



Annual Report 2023/24



Photo courtesy of Woolser Youth Club



Photo courtesy of Tom Coulthard Training at Devon Carers



Photo courtesy of Young Devon



Photo courtesy of Axminster Skatepark

“To Champion and Strengthen Children and
Young People Organisations in Devon”

Registered Charity Number: 1054442

Voluntary Organisations for Young People and Children (VOYC) - Devon

What is it that we do?

1. **Provide Practical Help** - to ensure the support necessary to develop and maintain the children and young people's sector.
2. **Provide a Voice** - to enable the children and young people's sector to have a voice and influence.
3. **Facilitate Networking** - to support, develop and promote collaboration and networking.
4. **Manage the Charity** - to have efficient and effective systems for the management of VOYC Devon.

President

Sally Yeo

Vice President

Nominations Invited.

Officers

| | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Chair of Trustees | Gill Millar |
| Vice Chair of Trustees | Peter Brewer |
| Treasurer | Steve Keable |

Management Committee/Executive (Trustees)

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Gill Millar | Chair |
| Peter Brewer | Vice Chair |
| Kerrie Clifford | Co-option |
| Steve Keable | Treasurer CEDA |
| Paul Reisbach | YMCA Exeter |
| Rebecca Skinner | Co-option |

Staff

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Tom Coulthard | Chief Executive |
| Juliet White | Operations Coordinator |
| Rachel Hopper | Communications and Marketing Coordinator |

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENT 2023 – 2024

Who we are and what we do

VOYC Devon continues to bring the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sectors' people together to solve problems, address root causes and inspire each other. As an organisation we understand the power of the VCSE sector and volunteering and are proud to champion these.

We support individuals and groups working with children, young people and families by providing practical, face-to-face support in a variety of different ways. Our offer includes a range of services, from starting up a group to developing policies or keeping children and young people safe. In addition, VOYC provides a diverse range of training opportunities, regular news and information updates as well as the reassurance of professional, confidential advice and support to members.

We operate 6 local youth networks to give workers, volunteers and activists a place to discuss issues, collaborate and share their experiences, connecting our groups with statutory agencies, large charities and relevant agencies operating in the county.

We also run an annual Youth Work in Devon Conference to bring the sector together to discuss issues that affect us all and foster stronger links across Devon.

Everything VOYC Devon offers is designed to enable VCSE organisations to become stronger, to operate more safely, sustainably and to enhance the quality of local provision. The majority of our support is available free of charge to the youth work sector through our grant agreement with Space, who hold the Youth Service contract with Devon County Council (DCC).

Summary of Achievement

VOYC Devon continues to work as a partner with Space within the VCSE infrastructure element of the Devon County Council Youth Services contract. VOYC has expanded its training to include fully funded mental health first aid courses in partnership with MHFA England and the Playlines Trust.

We have continued to train a large number of people in safeguarding and mental health first aid, with over 60 organisations from a range of backgrounds taking advantage of our regular courses and bespoke offers, with the VCSE sector benefiting from continued low cost and flexible options for delivery to staff and volunteers.

Youth Networks have been restarted across the county with 3 face to face meetings per year in each network area delivered in partnership with the Space Communities Team. We also ran a Devon wide conference in April and hope to run a whole sector online meeting in November. Members have been keen to support their local networks and we look forward to further local successes.

We have continued our funding of the MHFA England program and added a third trainer to our team, enabling more people to access the training in their communities. We have trained 32 individuals this year from 15 different groups and organisations this year with two more courses planned.

VOYC is involved in enabling the VCSE Sector to have their voice heard. We strive to ensure that local public services through the Devon Children and Families Partnership (DCFP) have a single way into the diverse VCSE Sector here in Devon. VOYC Devon represents the VCSE on the following: The DCFP Subgroup Chairs, DCFP Quality Assurance Delivery Group, Early Help Improvement Board, DCFP Communication and Engagement and the Holiday Activities Programme.

The sector continues to operate with a great deal of determination, innovation and professionalism despite the uncertainties of funding and continuing difficulties in worker recruitment, retention and training. VOYC has worked with all its members to ensure they know of the latest funding, training and development opportunities through the continuing success of the newsletter and local networks. We are keen to foster more partnership focussed working by continuing to develop Youth Work in Devon this year. We must thank all the members who have contributed to the success of VOYC this year through their continuing support, knowledge and hard work in their local areas.

We would once again like to extend a big thank you to our staff and Trustees as both have been central to all that we have achieved during the year and we thank them once again for their commitment and time.

Gill Millar (Chair)

Tom Coulthard (Chief Officer)

A Quick Summary of the year!

A Devon wide network of:

208 Local Organisations
18 Network Organisations
79 Associates



- ✓ Reaching over 2000 children and young people.

Connecting people and organisations:

6 meetings for Local Networks
providing advice information and support to 30
organisations



Strengthening Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Sector Organisations

32

Organisations received
direct support.

25 Youth Organisations

7 Other Not for Profits who work with Children
and Young People



29 'Weekly' to Members
11 'Monthly News' to Members and Subscribers

Keeping children and young people safe

Delivering Safeguarding Training for:
274 Training Places, from
64 different Organisations



Being the Voice of and advocating for the Sector



VOYC attends the following DSCP sub groups:

- ✓ Quality Assurance Delivery Group;
- ✓ Early Help Improvement Board
- ✓ Communication and Engagement

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT

YEAR ENDED 31.3.24

VOYC Devon is a charity (Registered Charity Number 1054442) and as such meets all the rules and regulations set by the Charity Commission. The Trustees of the Charity present this report to support the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The Annual Report and Accounts are produced in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011, and the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities. VOYC Devon has income between £25,000 and £500,000 and so is subject to Independent Examination, conducted by Kevin Pope of KJP Financial Training Ltd.

