



The Centre
for Education
& Youth

Social Impact Report 2017-18



Social Impact Report

2017-18

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**“Range of talents.
Honesty. Creativity.
Connections.
Friendship. Integrity.
Shared objectives to
improve outcomes
for all young people.”**

Survey respondent

Introduction

LKMco is founded on the belief that society should ensure all children and young people receive the support they need to make a fulfilling transition to adulthood. We work towards this vision by providing the evidence and support policy makers and practitioners need, and using our timely, rigorous research to shape the public debate. We have a particular focus on disadvantaged and marginalised young people.

As we move forwards into our second decade, under the new banner of “The Centre for Education and Youth” we hope that by continuing to monitor our social impact on an annual basis, we will grow our impact on young people still further.

“Great team with bundles of enthusiasm and knowledge. Supportive, open and collaborative.”

Survey respondent

Year in Numbers

34

the number of Multi Academy Trust Chief Executives interviewed for our report on strategy and operations

51

the number of young people involved in our research on Black Caribbean and Disadvantaged White Boys

1,613

the number of respondents to our latest teacher recruitment and retention survey

2,581

the number of times people listened to this year's podcasts

49,107

the number of users of our website (a more than 25% increase compared to the previous year)

2. How we've helped people

Survey respondents were most likely to have experienced our work through our written output, including articles, blogs and reports. Twitter and our increasingly popular newsletter were also common. This is consistent with last year's survey findings.

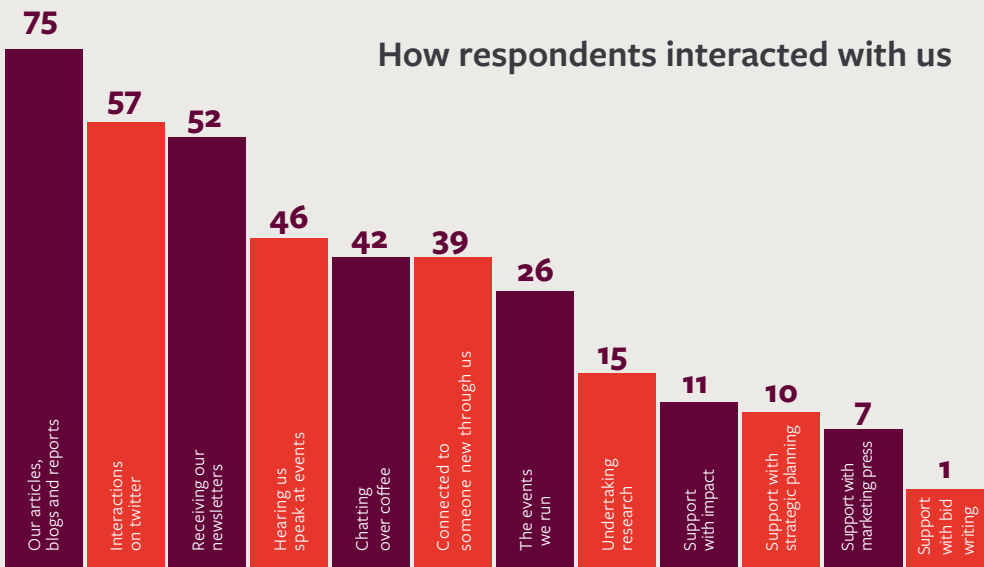
Our support in each of these areas is clearly highly valued and in each area, 90% of people who experienced our work found it useful.

Chatting over coffee with us, undertaking research and receiving support with impact evaluation were the most useful forms of support we provided, with

