams who were successful in their pitch.

Inspire teams recommended by pitch day panel submitted short EOI

Young people accessed appropriate budget management, event organising materials.

Supported by youth workers or social action sponsor to complete and submitted an EOI and an event budget via the relevant national partner.

National Partner responsible for delivery and young people reviewed EOIs and made final grant decisions (fortnightly)

Decisions shared with the nominated group contact (youth worker). Unsuccessful outcomes triggered further wrap-around support and a second EOI submitted after receiving further support.

Grant payments made

For Inspire teams comprised of young people under 16, grant payments were made through Inspire Hubs, who made purchases/order services on their behalf. For Inspire teams comprised of young people over 16, they had the option for grant payments to be made through their local Inspire Hub.

The role of community research

All youth teams were asked to undertake research into their communities as part of their application for their social action event. **The learnings and findings from the research was included in young people's 'pitches' for their social action event grant and the teams were expected to understand the issues that mattered to the community whilst also recognising the need to inform and raise awareness of important issues that matter to young people with wider groups.**

To support this process, **UK Youth delivered training to youth organisations on community organising, community research and campaigning.** These were supplemented with specifically designed toolkits to support young people, including a 'Community Listening Campaign Guide' that helped bind the needs of the community with the social action event.

Young people were also supported by youth workers to develop their community research through the project. Many youth workers were already familiar with community research and organising and were able to draw upon their personal experience to offer additional support to the teams of young people

How Inspire worked

What we learnt.....



Young people's capacity to deliver community-based research vastly differed across teams. Some teams of young people were able to compile in-depth research of their communities whilst others needed considerable support from youth workers. This seemed to differ based on the age of teams and their respective needs



Teams of young people often focused on the interests and needs of their immediate peers – for example, friends, family and other members of the youth organisation. We were mindful through Inspire 2022 of what could be expected from young people on community engagement (especially from younger groups) and how much they could reflect the views of their community



We saw through a review of the applications for grants that teams of **young people were raising a range of local and personal issues they wanted to build their events around but were able to couple these with global issues that resonated with themselves and their communities** – for example, LGBTQ+ rights for young people



“As LGBTQ+ young people ourselves, we know from our own experiences the importance of an event like this. We have also consulted with our fellow LGBTQ+ peers and allies and we have found there is a lot of interest in this type of inclusive and engaging event to take place in Bolton. As a group, we delivered similar events for the last 2 years, once at Curley’s Dining Rooms and then at Bolton Octagon Theatre. Last year, we engaged 40+ young LGBTQ+ people and allies in a similar event, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone to attended.

There has been significant press and media around the way LGBTQ+ people in Qatar are treated, and we hope to in some small way counter this with positive opportunities for LGBTQ+ people. We may also use this opportunity to educate young people on how to identify and report Hate Crime they may witness or experience, from the Hate Crime Awareness Training document we created as a group a few years ago.”

-Inspire Application – Bolton Loud and Proud Team-

So, what happened?



**Women's Euros
2022**



**Birmingham
Commonwealth
Games 2022**



**LGBT+ History
Month 2023**



**Black History
Month 2022**

Participating in National and Local Events

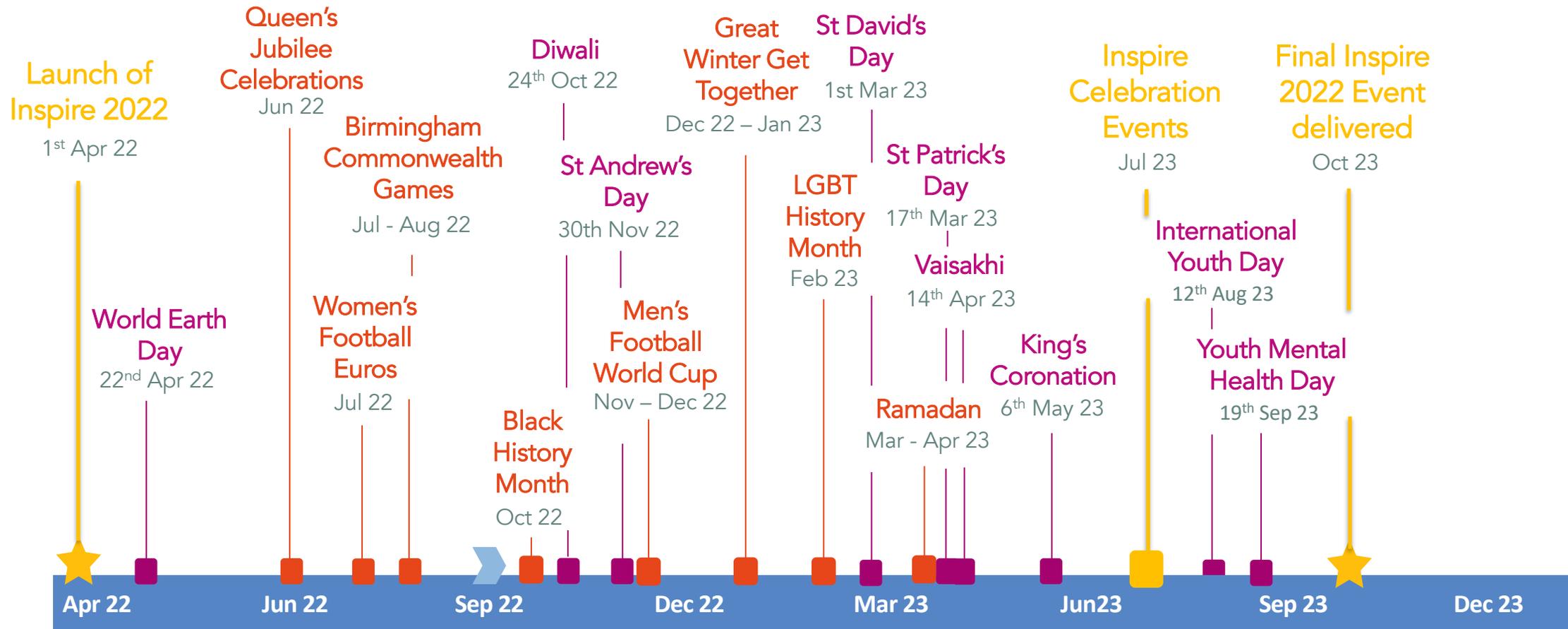
In 2022-23, various unique national events came to the UK, in some cases for the first time, bringing communities together and setting the stage for the Inspire 2022 programme. Young people applying for funding to organise their social action events were encouraged to connect their projects with these major national events, drawing inspiration to generate ideas, encourage interest and raise their profile.

In their grant applications, young people demonstrated how they aimed to integrate their event ideas with ongoing national events. Sometimes, young people drew inspiration directly from existing national events, using them as a starting point for their own initiatives. In other cases, young people would link their ideas through to these major events. There was no fixed approach for this, but it was clear that events happening over a period, such as a history month, were more likely to generate interest.

However, inspiration could come from anywhere and lead to new and innovative ideas. For example, as already shown, a youth group used the Men's Football World Cup as a platform to address LGBTQ+ discrimination, highlighting issues of hate crime and violence both abroad and within their community. This shows how diverse sources of inspiration can lead to meaningful and powerful social action when young people were able to generate their own ideas and put these into action.

