



The Heritage Youth Partnership

Background

The Heritage Youth Partnership is funded by Historic England and will be delivered from January to December 2024. It will build on the work of two previous Historic England-funded projects, which explored and developed ways of engaging young people from uniformed youth organisations with their heritage:

- 1) The *Volunteer Police Cadets (VPC) 'Heritage Challenge - Solve It'* project (2020-2022): young people explored heritage issues and undertook local heritage-themed social action projects.
- 2) *'Youth Potential, Building Heritage Capacity within the Youth Sector'* (2023), which saw Youth United Foundation (YUF) scope the desire and ability of uniformed youth and heritage organisations to work collaboratively to involve young people in their local heritage.

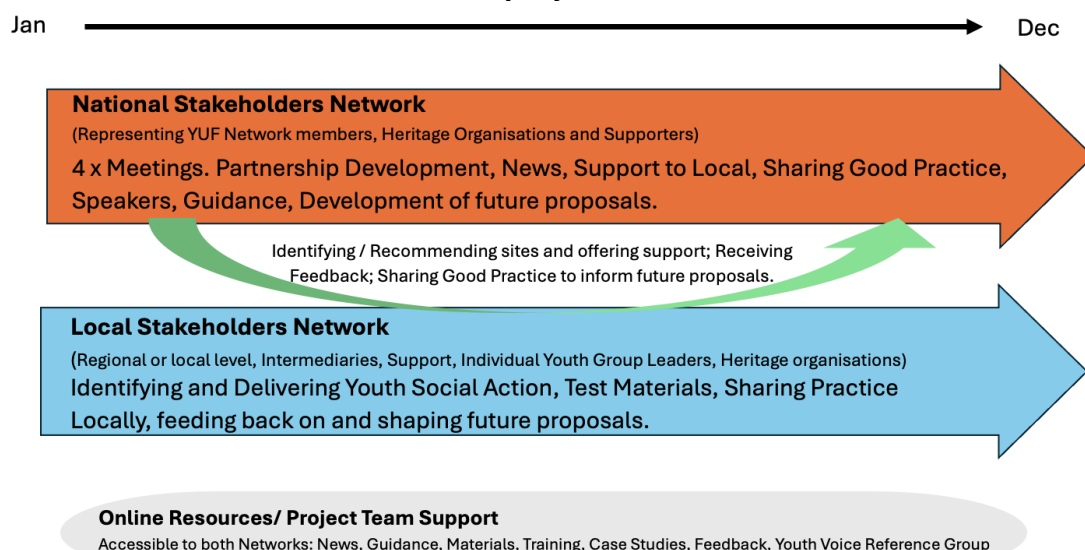
This new initiative is based on the recommendations of the *'Youth Potential'* report. The project will test and trial the framework of partnership working, shared learning and engagement with young people, to deliver heritage-themed youth-influenced social action projects, as detailed below.

Aims

To provide opportunities for young people from uniformed youth groups to undertake youth-led social action relating to their heritage by:

- Developing long-term partnerships between the heritage and youth sectors, at national and local levels.
- Supporting the development and delivery of inspiring youth-led, heritage-themed exploration and social action projects in uniformed youth groups.
- Establishing young people as equal stakeholders in shaping and delivering the project, with youth reference group/s to shape activity and verify youth-influenced approach throughout.
- Providing training and a versatile framework for developing and delivering heritage-themed activities, with funding offered to the small number of social action projects.
- Holding good practice workshops and national partnership-building events.
- Developing and sharing accessible resources and case studies online.
- Evaluating all elements of the project, including impact on young people's wellbeing.
- Exploring future funding opportunities to scale up this approach.

National & Local Network roles and interplay



Outcomes

The overarching outcome for this project is:

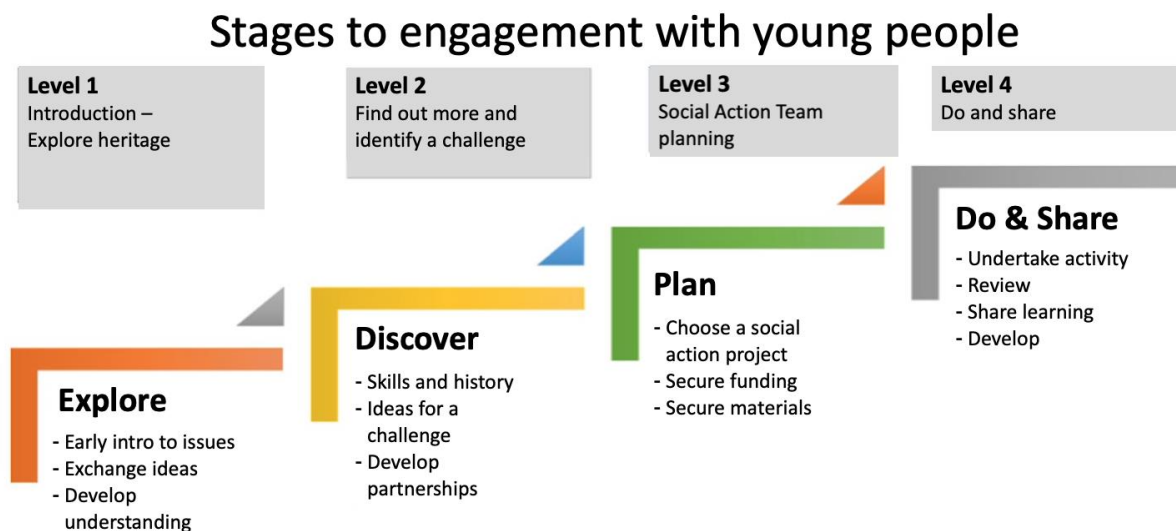
- To positively impact young people's wellbeing through participation in local heritage projects, which increase their sense of belonging to the community in which they live.

In addition:

- Young people will have an increased sense of pride in where they live.
- Young people will be more likely to engage in social action in the future.
- Group leaders will have increased skills in delivering heritage projects and be likely to deliver them in the future.
- Young people and local group leaders will have an increased understanding of what heritage is and their relationship to it.
- Young people's voice will have been influential in determining the initiative's focus and engagement with heritage, nationally and locally. They will be empowered to explore and define their definition of heritage, have a say in choosing local projects and take up leadership roles in delivering them.

The Heritage Challenge: Explore, Discover, Plan, Do and Share

The Heritage Challenge is the suggested local delivery framework that was agreed by partners during the previous project phases:



Next Steps

We will convene several partnership/good practice sharing events and identify and invite local areas to participate in testing social action models.

We'd initially like to identify and invite around 200 leaders/intermediaries from all areas, representing a range of uniformed youth organisations, to attend a webinar about the Heritage Challenge process and how they can best take part at the various levels above. This will give them the opportunity to learn more about the issues and increase their understanding of the project.

This is with a view to around 40 units/groups engaging with the project at Level 1, by exploring heritage and testing materials. This will then result in 10 units/groups completing a youth social action project.

Contact

For further information and to get involved in the Heritage Youth Partnership, please contact the Project Coordinator, Flora Ward: flora.ward@yuf.org.uk