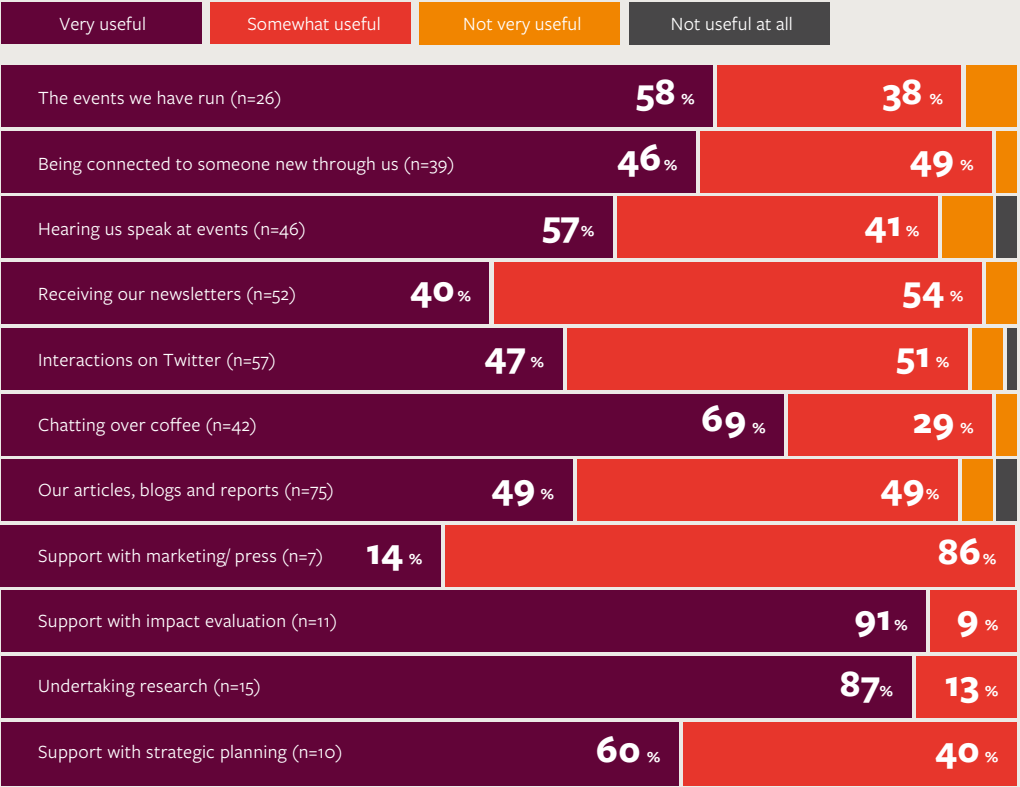
over two-thirds describing these as 'very useful'. For the first time ever, our research and evaluation overtook 'chatting over coffee' and became the most useful forms of support we provide - with around 90% of respondents saying this support was 'very useful'.

“Courteous, professional, maintains independence yet remains open to feedback and amenable to incorporating suggested amendments”

Survey respondent



How useful have our activities been?



“You’ve been the best external organisation we’ve ever worked with, it’s so easy!”

Survey respondent

There has been a dip in the how useful people have found our articles and blogs as well as the connections we have been helping them make. We will therefore redouble our efforts in these areas this year and now that we have a dedicated 'engagement team' this should help. It was certainly striking that when we asked people what we could do to improve, the most common feedback was that we should be doing more to disseminate and communicate our work. In recent months we've been working on all sorts of new ways of doing this including videos and online resources so this looks set to become a big strength in future!

"I am only involved in one aspect of your work. I did not realise that you had produced other reports... You could do more to publicise this work generally!"

Survey respondent

"I find the podcasts especially helpful as a way to make social impact reports less daunting and as a way to hear examples of how to discuss reports (while also having a fun conversation!). Thank you for those!"

Survey respondent



Long term, multi-year evaluation

A few years ago, we made the decision to avoid working on what we called 'did it work evaluations'. These have their place, but as an action-focused organisation made up of ex-teachers and youth workers, our particular skill is in getting under the skin of what is happening, helping organisations to learn from evidence and improve the support they provide to young people.

It has therefore been a pleasure to work on a three-year evaluation of First Story and Paper Nations' creative writing programmes for the Arts Council. We designed the evaluation so that it could take place in an iterative manner, with an overarching set of metrics allowing on-going monitoring and annual feedback, as well as a series of short intensive studies that focused in on particular areas of interest to the organisations. This meant that both organisations could secure answers to pertinent questions, helping them improve the programme over the course of the three years.

We are delighted that our evaluation helped shape the organisations' delivery in schools across England, and the training available to teachers and writers.

