



IMPACT REPORT 2019

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WELCOME TO OUR IMPACT REPORT 2019

It has been an exciting year for Oxfordshire Youth...

Over the past 18 months we have made significant progress as a charity. We have spent time looking at how to transform into a 21st century youth charity, using digital technology, through better understanding our impact, and investing in new staff and trustees. We have invested in self-sustaining roles and are nurturing a proactive forward thinking organisational culture.

Since the takeover of Oxfordshire Council for Voluntary Youth Services (OCVYS) in 2017, we have been on an impact evaluation journey. We have spent time visiting and listening to our members, creating spaces for networking and sharing of ideas, and creating meaningful opportunities for Voice, our youth committee, to influence our decisions. In addition, we have been collecting and understanding current publications and reports, collecting case studies and strengthening the evaluation of our work.

All of this is so that we can have a better understanding of the needs of the sector and the children and young people that we all serve.

This impact report is a collection of our work and the impact that we have had on young people and the youth sector in Oxfordshire. Our three areas of focus are: **Developing Skills for Life; Supporting the Sector and Mental Health and Wellbeing.**



J. Lloyd-Jones

Jodie Lloyd-Jones
CEO, Oxfordshire Youth



Carl Anglim

Carl Anglim
Chairman, Oxfordshire Youth



We are a youth development charity supporting organisations working with children and young people aged 8-25 across Oxfordshire. Formerly known as the Oxfordshire Association for Young People (OAYP), we have been in existence for over 70 years and are very proud of our history in providing support for a large and diverse youth sector and delivering impactful youth programmes across the county.

MISSION

To meet the needs and aspirations of young people and to build a resilient youth sector across Oxfordshire.

VALUES

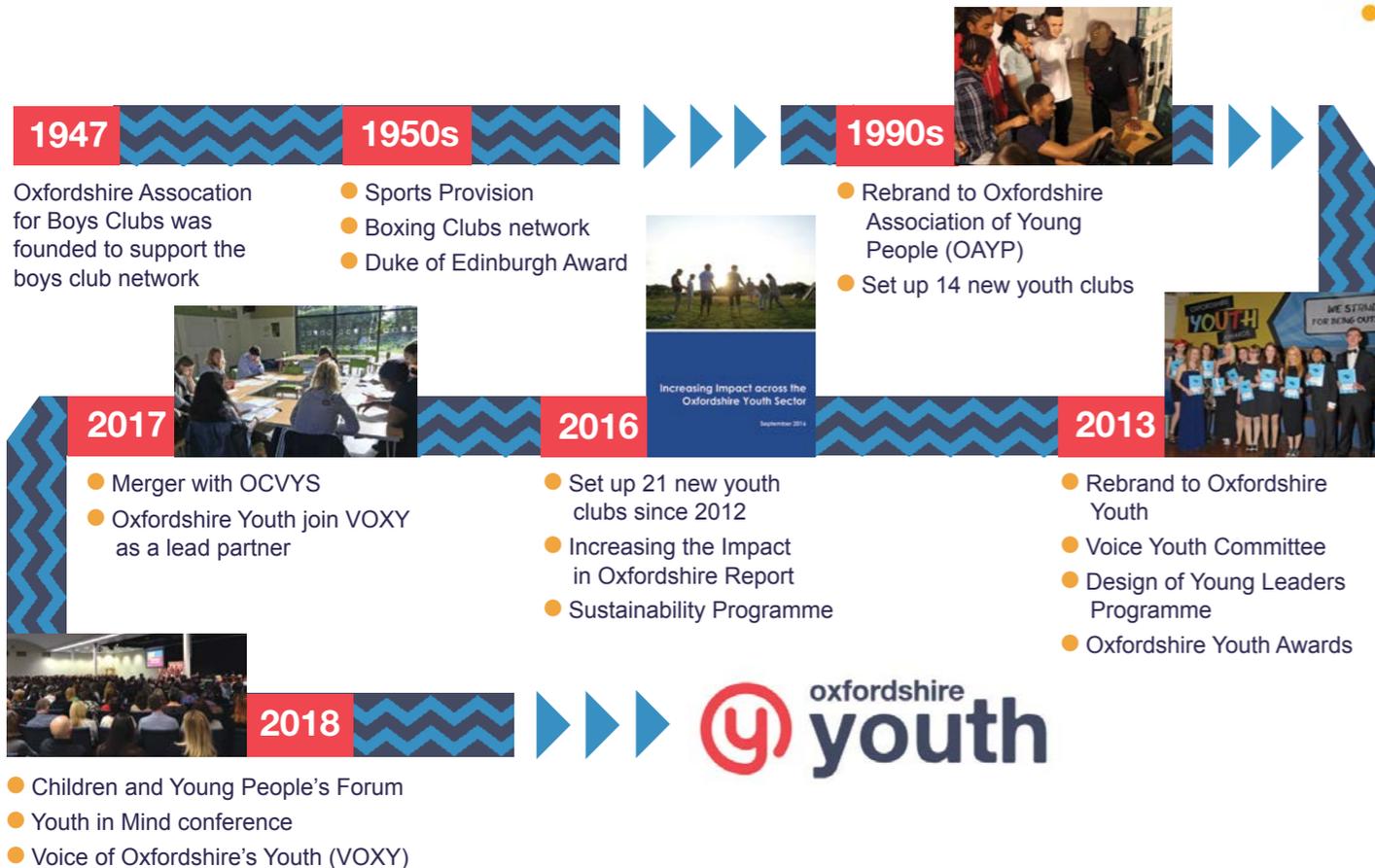
Innovative Trustworthy
Reflective *Inclusive*
Self-nurturing Ambitious