Participating in National and Local Events

So, what happened?

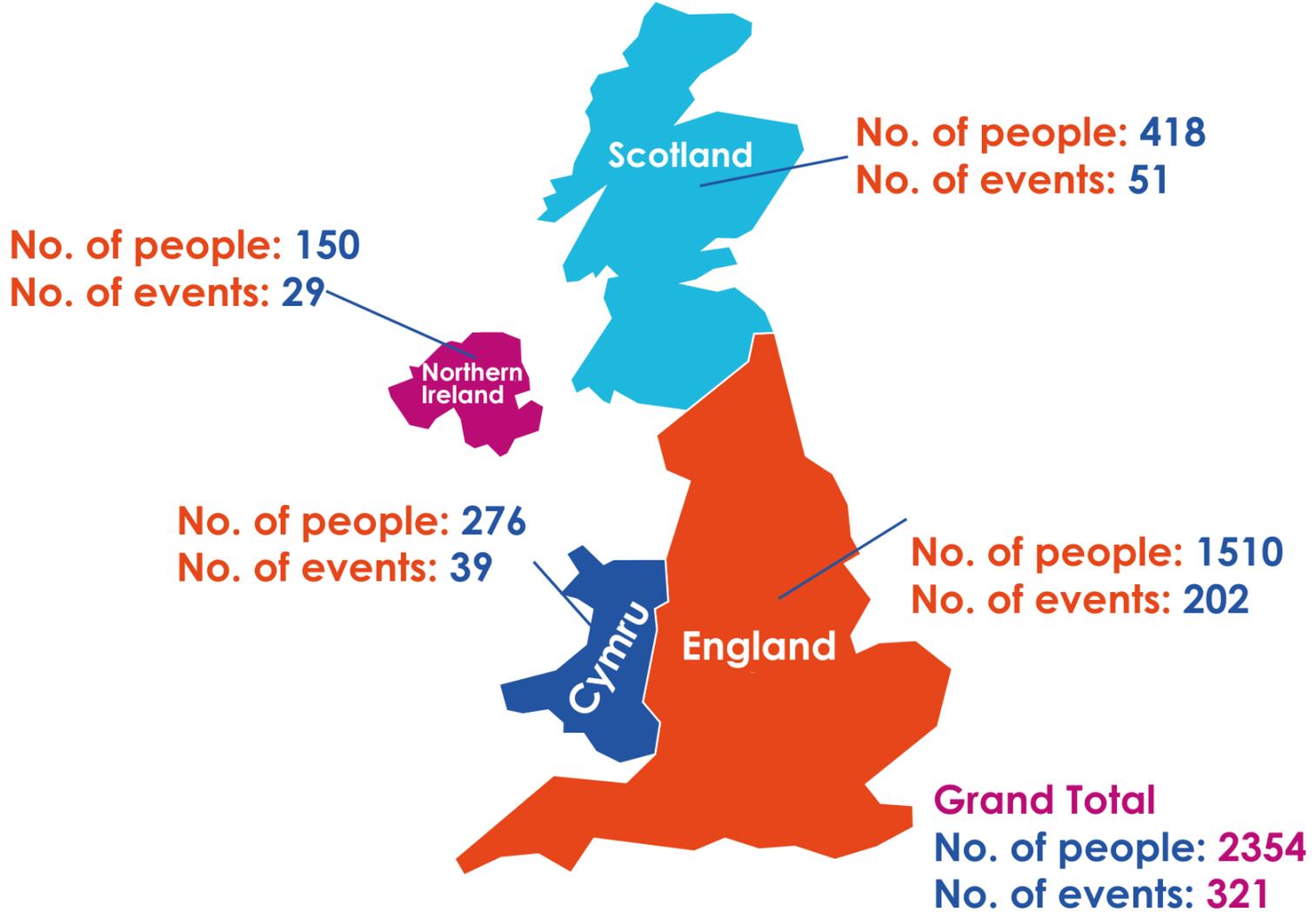


Re-design of Inspire 2022

Inspire 2022 - A Year of Celebration

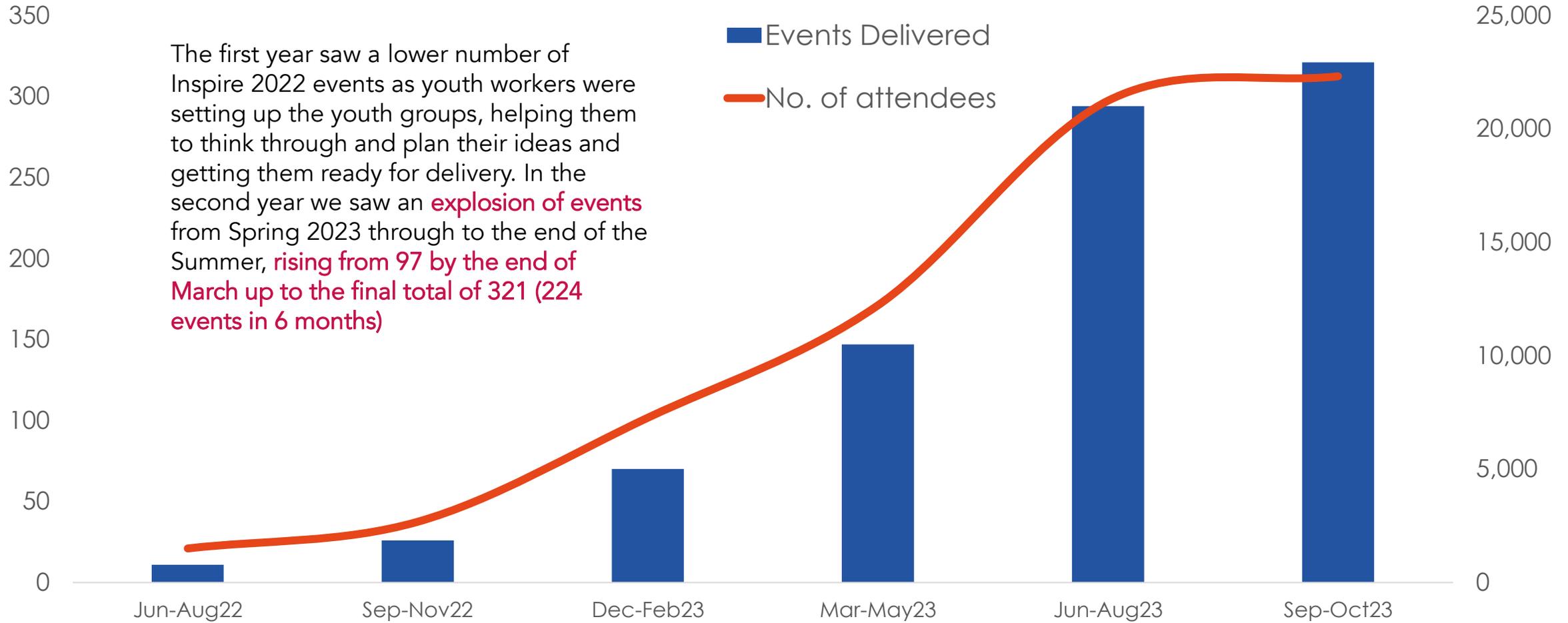
Delivering events-based social action across the 4 nations

So, what happened?