Drawing of a writer by a primary school pupil



3. The impact of our support

Over 90% of respondents said we had impacted on them in one of our six intended outcome areas and over a third believed we had had a significant impact on them. This is similar to last year, and like last year, a fifth of people reported at least some impact in all of our six target areas.

We have been doing a better job recently of helping people to collaborate and make the most of each others’ strengths. As a result, this has become our highest impact area with two-thirds of respondents reporting impact here. This is encouraging as it was one of the weaknesses we identified in last year’s report. As usual, our other key area of impact was helping people develop critical and informed opinions about what society needs to do in order to support young people.

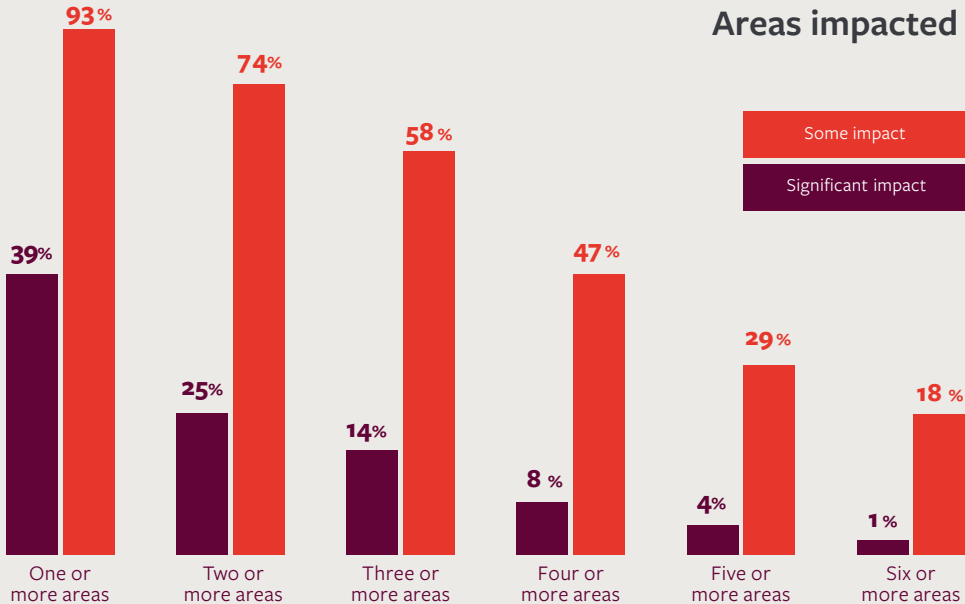
“I had some amazing collaborative time with Eleanor who I find truly brilliant.”

Survey respondent

“Insightful reports. Down to earth and thought provoking communications.”

Survey respondent

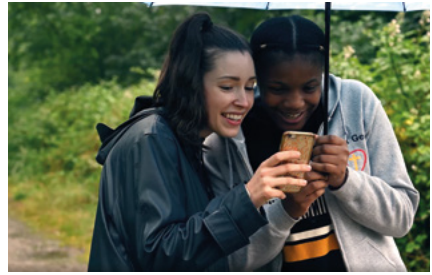
Areas impacted



To what extent do you think each of the following has changed as a result of your work with us?



Changing people's beliefs has traditionally been a challenge for us (as it is for many others in our sector). Encouragingly, we are making improvements here by convincing more people of the need for society to support young people better. However, we still need to do more to create a sense of possibility if we are to truly change people's beliefs and attitudes. To this end, we have recently been working on a number of projects that will tell the story of the inspiring work that supports vulnerable young people around the country. We hope that these projects – which include films and extended case studies will provide tangible support for those seeking to develop the skills and knowledge they need in order to support young people better.