The Charity's objects are to benefit young people in Devon by:

Championing and strengthening the informal learning offer of the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) Sector Children and Young People Organisations in Devon by:

- strengthening VCSE organisations providing support through information and advice in all aspects of work with children and young people;
- keeping children and young people safe by developing the skills of those who work with children and young people, delivering safeguarding and other relevant training;
- connecting people and organisations by developing and sustaining both countywide and local youth networks to enable youth organisations to share good practice, resources and expertise;
- ensuring that the voice of the VCSE organisations is heard.

VOYC Devon champions and strengthens the VCSE Children and Young People Sector, with over 250 members ranging from the largest charities, national network organisations (eg, Girl Guiding, Army Cadets and Boys Brigade) to the smallest community organisations. There are many committed volunteers supporting the organisations within our membership with people across the County giving their time, energy and money.

The sector has emerged from the post pandemic period into an environment of uncertainty and opportunity, with continuing difficulties in planning for a sustainable VCSE in future.

VOYC will strive to support existing provision, empower volunteers, train an effective and vigilant workforce in safeguarding and to open new groups, clubs and opportunities for the young people of Devon through effective, sustainable partnerships.

Governance

The Executive Committee comprises:

- The three elected officers (Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer);
- Up to twelve representatives of member organisations;
- Up to six co-opted members.

The Executives are appointed either:

- by ordinary resolution of the members at general meeting;
- or as a co-option made at a meeting of the Executive during the year.

During the year, there were no changes to the Executive Committee.

There were six meetings of the Executive Committee held during 2023-24 and there were reports on the financial position and on the performance against targets in the management plan at each of these meetings.

Staff Team

Our able staff team has continued to be led by Tom Coulthard as CEO with Juliet White as the Operations Coordinator and Rachel Hopper Communications & Marketing Assistant. We continue to be supported by Danielle Howlett (Safeguarding & MHFA Training) as a freelance contributor.

Marketing

We continued to keep our website fresh, up to date and relevant. We produce a weekly member only e-bulletin and a monthly newsletter with wider circulation to both members and stakeholders. The newsletter has continued to build a regular readership of over 40%. We have continued to use our social media to reflect and promote the achievements and focus of our members.

Statement of Public Benefit

The Executive have considered the guidance provided by the Charity Commission relating to public benefit and its impact on the charity's work, and in particular the requirement that there must be specific identifiable benefits, and ones applicable to the wider public. Trustees consider that both requirements have been met.

Reserves Policy

The Executive has examined the Charity's need for reserves in the context of planned activities during 2023/24. This process has included consideration of quantifiable financial risks to the Charity within the context of continued spending cuts by central and local government.

Reserves are needed to:

- Allow funding to cover unforeseen operational or core costs like taking on temporary staff to cover a long-term sickness / absence.
- Provides a fund to cover gaps in income of up to six months if a grant is not renewed or is unexpectedly taken away.
- Planned commitments that cannot be met by future income such as refurbishment of the website or ICT hardware.
- Covering short-term deficits in our cash flow before a grant is received.

At the year-end, the level of reserves was £78837.81. Based on the above criteria, the Trustees are confident that there are sufficient unrestricted reserves to meet the reserves policy requirements.

Approved by the Trustee Board on 24th June 2024, and signed on its behalf by the Chair:

Gill Millar
Chair of the Trustees

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

YEAR ENDED 31.03.24

| 31.03.23 | | Financial Statement | | 31.03.24 | 31.03.23 | 31.03.24 |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| INCOME | | | | £ | EXPENDITURE | £ |
| 62995.61 | B/Forward | | 70355.01 | | | |
| 28766.00 | Grant – Youth Service Grant | | 29629.00 | 37861.40 | Employment/Travel | 40423.28 |
| 0.00 | Grant - MHFA | | 4374.92 | 117.33 | Governance | 138.49 |
| 4500.00 | Grant - Comms Fund | | 4500.00 | 9.60 | Networking | 30.00 |
| 12813.45 | Training Programme | | 11089.15 | 1426.14 | Office | 1103.04 |
| 1245.00 | Operational Income | | 0.00 | 671.88 | ICT | 606.24 |
| 900.00 | Youth Network | | 0.00 | 40.98 | Member Training | 18.79 |
| 343.52 | Interest | | 1294.57 | 72.00 | Bank Charges | 60.00 |
| 28.26 | Misc | | 0.00 | 900.00 | Train. Reimbursements | 0.00 |
| 48596.23 | TOTAL INCOME | | 50887.64 | 41099.33 | TOTALS | 42379.84 |
| | | | | 137.50 | Res Exp again YS Rev | 25.00 |
| | | | | 41236.83 | TOTAL EXP | 42404.84 |
| | | | | | Carried Forward | 78837.81 |
| BANK BALANCES AS AT | | | | 31.03.24 | | |
| | CAF Current account | | | 3013.39 | | |
| | CAF Gold Account | | | 40060.29 | | |
| | Shawbrook Bank 60 day notice a/c | | | 35764.13 | | |

Independent examiners report for the accounts (y/e 31.3.24):-



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Independent examiner's report on the accounts

Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
VOYC Devon

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 March 2024

**Charity no
(if any)**

1054442

Set out on pages

1 - 3

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 /03 / 2024.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

03 May 2024

Name:

Kevin Pope

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Bankers (FCIB)

Address:

6, Harrison Close

Emersons Green

BRISTOL BS16 7HB

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Nothing material to report