Timeline of events delivery

So, what happened?



What types of events were delivered?

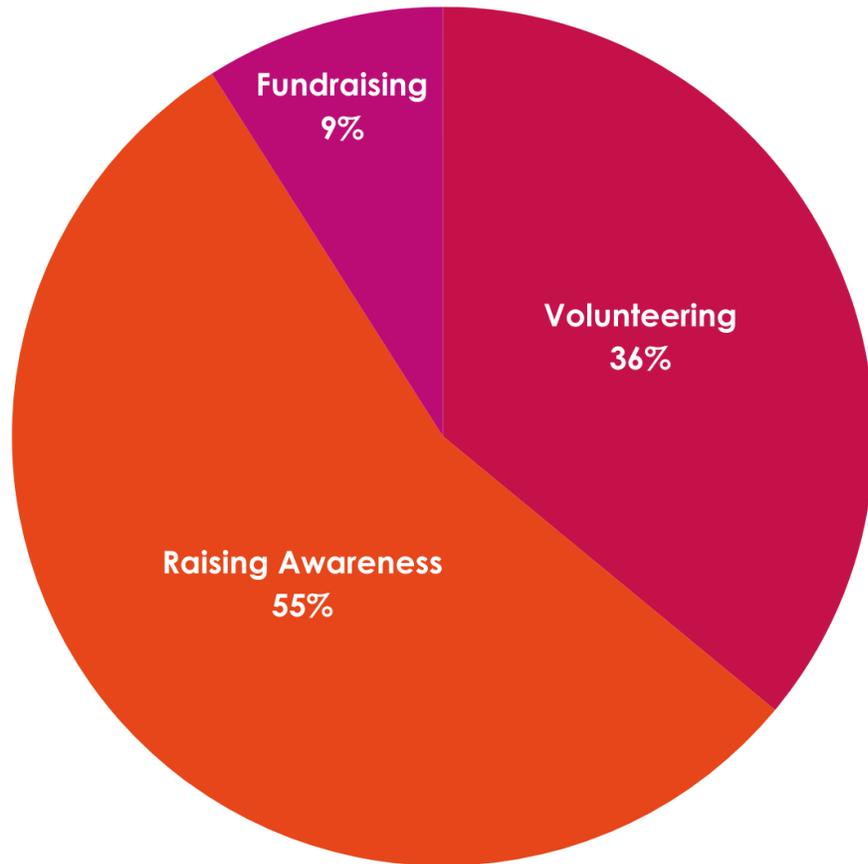


Fig 1: Types of social action events delivered through Inspire 2022 (based on categories that were provided through the Youth Social Action Tool Kit when Inspire began in 2022). A modernized version can be found here <https://resources.careersandenterprise.co.uk/resources/youth-social-action-toolkit>

So, what happened?

Youth groups participating in Inspire 2022 delivered a wide variety of events that incorporated a range of important issues:

Mental health and well-being	Overcoming loneliness	Healthy lifestyles
Physical literacy	Cultural and diversity awareness	Climate action



Made possible by:

UK YOUTH

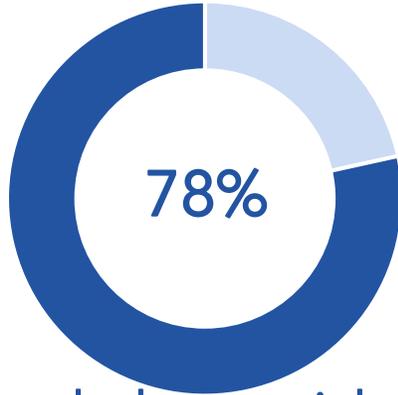


In partnership with:

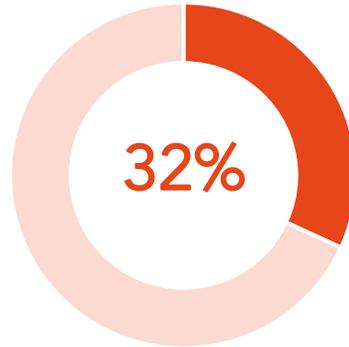


So, what happened?

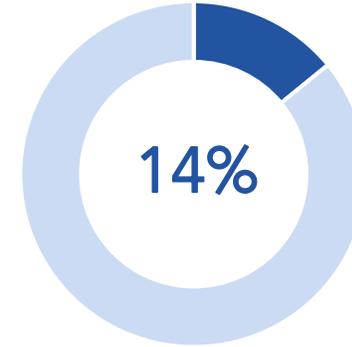
Who did Inspire 2022 reach?



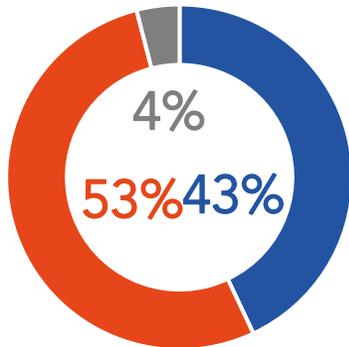
Never led on social action before



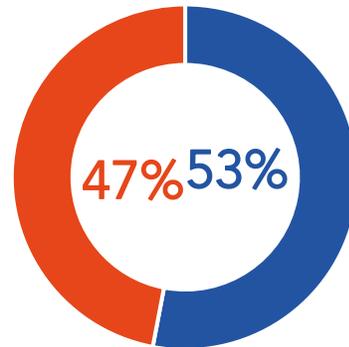
From racialised communities



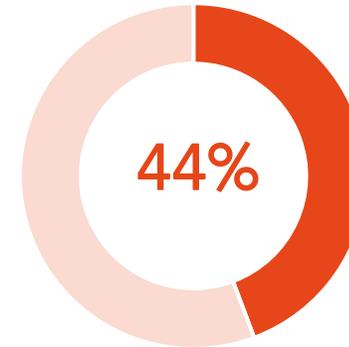
Have a disability



Female/male/non-binary & 'other'



15-25 years / 9-14 years



From top 30% highest deprived areas across UK

Have we reached the right young people?



Up to **1,800 young people** have been introduced to youth-led social action for the first time, from design through to delivering their event.



44% of young people from **low socio-economic backgrounds** a group that have been historically under-represented in youth-led social action. **Of this group, (a total of 1,043 in all), 923 of them (88%) have never led on a social action project before.**



32% of young people participating in Inspire2022 were from **'racialized communities'**, which was in line with our intended reach of 31%.

So, what happened?



14% of young people participating in Inspire 2022 had an **identified disability** (as classified under the Equalities Act 2010), which matched our intended target of 14%.



We had a slightly higher percentage of females (53%) to males (43%) participating in Inspire2022, which broadly fits with previous trends shown in the National Youth Social Action Survey 2019. **4%** of young people on Inspire 2022 identified as 'non-binary', 'genderfluid' or 'other' although there is currently no like-for-like comparative data for this group.



The percentage of 9-14 year olds was slightly higher (53%) than 15-25 year olds (47%). We had a good range of age groups represented.

What Was the Impact?

