



# Young Residents in Partnership Impact Report (2024-2025)

Using peer research in housing to make the invisible visible

Partnership  
for Young  
London

 Hyde

  
CLARION  
FUTURES

 MTVH

# The team

We are a team of six peer researchers ([click here for full profiles](#)) and we are all residents with MTVH, Hyde and Clarion living in both London and Nottingham. Within our team we have two peer researchers from each Housing Association: Kara and Beau (MTVH), Ethan and Theresa (Hyde), and Ohemaa and Sayuri (Clarion).

We have been working together on this project since September 2024, however, two of our team members (Kara and Theresa) were also part of the previous peer research team (2023-2024). On Mondays and Saturdays, we usually come together to work on aspects of the project, such as our six priority recommendations, next steps and other peer research tasks, supported by Iris Bos and Sharon Long from [Partnership for Young London](#). We also work collaboratively with a steering group consisting of colleagues of MTVH, Clarion and Hyde.





**Kara**



**Beau**



**Ohemaa**



**Sayuri**



**CLARION  
FUTURES**



**Theresa**



**Ethan**



# The project

[Young residents in partnership](#) is a project to profile young people's voices and their needs into policy and practice of Housing Associations more systemically.

Using peer research as an approach, six young residents from [MTVH](#), [Hyde](#) and [Clarion](#) are employed to be trained as peer researchers by Partnership for Young London to collaborate and deliver on having young residents more represented and integrated into decision-making processes within housing policy and practice.

This is done with the overarching question:

***“How do young people take leadership roles in influencing strategy and decision-making in Housing Associations and impact local housing services?”***

## Collaboration between Housing Associations

This project has a wider aim of addressing the need for youth voice in the housing sector, which is why this project is a collaboration between three major Housing Associations: MTVH, Hyde and Clarion. The project is not simply commissioned as a research project, rather a co-production where colleagues from the three housing associations form a steering group, actively contributing to the work:

- Sarah Willis, Saba Yazdani and Ewa Van De Schootbrugge from MTVH,
- Judie Obeya and Adam Hall from Clarion and,
- Maddassar Arif from Hyde

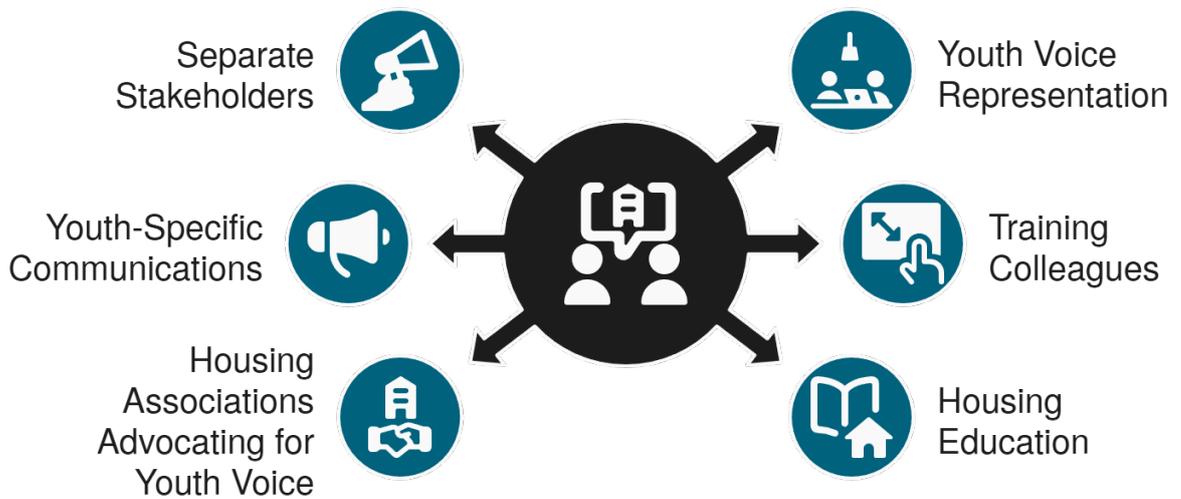
## Informed by the Shaping Housing Futures report

Based on the [Shaping Housing Futures report](#), developed during Phase 1 of the project, the current Phase 2 peer research team has triaged six priority recommendations to develop further. These recommendations are mainly aimed at Housing Associations (HAs). These recommendations have been sense-checked and discussed with colleagues from Housing Associations and the wider housing sector through the peer researcher-led events as mentioned on page 9.