Screen shots from our recent films telling the stories of young people and the organisations working with them



“Whenever I need to know something I can’t find easily, I tweet at you guys, and you either know or RT to someone who will! Loving your work :)”

Survey respondent

4. What we’re good at

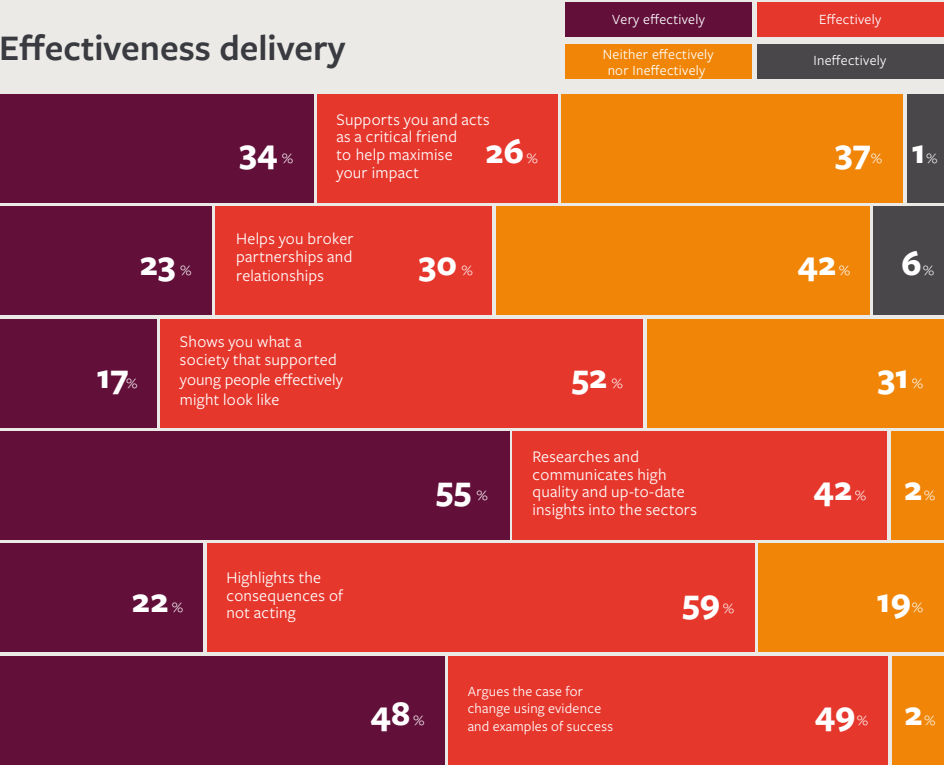
We do six main things to impact on our vision and the most effective of these appears to be arguing the case for change, as well as researching and communicating high quality and up to date insights into the sector. There was a slight drop in the proportion of people saying we were ‘very effective’ in the first of these areas and this ties into our desire to be a little more outspoken and forceful when making the case for change.

Whilst acting as a critical friend came out as one of our areas of lowest impact overall, this was actually the area our clients said we were most effective in, with 95% describing us as effective in this area and two-thirds saying we were very effective. We said last year that we wanted to do better in this area when we are providing unpaid, ad hoc advice but it seems we still need improve here.

“A very professional and effective approach that inspired confidence in us as clients. When there were issues they listened and adapted accordingly”

Survey respondent

Effectiveness delivery



We are delighted that we have made good progress in showing how society could better support young people, something we've long wanted to do better and which, as noted in section 3, is going to be a major focus in the coming year. We are also now more effective at helping people broker partnerships and relationships which perhaps explains why helping people become better at collaboration is now our area of greatest impact (see section 3).

“Integrity, honesty, ambition and hope”

Survey respondent

“An inspiring and challenging input that prompts thinking and perceptions based on good research”

Survey respondent

Think into Action

All of our work at LKMco is intended to produce recommendations and learning that practitioners, as well as policy makers, can put into action. In order to do this, we have been introducing novel approaches that match problems to solutions

Our GLA report on Black Caribbean and Disadvantaged White Boys involved developing a database of the challenges these groups face through expert interviews, focus groups with young people and a literature review. We then created a second database of interventions and approaches that target these groups, and used the best available evidence to identify whether there was a strong basis for believing these approaches would be effective. We were then able to combine the two databases

and suggest which responses might tackle the identified problems and challenges.

Similarly, in our work for the Children's Commissioner we created a database of mentoring interventions targeting vulnerable young people through an online trawl and requests to England's local authorities. We then used a literature review to identify the key features of effective mentoring. This combination of approaches meant we were able to get a clear sense of any important gaps that needed addressing.

An added benefit of these projects is that the databases we produced can be shared publicly in a searchable format, allowing other practitioners and researchers to learn from our findings.

