

Oxford Leisure Community Fund Reporting Form

[note: update Word doc and webform]

Please complete this form to submit your report for your Leisure Community Fund award. You can complete this form [online](#) or any other format of your choice, as long as you incorporate answers to the questions in the form.

If you're looking to make an application, this is the wrong form. [Please use the application form](#).

If you need help

Please contact Adam Godwin at More Leisure: adam.godwin@serco.com or James Baughan at Oxford City Council: jbaughan@oxford.gov.uk

Data protection

The data on this form will be used by Oxford City Council and Leisure Solutions Community Trust to monitor awards made. It will be stored on Oxford City Council's network to meet operational and legal requirements as per our privacy policies. We will share your data with our leisure partner, Leisure Solutions Community Trust. We will not share your personal data with any other third parties, unless legally required to do so, and will not use your information for marketing. We comply with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). For full details about how we process and keep your data secure, please visit our [privacy policy](#). Any data protection queries can be emailed to us at jbaughan@oxford.gov.uk

1. Name of organisation

Youth Ambition

2. Your name

Twalha Omar

3. Your email address

tomar@oxford.gov.uk

4. Project name or description

Youth Ambition utilised the Leisure Community Fund throughout the year to deliver a wide range of accessible physical activities for young people. This included swimming, ice skating, 3G football sessions, and a targeted 18+ basketball provision. The funding enabled us to remove financial barriers and provide opportunities that many young people would not otherwise have access to.

5. Which leisure centre/s did your project take place at?

- Barton Leisure Centre
- Ferry Leisure Centre
- Hinksey Heated Outdoor Pool
- Leys Pools and Leisure Centre
- Oxford Ice Rink

6. Date your project or activity took place

If there were multiple sessions, please provide the date of the final activity – an estimated date is fine.

Summer Programme:

- Tuesday 29th July 2025 – Swimming at Hinksey (30 young people)
- Tuesday 5th August 2025 – Ice Skating (40 young people)
- Tuesday 12th August 2025 – Swimming at Hinksey (30 young people)
- Tuesday 19th August 2025 – Ice Skating (40 young people)

3G Football Pitch (Jan–Mar 2026):

- Weekly sessions delivered between January 2026 and March 2026 (25 young people)

18+ Basketball Sessions:

- Trial started Saturday 4th October 2025-December 2025 (20 young people)

February Half Term Ice Skating:

- Tuesday 17th February 2026
 - 10:00–11:30 (cancelled)
 - 13:15–14:30 (27 attended)
 - 15:00–16:15 (28 attended)

7. What were the aims or objectives of your project, and have these been achieved?

This could include why the project was needed, what difference you hoped it would make, whether the activities went as planned, and what tells you the aims were achieved e.g. attendance, feedback, repeat participation, or other outcomes.

The primary aim of the project was to increase access to physical activity for young people by providing free opportunities, particularly for those who face financial barriers and would otherwise be unable to take part in leisure-based activities. By removing cost completely, the project aimed to ensure that all young people,

regardless of their circumstances, could access high-quality facilities such as swimming, ice skating, football, and basketball.

A key objective was to deliver safe, structured and engaging activities during school holidays and evenings, providing young people with positive alternatives during times when they may otherwise experience boredom, isolation, or be at greater risk of antisocial behaviour. The project also aimed to introduce young people to new experiences that they would not typically have access to, helping to build confidence and encourage them to try new activities.

Another important objective was to create consistent and inclusive spaces where young people felt welcome, supported, and able to build positive relationships with peers and youth workers. Through regular sessions such as the 3G football and 18+ basketball, the project aimed to promote ongoing engagement rather than one-off participation.

In addition, the project sought to address a clear gap in provision for older young people aged 18+, who often have limited access to free or affordable activities once they age out of traditional youth services. The 18+ basketball sessions were introduced to provide a dedicated, accessible space for this group to remain active and socially connected.

These aims have been successfully achieved. The removal of cost enabled strong attendance across all activities, with many sessions reaching capacity. Young people who would not normally be able to participate were able to attend, and many returned for multiple sessions, demonstrating sustained engagement. The 18+ basketball provision was particularly successful and was extended beyond its initial trial period due to consistent attendance and demand.

Overall, the project has achieved its objectives by removing financial barriers, increasing participation in physical activity, providing safe and inclusive spaces, and maintaining strong engagement with young people across different age groups.

8. What were the key outcomes of your project? What difference has it made to people who participated?

Tell us what changed as a result of your project. This could include how participants benefited socially, physically or emotionally, whether they felt more confident, active or connected, and whether the project helped people access opportunities they may not otherwise have had.

The project delivered a range of meaningful outcomes for young people, both in terms of physical activity and wider personal development. A key outcome was the significant increase in access to physical activity for young people who face financial barriers. By removing cost, the project enabled participants to engage in activities such as swimming and ice skating, many for the first time. This not only increased activity levels but also introduced young people to new experiences that they would not typically have access to.

The sessions contributed positively to young people's physical and emotional wellbeing. Many participants reported feeling more active, less bored, and more motivated, particularly during the summer holiday period where there is often a lack of structured provision. The programme provided a safe and consistent space for young people to spend their time, which helped reduce the likelihood of disengagement or involvement in antisocial behaviour.

Socially, the project strengthened peer relationships and created opportunities for young people to connect with others outside of their usual friendship groups. This was particularly evident in the 3G football and 18+ basketball sessions, where regular attendance led to the development of positive group dynamics, teamwork, and a sense of belonging.