“It made us feel like we had done something kind for the older community members and brightened their day. It was actually really easy to get people involved because everyone felt that it was a great cause. The care home we went in to was really supportive and they provided snacks and refreshments as well. We used leaflets and posters to tell the residents about the event which seemed to work well. The show itself was so fun to do and our recycled costumes worked really well! Everyone worked really hard to rehearse their parts of the show and the residents seemed to really enjoy it”

(Young Person Inspire 2022, SPACE Youth Services)

What was the impact?

Young people's personal well-being increases through events-based, youth-led social action

Our 3 intended outcomes

Young people and youth organisations feel empowered to organise and lead on events-based social action activities for their communities

Youth organisations leave a lasting legacy of community cohesion, embedded through events-based, youth-led social action

Summarising our key outcomes

What was the impact?

Improvements in young people's mental well-being

We saw positive changes for young people across 4 ONS well-being measures with the greatest change for *'how happy did you feel yesterday?'*, in which we saw an increase of 11%. One unusual result we saw was for *'overall, how anxious did you feel yesterday?'*, which had a low percentage of young people responding positively (14%) at the start, which then fell by 2% by the end. We believe this may be due to the change in counting rule, which moved from positive scores being 7-10 (for 3 ONS well-being measures) to 0-3 (and may have caused confusion for young people).

Introduced new young people to youth social action events

78% of young people on Inspire 2022 had never led on social action before but **88% of young people said they would participate in social action again following Inspire 2022**. We are already seeing the fruits of this with young people beginning to follow-up their events with continued social action projects.

Greater community cohesion through events-based social action

Young Inspire 2022 participants consistently told us that **members of their local community were more likely to come together for events following their social action events**. Although the baseline figures were slightly higher than we were first expecting (for example, being consistently above 50%) we were still seeing positive changes among the views of young people. **The highest change was for young people stating they 'were proud of their local area', which was up 18% from the baseline figure.**

Increasing young people's mental well-being through events-based social action

We measured young people's mental well-being using ONS well-being measures. These results are not based on fully matched 'baseline' and 'on completion' surveys but are, instead, average percentages of young people responding positively in completed surveys.

- 74% of young people reported positively on 'how satisfied are you with your life nowadays' at the programme end
- 75% of young people reported positively on 'to what extent do you feel that the things you do in your life are worthwhile' at the programme end
- 73% of young people reported positively on 'how happy did you feel yesterday' at the programme end
- 12% of young people over 16 reported positively on 'how anxious did you feel yesterday' at the programme end (we reflect on this in the summary section)
- 97% of young people reported positively on 'do you feel better about your life and future as a result of being involved in this project' at the programme end

What was the impact?

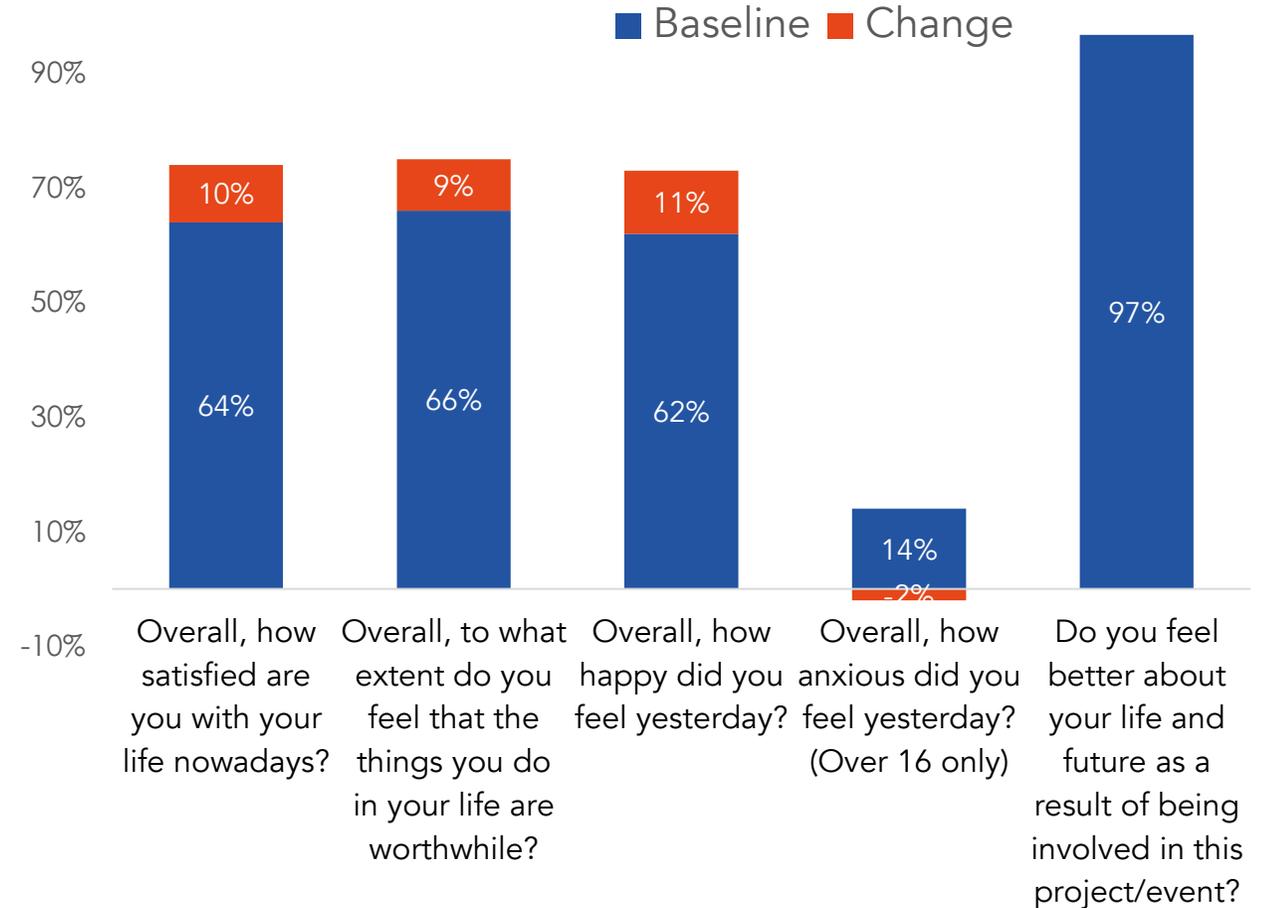


Fig 2: Mental well-being improvements for Inspire 2022 participants, based on ONS well-being measures

What was the impact?

What changed?

Positive changes in 4 of the ONS Well-being measures

The greatest change we saw was in *'How happy did you feel yesterday?'* which **rose by 11.6%**. 97% of young people told us they felt better about their life as a result of taking part in Inspire 2022

Reduction in one well-being score

We saw a reduction in young people's scores *'how anxious did you feel yesterday?'*, which **fell by 2%**. This score was specifically for over 16s only. The relatively low baseline score may also suggest the change in counting rule may have caused some confusion for young people

Moderate changes across ONS Well-being measures

Overall, we saw moderate changes across the ONS well-being measures. However, we also know **that external factors continue to play a role in young people's mental health and that young people's mental health is at a below average level in historical terms** (The Children's Society Good Childhood Report 2022)

Increasing young people's mental well-being through events-based social action

What we learnt.....

