

YouthBank in Liverpool, UK

From Hospital Forum to Community Impact: A Youth-Led Funding Model in Action

Overview

Liverpool YouthBank operated as an extension of the Alder Hey Youth Forum, connected to Alder Hey Children's Hospital Trust. It demonstrated how youth-led grantmaking can be successfully embedded within a healthcare-linked institution while contributing to wider community impact.

The Youth Forum engaged young people in leadership development, consultations, and decision-making initiatives. While membership was not dependent on hospital service use, many participants had long-term health conditions, creating a strong connection between youth engagement and the hospital's broader mission of care and inclusion.

The Model in Action

Funded in partnership with the NSPCC, Liverpool YouthBank allocated £5,000 to youth-led initiatives across Liverpool.

Young people aged 12–18:

- Identified issues affecting their communities
- Defined funding priorities
- Reviewed grant applications
- Made funding decisions
- Supported the implementation of youth-led projects

Youth Workers from Alder Hey Children's Hospital Trust played a key role in supporting the YouthBank process, ensuring that the programme was integrated into broader youth engagement and leadership activities.

CASE STUDY – YOUTHBANK & HOSPITAL

The YouthBank operated alongside leadership courses, consultations, and city-wide youth engagement efforts, reinforcing a culture of responsibility and civic participation.

What Made This Initiative Significant

Liverpool YouthBank demonstrated that:

- Youth-led grantmaking can operate effectively within healthcare-linked environments
- Young people can manage real funding responsibly when given structure and support
- Cross-sector partnerships (healthcare, safeguarding organisations, youth services) can strengthen youth participation
- Youth with lived health experiences can contribute meaningfully to broader community development

The initiative expanded youth participation beyond consultation – into real financial decision-making.

Broader Impact

Through Liverpool YouthBank, young people developed:

- Leadership and facilitation skills
- Financial literacy and budgeting experience
- Confidence in public speaking and consultation
- Experience in collaborative decision-making

Importantly, the programme strengthened links between young people and institutional stakeholders, illustrating how youth voice can influence both service environments and wider community initiatives.

CASE STUDY – YOUTHBANK & HOSPITAL

Programme Status

Liverpool YouthBank is no longer active.

However, it remains an important case study of how YouthBank can be successfully integrated into institutional and healthcare settings. The experience continues to inform the development of YouthBank partnerships across diverse sectors.

Liverpool YouthBank demonstrated that youth-led grantmaking is not limited to traditional community spaces – it can thrive within healthcare-linked institutions and contribute to meaningful civic engagement.

Key Takeaway

When young people are trusted with real responsibility - even within structured institutional environments – they rise to the challenge.

Liverpool YouthBank showed that youth leadership, when properly supported, can extend into new sectors and create lasting institutional and community impact.

REAL LIVES.
REAL MONEY.
REAL CHANGE.