

YOU LONDON

ANNUAL REPORT DECEMBER 2024

YOU London became a registered charity

In August 2024, YOU London became a registered charity, with registered charity number 1209504.

This will enable YOU London to seek charitable funding to be able to offer even more opportunities to young people in London, over and above what they are already doing with their respective organisations. The new charity has seven trustees who met twice in 2024. The charity's bank account application was approved in November 2024 and an active fundraising campaign will begin in January.

Future Leaders Development Conference



Future Leaders Development Conference

YOU London's flagship event is the Future Leaders Development Conference which this year took place at Harrow School over the weekend 19-20 October. Pictures from the event can be seen [here](#). Delegate numbers were 92 on the Saturday and 81 on the Sunday. Delegates came from Middlesex and NW London ACF, Harrow Fire Cadets, Girlguiding Middlesex North West, Harrow Rifle Corps - including their partner school Harrow High School, Middlesex Wing RAFAC, Harrow, Barnet and Ruislip, Eastcote and Northwood Scouts, St John Ambulance Cadets and Volunteer Police Cadets.

Activity stands were run by the Army Regional Engagement Team, Harrow Rifle Corps CCF, LFB Fire Cadets, London Region Scouts, MPS Volunteer Police Cadets, RAF Careers, Royal Navy Attract Team and St John Ambulance.

The speakers were Air Vice-Marshal Randal Munro CB CBE TD VR DL, Commandant General Royal Auxiliary Air Force; Sir Kenneth Olisa OBE, Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London; Lady Vivien Rose of Colmworth DBE PC, Justice of the Supreme Court and Brigadier Gerald Salzano, Head of Talent and Development, Barclays.



"It was an amazing experience working with other youth groups and seeing the many different types of leadership styles and how everyone operates."

"I gained valuable leadership and team-working skills, and it was an incredible opportunity to learn about other organisations."

"I gained valuable insight on how to be a good leader and what to avoid so I won't be a bad leader."

"It was a great experience which everyone can benefit from. I had so much fun and got to meet so many new people. I would love to do it again."



The Lord Mayor's Show

The theme of YOU London's float in the Lord Mayor's Show this year was 'The British Family of Nations.' The young people from 10 different uniformed groups carried handheld flags of the 15 Realms where His Majesty King Charles III is king, to raise awareness of our mutual heritage, common language and shared monarch.



Jack Petchey Foundation Showcase

On Sunday 1 December, a mixed YOU London band made up of musicians from the Sea Cadets, RAF Air Cadets and Volunteer Police Cadets, ably assisted by a saxophonist from the Croydon Youth Orchestra, opened the second half of 'Celebrate: A Life, A Vision, A Legacy!' at His Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket. This showcase event, celebrating the artistic talents of young people, was the Jack Petchey Foundation's tribute to Sir Jack Petchey CBE, who sadly passed away in June.



Trooping the Colour Youth Enclosures

On Saturday 8 June and Saturday 15 June, nearly 500 young people from YOU organisations nationally were privileged to watch Trooping the Colour and the full scale dress rehearsal the week before (The Colonel's Review) from a dedicated youth enclosure on the corner of The Mall and Horse Guards Parade. The young people were looked after extremely well by the Metropolitan Police Service, who also escorted the contingent on 15 June up The Mall to be able to stand directly in front of Buckingham Palace for the fly past.



Other successes...

In 2024, 32 adult volunteers from YOU London organisations attended a Buckingham Palace garden party in recognition of their service.

Through collaboration with the Army, the invitation was extended to YOU groups to participate in London's regional Armed Forces Day event in Woolwich on Saturday 29 June. In addition to the military cadets, Greenwich Fire Cadets, Greenwich Scouts and Greenwich VPC all had a presence at the event.

A mixed Scout and Guide band played, for the first time, during the interval of the Lord Mayor's Music Competition at The Guildhall on Sunday 13 October.

Borough events: Croydon

Around 100 young people participated in the annual YOU Croydon Challenge on Sunday 2 June, hosted by Royal Russell School CCF, who even seemed to organise the sunshine!

On arrival, young people from Croydon units of the Army Cadet Force, Fire Cadets, Girlguiding, Scouts, Sea Cadets, Volunteer Police Cadets and members of Royal Russell School CCF were split into mixed syndicates. They completed nine challenges run by the adult volunteer leaders from each organisation, designed to develop their teamwork and leadership skills.



Borough events: Haringey

Over 50 young people and their leaders took part in the annual YOU Haringey competition, this year at Kemble Hall and Gardens, Tottenham on Saturday 22 June.

Army and Air Cadets, and members of the Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade Association took part in a variety of challenges involving communications, leadership, team working and problem solving. The tasks included building a trolley to transport water, scoring a goal while blindfolded, building two wooden kit tanks, and getting across a deep 'ravine' using planks. The youth groups also participated in the Armed Forces Day parade in the borough on Sunday 23 June, after which the competition winners received their trophy.



Deputy Lieutenant Certificates

In 2024, 178 Deputy Lieutenant certificates were awarded to young people from London's uniformed youth groups. Deputy Lieutenant Certificates are awarded to young people aged 15 or over to give recognition to their achievements within their organisation and to create an awareness of their contribution within the community. A breakdown by organisation and borough is below.