Well-being measures may not capture all benefits to young people

Through case studies and stakeholder focus groups we were **made aware of the range of socio-emotional and leadership skills that young people were developing through Inspire 2022** that were not always captured through well-being measures

Applying ONS Well-being measures in community settings

Applying ONS Well-being measures with young people in community settings **will need resourced youth worker time to ensure 'wrap-around' support if concerns are raised**. One measure, in particular, may be being misinterpreted by young people resulting in anomalous results

Opportunity for capturing wider socio-emotional learning

Through the Stakeholder Focus Groups thoughts were raised about the **possibility of capturing social emotional learning measures in future evaluation frameworks**. These can also incorporate well-being measures whilst capturing a wider range of benefits to young people



Spotlight MK Dons Social Enterprise Team, Inspire 2022 Delivery Partner

Working with a group from MK Dons Academy, 'Seb' had been struggling with being away from home (along with the others in the group). Living away from home with other families to be able to achieve his dream as a goalkeeper had been difficult, **working on the programme has given him focus and drive**. Seb had been struggling with mental health alongside others within the academy and being able to be part of Inspire was a focus for him to manage the long nights in unfamiliar settings.

Seb initially was a quieter member of the group but **he took it upon himself to manage the lead of the group as well as assisting the others within the programme**. Moving into the second year of the academy halfway through the programme, Seb assisted with the new first years, settling them into the programme. Seb worked on the programme outside of sessions and pushed for others to maintain the same. He identified areas of need within Milton Keynes and split the groups into three, enabling the maximum impact for each.

The dementia walk and talk has built a relationship for the students and the participants and groups. We have a wonderful legacy project with the attendees of the event now coming to watch the players at Stadium MK. As a result we have integrated more walk and talks with the group.

Seb became the spokesperson for the events and was instrumental in building a good relationship with the wider community programmes.

- Inspire youth worker lead -

Spotlight Proud To Be Me, Inspire 2022 Delivery Partner

We held an event called “So, Let’s Talk” which was inspired by National Mental Health Day and the upcoming [Mental Health Awareness Week in May 2023](#).

We were inspired to spread awareness on the effects of social media and mental health amongst young people in their local community.

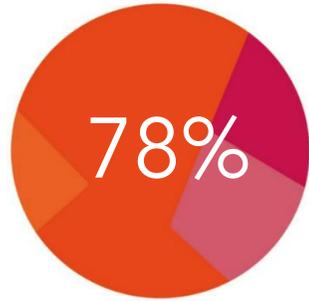
We knew that this year’s theme for Mental Health Awareness Week is anxiety and we knew that anxiety was one of the most common mental health problems people face. **At the event we increased people's awareness and understanding of anxiety induced by social media, provided support and created fun activities** to reduce time spent online.

Young people were able to connect through sharing stories, making their lunch together, speaking about ways to make change and spending time outdoors. They made clay models, wrote their own poems and participated in mindfulness activities. They also designed ideas for change-making ventures together and networked to make these possible in the future.

- Inspire participant -



What was the impact?



78% of young people on Inspire 2022 had **never led** on events-based youth social action before



71% of young people told us they felt confident in leading on their social action before delivery, suggesting that Inspire 2022 reaches young people who want to lead on social action but have not had the opportunity to do so before

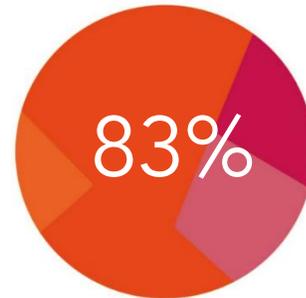


58% of young people on Inspire 2022 faced one or more 'personal barriers' (for example, being from a low-income family) to leading on social action events. **30% of young people had three or more (high) personal barriers**

Empowering young people and youth organisations to lead on events-based, youth-led social action



88% of young people told us they are more likely to participate in social action again following Inspire 2022



83% of young people on Inspire 2022 said they would now participate in community events, **up by 33% from the 50% who said they would at the beginning**



70% of young people told us they feel that their voices are likely to be heard in local decision-making, **up by 37% from the 33% who stated this at the beginning**

What was the impact?

Empowering young people and youth organisations to lead on events-based, youth-led social action (continued)



Created connections for Delivery Partners through Project Officer support

Youth workers told us they valued the support offered by UK Youth Project Officers, from sharing event ideas for events delivery to building connections with local community providers. This helped give them extra capacity for delivering their social action events.



Youth organisations supported to create offer for young people

Youth workers told us that having existing social action guidance together with a valuable social learning journey template and a training week offer delivered by UK Youth helped those who were less familiar with delivering 'events-based, social action' to create their support offer without the need for a restricted, structured curriculum.



'Inspire 2022 brand' enabled youth organisations to 'sell' their ideas

Youth workers told us that having a distinct brand identity to the Inspire 2022 programme, backed with the financial support, enabled them to sell the idea to young people and community members, raising the profile of the social action events in community spaces as well as the profile of the youth organisations.



Flexible approach to grants pitches helped take event ideas to fruition

Youth workers told us that having a flexible approach to 'grants pitches', with positive dialogue between the panels and young people, with a 'no rejection' approach, helped to form young people's ideas, prevent disappointment and ensure that events kept their momentum.



Spotlight Project

Female, Inspire 2022

Delivery Partner

Our group created the event 'Wellbeing Dance' for young women and girls which consisted of a day of free dance activities, including lunch and a nutrition talk, to help attendees learn how to manage healthy eating with a busy lifestyle.

The group of young women who organised the event spoke about the prevalence of eating disorders and low self-esteem within the world of dance and how many local young women and girls are without a strong parent/carer role model within the home. Therefore they wanted to create a safe space for the day and invite local women and girls to participate.

Over 97 young women and girls who would not have accessed dance signed up to the workshops. The day was a magnificent success with three dance studios packed full of young women dancing and celebrating their womanhood.

The young people who organised the event grew in confidence and were so proud of what they had achieved and the sense of ownership of the event was incredible for us to see. They took on the challenge of organising the whole event with enthusiasm and empathy for the participants who would be coming into the space. The legacy of 'Wellbeing Dance' lives on and we offered a second day of workshops to recreate the offer.

The key to the success of the event was the messaging coming from the young people to other young people as this gave it a stamp of approval that allowed other young people to have trust in the event and to come and give it a go. This in turn gave our young people such a sense of achievement that people had trusted them to come along to their event and support them and it unified so many different groups of young people from across the city all in one place.

- Inspire youth worker lead -



Spotlight British Red Cross, Inspire 2022 Delivery Partner

Inspire has undoubtedly enhanced the British Red Cross' delivery of youth social action. **As founding signatories of the #iWill Power of Youth Charter, we have pledged to create more social action opportunities for young people to give their time to make a positive difference in their communities. Inspire has been key to bringing that commitment to life** and has created a new focus and vigour to our work. Engaging young people in this way has enabled us to test youth social action as a flexible and informal gift of time and we have been able to connect this to our spectrum of volunteering opportunities. **Examples from young people participating in Inspire have informed our new organisation-wide volunteering strategy and our youth engagement strategy. This has enhanced young people's influence in the strategic development of the organisation**

The programme has also ensured the wider British Red Cross organisation has a clearer understanding of social action and the impact it can have both internally increasing numbers of volunteers, resources through funding and the absolute positive return on investment social action can provide for an organisation.