***“Something that I personally really enjoyed during this process was the amount of freedom we had: there wasn't a single moment that we, the peer researchers, weren't involved in the different preparation steps when working on this project.” (Sayuri, 16, peer researcher)***



# Our recommendations



- 1. Separate Stakeholder:** Define young people as a separate stakeholder in housing policy.
- 2. Youth Voice Representation:** Create a youth voice representation structure with inclusive spaces for young people, implementing clear goals and ambitions.
- 3. Youth-specific Communications:** Improve communications designed with and for young people including an age-specific communications strategy.
- 4. Training Colleagues:** Train colleagues across the organisation to be more inclusive of young people.
- 5. Housing Associations advocating for youth voice:** Housing Associations should use their influence and platforms (not social media) within the wider housing sector to embed youth voice in policy and practice.
- 6. Housing Education:** Working with other organisations to educate young people on housing options and rights.

## Actioning recommendations

Some actionable steps have been proposed and agreed, which will be a work in progress for the upcoming year for the research team and steering group, such as:

<p><b>Separate Stakeholder</b></p>		<p>Research what experiences young people have in order to be considered a stakeholder group within housing policy and practice, while identifying where in the Housing Associations young people are already considered.</p>
<p><b>Youth voice representation</b></p>		<p>Research and explore different ways of youth voice representation that already exist in Housing Associations and beyond to establish case studies and examples of best practice.</p>
<p><b>Youth-specific communication</b></p>		<p>Peer researchers work with Communications teams and leads within Housing Associations to review some of the communications and how young people can be more considered.</p>
<p><b>Training colleagues</b></p>		<p>Designing and delivering workshops to colleagues within Housing Associations on how to destigmatise language around young people and how to be more inclusive of young people in their role.</p>
<p><b>Housing Associations advocating for youth voice</b></p>		<p>Designing core principles for colleagues that function as guidance when working with young people and encouraging colleagues to make it a habit to mention young people when in meetings, panels or conversations.</p>
<p><b>Housing Education</b></p>		<p>Research and establish an output with housing rights and options applicable and available to young people.</p>



# Three key learnings

From evaluation and reflections on this project, we have found there are three key aspects that we found are essential in the success of this project.

## 1. Collaborative Funding

Why funding in collaboration with other Housing Associations is beneficial compared to solely funding youth voice individually per Housing Association:

- It allows for a more sector-wide approach
- It promotes collaboration over competition on issues that affect all
- It allows for a diversity of perspective (different Housing Associations with unique organisational structures, communities and people)
- Senior leadership are likely to be more invested in the impact, allowing for more sustainable and strategic planning when embedding recommendations
- Funding is not only financial, rather through colleagues' time and wider resources

## 2. Peer research as an approach

Why using peer research as a participatory approach for platforming young people's voices has been valuable:

- Young residents are being trained by an external youth organisation as peer researchers, having a more "neutral relationship" with young residents
- Peer researchers are paid London Living Wage, having a more reliable working relationship and commitment of being on a long term project (and are recruited as such)
- Being trained as peer researchers allows young residents to have more informed contributions (e.g. understanding the Housing Associations and speaking from data and evidence)
- Being trained as peer researchers means young residents are being upskilled and empowered, investing in youth voice and young people meaningfully.

