

SCOPING A QUALITY FRAMEWORK FOR YOUTH SOCIAL ACTION

The campaign for youth social action



Cabinet Office



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THE
YOUNG
FOUNDATION
THINKING
ACTION
CHANGE

INTRODUCTION (1)

Young people who take part in social action, or “practical action in the service of others”, deserve to have the knowledge, skills and experience they develop recognised and valued.

As such, in the summer of 2012 the Prime Minister announced an independent review into youth social action, conducted by Dame Julia Cleverdon and Amanda Jordan OBE.

Their interim report “In the Service of Others”, which Dame Julia Cleverdon and Amanda Jordan OBE co-authored, highlighted that there is a lack of knowledge and understanding about social action and its value amongst the education sector and employers. One of the key recommendations was the need for a quality framework to enhance understanding and recognition of youth social action.

Entering an implementation stage in 2013, the Campaign for Youth Social Action, led by Dame Julia Cleverdon and Amanda Jordan OBE and supported by the Cabinet Office and sector specialists, embarked upon a unique collaboration across sectors and between research organisations. The clear aim of the project was to: “increase the quality, quantity and frequency of social action for all young people aged between 10 and 20.”

A Framework Advisory Group, a selection of representatives across the voluntary, business and education sectors, was brought together to advise and consider how a quality framework for youth social action across sectors could be created. The Institute for Volunteering Research (IVR) and The Young Foundation led this work. IVR focused on creating a shared definition and set of principles for quality youth social action (including researching the landscape of quality frameworks) while The Young Foundation led on scoping an outcomes framework for youth social action.



INTRODUCTION (2)

Following both in-depth consultation and desk based research, a successful blend of a variety of tools, techniques and ways of working to develop a cross sector umbrella framework has been achieved. The Framework Advisory Group has been key to achieving an agreed definition of social action and a set of principles that will create a common understanding across programmes and sectors. The consultation has also shown that it is vital that programmes and young participants express the unique double benefit of youth social action; its benefits to both the community and individuals.

The Department for Education's Catalyst Consortium, which includes The Young Foundation, had an existing detailed framework of Youth Outcomes for individuals which resonated across sectors. This work brings that framework alongside the articulation of outcomes set out in the CBI's 'First Steps' report to develop a simple set of outcomes that resonates with employers, educationalists and the voluntary sector.

The slides that follow detail the key outputs from this piece of work, that is:

1. a definition of social action;
2. a set of principles which define great youth social action; and
3. an outcomes framework to capture the double benefit that young people create through youth social action.

PROJECT MISSION

To increase the quality, quantity and frequency of social action for all young people aged between 10 and 20.

SCOPING THE QUALITY STANDARDS FOR YOUTH SOCIAL ACTION

Following consultation with schools, employers, voluntary sector and social enterprise, we have developed:

1. A definition of social action.
2. A set of principles which define great youth social action.
3. An outcomes framework to capture the *double benefit* that young people create through youth social action.

DEFINITION OF YOUTH SOCIAL ACTION

Young people taking practical action in the service of others...

...in order to create positive social change that is of benefit to the wider community as well as to the young person themselves.

PUTTING SIX PRINCIPLES AT THE HEART OF QUALITY SOCIAL ACTION

PRINCIPLES OF QUALITY YOUTH SOCIAL ACTION

Challenging Stretching and engaging, as well as exciting and enjoyable.

Youth-led Led, owned and shaped by young people.

Socially impactful Creating positive social change that is of benefit to the wider community as well as to the young people themselves.

Progressive Progressing to other programmes and activities.

Embedded Becoming the norm in a young person's journey towards adulthood and a habit for life.

Reflective Valuing reflection, recognition and reward.

PUTTING THE YOUNG PERSON AT THE CENTRE OF THE OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

Social action creates positive social change of benefit to the community as well as to the young person themselves –

the double benefit.