These values apply both to Oxfordshire Youth as an organisation in its own right and to the ways in which it seeks to support and develop its members.

OUR STRATEGIC AIMS

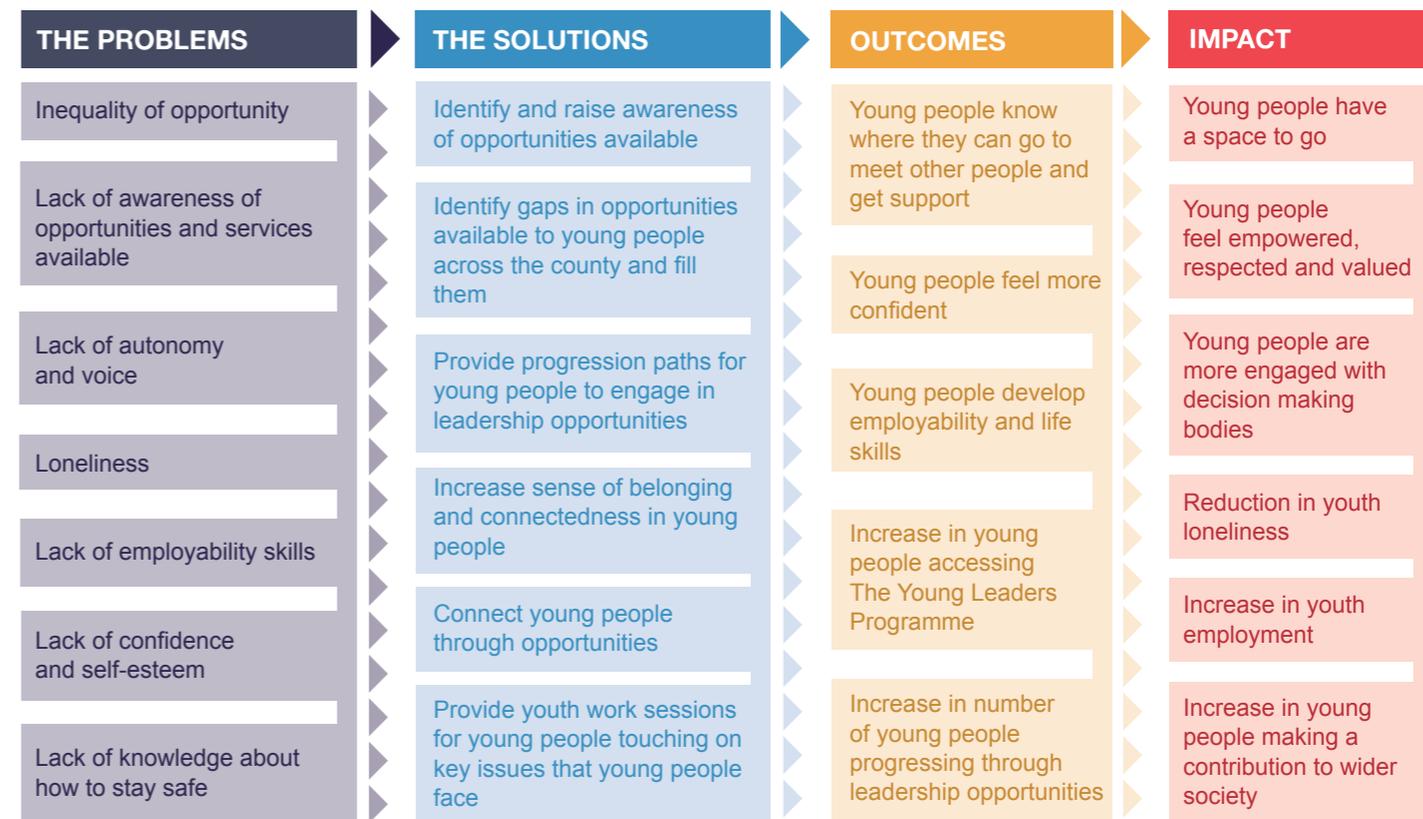
- 1 To be the leading voice for the youth sector across Oxfordshire
- 2 To anticipate and respond to the changing needs of young people and the youth sector
- 3 To equip youth organisations in Oxfordshire to become resilient
- 4 To provide young people with a development pathway through youth leadership and participation opportunities
- 5 To be the go-to source signposting services for children and young people across Oxfordshire