## 3. Aligning funding with long-term goals

Why the project benefits from funding and investing in long-term aims (beyond the duration of the project):

- It allows for setting a long-term mission for the project, aiming to have more significant impact and systemic change
- Centering youth voice in the organisation (rather than youth engagement or shorter term activities)
- It allows the mission to grow more organically and on different levels within the organisation
- Expanding networks within the housing sector
- Investing in and collaborating with young people more meaningfully

# Key achievements

The peer researchers have been invited to present and speak on various **panels of conferences, summits and events:**

- HACT Community Investment Panel in Birmingham
- Festival of Learning by London Funders
- Foyer Federation's 'Places of Purpose: Forging a vibrant future for youth supported housing'

in which they worked with professionals from the housing sector to explore how they could implement the recommendations of the report in their roles.

**Two highlights** of the project were the two events that were led by the peer researchers:

- **Online launch** of the report [Shaping Housing Futures](#), in which about 80 people from the housing sector attended to listen to the peer researchers and also work on developing recommendations.
- **Senior leadership event**, in which the CEOs and senior leadership colleagues from MTVH, Clarion and Hyde came together to collaborate on putting this work into action and involve young people in more strategic purposes.



# Key outputs

## Interview Inside Housing

Theresa, Kara and Cindy were interviewed by Inside Housing, the leading monthly magazine for housing professionals in the UK (read full article [here](#) or [here](#)).



*“the impact of poor housing policy that disregards young people creates real suffering”*  
- Cindy

## Young people facing homelessness, links to young residents in social housing and how collaboration is essential

Read this blog by Ohemaa [here](#)



*“This is why more awareness needs to be brought to such important issues, and it will encourage major stakeholders to take more actions against issues such as youth homelessness”*

- Ohemaa

## Crashing my first report launch

Read this blog by Sayuri [here](#)



*“Something that really stood out to me was the enthusiasm and genuine interest everyone had in getting young people involved and heard”*

-Sayuri

## Young residents are not just the future of social housing, they’re an integral part of the present

Read this blog by Kara written for the National Housing Federation [here](#)



*“Young residents are the ones who will inherit the results of today’s housing policies, and it’s crucial they have a say in shaping their futures.”*

- Kara

## Theresa & Beau: young residents who are shaping the future of housing policy and practice

Read full blog by Beau & Theresa written for London Funders [here](#).



*“That’s why projects like this matter. They don’t just give young people a platform; they show funders and institutions that we can speak with clarity, and creativity about the issues that affect us.”*

– Beau

# Digital collages

When Housing Associations DON'T listen to young people



When Housing Associations DO listen to young people



# Overview of the timeline



# Impact

The peer researchers worked to ensure their efforts created real impact:

- 1** Around **400 colleagues** within the housing sector reached through events, panels and conversations
- 2** Presented at **5 high profile** panels and conferences
- 3** Over **10 collaborative work meetings** at Hyde, MTVH & Clarion's Headquarters
- 4** **In person interviews** with MTVH CEO, Mel Barrett
- 5** Over **15 in person training days** + over 50 online meetings covering peer research training, working on recommendations, and collaborating on actions

