

## CONDITIONS

**Local context:** Brent is an outer London borough with a third (33%) of its households impoverished. 31% of its residents work for less than the London Living Wage (2nd only to Newham). The Borough has the 4th highest rent compared to lower quartile salary in London. Children and young people under 20 years of age comprise 25.4% of Brent's population and experience a level of child poverty worse than the England average at 23.4%. Brent is known to be the most diverse Borough in the UK, with 92.7% of Brent's school age children are BAME. Brent's 330,000 residents suffer as victims of a wide range of crimes, with anti-social behaviour and violent and sexual offences ranking the highest across each of the Borough's wards.

**Policy Context:** Underpinned by the Police and Crime Plan, that aims to make the city safe for children the Mayor of London has set up a new Violence Reduction Unit and Violent Crime Taskforce in 2018 to support the Metropolitan Police in tackling crime. The Young Londoners Fund and Stepping Stones program have been created to provide positive alternatives and opportunities for young people at risk of involvement in violent crime. London Gang Exit services have received investment to support young people at risk or engaged in serious violence to gain employment, education or training. 2019 is the year Brent has seen as series of high-profile violent crimes. As such, Brent Council held a 'time to talk' event in August 2019 to engage with the community on tackling violence and making Brent a safer place to live. There has been some success so far with knife-related crimes down by 31% in the past 12 months. Brent will be the London Borough of Culture in 2020 as awarded by the Mayor of London.

## AIM

Young Brent Foundation (YBF) works to support member organisations to support greater opportunities to build capacity, collaborate and succeed. Valuing Life (VL) is YBF's consortium project. VL works with partner organisations and delivers focused support and activities that provide specific interventions to tackle Serious Youth Violence by raising young people's aspirations, ambition and agency to shape their families and communities through the positive choices they make.

## RATIONALE

Our programs build on/are underpinned by:

- Youth-centred approach that keeps young people at the core of what we do
- Positive dialogue when framing discussions with and around young people
- Inter-cultural dialogue and identity as themes that run through the work, we do
- Cross-cultural understanding is kept at forefront of project work
- Respect for all participants and zero tolerance towards discrimination
- Collaborative approach in all aspects of work with partners

## INPUTS

- Identification of targeted partners within the Borough who are already delivering the work to a high standard
- Production of joined-up and connected work happening in Brent, which will better support young people.
- Delivery of GRIT programme to enhance personal development AND CH
- Facilitation of a new way of thinking to ultimately change the dialogue for the young people and the adults around them
- Provision of training to stakeholders to upskill

## ACTIVITIES

- Provide Informal youth-based sessions
- Work with young people to develop relationships and work them to get accredited sports qualifications
  - There will be 4 youth-based sessions in the north and the south of the borough
- Run Outreach
- Go out to meet young people where they are to build relationships in order to feed them back into provision-based sessions
  - We are working on locating the best area to deliver outreach provision
- Targeted schools' program
- Work in 6 schools in the borough to deliver workshops around the themes of identity, community and global contexts
- Organise and hold space for parenting workshops and conferences to inform families of their legal rights regarding exclusions

## OUTPUTS

- Impact one**  
Increase personal agency and self-worth
- Impact two**  
Reduce number of short-term permanent exclusions
- Impact three**  
Improve economic sustainability for young person and family
- Impact four**  
Improve physical wellbeing and mental health
- Impact five**  
Reduce substance misuse in child and/or family
- Impact Six**  
Transform the language young people use in their interaction with others in order to create more meaningful experiences

## INTERMEDIATE OUTCOMES

### Knowledge & Skills

- Increased knowledge on the dangers of substance misuse
- Improved knowledge of the negative impacts of criminal activities
- Increased awareness of available opportunities to earn and learn
- Increased scope of young peoples' personal ambitions

### Attitudes & Capabilities

- Improved engagement in social action projects
- Increased number of individual positive aspirations
- Improved attitudes towards healthy lifestyles and mental wellbeing

### Social Behaviours

- Engaged in more positive activities, more often.
- Increased willingness to take action to help others
- Improved decision making, voice & advocacy Democratic engagement

### Community

- Increased civil action and participation
- Increased sense of civic responsibility and belonging in the local area
- Improved local support services and opportunities for positive activities

## OUTCOMES

### Future & Ambition

- Improved economic sustainability for participating young people
- Increased opportunities for families to achieve economic security
- Improved skills to earn and learn in order to achieve ambitions

### Safety & Security

- Improved housing outcomes for participating young people
- Increased levels of safety and security in the local area
- Reduced levels of criminal activity and involvement

### Community & Environment

- Increased levels of activity in young peoples' local communities
- Improved levels of access to opportunities in the local area
- Decreased substance misuse in children, young people and their families

### Health and Happy Lives

- Improved mental well-being and physical health
- Increased sense of personal agency and stronger self-worth
- Improved confidence and self-esteem