



**Voluntary
Organisations
for Young People
and Children**

Annual Report 2024/25



Photo courtesy of Sirona Therapeutic Horsemanship



Photo courtesy of Chagford Education & Leisure Trust



Photo courtesy of Woolser Youth Club



Photo courtesy of MED Theatre

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
Steve Keable	Treasurer
Kerrie Clifford	Co-option
Paul Reisbach	Co-option
Rebecca Skinner	Co-option

Staff

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

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENT 2024 – 2025

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 are also delivering Mental Health First Aid training in partnership with MHFA England to upskill volunteers and staff across the sector to enable early intervention in young people's mental health and wellbeing.

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 70 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.

We have continued to deliver our youth networks and brought 30 different groups together for our annual Youth Work in Devon conference.

We have extended our funding of the MHFA England programme into a third year. We have trained 39 individuals this year from 18 groups and organisations with two more courses planned going forward into next year.

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

The sector continues to operate with a great deal of determination, innovation and professionalism despite continuing shortages of funding, difficulties in worker recruitment, retention and rising costs. VOYC has worked with all its members to ensure they know of the latest funding, training and development opportunities through the continuing success of our newsletter and local networks. We have developed a wide range of new members in a huge variety of sectors, helping to facilitate local partnerships and enable groups to cooperate easily at a local level. We must thank all the members who have contributed to the success of VOYC this year through their 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:

161 Local Organisations
17 Network Organisations
96 Associates



Reaching over 2000 children and young people.

Connecting people and organisations:

18 meetings for Local Networks
providing advice information and support to 41
organisations



Strengthening Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Sector Organisations

41

Organisations received
direct support

37 Youth Organisations

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



30 'Weekly' to Members
13 'Monthly News' to Members and Subscribers

Keeping children and young people safe

Delivering Safeguarding Training for:
310 training places, from
74 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 31.3.25

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 2025. The Annual Report and Accounts are produced in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2022, 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 (FCIB).

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 2024-25 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 Coordinator. We continue to be supported by Danielle Howlett (Safeguarding & MHFA Training), Caroline Down and Jenny Lindow (MHFA Training) as freelance contributors.

Marketing

This year VOYC introduced a refreshed visual identity, including a new logo and an updated website, to better reflect our mission and values. These changes are part of our ongoing efforts to stay current, improve user experience and engage more effectively with our community. 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 2024/25. 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 £69745.79. 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 23rd June 2025, and signed on its behalf by the Chair:

Gill Millar
Chair of the Trustees

Independent examiners report for the accounts (y/e 31.3.25):-



**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 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1054442

Set out on pages

1 - 4

(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 / 2025.

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: 29 April 2025

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

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

YEAR ENDED 31.03.25

31.03.24		Financial Statement		31.03.25	31.03.24		31.03.25
		INCOME		£	EXPENDITURE		£
70355.01	B/Forward		78837.81				
29629.00	Grant – Youth Service Grant		31110.00	40423.28	Employment/Travel		43676.41
4374.92	Grant - MHFA		0.00	138.49	Governance		160.57
4500.00	Grant - Comms Fund		0.00	30.00	Networking		143.70
11089.15	Training Programme		11835.10	1103.04	Office		931.18
1294.57	Interest		2060.75	606.24	ICT		6405.65
				18.79	Member Training		198.00
				60.00	Bank Charges		60.00
50887.64	TOTAL INCOME		45005.85	42379.84	TOTALS		51575.51
				25.00	Res Exp again YS Rev		18.04
				42404.84	TOTAL EXP		51593.55

MHFA Restricted Funding Grant

Balance b/f 23/24	4374.92
ADD reallocation from 23/24	
unrestricted training prog income	<u>700.00</u>
Total b/f	5074.92
ADD MHFA income 24/25	<u>11075.00</u>
	16149.92
DEDUCT MHFA Exp 24/25	<u>13579.32</u>
Total Restricted Funds c/f	2570.60

Restricted Funds - Youth Service Review

Balance b/f	18.04
Less current year exp to date	<u>18.04</u>
Remaining Funds	0.00

Summary

Unrestricted Funds B/F	74462.89
Restricted Funds B/F	<u>4374.92</u>
Total Funds B/F	78837.81

Total Unrestricted Income	45005.85
Total Restricted Income	<u>11075.00</u>
	134918.66

Total Unrestricted Exp	51593.55
Total Restricted Exp	<u>13579.32</u>
Balance C/F	69745.79

Bank Reconciliation (31.03.25)

CAF Curr Acc	4875.27
CAF Gold A/C	27929.40
Shawbrook Bank (60 day notice)	<u>36941.12</u>

Total	69745.79
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**Unrestricted and Restricted Funds Breakdown
(31.03.25)**

Unrestricted Funds	67175.19
Restricted Funds	<u>2570.60</u>
Total	69745.79

Signed as a correct record following review of bank accounts and charity records -
Auditor: Kevin Pope (FCIB) dated 29.04.2025.