Externally the programme has supported raising awareness of the work of the British Red Cross as well as attracting younger volunteers and under-represented groups and increasing partnerships.

Spotlight Fox Hollies Community Association, Inspire 2022 Delivery Partner



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration organised by Fox Hollies Community Association CIC, made for a **great first event to encourage the young people to meet and greet with their community and to conduct research. The young people created surveys and focus boards and used them to initiate conversations with community members to see which events and social action topics they felt were needed most.** The young people also attended a larger Acock's Green community festival to gather further insights before planning their event.

The information gathered by the young people has since been collated into a community research tool, with the aim that future Inspire teams will be able to use this to inform further planning of events-based, social action in the area.

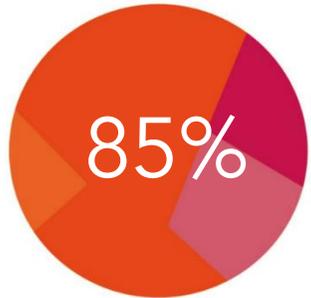
There has been high engagement and strong participation for the duration of the programme. Due to the need seen from this research, three different groups have been established: one group is focusing on LGBTQ+ representation; another is focused on mental health; and the final group are looking at access to sport, particularly for girls and non-binary young people.

Fox Hollies have further supported the delivery of Inspire 2022 and **co-delivered a workshop with UK Youth at the Local Trust Connections conference in September 2022. The workshop focused on what 'good' youth participation looked like within community settings, including exploring how Inspire Hubs and Big Local can work together across Inspire 2022.**

Leaving a lasting legacy of community cohesion through events-based youth social action

What was the impact?

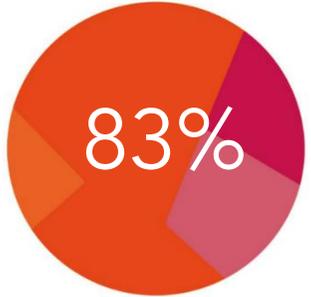
Collected from Over 16's only



of young people on Inspire 2022 told us that people now like to get together for events, up 7% from the 78% who stated this at the beginning



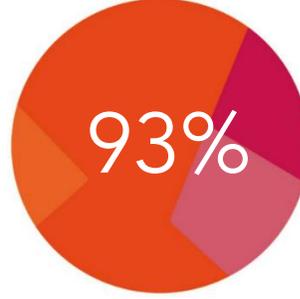
of young people told us that people from different backgrounds now get on well together, up 17% from the 52% who stated this at the beginning



of young people told us that they are now proud of their local area, up 18% from the 65% who stated this at the beginning



of young people told us that they care about their local area, which is the same as the 94% who stated this at the beginning



of young people told us that they are now positive about participating in activities in their local area, up 3% from the 90% who stated this at the beginning



of young people told us that they were now positive about making a difference in their local area, up 2% from the 86% who stated this at the beginning

What was the impact?

What changed?



Young people's feelings of their local areas

Overall, we did not see major changes in young people's perceptions of their local areas. It was noticeable that over 50% of young people generally had positive feelings about their local areas prior to starting their social action event, suggesting Inspire 2022 brought forward young people ready to give something to their community



Strengthened belief that young people are assets to their communities

Based on responses through our stakeholder focus groups we were told that young people were often the catalyst for community members to want to get involved in the events. Although this was seen as a 'discovery' and not an identified change, it indicated a strengthened belief of young people as assets to their communities



Strengthening relationships with local organisations

Based on responses through our stakeholder focus groups, we discovered how young people were strengthening their relationships with local organisations through their social action events. Building on the emerging partnerships, reports from youth organisations indicated that young people were now directly approaching local organisations for further funding and resources to continue their social action projects

Leaving a lasting legacy of community cohesion through events-based youth social action

What we learnt.....



Challenge of capturing lasting legacy of community cohesion

Capturing a 'lasting legacy' based on one-off events remains challenging. To determine a lasting legacy would need a longer-term engagement between youth groups and their communities that was beyond the scope of this project. Some potential solutions to this are offered in our recommendations



Young people raising awareness of important issues within their communities

By reviewing grant applications, case studies, and surveys filled out by young people, we can observe their desire to increase awareness about important issues both within and to their communities. They often see the potential to leverage community strength to carry out their projects, suggesting an existing level of community cohesion is already in place



Young people leaving a lasting impression as agents of change

We can therefore assume that feelings of community cohesion may also have been positive with a lasting impression that young people are capable of being a catalyst for change. Deeper exploration of community cohesion, what this means to young people and how they 'discover' this within their community remains an opportunity for future learning



Spotlight NE Youth, Inspire 2022 Delivery Partner

Our event was a family fun day called 'Bringing Throckley Together'. The idea of the event was to invite local business to take part in the event and promote their business as well as raise money in order for us to buy a defibrillator for the youth club and sports centre.

We had a variety of activities going ahead such as sports, tuck shops, a jewellery stall, hook the duck, tug of war, face painting, DJ, inflatables, archery, tombola, arts/crafts, boxing and football skills. We promoted the event about a month before so we had enough time to get the word around Throckley.

We promoted it through handing posters out, posting them through letter boxes, sticking them up in windows, handing them to shops and other organisations in Throckley and asking our parents to tell their friends.

We posted a promotional post all over social media and on local Facebook groups (which got a lot of attention). Once we explained what we wanted to raise the money for, loads of people were very generous and gave kind donations to go towards the defibrillator. Once the event finished we were absolutely buzzing with how smoothly the event went and how successful it was.

The biggest success of the event was having more than 250 people come to the event and helping us raise £785 towards the defibrillator. We really felt that the community came together because of the event.

- Inspire participant -



Spotlight Brighton and Hove Youth Council, Inspire 2022 Delivery Partner

The Inspire 2022 funding enabled a group of young women who had never run any form of social action project before. It helped them to develop skills in organising, hosting, budgeting, communication and project management. **One young woman within the Youth Council also volunteers for the Black Minority Ethnic Young People's Project in Brighton and Hove. She had been supporting a project trying to engage migrants in social opportunities.**

There were numerous ideas when the youth council held their pitch evening, mainly relating to supporting the migrant community. Each group pitched their ideas and then as peers they voted for their favourite. **'Cooking Across Continents' came from a place that recognised the failures to look after migrants but also wanted to do something that would support community cohesion. They reached out to several people working with refugees and migrants in the city to seek advice. Consistently they were directed to the Network of International Women for Brighton and Hove (NIWBH). They contacted this group alongside another called the Hummingbird Project (who specialise in working with younger migrants) to ask if they would like to work on the project together.**

One Inspire participant supported a non-English-speaking woman at the event and as a result was able to develop her Spanish language skills. All of the Inspire participants developed skills in organising, hosting, budgeting, communication and project management.

For the community members who attended, they were able to build new connections with other people they hadn't met before, try new cooking skills and connect with different services.

- Inspire youth worker lead -



Spotlight Youth Scotland, Inspire 2022 Delivery Partner

We live in a rural area where there's a lot of biking activities available. However, if you don't come from a sporty family it's hard to get into biking as a young person. **We knew we wanted to do something at the Tweed Love festival and came up with the idea of the treasure hunt at the pitch day in Edinburgh.**

We ran an orienteering style treasure hunt. People had a map of the area that they could either walk round or cycle round. There were letters around the area and when they found the letters they could punch a hole in their map to prove they'd got it. They unscrambled the letters and found a word and once they'd done that they were entered into a prize draw.