Getting the most out of mixed methods

Quite often, social research and social researchers fall decisively into quantitative or qualitative camps. However, at LKMco we are lucky enough to have a mix of skills on the team and a commitment to combining the best of both.

Having published a major mixed methods article on teacher retention and motivations in the British Education Research Journal (a leading peer reviewed publication) in 2017, we followed this up with a ground-breaking study of multi-academy trusts. Our report “Building Trusts: How do you run a Multi-Academy Trust?” with Ambition School Leadership involved 47 different Trusts and combined a survey regarding preferred strategies and operating alongside 34 interviews with Chief Executives. We then carried out cluster analysis of survey responses to identify MAT ‘types’.

The benefit of using mixed methods was that not only were we able to identify trends, but we were also able to interrogate and explain these, providing genuinely actionable research that we hope will help many more groups of schools become sustainable and impactful.

***Building Trusts:
MAT leadership and
coherence of vision,
strategy and operations***



What did you value most about LKMco/the support we provided?



5. Finance

As a Community Interest Company (CIC) we think it is important to make financial information about our work easily available. As well as filing annual accounts to both Companies House and the CIC regulator we have therefore summarised key information from our accounts here.

Our income for 2017-18 was £403,201. This is slightly lower than last year – a year in which our turnover increased by 71%. All our income came from our clients who are listed below. As usual, charities were our largest source of income but schools and universities formed a larger proportion of our income this year, largely due to our increasing involvement in university widening participation activity. We were also successful in increasing the proportion of our income that came from trusts and foundations.

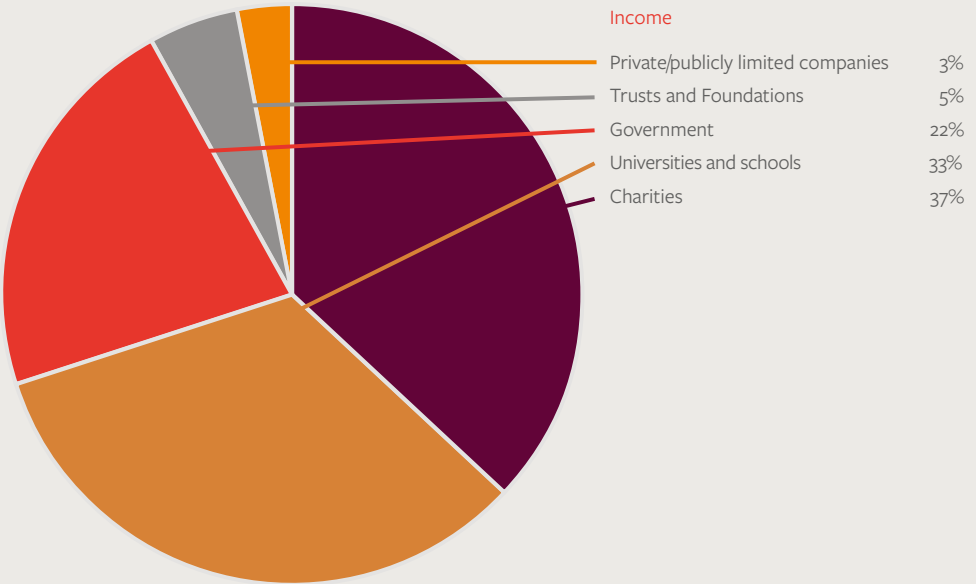
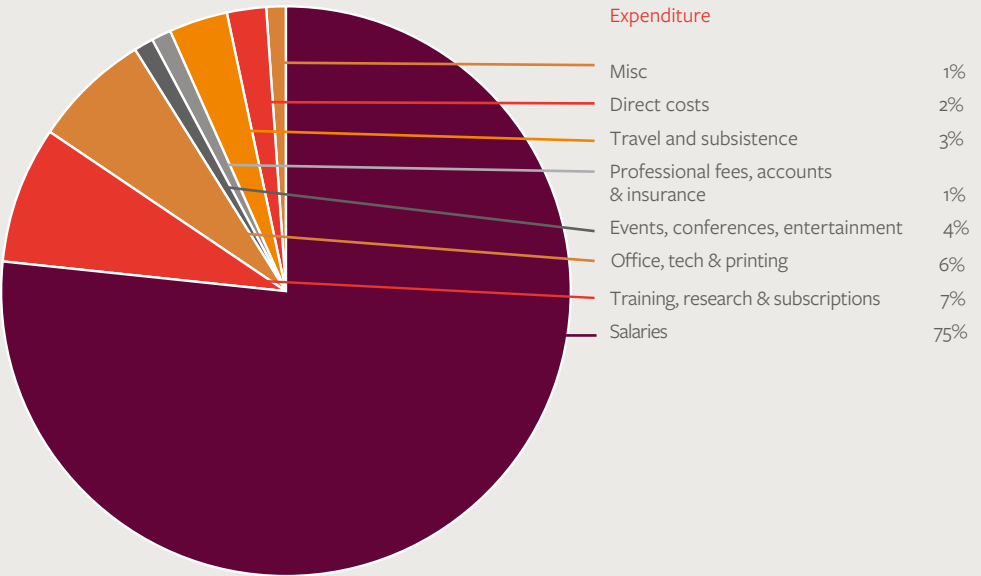
One of our targets going forward is to secure core financial support to help us with self-directed research into the big issues that need more attention. For more information about how to support us, please contact hello@cfey.org

