

THE YOUTH THEATRE CENSUS

The Youth Theatre Census Summary Report

Easy read booklet



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**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

About



The Youth Theatre Census was a **big survey of youth theatres** in England.

Youth theatres are groups who do **drama activities** with **people aged between 5 and 25**.



The survey asked the youth theatres about:

- The activities they do.
- The people they work with.
- What they need.

Activities are things like **workshops, training, acting, performing plays** and **supporting young people**.

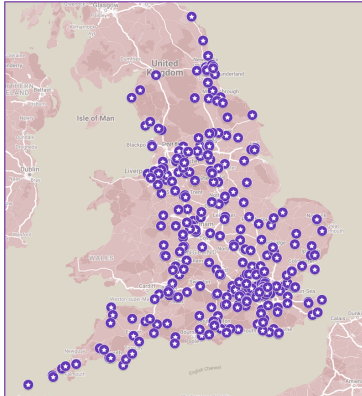


The **people** are the **young people** who come to activities and **the staff** who work at the youth theatres.

More than **400 groups** answered the **survey**. This easy read tells you about the things they told us.

It has been written by a group of six youth theatres who organised the census.

Youth Theatre is big



Youth Theatre is a **big part of life in England**. There are **more than 400 youth theatres in England**.

More than **100,000 young people attend those youth theatres**.

There are **more than 3,000 adults who work at those youth theatres**.



The youth theatres offer a lot of **different activities**. Some of them are:

- Drama workshops
- Talent shows
- Working on computers
- Writing plays
- Social events
- Going on trips

Youth Theatre doesn't have enough money



Some youth theatres have the money they need to run their activities, but lots don't have enough.

Youth Theatres in some parts of England, like London, get more money than youth theatres in other parts of the country.



Lots of youth theatres charge fees, which means young people have to pay to attend them.



Some youth theatres are only run by volunteers - adults who work without being paid.

Lots of youth theatres told us that they need help with getting enough money to do their activities.

Youth Theatres support young people in lots of ways



Things can be difficult for young people **these days**. Youth Theatres are **helping young people with more things than drama activities**.



These include:

- Giving advice
- Helping with school work
- Helping with their mental health
- Paying for travel
- Providing meals

All of these things take time and cost money.

Smaller youth theatres have less time and money than bigger youth theatres, so find it harder to support young people in these ways.

Youth Theatre is not accessible enough



Being **accessible** means that **all young people** can take part in youth theatre.

Not all youth theatres have rules and plans to make sure that all young people can take part in their work.



A lot of youth theatres don't have rules and plans so that Disabled young people can take part.

A lot of youth theatres told us they want more help to make sure that Disabled young people can take part.

Youth Theatre leaders are finding things hard



Thousands of adults work in youth theatre. They organise things, lead workshops and direct the plays.

Many of these people told us that they are **finding it hard to do their jobs.**

Some of them are volunteers - people who work for no money.



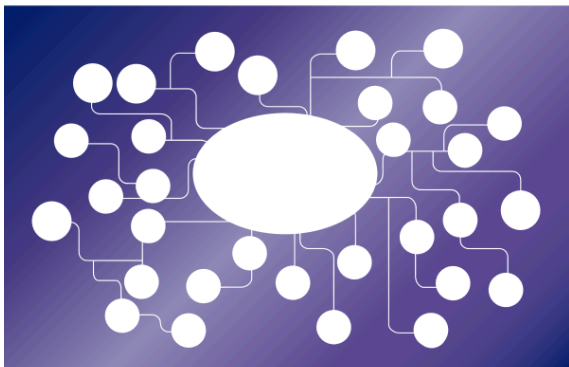
Many of the leaders feel alone. They would like more support and opportunities to meet and talk to other Youth Theatre leaders.

Recommendations



The group who organised the youth theatre census think that **youth theatre is really important and useful.**

But it needs more money and support.



We think there should be a **new organisation to help youth theatres across England.**

This organisation would:

- Connect youth theatres to each other.
- Raise money for youth theatres.
- Help youth theatres share ideas and knowledge with each other.
- Run more surveys like this one.

So we will:

- Share this report.
- Talk to youth theatres everywhere about what we do next.
- Create a big list of youth theatres online so that everyone can find one.

More information

To find out more information go to bit.ly/youththeatrecensus

Or email hello@nedglasier.com