We helped set up and run the stall by giving out the treasure hunt sheets, signing people up and marking off when they'd been completed so they could be entered into the draw. We also had a spin the wheel game for prizes and gave away cards and stickers. The stickers were designed by one member of our group and looked awesome. It was quite hard to arrange times to get together to plan it but we did it! It was very productive and we had fun.

It was definitely a success! **We're proud of the amount of people who got involved. 148 children took part and they all had at least one adult with them. We know when we went to Tweed Love festival when we were younger we were always looking for free and great stuff to make it worth being there and this definitely ticked that box, people found it really engaging.**

- Inspire participant -

Inspire 2022's legacy

Youth sector

New groups of young people leading on social action events

Up to 1,800 young people enabled to lead on social action for the first time. Youth workers gave testament to how many were now continuing to run events in their community

Established knowledge-base of events-based social action

Youth workers have been able to develop their knowledge on events-based social action through training and additional guidance. UK Youth has a developed set of guidance for delivering events-based social action

New partnerships with local community organisations

Youth workers told us that Inspire 2022 has enabled them to develop new partnerships with local government, businesses, community safety teams and local charities to further embed youth-led social action

Spotlight Youth Cymru, Inspire 2022 Delivery Partner



Youth Cymru have exemplified a successful integration of the Welsh Government's Future Generations Policy and Youth Work Strategy through participating in the delivery of Inspire. **By empowering young people to participate in their communities actively, these projects advance social, economic and environmental sustainability; aligning with the Future Generations Policy's goal of forging a prosperous and sustainable Wales for future generations.** Simultaneously they provide a platform for youth to develop leadership skills, transferable skills and confidence, aligning with the Youth Work Strategy's objective of creating a supportive and inclusive environment.

Through investment in these projects, Inspire 2022 fosters a culture of collaboration, innovation and social responsibility, contributing to a better future for all citizens of Wales. These initiatives echo the Welsh Government's Educational Curriculum, designed to offer young people a comprehensive education, preparing them for life, learning and work. The social action projects allow participants to apply theoretical knowledge in practical contexts, cultivating skills in project management, communication and leadership. In addressing local concerns, young people develop critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, aligning with the curriculum's emphasis on community engagement, civic responsibility and sustainability.

Ensuring young people have the opportunity to engage in social action initiatives not only nurtures an involved and informed youth population but also cultivates future contributors capable of making meaningful societal impacts. **The continuous alignment between youth-led social action projects, the Future Generations Policy, the Youth Work Strategy and the Educational Curriculum underscores a holistic approach towards creating a sustainable, empowered and knowledgeable generation that will shape the trajectory of Wales for years to come.**

- Inspire lead youth worker -



Spotlight Youth Action Northern Ireland, Inspire 2022 Delivery Partner

Our organisation has gained greatly from the Inspire 2022 funding, especially as it was focused on our member groups. **We represent these member groups who at this time were going through huge funding cuts and so the programme was a life-line to them.** The process was simple which helped young people engage, they were able to access the grant to deliver the project as they had wanted and we have seen how the whole community **have benefited from this initiative.** This was an amazing experience for the young people and they fully embraced this experience. The value placed on social action has increased and the groups felt empowered to continue their projects after Inspire.

As our members found the grant process via Inspire user-friendly, it has given them the confidence to apply for additional funding from us such as the Cost Of Living grant. We will be continuing this participatory approach and will be involving our members in much more as they can continue and inspire others with their successful projects. Inspire has made our links with members stronger and our reputation for support even better, we look forward to continuing to build on the legacy of this.

We will continue to share the incredible stories and help promote the positive work that has come from the programme. We have also planned to reconnect with the groups next year to record any further impacts or unexpected outcomes.

- Inspire youth worker lead -

What Was Our Learning?

What was our learning?

How we developed learning for Inspire 2022

Core Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitored the demographics of all young people participating in Inspire 2022• Monitored all Inspire 2022 events - So we could see where and what types of Inspire events grew across the UK• Administered a 'before' and 'after' survey for all young people- So we understand personal benefits on young people's well-being, their participation in community events and their views on their community
Events Case Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and build 'stories of events' – Collaborating with youth workers and young people to tell their stories from events and understand the personal impact on themselves and their communities, every delivery partner has delivered at least one event case study as part of Inspire 2022
Stakeholder Focus Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online/In-person focus groups with key stakeholders – We held focus groups with youth workers delivering Inspire 2022 from across our delivery partners, reaching 52 staff in total. We also held two focus groups with UK Youth Project Officers to understand the practical support offered to Inspire 2022 delivery partners
Inspire Showcase Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A summer showcase event which brought together delivery partners from across England, including over 100 young people and 50 youth workers, allowed us to explore the value of 'events-based social action' and the use of the 'Power of Youth Charter' within youth organisations

What made Inspire 2022 work?



Inspire 2022 enablers

What was our learning?

The story of change

We know many young people often feel left out in local and national events and have not had a meaningful chance to deliver their own social action events before. Inspire 2022 tried a method of events-based social action to support young people to feel empowered to have a voice and shape these events. This brought them together with their community to raise awareness of important issues that are meaningful to young people today.

By providing resource support (through youth worker time) and grant funding for event ideas, the Inspire 2022 programme showed trust and recognition with both young people and youth organisations and gave them the means of making their events happen. Giving young people continued support from the start of their idea, through to making it happen, empowered those who had been least likely to deliver powerful social action events.

What was our learning?

Our 3 learning questions

What learning does developing events-based social action provide us with creating impactful Grants Programmes?

How does the Inspire Grants Programme model reach out to and empower less-advantaged young people to lead on events-based social action for their communities?

How does this lead to inspiring and impactful social action events that brings communities together in a spirit of collaboration and social cohesion?

What learning does developing events-based social action provide us with creating impactful Grants Programmes?

What was our learning?



Funded development time enables participation

The time frames for delivery showed it can take anything from **between 3 -12 months** to build the relationships with young people to take them from developing their social action idea, to final delivery of the event.



Provides credibility to the social action project

Youth workers told us that supporting young people to join community spaces and discussions with a financial offer has elevated their voices within community spaces. **The use of event grants, coupled together with the 'Inspire 2022 brand', demonstrated trust and recognition of young people and further enhanced the legitimacy of their projects.**



Build collaborative relationships with existing community organisations

The 'events-based' nature of the programme necessitated for youth workers to build new relationships with existing community organisations. Again having a distinct programme brand identity to 'Inspire 2022' helped to create a buy-in to its purpose with community organisations.



Encourages young people to develop long-term skills through social action

Youth workers told us that **having to organise an event in the community enhanced and developed young people's personal skills.** The Inspire 2022 programme highlighted how this was important for young people's mental well-being (we identify opportunities to explore this further through our recommendations).



Develops new strategic partnerships

Having to connect young people into events-based social action necessitated enhancing or building strategic relationships with other organisations. Developing events-based social action means having to forge relationships across the events sector, broadening connection and dialogue with young people in that sector.

What was our learning?