We invested considerably in our new strategy this year through a mixture of increased spending on training, investment in our systems and back office capacity. We therefore spent £425,059 (including direct costs) with 75% of this being accounted for by wages – a larger proportion than last year.

“Ethical and moral purpose”

Survey respondent





Source of income
(approximate based on best fit descriptor)

6. The team

Our headcount reached double figures in 2017-18 when Gemma Stevenson joined our team as our Office Manager. Having someone to help us with back-office work will play a key role in our strategic goal to 'reinforce our architecture' and free up our research, policy and engagement teams to focus their impact on young people.

As always, we want to thank those who support us: it is thanks to our clients; the practitioners who feed into our research; the community who share their connections and insights; and the many organisations and people who give us their time and energy, that we are able to achieve so much.

“The expertise and open, friendly team. Everyone I’ve ever met from LKMco has been deeply professional, engaged and nice to spend time with!”

Survey respondent





Vision We believe that...	Activity We therefore...	Outcome So that education and youth professionals & general public...	Long term goal As a result people are...
Society should ensure that all children and young people receive the support they need in order to make a fulfilling transition to adulthood	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• argue the case, present evidence and share examples of success• highlight the consequences of not acting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• believe that it is possible for society to better support children and young people• believe that we urgently need to create a society which ensures all children and young people make a fulfilling transition to adulthood	Inspired
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• research and communicate high quality and up-to-date insights into the sector• show people what a society that supported young people effectively might look like	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• understand how society affects young people• develop critical and informed opinions about what society would need to do in order to help young people make a fulfilling transition to adulthood	Informed
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• broker partnerships and relationships• support and act as a critical friend to organisations that want to maximise their impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• collaborate and make the most of different organisations' and professionals' strengths• are equipped to help ensure all children and young people make a fulfilling transition to adulthood (for example they have skills, tools, plans and evidence they need)	Enabled

The Survey

We sent our impact survey to all the clients that we had worked with in 2017-18 as well as promoting it via Twitter, Facebook and our newsletter. We received 92 responses – slightly fewer than last year. Twenty-one responses came from clients.