OUR JOURNEY SO FAR...



THEORY OF CHANGE: YOUNG PEOPLE

This maps out how and why we support young people and the change we expect to see as a result of our work.



DEVELOPING SKILLS FOR LIFE

SETTING THE SCENE

CBI/Pearson Education and Skills Annual Report* identified the following trends in the UK:

Qualifications are valued by employers as indicators of achievement and ability, but developing the **right attitudes and behaviours** for success in all aspects of life is vital...



Businesses are clear that key drivers of success for young people in their working lives are attitudes and attributes such as **resilience, enthusiasm, creativity** and **communication skills**:



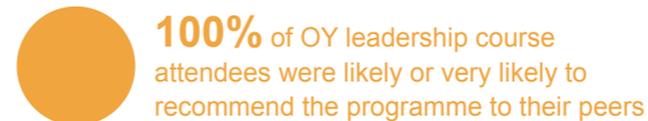
WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?



* Achieving Level 2 Award in Leadership and Team skills

** Voice of Oxfordshire's Youth – young people are represented at the Children's Trust through VOXY

IMPACT



The three **main areas of impact** identified by the OY leadership course attendees:

- 1 Increase in confidence**
- 2 Meeting new people**
- 3 Building new/stronger relationships**

“ I'm going to take a more active role in my youth club so I can make a positive contribution and change things. VOXY

helps young people make their voices heard so we can make a positive impact on the way decisions that affect young people are made. ”

Young Leaders Programme attendee



WHAT'S NEXT?

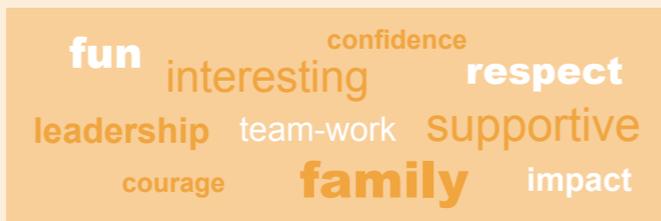
- 2020 Youth Awards
- 10 Young Leaders Programmes in 2019-20
- Launch of Young Ambassadors programme
- Young Leaders graduation event

CASE STUDY: VOICE



said *“in general we come from different backgrounds but once we got to know each other, you are just like a family in a way. Because it’s just a group of people who are really good friends and you can trust each other.”*

As part of their development through Voice, OY supports young people to build skills for life, like communication and leadership. *“OY is about getting experiences that I wouldn’t have got at school... like the leadership programme, which was really useful for me”* said Ben. Nikki, the Secretary added *“I really value having a positive influence on other people, being a role model for others, and supporting them to show that there is a better way if they are struggling.”*



Words that were used to describe Voice by its members.