Youth-centred model of delivery

Youth workers told us having **clear space for youth-centred planning and delivery, coupled with 'youth-centred' practices**, helped young people to overcome any fears they may have had leading on their own social action events.



Funded teams of young people

Funding for up to 8 young people per team **ensured peer support for young people, building their collective capacity** in delivering the social action event.



'Flexible curriculum' programme

Youth workers told us that **being able to deliver a flexible curriculum to young people** meant there was less pressure for young people to engage within a structured programme, enabling them to find the right time to participate, develop their ideas and create the space for meaningful delivery of the social action event.

How does the Inspire Grants Programme model reach out to and empower less-advantaged young people to lead on events-based social action for their communities?



Guiding social learning journey

Youth workers told us that having **pre-existing social learning journey guidance** could help to articulate their offer to young people, helping them to understand the personal benefits to themselves for developing and leading their social action events.



Directly funding grassroots youth organisations

Grassroots youth organisations with direct reach into under-represented communities, enabled Inspire 2022 to quickly branch out to young people who do not traditionally participate in social action.



Using capacity-building tools for social action

Youth workers spoke of the benefits of having **specific social action tools they could draw upon**, such as a **youth social action guide** and the **Power of Youth Charter**, coupled with direct funding of youth worker time, supported in engaging young people and community partners.

How does this lead to inspiring and impactful social action events that bring communities together in a spirit of collaboration and social cohesion?

What was our learning?

Raised awareness of issues that are important to young people

With young people in control of the purpose of the social action event, it helped to **raise awareness within communities of issues that are important to young people**. We have seen through our Inspire 2022 case studies that young people have delivered a range of events that were designed to raise awareness of young people's current concerns, giving the Inspire 2022 impetus in the delivery of social action events.

Connecting youth social action with national events can be effective

Through both the events case studies and focus groups with youth workers, we discovered that major national events were not always a catalyst for young people to want to lead their social action events. However by **working collaboratively with those young people to refine their ideas and share information about upcoming national events**, we also saw how it could empower them to explore ways to connect their social action events with these major occasions.

Brought forward young people who are passionate about their local communities

The **high percentage of young people who had never led on social action events before brought into community spaces new voices who were able to bring to light issues that are important to young people**. Youth workers told us of how young people who had never led on these types of social action before were energised by delivering an event that both challenged them and rewarded them for their efforts. The case studies speak testament to how young people were inspired to have their voices heard in community spaces.

Our Recommendations

Funding and timeframes for events-based, youth-led social action

Our recommendations



Fund 'grassroots' youth organisations

Directly funding smaller, 'grassroots' youth organisations, who reach young people in their communities, supports 'under-represented' young people to engage in youth-led social action. Explicit targeting of funding at these small youth organisations will ensure that we can begin to close the 'participation gap' in youth social action.



Multi-year funding of youth-led social action initiatives

By providing multi-year funding for youth-led social action, funders can create the time for youth organisations to engage with young people to develop their ideas and bring these to fruition. This allows young people to follow-up their social action events, continue to take their ideas forward and inspire others to get involved.



Funding to cover youth worker time

Funders can ensure that youth workers are funded through youth-led social action initiatives to help engage young people, organise their ideas, support them to plan the event and finally to deliver the event in their community. Youth workers play an important role in connecting young people to major national and local events, community service providers and members of the community bringing together members from across the community at moments of unity.

Our recommendations

Tools and resources: what could UK Youth utilise for the youth sector?

Update social action guidance and training with 'events-based social action'

UK Youth can **utilise the current role of events-based youth-led social action as a mechanism for enhancing the current social action offer**, updating the current UK Youth Social Action Guidance with the addition of new social action ideas based on the role of major national events to inspire young people to action.

Integrating 'team-based' social action into youth social action modelling

Providing both funding and opportunity **for building in team-based social action across UK Youth social action programmes will ensure young people have additional peer support** (from other young people), enhancing collective skills of young people to delivering youth social action and broadening their personal capacity to deliver social action in their communities.

Protected budget for young people to lead on their own social action

Future youth social action programming should **ensure that there is explicit funding for young people to develop their social action ideas and bring them to delivery**. UK Youth's continued commitment to the Power of Youth Charter can be enhanced with this explicit funding for young people to lead on and develop their own social action ideas, supporting youth organisations with funding that is restricted to this activity.

Youth-led social action best practice - bringing young people's ideas to life

Our recommendations



Events-based social action

Integrating events-based social action into current youth-led social action offers can help to raise the profile of young people's social action. Events-based social action can be a **valuable way to encourage young people to engage with social action offers, helping them to connect with wider local and national events.**



Flexible curriculum of support built into practice models

Having a flexible curriculum of support for young people to bring their social action event ideas to life **enables practitioners from across the sector to draw upon existing materials while also adapting it to young people's needs and strengths, where it is most needed**



Team-based youth social action

Adopting 'team-based' youth social action into existing practice, where it is not present, enables young people to come together with their peers to plan their ideas, building personal capacity and enhancing their collective skills.



Adopting strengths-based practices

Integrate 'strengths-based practices' into existing training programme for youth-led social action to **encourage young people to engage in the opportunity that youth social action holds.**



Dedicated development time between youth workers and young people

Essential development time built into youth social action practice to enable time to develop ideas through community-based research and workshopping helps young people to work out what they want to achieve through their social action event.



Use the Power of Youth Charter to influence community stakeholders

The Power of Youth Charter provides a valuable framework for describing the benefits of youth-led social action and can enable youth workers to communicate its value to both young people and wider community stakeholders, creating buy-in to young people's projects.

Our recommendations

Evaluating youth-led social action across the youth sector



Integration of Outcomes Framework 3.0 into future youth social action programmes

To support future youth social action programmes and to capture further fundamental skills that young people develop through leading on social action we are recommending integrating 'The Outcomes Framework 3.0' that has been produced by the YMCA George Williams College, supported by the Back Youth Alliance (<https://www.ukyouth.org/get-involved/backyouth/>). **It covers six essential socio-emotional domains: Responsibility; Empathy; Problem-solving; Initiative; Teamwork; and Emotion Management.** They are designed to be a holistic approach to measuring young people's mental and behavioural development.



Capturing community impact through youth-led social action

Strengthen evaluation approaches to capturing community impact within youth-led social action initiatives by developing capacity within youth organisations to evaluate this aspect of the programme. **This includes more user-friendly resources, which are adaptable to a variety of communities (for example, 'non-written' tools such as video or audio recordings) as well as further training on capturing community impact.** This will strengthen the collection of evidence for the wider benefits of youth-led social action on communities and society.

Further reading

1. Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sports (2021) [Youth Social Action: Rapid Evidence Assessment](#)
2. Ipsos MORI (2020) [National Youth Social Action Census 2019](#)
3. Dartington Service Design Lab (2021) [#iWill Fund Learning Hub Summary Report](#)
4. UK Youth (2021) [EmpowHer Final Report](#)
5. UK Youth (2024) [EmpowHer Legacy Evaluation Report](#)
6. YMCA George Williams College, [#iWill Fund Learning Hub](#) – Here you will find a large portfolio of reports detailing learning from the #iWill Movement
7. Spirit 2012, [Inquiry into the Power of Events](#) – This provides compelling evidence of the power of events on people and communities

Thank You



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