

We believe that all children and young people should be empowered to make a positive difference on the issues that affect their lives, their communities and broader society. We therefore adopt this Charter, committing to growing the power of youth in the following areas:

WE WILL...

PRIORITISE SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE SOCIAL ACTION

We will create opportunities that empower more young people, particularly from low-income and ethnic minority backgrounds, to be positive changemakers

OPEN UP OUR DECISION MAKING STRUCTURES

We will offer opportunities for young people, particularly from low-income and ethnic minority backgrounds, to participate in decision-making, leading and shaping both the activities they are involved in and wider organisational decisions

EXAMPLES:

- Incorporate youth social action into your organisational strategy
- Focus on creating more youth social action opportunities through your funding programmes
- Incorporate youth social action into our training or curriculum programmes

- Recruit young trustees under 25
- Set-up a youth advisory group or shadow youth board
- Involve young people in grant-making or recruitment panels

WHAT WILL YOUR ORGANISATION DO?

- We will continue to support underserved young people into leadership roles through the launch of a further round of Future Communities Fund - a strategic fund which focuses on these priorities
- We will continue to promote opportunities for underserved young people to become #iwill ambassadors

- We will continue to hand power to underserved young people. This will include providing opportunities to shape and influence (co-design) funding programmes and make funding decisions - empowering young people to use their lived experience to improve the lives of their peers and wider community
- We will continue to share the voices and amplify the unique experiences of the younger trustees on our Board

WORK COLLABORATIVELY WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

We will work collaboratively with other organisations to create more high-quality opportunities, reach young people from low-income and ethnic minority backgrounds to take part, share learning and achieve shared goals

- Work with schools, colleges and youth groups to reach more young people
- Work with funding organisations to create more opportunities
- Create resources that support others to empower young people

• We will continue to work collaboratively with other organisations. We have launched our Young Gamechangers Fund alongside the #iwill Fund and Co-op. This will create high-quality youth social action opportunities for underserved young people

• We will continue to co-fund work to develop approaches to capture consistent data across the youth sector (via YMCA George Williams College's Data Ecosystem project, funded in conjunction with youth funders). We will continue to share data from our funding with youth sector stakeholders

• We will continue to drive positive change in communities through our campaign work, which will be informed by young people. Through this work, we will collaborate with and influence other organisations, helping to amplify youth voice

EVIDENCE THE BENEFITS OF YOUTH SOCIAL ACTION

We will capture and share insights, stories and data on how we are working with young people, and the positive impact this has on them, their communities and our organisation

- Report your progress annually through the Power of Youth Index
- Incorporate evidence into your annual reviews and evaluation reports
- Focus gathering evidence on community impact

• We will capture learning and data about youth social action through our evaluation framework. We will share this via our annual Impact Report and programme specific commissioned evaluation reports

• We will continue to gather and share data and insights on the wider community benefits of youth social action. We will continue to disseminate this learning through #iwill Fund communication channels

RECOGNISE AND CELEBRATE YOUNG PEOPLE'S IMPACT

We will use our communication channels to advocate for and celebrate young people as positive and powerful changemakers.

- Create opportunities for young people to takeover your communication channels
- Give young people a platform at your meetings and events
- Give young people awards, eg. 'Young Volunteer of the Year'

• We will continue to create opportunities to amplify the voices of young people through commissioned research and guest blogs written by young people

• We will communicate in a way (and use language) which reflects the co-operative and equal relationship we want to have with young people. We will ensure that young people's expertise is reflected in our communications and that their contribution is recognised