OUTCOMES FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

Optimism

Communication

Creativity

Confidence and Agency

Determination

Planning and problem solving

Resilience, Grit

Leadership

Emotional Intelligence

Relationships

Managing feelings, Self control



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OUTCOMES FOR THE INDIVIDUAL

Optimism

CBI language, from their First Steps report (2012)

Communication

Creativity

Confidence and Agency

Planning and problem solving

Determination

Resilience, Grit

Leadership

Relationships

Outcomes from the DfE Catalyst Consortium, Outcomes for Youth report (2012)

Emotional Intelligence

Managing feelings, Self control



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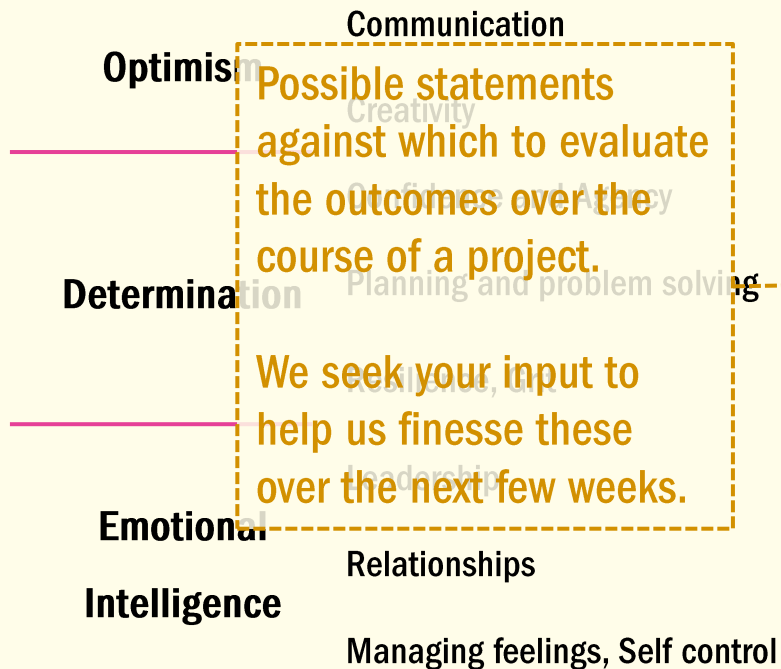


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OUTCOMES FOR THE INDIVIDUAL



For example

I am able to communicate well and express my point of view.

I can usually look at a situation in a number of ways.

I feel able to influence the events that affect my life.

I am able to plan and set realistic goals.

When I'm in a difficult situation, I can usually find my way out of it.

I make a positive contribution to my team.

I feel like I have control over my feelings.

