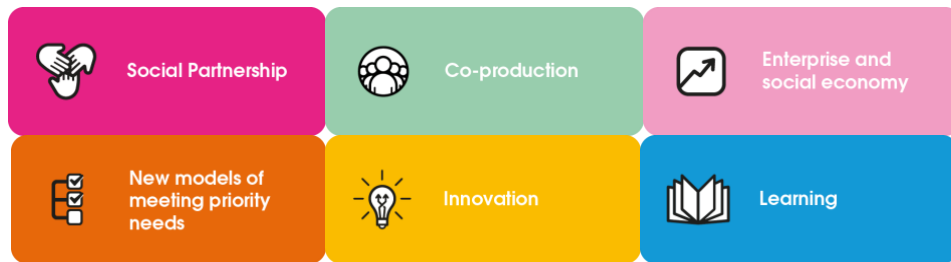




EDUCATION AND TRAINING



Co-operative College

Youth Co-operative Action – Giving young people the tools to make a positive change in their communities

Delivered in towns and cities within several areas of England, the Co-operative College's ground-breaking Youth Co-operative Action (YCA) programme focuses on youth activism and empowers young people to make real change in their communities. It is currently the only co-operative youth social action programme of its kind in the country.

During 2021/22, YCA has worked with cohorts of young people, aged between 12 and 20, in various areas of Greater Manchester, Plymouth and London. As a participant-led programme, it's up to the young people to decide what issues they want to address, and last year these included hate crime, climate change, youth safety, loneliness and the difficulties that young people face as they get older, such as getting a foot on the career ladder and managing money.

The programme, delivered in collaboration with youth organisations imbedded in the local communities, provides participants with the opportunity to visit local co-operatives and/or community businesses to learn more about their work and be inspired while developing their own co-operative social action project. Throughout the programme, young participants gain skills and hands-on experience of how, by applying the co-operative values and principles, and working collaboratively, they can take control, influence and make a change over an important aspect of their lives.



The YCA programme has supported 123 young people during 2021/22, including engaging with 30 young people via online Youth Sessions.

Feedback shows that YCA participants demonstrated improvement in key skills and qualities including co-operation (58%), problem solving (29%), resilience (33%), and empathy (14%). And while statistics are important, the real impact of Youth Co-operative Action can be summed up with this quote from a participant based in the Rochdale Co-operative Council area: “The project changed my life and the way I see the world.”

For further information contact:

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