

# Times are changing...



April 2021

## Understanding Youth First delivery



The Youth Clubs and Adventure Playgrounds that Youth First use, are owned by Lewisham Council.

KEY

A



Lewisham Council pays Youth First to run youth provision in the borough, including at those buildings.

B

Youth First also gets money from other places such as Children in Need, for specific projects like the Lewisham Street-Based team. Here are some of Youth First's other funders:

C

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# Why are things changing?



The funding provided by Lewisham Council was originally agreed until 31 Aug 2019.

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Lewisham Council extended this to 31 March 2021 to give more time to work out a new contract. It meant Youth First could continue doing youth work, including during COVID-19.

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Like all councils, Lewisham Council has less money to spend. This is mostly because there is less income from central government and there has been an increased need for certain services. There have also been new costs and pressures because of COVID-19.

F

In November 2020, the National Youth Agency<sup>1</sup> reported that youth services have been cut by over 70% in the UK, in less than 10 years. That is the equivalent of over £1bn every year from youth service budgets. In some places this has caused youth services to completely close.



Despite the challenges faced by Lewisham Council, they see the value in youth work and have made a new agreement with Youth First. It's for four years, with a total value of approx £5.4 million. This is less money, and they have asked us to do some new things

G

## Funding from Lewisham Council



# What does the future look like?



With Lewisham Council's funding, Youth First will continue to exist and do youth work in the borough.

H



This is a platform to build on and Youth First can continue to look for other funding. We hope young people will support us in fundraising and growing our work in Lewisham.

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At the moment, there will be fewer sessions at youth clubs and adventure playgrounds, starting from May 2021.

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The youth workers that you are used to seeing might change, and they may work in different places in Lewisham. Sadly, some youth workers will also leave us.

K



Sessions at Adventure Playgrounds are currently confirmed for one year only, and Lewisham Council plan to review this during the year. Youth First will fully support this review.

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As part of the Council funding, Youth First will start a new 1-to-1 offer for young people in October, as well as new themed-based group work.

M

# What's happening at Riverside?

Lewisham Council owns Riverside Youth Club. To secure it's future, and for Youth First to operate there, the building desperately needs refurbishment.



Youth First are working with Lewisham Council and Millwall Community Trust to redevelop Riverside Youth Club. We are hoping this will include new facilities such as a 3G football pitch.



While this work happens, the building will need to close and Youth First will stop running sessions there. We will run sessions at Deptford Adventure Playground instead.



## Keep up to date

For more information on the activities and support that Youth First offer, including what's happening at your local Youth Club or Adventure Playground, check out [youthfirst.org.uk](https://youthfirst.org.uk), follow our social media or speak to a Youth & Play Worker.

If you have questions about how and why decisions are made by Lewisham Council, you can contact your local councillor or get in touch with them via [lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us](https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us)



[youthfirst.org.uk](https://youthfirst.org.uk)

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