Voice, the youth committee for Oxfordshire Youth, sits at the heart of what we do.

The group meets monthly to work along with staff to plan, deliver and review three events a year. They also sit on our Board of Trustees to offer a young person’s perspective on key issues discussed and to raise Trustees’ awareness of issues they face.

As an organisation focused on young people, we are passionate about involving them at all levels of the charity. *“I think VOICE is important for Oxfordshire Youth to have young people’s input”* said Ben, the Chair of the Voice Committee, *“Our voices are heard more now because we are involved in planning events. In a school situation it’s often hard for children to make their voices heard and get their ideas out there.”*

The input that young people have in shaping OY is invaluable. Committee members are treated in the same way as members of staff and are also encouraged to build close and supportive relationships with each other. When asked how the committee members see their relationship with Voice, Christian, a committee member,

THEORY OF CHANGE: YOUTH SECTOR

This maps out how and why we support the youth sector and the change we expect to see as a result of our work.



SUPPORTING THE SECTOR

SETTING THE SCENE

A report on effects of cuts to youth services published by Unison in 2017 found that:



By 2015, over **32%** of people in the UK aged under 18 were at risk of poverty or social exclusion



3660 youth work jobs were lost between 2012 and 2016



Over **139,000** youth service places for young people have been cut since 2012



Over **600** youth centres have closed since 2012

In addition to the report, in January 2019 former County Councillor John Tanner reported that:



£260m of funding cuts to public services have been made in Oxfordshire over recent years

WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?



Supporting over **100** organisations that work with children and young people in Oxfordshire



26,530 young people reached through our network



18 organisations provided with bespoke support to enable them to continue their work



3 new organisations set up with our support

10 youth organisations supported to attain Ambition Quality Mark First Steps



58 youth work sessions delivered



Organised **2** networking events for youth sector organisations

IMPACT



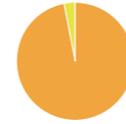
100% of OY members who responded to the annual survey reported that support provided by OY had a positive impact on their organisation*



99% of attendees of OY training courses for member organisations reported an increase in confidence in working effectively with young people**



99% of attendees of OY training courses for member organisations reported confidence in using newly obtained skills in their organisations**



97% of attendees at OY events reported feeling more supported in their peer-to-peer network**

* OY member survey 2018-19

** OY training evaluation 2018-19

“ We wouldn't be where we are now without Oxfordshire Youth... we would not have been open! Their support over the years has been incredible. ”

Watlington Youth Club

“ I enjoyed meeting lots of others in the youth work sector - putting faces to names. Hearing some inspiring talks about organisations doing very well in supporting young people. ”

Annual Youth Work Conference participant, February 2019

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Strengthen the Children and Young People's Forum (40 organisations involved in 2018)
- High-quality learning and development offer for professionals and volunteers
- 2020 Annual Youth Work Conference

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

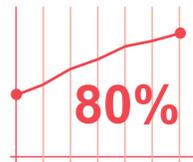
SETTING THE SCENE

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, published by Oxfordshire County Council on 14 March 2019, identified the following themes:



Self harm admissions

are increasing in young people (age 10-24) in Oxfordshire*



Increase in the number of patients (age 15-19) referred to Oxford Health mental health services between 2011/12 – 2016/17



2,512 children identified with social, emotional and mental health needs at schools in Oxfordshire in 2018**

Increased pressure on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in Oxfordshire

* above the national average

** Some increases in mental health diagnoses could be due to increased awareness and reduced stigma.



WHAT ARE WE DOING ABOUT IT?