Organisation	No. of DL certificates awarded
Army Cadet Force	48
Boys' Brigade	1
Combined Cadet Force	10
Fire Cadets	9
RAF Air Cadets	16
Scouts	15
Sea Cadets	19
St John Ambulance	21
Volunteer Police Cadets	39



Barking & Dagenham 2, Barnet 13, Bexley 19, Brent 2, Bromley 6, Camden 2, City of London 1, Croydon 15, Ealing 3, Enfield 1, Greenwich 2, Hackney 5, Hammersmith & Fulham 6, Haringey 6, Harrow 10, Havering 6, Hillingdon 7, Hounslow 6, Islington 5, Kensington & Chelsea 1, Kingston 3, Lambeth 3, Lewisham 4, Merton 6, Newham 1, Redbridge 7, Richmond 3, Southwark 8, Sutton 6, Tower Hamlets 1, Waltham Forest 5, Wandsworth 7, Westminster 5.

The Big Help Out

Some organisations, such as the Scouts, Sea Cadets and Girlguiding, laid on various activities around London as part of The Big Help Out. Rickmansworth and Watford Sea Cadets used canoes, kayaks, rowing boats and paddle boards to pick up litter in the Grand Union Canal on Sunday 9 June, and were featured on BBC London News. The short feature can be viewed here:

[Rickmansworth and Watford Sea Cadets on BBC London News](#)

St John Ambulance Cadets from Harrow taught people CPR and collected food for the Harrow Food Bank.

Girlguiding HQ threw open the doors of its ICANDO centre in Buckingham Palace Road for people to find out more about Girlguiding, whilst leaders from Enfield were out and about in Enfield Town Market.

Scouts who participated in a Big Help Out activity, could earn themselves a Big Help Out badge.



Support to the Culture and Heritage Council



YOU London's contribution to the Lord-Lieutenant's Council on Culture and Heritage was to compile edition 2 of an Arts and Culture Bulletin designed to encourage young people and youth groups to access free and heavily discounted tickets to Arts and Cultural venues in London.

As well as the museums, musical and theatre offerings covered in the inaugural bulletin, Edition 2 features information on free art galleries, free opportunities to learn about Roman London and free performances at the Royal Opera House.

[Click here to read the bulletin.](#)

Support to the Occupation Council

YOU London has supported the Lord-Lieutenant's Occupation Council to encourage Deputy Lieutenants to conduct a 'mapping exercise' to visit units to find out more about the strengths and weaknesses of the uniformed youth groups within their boroughs. A questionnaire was developed to provide DLs with a framework to aid their understanding of the different groups within their boroughs and YOU provided contact details. The aim was to build up a picture of local successes / needs, which the Deputy Lieutenants could have in the back of their minds when out and about in their local communities.

The shortage of adult volunteers supporting uniformed youth groups is a persistently ongoing problem - and we can't ask DLs to specifically do anything - but what we can do is raise awareness of the need locally and encourage Deputy Lieutenants to become ambassadors for these groups within their boroughs.

The mapping exercise was piloted in the boroughs of Brent, Bromley, Croydon, Ealing, Haringey, Islington, Southwark and Tower Hamlets.

Phase two of the project is to provide tools for Representative Deputy Lieutenants and their borough teams to encourage them to continue seeking opportunities to raise awareness of the need for more adult volunteers. The first two 'aide-memoires' that will form a suite of documents can be seen below.

Cuts and growth: VPC

September saw dramatic cuts to the Metropolitan Police Service's Volunteer Police Cadet (VPC) programme.

- a. The Junior VPC programme (10-12-year-olds) was terminated. All young people not invited to continue in the programme were directed to the YOU London website.
- b. The Senior VPC programme was re-provisioned from 13-to-18-year-olds to 13-to-17-year-olds. This brings the scheme in to line with the ATC and ACF.
- c. All 18-year-old VPC members were encouraged to become adult leaders.
- d. The VPC will see a phased reduction in numbers over the next 2 years from 4,100 to around 1,500 in total across London. This will equate to around 46 cadets per borough. Numbers have already dropped to 2,600 with the loss of the Junior VPC.
- e. There is a temporary recruitment freeze on new cadets joining.
- f. The VPC may now only undertake activities which directly support policing.
- g. Overnight stays are no longer permitted, which rules out residential activities, camps and international trips.
- h. The established weekend competitions in the VPC's annual calendar will be one day events going forward.

Whilst the announcement of these cuts led to a serious drop in morale among both VPC cadets and adult staff and volunteers, the MPS VPC remain a key partner in YOU London and continue to support YOU London activities wherever possible.

Cuts and growth: Scouts and SCC

Nationally, the DCMS Uniformed Youth Fund 2022-2025 is providing grant funding of £16.9 million over 3 years to help non-military uniformed youth organisations tackle waiting lists in England. A national objective of this fund is to provide approximately 23,393 new places for young people on existing waiting lists by March 2025.

The Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade, JLGB, Scouts and Sea Cadets (they receive no funding from the Royal Navy) are all using grants from this Fund to grow capacity within existing units as well as creating new groups and training new adult volunteers. The Scouts have employed three Local Growth Officers in London, with the target of opening 30 new Scout Troops (10-14-year-olds) and Explorer Scout Units (14-18-year-olds) to create an additional 720 spaces for young people across London by the end of 2024. They are focussing on 5 areas of growth: leaders, young people, premises, funding and transport.

The Sea Cadets are using this funding to re-open former Sea Cadet units in Edmonton and Islington; opening new Royal Marines cadet detachments at existing Sea Cadet units in Croydon, Greenwich and Wandsworth; and a new Sea Cadet unit, with a Royal Marines cadet detachment, at HMS President in Tower Hamlets.



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