A significant outcome was the sustained engagement of young people across multiple activities. Many participants returned for different sessions throughout the year, demonstrating the value and consistency of the provision. The February half-term activities, for example, were attended largely by young people who had already engaged in previous sessions, highlighting strong retention and ongoing trust in the service.

The introduction of the 18+ basketball provision addressed a clear gap in local services. Older young people who had previously disengaged from structured activities were able to re-engage in a positive, affordable environment. This supported not only their physical health but also their mental wellbeing, providing routine, purpose, and social connection.

Overall, the project has made a meaningful difference by improving access, promoting healthier lifestyles, strengthening relationships, and providing safe, inclusive spaces where young people feel valued, supported, and motivated to engage positively within their community.

9. How was your project inclusive and what groups of people participated?

Tell us who participated in your project and what you did to make it accessible and welcoming. This could include how you supported people facing financial, physical, social, cultural or confidence-related barriers, and whether the project reached people who may not usually access leisure opportunities.

The project was designed to be fully inclusive, with a core focus on removing barriers to participation and ensuring that all young people had equal access to high-quality physical activity opportunities. A key element of this was that all activities were delivered free of charge, which removed financial barriers that often prevent young people, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, from accessing leisure facilities such as swimming pools, ice rinks, and sports halls.

The project followed an open-access, youth work approach, meaning sessions were available to all young people without the need for referrals or formal sign-up processes. This made it easier for young people to engage in a way that felt accessible and non-restrictive, particularly for those who may be less confident or not currently engaged in other services.

Participants were primarily young people aged 11–18 from local communities, many of whom are known to youth services and may be at risk of disengagement, antisocial behaviour, or limited access to structured activities. In addition, the project intentionally extended provision to include 18+ young people, recognising the gap in accessible and affordable activities for this age group. This ensured continued engagement for those transitioning out of traditional youth provision.

The sessions were also inclusive in terms of ability and experience. Activities such as swimming and ice skating catered to a range of confidence levels, with staff providing support to those trying activities for the first time. Similarly, sports sessions such as football and basketball were delivered in a way that encouraged participation regardless of skill level, creating a welcoming and non-judgemental environment.

Furthermore, the project promoted social inclusion by bringing together young people from different backgrounds and peer groups. This helped to build new relationships, reduce social isolation, and create a sense of belonging within a safe and supportive space.

Overall, the project successfully engaged a diverse group of young people by removing financial barriers, offering open and accessible provision, and creating inclusive environments where all participants felt welcomed, supported, and able to take part.

10. Did your project receive any cash or in-kind funding from other sources?

No

11. Approximately how many people were reached with your project? Please include participants, staff and volunteers

Approximately 115–125 individuals were reached through the project, including around 100–105 young people and approximately 6 staff supporting delivery.

This includes participation across the summer holiday programme (swimming and ice skating), weekly 3G football sessions (January–March 2026), and the 18+ basketball provision (October–December 2025).

The February half-term ice skating sessions were attended primarily by young people who had already engaged in previous activities, demonstrating strong sustained engagement and continued participation rather than new reach.

12. What are the next steps for your project, and what have you learned from delivering it?

Please tell us what will happen next with your project, including whether it will continue, change, grow, or come to an end. You may also wish to share any lessons learned, what worked well, what you would do differently next time, how you adapted

to any challenges, and whether the project has created any ongoing demand, partnerships, or future opportunities.

This year has highlighted the significant demand for accessible, free physical activity provision for young people, particularly during school holidays and evenings. One of the key lessons learned is that when financial barriers are removed, engagement increases substantially. Many of the sessions were fully booked or oversubscribed, demonstrating both the level of need and the value young people place on these opportunities.

A particularly important learning point was the success of the 18+ basketball provision. This identified a clear gap in services for older young people who often transition out of youth provision but still benefit from structured, safe, and accessible activities. The strong and consistent attendance led to the extension of these sessions, reinforcing the need for continued and potentially expanded provision for this age group.

The work delivered also demonstrated the importance of consistency and relationship-based youth work. Many young people attended multiple sessions across different programmes, including returning for the February half-term activities after engaging in previous sessions. This level of sustained engagement highlights the trust built between staff and young people, and the value of offering ongoing opportunities rather than one-off activities.

One key practical lesson learned was around session timing and young people's preferences. We found that early morning sessions were not well attended, particularly during school holidays. This was evident in the February half-term ice skating programme, where the earlier session had to be cancelled due to low uptake, as young people were not willing to attend at that time. In contrast, later sessions were well attended and much more popular. This will inform future planning to ensure sessions are delivered at times that best suit young people and maximise engagement.

In terms of adapting to changing circumstances, delivery remained flexible. Despite the cancellation of one session, the remaining activities were delivered successfully and continued to meet the needs of young people. Provision was also adapted in response to demand, such as extending the 18+ basketball sessions due to their popularity.

13. We love seeing photos and videos of activities. If you'd like to share any, please upload them here [optional]

If completing as a Word doc, photos, videos and any additional information can be sent as email attachments with this form to Adam Godwin at adam.godwin@serco.com and James Baughan at jbaughan@oxford.gov.uk.

No photos but some quotes from participants:

- 1) "It was something different for once."

- 2) "I'd be bored without this."
- 3) "I've never been swimming here before, it's actually nice."
- 4) "Better than being bored on my phone."
- 5) "Can you lot run this again next year?"