OUTCOMES FOR THE COMMUNITY

health

civic participation

educational engagement

voting

safer communities

sustainability

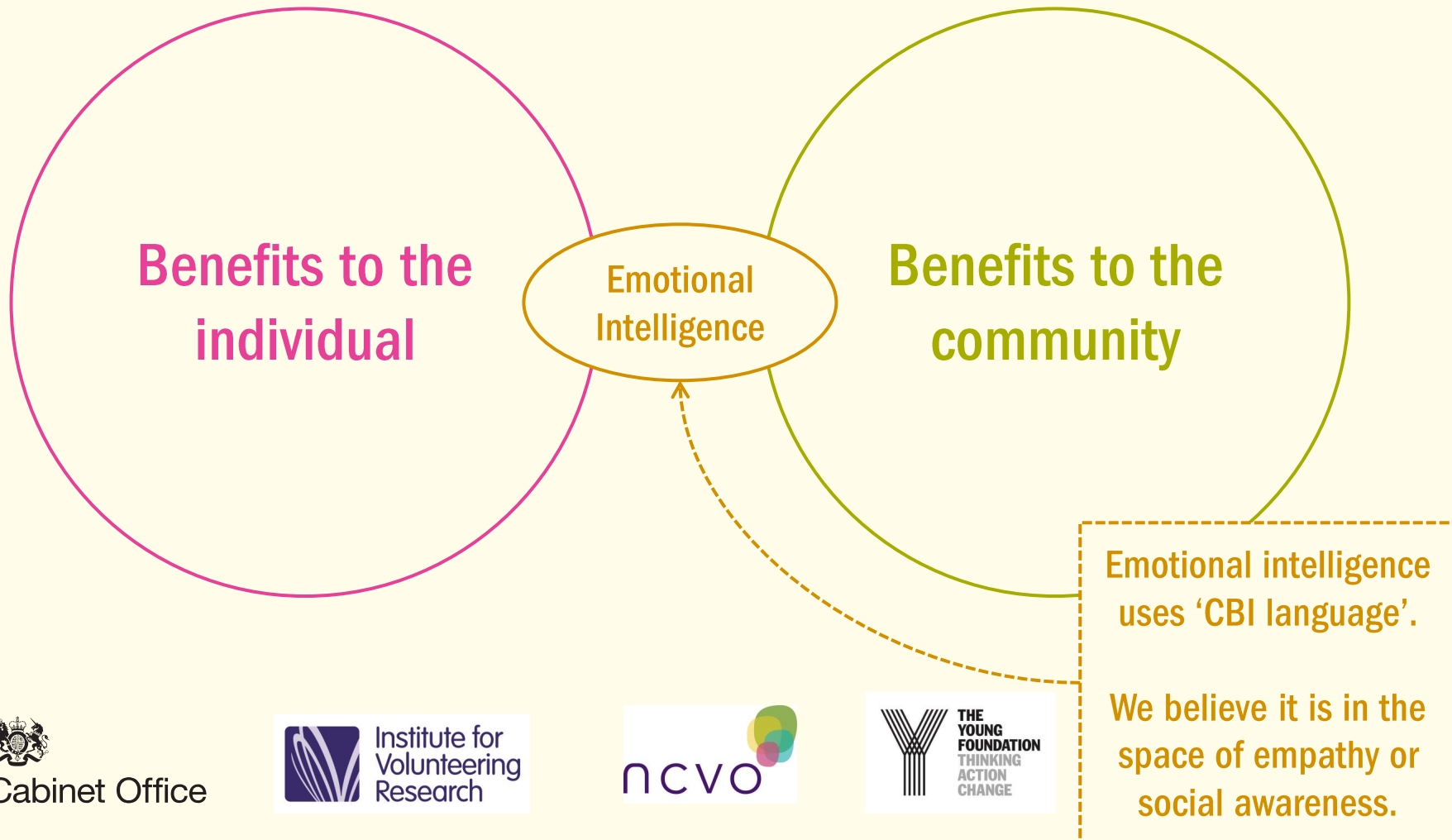
resilience

employability

These indicate the types of benefits to the community we think young people and programmes would be likely to articulate.

We will not be specifying the categories in which these statements might fall, only offering examples.

DOUBLE BENEFIT



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS


Thank you to Dame Julia Cleverdon, Amanda Jordan OBE and Nick Hurd MP, Minister for Civil Society, for steering this project.

In addition, Sara Allen, Cabinet Office lead, has worked tirelessly on the project, as have Fred Spring and Lucy Dennett (business strand leads); Nancy Bailey and Rania Marandos (education strand leads); and finally Fiona Murray and Nick Wilkie (VCSE and Quality Framework leads). Nick Ockenden, Kim Donahue and Judith Unell at The Institute for Volunteering Research (IVR is part of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations , NCVO), Laura Dosanjh and Nina Mguni at The Young Foundation have been extraordinary research partners on this project and have undertaken a huge volume of work to make the Quality Framework a reality. We are also very grateful to the individuals we spoke to as part of the interviews and workshops which informed this work.

Most importantly, thank you to the framework advisory group who helped develop this work, ensuring its simplicity and quality: Natasha Silsby, Aldridge Foundation; Sarah Gregory, ARK; Sophie Livingstone, City Year; Jennie Butterworth, Envision; Kate van der Plank, National Grid; Suzanne Rauprich, NCVYS; Tony Gallagher, Ofsted; Simon Miller, O2 Telefonica; Jon Yates, The Challenge Network; Matt Hyde, Scouts; Adam O'Boyle, Student Hubs; Charlotte Hill, UK Youth.

USEFUL LINKS

- CBI First Steps report, 2012: <http://www.cbi.org.uk/campaigns/education-campaign-ambition-for-all>
- Code of Good Impact Practice, Inspiring Impact, 2013: <http://inspiringimpact.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Code-of-Good-Impact-Practice.pdf>
- A Framework of Outcomes for Young People, Young Foundation, 2012: <http://youngfoundation.org/publications/framework-of-outcomes-for-young-people>
- Noticing the Change: the Framework of Outcomes in Practice, Young Foundation, March 2013: <http://youngfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/Presentation-FINAL.pdf>
- The future for outcomes: a practical guide to measuring outcomes for young people, NYA, 2013: https://knowledgehub.local.gov.uk/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=a7853637-0f59-486d-a181-b3b07911f14e&groupId=6286760
- Capturing the Evidence: tools and processes for recognising and recording the impact of youth work, NYA, 2006: http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/youth/Source/Resources/Forum21/Issue_No9/N9_bk_Capturing_evidence.pdf
- Volunteering Impact Assessment Toolkit: A practical guide for measuring volunteering, Institute for Volunteering Research, 2004: <http://www.ivr.org.uk/>



**THE BACKGROUND PAPER TO THIS
RESEARCH AND CONSULTATION WILL
BE AVAILABLE ONLINE NEXT WEEK.**

<http://youthsocialaction.co.uk/>