

A bank of experience

**BETTER SERVICES
WITH LESS MONEY**

“Teenagers often get a bad reputation, but the Youth Bank is a great way of showing people the positive work we do.”

A canoe club, a dance group and a project supporting young families are among some of the programmes receiving extra funds this year thanks to young decision makers in Barnet.

Anyone can join the Youth Bank, providing they live in Barnet and are aged 13 to 19 years old*.

Amina El-Agamy, 17, who's been a member since 2006, recently received a Youth and Connexions Service Award at Barnet Council's Youth Opportunity Celebration Event for her contribution to the Youth Bank.

She says: “The Youth Bank gives out funding to lots of different youth groups to make Barnet a better place. My mum suggested I join when I was 13 because I've always been pretty outspoken.

“Sometimes there can be a heated debate about where the money goes, but that just adds to the fun.”

For the past five years the Youth Bank has given out £1.5 million in funding for projects aimed specifically at young people. With support from the council's Youth and Connexions Service, members are trained in grant making and become part of a team

responsible for administering government funding of nearly £200,000 per year.

Since Amina joined she's seen money go towards Rolling Base, a single decker bus featuring state of the art recording equipment that visits young people in the borough, developing Chaverim Youth Centre and the Inclusive Play Opportunities Project (IPOP) as well as funding to renovate Canada Villa youth centre.

“It's great to see the work we've approved being carried out and to know that we really can make a difference,” she says.

If you are interested in joining the Youth Bank, or have an idea for new activities for young people in the borough, contact the Youth and Connexions team on 020 8359 6495 or email youthprogrammes@barnet.gov.uk

* Up to 25 years old with learning difficulties

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For more details on the Youth Bank visit
www.barnet.gov.uk/youth-and-connexions