42 training courses* delivered (2018/19)



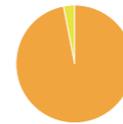
Over 700 adults trained



Over 500 attendees at the Youth in Mind Conference run in partnership with Oxfordshire Mind in March 2019

* Introduction to Children and Young Peoples' Mental Health

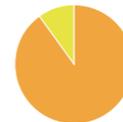
IMPACT



97% said that the workshop they attended improved their confidence in working with young people*



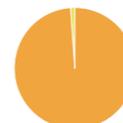
92% said that they were confident that they could apply their new skills in their organisation**



Over 90% said that the training improved their skills to support disadvantaged young people**



100% of attendees agreed that the event raised awareness of CYP mental health services across Oxfordshire*



99% of respondents agreed that the event allowed for formation of links across all sectors working with children and young people*

* Youth in Mind Conference 2019

** Mental Health training

“ [Youth in Mind] was a triumph...

for the sector as a whole.

Meticulous planning and timing; great variation, pace and content; really stimulating and the best networking opportunity for the third sector that I have seen in 10 years as LL. Many congratulations! ”

Tim Stevenson OBE

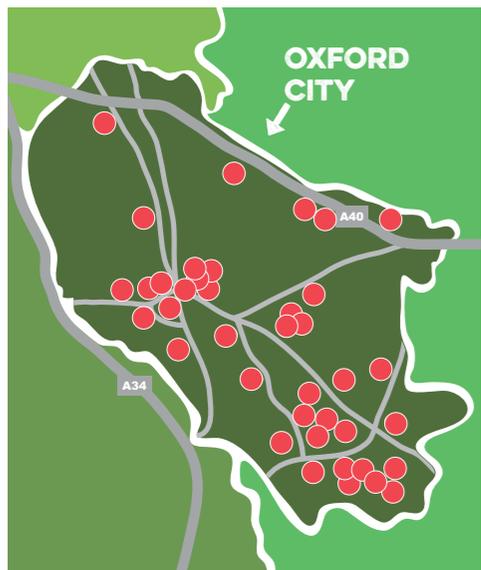
Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Youth in Mind conference February 2020
- Year 3 of *Introduction to Children and Young People Mental Health Training* for schools
- Year 1 of *Mental Health training for adults working with young people* in non-school environment

OUR REACH ACROSS OXFORDSHIRE

Location of organisations working with children and young people



IMPORTANCE OF THE YOUTH SECTOR

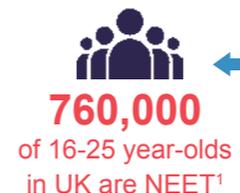
The youth sector makes a huge contribution to the lives of children and young people in Oxfordshire through preventative and support services. It also provides essential opportunities for children and young people to overcome barriers they face growing up.

Serious and Organised Crime Strategy 2018 states we need “preventative methods and education to divert more young people from a life of serious and organised crime and reduce reoffending”.

By investing in the youth sector, we are investing in the future of our children and young people.

A report published in December 2018, in support of a debate at the House of Lords, highlights the main challenges faced by young people in line with budget cuts and changes to the youth provision. The themes that emerged from the report are:

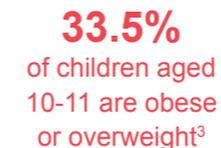
Oxfordshire Youth supports the organisations that address these challenges...



← **68 OY members** support young people into employment or education



← **58 OY members** are working with young people in poverty or at risk of homelessness



← **83 OY members** support young people to be physically active



← **69 OY members** are supporting young people to have positive mental health



← **62 OY members** are working with young people to raise awareness about how to stay safe

1. Not in Education, Employment or Training 2. Homeless Link survey, 2018 3. Health Survey for England, 2016 4. Office for National Statistics, March 2018 5. Nov. 2018

CASE STUDY: FAAAZE

FAAAZE is one of Oxfordshire Youth's member organisations, which we supported to achieve the Ambition First Steps Quality Mark in 2018-19. It's a small youth group based in Faringdon, that caters to young people with additional needs.

FAAAZE works very closely with Fitzwaryn School, providing volunteer-run activities for students once a week. The group works with a wide age-range, between 11 and 25, and is currently developing progression paths for young people after they reach the upper threshold. Debra Warner, FAAAZE's Secretary, said "I lose sleep worrying about what's going to happen to some people when they turn 25. There are adult groups for people with special needs, but how do you persuade someone lacking in confidence, who has been with this group for 11 years, that they should go and make a load of new friends?"