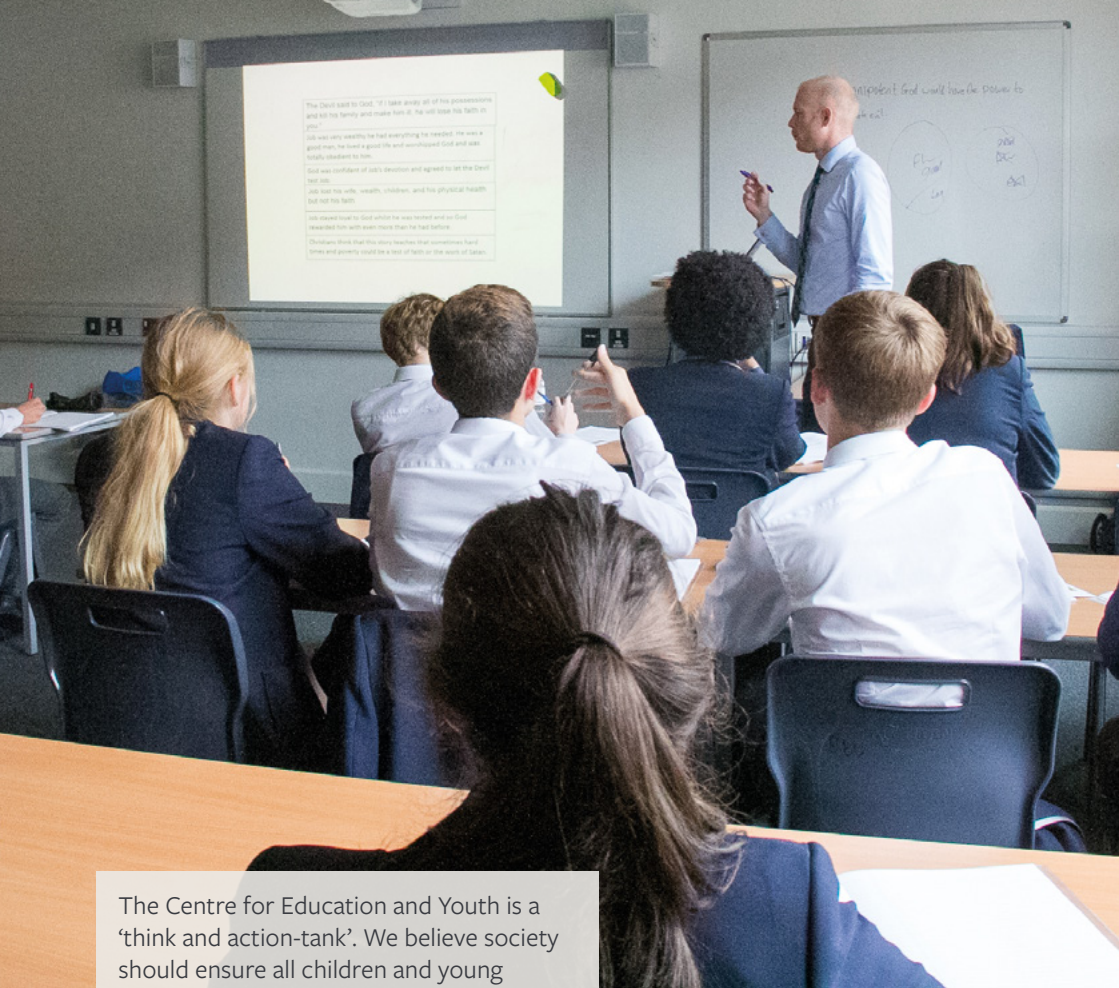
“They are honest, supportive and very clever.”

Survey respondent

Clients

In 2017-18 our clients were

- Arts Council England
- The Department for Education
- Learning Away
- The Children’s Literacy Charity
- Gamcare
- The Sage Foundation
- NASEN
- Ambition School Leadership
- Cabot Learning Foundation
- Action Tutoring
- St Mary’s Isleworth
- Pioneer Teaching School Alliance
- Hampshire Council
- The Ovo Foundation
- LSECT
- Arbor
- ASCL
- The Office of Children’s Commissioner
- Lampton School
- Inside Government
- Kings College London Widening Participation
- Bexley Council
- Enabling Enterprise
- Disability Rights UK
- Pearson
- The Communication trust
- The Greater London Authority
- Well Grounded
- Newcastle University Future Me
- The Institute for physics
- Eden School
- Teach First
- Aspire2HE Wolverhampton University
- First Story
- The Book Trust



The Centre for Education and Youth is a 'think and action-tank'. We believe society should ensure all children and young people receive the support they need to make a fulfilling transition to adulthood.

We provide the evidence and support policy makers and practitioners need to support young people.

We use our timely and rigorous research to get under the skin of issues affecting young people in order to shape the public debate, advise the sector and campaign on topical issues. We have a particular interest in issues affecting marginalised young people.



The Centre
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