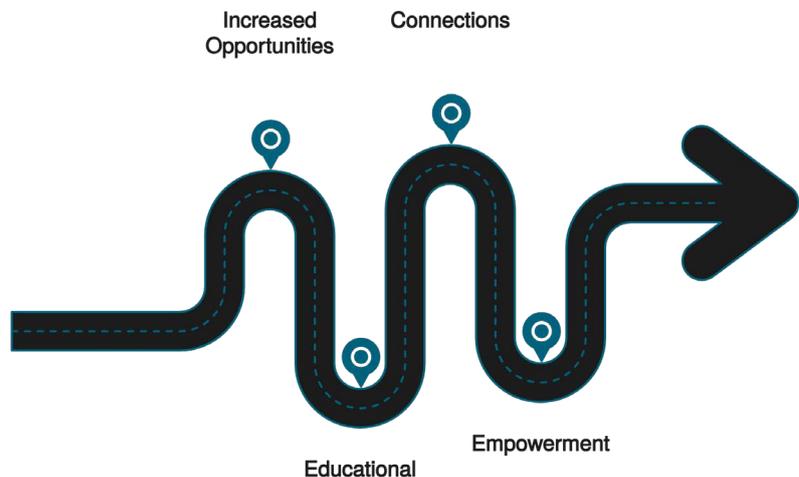


# Impact on peer researchers

Generally speaking, after self-evaluation by us peer researchers, these were some of the observations:

## Increased Opportunities

We felt that being part of this project has increased our opportunities in a few different ways, such as educational, being more connected and being empowered.



## Educational

- Feeling more engaged and active, we know more about what is going on as a young resident too (in terms of events, activities, and opportunities)
- Increased skills, especially these:
  - Public speaking
  - Speaking to people in positions of authority
  - Event planning
  - Collecting data
  - Doing peer research
  - Conducting and planning interviews

## Connections

- Access and being exposed to opportunities that we would not have had before joining this project as a result of working with colleagues in Housing Associations and Partnership for Young London
- Getting people I know more involved in the outcomes of this project
- People around us are now also more connected to activities of the project and of being a resident

## Empowerment

- Feeling more involved and empowered to talk about our opinions and experiences on housing
- Leading on events and meetings across all aspects of the process gives us a sense of ownership
- Realising the impact that we have as peer researchers/young residents as part of this project
- Realising the willingness of colleagues we work with on implementing youth voice

# Personal highlights



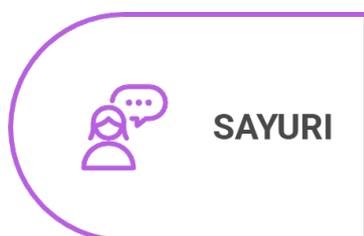
“Wrote a blog that I was able to pass on from the PYL website to LinkedIn. It was the first time felt I had an impact and had gained knowledge I could use to do better on the project.”

“Organising a meeting with MTVH’s comms team”



“Experiencing public speaking, which is new to me.”

“Hosted focus groups with help from Kara for notetaking though I was stressed I steered the discussion quite well.”



“I’ve gained confidence in my speaking skills and my confidence in interacting with people and leading.”

“I spoke in front of large groups, stepping out of my comfort zone.”



# Impact on Housing Associations

**Evaluation by the steering group:** Through an evaluation exercise led by the peer researchers, these were the reflections on the impact of the process that the steering group came up with:



## **Recognition of youth voice:**

- Powerful voices from the housing sector now represent needs of young residents across multiple platforms inviting them to host, speak and be interviewed
- Greater recognition of young people across the business

## **Increased visibility**

- Internal awareness and visibility of peer researchers
- Senior leaders offering support and wanting to contribute to the work
- Different departments are more united in the commitment to involve young people

## **Senior Leadership involvement:**

- Increased engagement of senior leaders from across the business and willingness to listen
- Senior leadership is actively talking about youth voice
- Senior leadership is thinking about opportunities to involve more young people

## **Increased collaboration:**

- Bringing senior decision-makers together at the table (collaboration *between* Housing Associations)
- Working in collaboration: people are sharing ideas

## **Impact outside of MTVH, Hyde & Clarion:**

- A strong creative approach which has reached a far wider audience and influence than we could have anticipated.
- Through this project, we are creating principles across all partners for young people to design the approach, deliver the work and also create a strong collaboration to achieve impact

## **Peer Research an approach for youth voice**

- Peer research approaches are being considered in other contexts aligned to strategic priorities (e.g. regeneration)
- We created a clear approach to peer research and its impact on housing policy that can be replicated across other aspects of our work at Partnership for Young London

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<https://www.partnershipforyounglondon.org.uk/youngresidentsinpartnership>

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