

Benefits of the programme for providers of services to children and young people.

The YLFSC programme supports a public health approach by introducing a mix of intervention specialists and the provision of structured access to an inspired network of supportive partners and agencies. Our unique programme helps referring schools advance their:

1. OFSTED Ratings

We are cognisant of OFSTEDs guidelines for behaviour, and we support efforts to improve attitudes to learning. The programme helps young people understand the importance and value of education.

2. GATSBY Benchmarks

We provide young people with opportunities to learn more about career paths and augment their personal profiles for progression. We will support schools with providing young people with “meaningful encounters” with professionals, especially successful BAME professionals.

3. PSHE and SMSC agendas

PHSE and SMSC agendas are recognised as we cover key mental health and emotional wellbeing issues. We ensure that teaching is appropriate to the age and maturity of individuals and they are aware of any additional support available to them.



Our contributing partners

The YLFSC Programme involves a range of significant partners who are invited to enhance the learning of the course subjects, helping young people understand subjects in more detail and to be inspired by their personal stories.

- Our **violent crime debates and interactive workshops** include contributions from our intervention specialists StreetDoctors, The Met Police, Blaksox, JENGBA, and the Robert Levy Foundation.
- Our **understanding politics and the media elements** involve contributions from Ward councillors, Bite the Ballot and journalists from Chanel Four and the BBC.
- **Employment and career partners** include East London Business Alliance, Business in The Community providing training, support and access to work experience
- Our **Higher education partners** include Hackney Community College (New City College), Brunel, Goldsmiths, City University and National African and Caribbean societies in Oxford and Cambridge.

Here are some of Voyages, supportive partners and workshop hosts that contribute to our Young Leaders for Safer Cities Course.

“The young people of Voyage should be proud of their achievements, and I know they all have the capacity to make great change not only in their lives, but in their communities.”

Cllr Anntoinette Bramble
Children & Young People Board (Chair)
Hackney Council



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What is the Young Leaders Programme?

The Young Leaders for Safer Cities (YLfSC) initiative is an empowerment and leadership programme that has been designed to complement and enhance young people's mainstream schooling experience. Our programme inspires young people to become distinctive and solution focused young leaders and positive citizens.

The YLfSC programme is taught using a structured BTEC level II curriculum (accredited by Pearsons) targeted at young people aged 14 and 15 years. The programme is designed for those who wish to secure additional qualifications, build their confidence and develop positive attitudes towards learning to enhance social, educational, career prospects and progression into professional life. Additionally, the programme aims to help young people make positive decisions and life choices whilst encouraging them to stay safe, build constructive relationships with people in authority. Young people also get better acquainted with the profiles of their peers from different schools and post code locations across London.

Student Profiles

- Aged 14 - 15 years
- Targeting 50% Boys and 50% Girls
- Predominantly from black and minority communities
- May have an aversion to authority and authority figures
- Generally not achieving their full potential



How does it work

The YLfSC programme is accessed by our specialist tutors from Voyage delivering powerful presentations to large groups (year groups 9 and 10) setting out the importance of being recognised as a young leader in the community. Presentations are delivered during assemblies and at the end of the day to encourage parents, young people and teachers sign-up before young people are offered a place on the programme starting in April.

Young people sign up to our course which is delivered over a 6-month period. (Taking place on Saturday mornings twice monthly) culminating in attendance at a planned graduation event in July each year.

There are 6 powerful modes of course delivery set out as follows:

3 - 4 days undertaking a leadership induction programme hosted by our partners in Hackney College.

3 day Residential programme focusing on personal leadership, team work and conflict resolution

10 weeks of taught study at Hackney Community College which includes contributions from renowned community leaders, media and community safety partners. (operating twice monthly)

Access to social action and volunteering opportunities where young engage in activities to better their surroundings and gain valuable insights into career and employment opportunities

Inspiring visits to Russell Group Universities and engagement opportunities with employers in the financial, legal, health and creative industries.

A prestigious Graduation Ceremony for families and friends in July each year with contributions from politicians, artists and our course delivery partners.

Our Assessment and Grading

The YLfSC BTEC qualification is achieved through continuous assessment of student portfolios. The qualification is currently marked on a pass/fail criterion. All participants can benefit from additional teaching, specialist support and mentoring offered during half-terms and evenings. All students will receive a comprehensive record of their achievements throughout the course as well as a BTEC Award. All teachers and parents receive monthly attendance and progress reports to demonstrate young peoples achievements on the course raising the individual profiles of our participants. Assessment is undertaken by Voyage's experienced and qualified tutors. The YLfSC programme is designed to support progression to either academic or vocational pursuits and all units/credits gained can be attributed to the UCAS point system.

Our Staff and management

Our programme is managed by an experienced team of specialist Youth Leadership Coordinators (YLCs) responsible for outreach, recruitment and maintaining regular communication between parents, teachers and young people at all times. All our staff including our volunteers are important to our programme because they have had similar experiences to the young people, are from similar social, economic and demographic backgrounds and in some cases have completed the programme themselves.

Our tutors and mentors

Our DBS certified team of experienced tutors are trained in cognitive behavioral therapy techniques, contextual safeguarding and are able to develop supportive and empathetic relations with young people, parents and teaching professionals. Our tutors include qualified trained teachers, professional mentors and life coaches all trained and aware of risk management and assessment. Our programme is guided by Voyages theory of change endorsed by The Centre for Youth Impact and Project Oracle.

Our 2018 Outcomes

- **Recruitment** - 110 year 9/10 Students from 12 secondary schools across 6 London Boroughs
- **Retention** - 103 students completed the course to gain a BTEC level ii qualification
- **Progression** - 65% of the cohort returned to Voyage to join our graduate programmes - The Summer University in August and the South Hackney Leadership Academy starting in September each year.

What are the benefits and opportunities to young people?

What are the key benefits of the programme?

- Improved confidence and public speaking capabilities.
- Increased social responsibility and willingness to help their peers and their communities
- Improved attitudes to learning and to people in authority
- Improved decision making and ability to spot and avoid risky situations
- Improved capacity to develop healthier relationships with peers and professionals



Key Opportunities

Becoming a young leader generates passion and enthusiasm for:

- **Giving back to your community** - Undertaking social action and volunteering facilitating involvement of young people in constructive projects to benefit communities and enrich their experiences and CVs.
- **Career Progression** - Engagement opportunities with professionals, employers and our higher education partners assisting the expansion of academic choices, higher education and employment competitiveness.
- **Youth Ambassadors** - Young leaders go onto securing additional qualifications, higher educational awards and becoming peer to peer trainers and possible involvement in our International Exchanges projects and programmes.