OY hosts structured networking events to help with the search for potential partners to create better progression paths. Debra explains the value of these events: "You realise you're not on your own, and get lots of new ideas. I had great conversations with people I would have never come across before – I've made really useful connections with other organisations."



FAAAZE has also utilised some of the bespoke support provided by OY, including a workshop on internet safety for young people. An initial visit took place beforehand to make sure that the facilitator tailored the content to the audience's needs. Topics covered included making choices and forming friendships through social media.

The group is now well-established in the local community and even has some past members coming back as volunteers. Development of new activities, constant improvement of current delivery and new opportunities through various collaborations are on the cards. When asked how OY membership will help with these goals, Debra said: "[It will] open doors and highlight what options there are. It's very easy to be in your own bubble. Just because you've got something that sort-of works, doesn't mean that it has to stop there. And impact on FAAAZE? It's all about confidence building now, making us feel that we can get bigger if we wanted to."

PARTNERSHIPS AND SUPPORTERS

We could not do this work on our own. We have developed a number of meaningful relationships over the years. Partnership and collaboration are the key to our success.



PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH BOARDS

- The Children's Trust
- Oxford City Children and Young People's Partnership Board
- Oxfordshire County Council Children and Young People's Wellbeing Group
- Cherwell Young People, Play and Wellbeing
- South and Vale Youth Partnership Group
- West Oxfordshire Health and Wellbeing
- Children and Young People's Forum
- Charity Leaders Forum

PARTNERSHIPS

- VOXY
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) third sector partnership
- Youth in Mind

LONG-TERM SUPPORTERS:



SUMMARY OF OUR IMPACT

2018-19 has been a year of exciting change and development for Oxfordshire Youth. We have become much more aware of our impact and will strive to use that understanding to further improve our services and provision of support to members, the wider sector and the young people we serve.

We have listened to our partners during various collaboration meetings, to our members, through surveys and interviews, to young people through youth councils and forums and our leadership programmes. Further, we have listened to the sector as a whole through our events which looked at the past, present and future of the youth provision. We feel confident that, with the support of our members, partners, funders and supporters, we can make informed decisions to ensure that young people in Oxfordshire feel empowered, valued and respected and that they are supported by a resilient youth sector.

We are pleased to have generated excellent levels of engagement in some new initiatives, including the Youth in Mind conference, as well as our more established ones – Youth Awards, Youth Voice and Young Leaders Programme.

All the fantastic impact highlighted in this report makes us move optimistically into the new year and look ahead to how else we can make a difference to the lives of young people.



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SUPPORT US

The work of Oxfordshire Youth is invaluable in supporting and developing a thriving youth sector throughout the county, and we rely on the generosity and goodwill of our communities to enable us to continue that work. Please help.

DONATE

Make a one-off donation, or set up a regular gift through Direct Debit. Your gift, no matter how small, will benefit the lives of young people throughout the county.



CHALLENGE YOURSELF

Swim, bike, run, hike, or choose something more sedate – a cake sale, dress-down day, dinner party or race night.



CORPORATE SUPPORT

Involving your staff in fundraising engages them in their community, supports team bonding and builds morale.



LEAVE A LEGACY

Continue to make a difference after you've gone by leaving a gift in your Will.



PLAY THE OXFORD LOTTERY

Just £1 a week makes a regular commitment to our work, plus you'll be in with the chance of winning up to £25,000. Register at www.oxfordlottery.org/support/oxfordshire-youth



GIFT AID

Taxpayers can increase their donations by 25% at no extra cost by signing up to Gift Aid.

giftaid it

However you choose to support us, you will be helping in our vision for all young people in Oxfordshire to be empowered, feel respected and know that they are valued. For more information call: **01865 767899**, email: admin@oxfordshireyouth.org or visit: www.oxfordshireyouth.org/fundraising

Thank you to our Patrons Tim Stevenson OBE, Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, Sir Charles Ponsonby Bt, Deputy Lieutenant of Oxfordshire. President Lady Henrietta Spencer-Churchill. Vice Presidents, Trustees, Voice Youth Committee, Staff, Freelancers, Volunteers, Partners, Supporters and Members, all of whom contribute to the difference we make in Oxfordshire.

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