



**Copenhagen Youth Project (CYP) provides a safe, caring, youth-led space for disadvantaged young people where they can learn, develop and build towards a brighter future. We are the leading youth charity working exclusively in the Caledonian and Barnsbury wards of London.**

The local housing estates here are among the most disadvantaged and deprived in the city. Many young people living there feel demoralised and isolated, and lack the confidence and motivation to improve their lives. Deprived of a good education, they are unable to gain the skills and qualifications needed to secure a job and provide a springboard for a better future. Those who do want to make progress are likely to suffer setbacks along the way, such as rejection after a job interview or falling out with friends. Without support and encouragement from a stable family, these setbacks can prove devastating and many young people are unable to bounce back from them. Instead, an increasing number are joining gangs and turning to anti-social behaviour, knife crime and drug abuse.

**CYP was founded 15 years ago as a grass roots local effort to help young people tackle these problems. Today, we run a youth centre on Copenhagen Street, helping people to come together and find the support they need to change the course of their lives.**



We bring young people together through recreational activities such as football and music. Over time, they start to see our youth centre as a second home where they belong and which they can rely on. They begin to develop a relationship and a rapport with each other and with CYP youth workers and young mentors. These relationships provide a foundation for our vital youth work, which helps young people to broaden their horizons, appreciate their potential and understand what steps they need to take to get where they want to be.

We help young people to write their CV, improve their interview skills, and develop their own business ideas. We organise workshops with local businesses which often provide young people with their first taste of the professional world. We help to foster a sense of responsibility and pride that may otherwise be missing from young people's lives, enabling them to develop the social skills and discipline to thrive in 'the real world'. We organise trips to theatres or museums so people can see a new side of their city, because they may lack the confidence or means to do this alone.

Right now, the regeneration of the Kings Cross area is potentially opening up many exciting new opportunities for local young people. If we succeed, we can help them to gain the confidence, motivation and tools they need to tap into this potential and embrace the opportunities for a brighter future. However, without our support, young people risk becoming frozen out of their changing community. If they see a world developing around them that they can play no part in, young people will increasingly lose hope, feel alienated and give up on their huge potential.

**We want to help create a local community where young people can thrive and participate, become positive role models, and feel confident accessing the support they need. With nearly 15 years of specialist local experience and a team of passionate and knowledgeable youth workers, we can achieve this, but we need your help.**

In these times of austerity, we are more dependent than ever on support from trusts and foundations, companies and people in the local community. We need to keep raising money in order to:

- Maintain our popular and thriving youth club, supported by a broad range of activities and our team of dedicated youth workers.

- Coordinate and train our growing team of mentors, who have the ability to inspire other young people and demonstrate how much they can achieve through belief and hard work.
- Continue to build links between local young people and the business community.
- Establish our music studio as a place for young people to come and express themselves, explore their talents and develop new skills that will help them secure jobs in future.

Develop new approaches to reach and help the people who need support the most, including marginalised young women and young people currently involved in crime.