

FOLKESTONE YOUTH PROJECT

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# SHED

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URBAN WILDERNESS

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YOUTH AND COMMUNITY COHESION SPACE  
BRADSTONE AVENUE

REGISTERED CHARITY 1113379

ANNUAL REPORT MAY 2024 – APRIL 2025



WRITTEN BY RUTH TYLER – PROJECT MANAGER

**Executive Summary**

The project has adapted to the everchanging climate and challenges affecting young people.

The effects of the Covid pandemic are still coming to the surface for young people and the youth team have identified the needs and work to address these.

Securing a continuation of multi-year funding from The National Lottery has given the Charity financial security to build upon.

The trustees are working towards having a long-term lease from The Arch Company.

The youth team continues to provide a wide range of activities whilst keeping sustainability at the forefront of the project.

The Trustees are pleased to have improved accessibility to the project by installing a substantial disabled ramp.

The only negative is a personal injury insurance claim which the Charity contests and which is in the hands of the insurers/solicitors.

## **Introduction**

The Charity established a youth project in Folkestone Harbour in 2006. (Full history can be read in our 2016 Annual Report.)

In 2014 we relocated onsite to modular units due to our old building being demolished for regeneration work.

In 2017 we had to leave that site and put the buildings into storage, leaving the project temporarily homeless.

In 2018 we took over Network Land to establish our new Urban Wilderness site at Bradstone Avenue. The modular units were brought out of storage and have been completely refurbished.

The project works in a holistic way to provide free activities/preventative education that support the social, emotional, and physical development of young people aged 10 -18 years through open access sessions and 1-2-1 support 10 -25 years via referral.

The Charity now delivers a wide range of activities with a sustainable ethos.

The outside space provides opportunity for wildlife garden and community gardening.

Through working with the Police and Council Crime Reduction Team, the youth team are making an impact on the lives of vulnerable young people in the area.

The project allows no social media use onsite and discourages the use of mobile phones during sessions. This is to reduce stress on young people and to give them opportunity to fully engage in activities.

## **Demographic profile of the youth population served.**

The project sits within the East of Folkestone surrounded by the Wards of Folkestone Harbour, Folkestone Foord, Folkestone Harvey Central, Folkestone Foord and Folkestone East, which are recognised as areas of deprivation and need.

The area is in the top 5% Decile for Poverty and deprivation.

Although down for redevelopment, recognised problems in the direct area are –

- High drug use/dealing. / Risk from County Line gangs.
- Anti – social behaviour.
- High rates of NEETS/ Young People in Inclusion.
- High levels of crime.
- Increased number of Knife crime.
- High numbers of people smoking Cannabis.
- High levels of unemployment
- High rates of contact with CAMHS
- High levels of Youth Offending.

The direct area has a high quantity of emerging ethnics groups, migrant population, and unescorted asylum seekers. The project does not see this as a problem and celebrates the diversity of its members.

The area also has numerous houses of multiple occupancy. The area has not benefitted from any investment in the town development; however rental prices have increased greatly with many families now facing being homeless due to this.

A high proportion of our members are frequently excluded from school. We are experiencing higher levels of young people who are self-harming.

Many of our young people have challenging behaviour due to conditions such as ADHD, have complex family lives and lack social skills.

The area still has high levels of drug dealing and related violence. There were two serious knife assaults in the direct area during this period.

## **Safeguarding and Policies Summary**

The Folkestone Youth Project:

- Recognizes its responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all young people involved with the project by protecting them from physical, emotional, or sexual harm and from neglect or bullying of any kind.
- Will ensure that all external bodies using the facilities at the centre, providing activities for our members (whether at our centre or at their own premises) exercise a similar approach to their duty of care for the young people they work with.
- Will ensure that all adults who work with young people are aware of their role and responsibilities and that training opportunities are made available to them.

- Will practice safe recruitment in checking the suitability of staff and volunteers to work with children, including Disclosure and Barring Service checks as appropriate.

## **Service Outcomes**

### **Service Standards**

All youth work services should enable young people to demonstrate an increase in the social and emotional capabilities which will then support them in making positive transitions from childhood to adulthood. These capabilities include:

- The ability to communicate effectively.
- Developing self-confidence and self-esteem
- Developing resilience and determination
- Learning to manage their feelings & relationships well.
- Developing creativity and problem-solving skills
- Reduce risk to vulnerable young people.
- Improve Physical and Mental Health.

This service will also contribute to the following geographic and thematic priorities which have been identified through local needs assessment.

The service will focus on raising the aspirations of young people aged 10-25 and support them in achieving their potential.

### **General Youth Work Principles**

Our ethos is that all young people deserve a space where they feel welcome and valued regardless of their individual circumstances.

Therefore, the project must -

- Be inclusive; offering an equality of access for young people regardless of gender, ethnicity, sexual identity and/or disability.
- Offer challenging, free and fun activities which allow for young people to engage in informal education, develop positive relationships and increase personal and social skills.
- Deliver a broad curriculum of activities including (but not exclusively) healthy choices, participation, challenging prejudice, creativity and information and guidance.
- Offer the opportunity for young people to gather and socialise in safe spaces during evenings and school holidays.
- Develop the participation of young people, involving them in the design, delivery and evaluation of services.
- Promote positive relationships between young people and the wider community.
- Contribute to a preventative agenda which recognises young people who are more vulnerable and offers pathways to additional support where required.
- Demonstrate a partnership approach ensuring that a range of organisations and community sectors work together to help young people.

The project has adopted a sustainable and environmentally friendly approach,

### **Evidence of Impact.**

Youth services in the area have drastically reduced with government cuts.

The effects of lockdown on young people are now being realised, especially those from lower income families.

Attendance has increased and the youth team have worked very closely with young people to identify challenges to their well being both physically and mentally.

All activities remain free.

Most young people attend both open access sessions for the full three hours. Therefore, we provide 6 hours free engagement per week for some of the most vulnerable young people in the area.

Over the period of this report we have welcomed over 100 new young people and session attendance is averagely 20 young people per session.

### **YOUTH WORK AND PREVENTATIVE EDUCATION.**

The project opened two evenings per week 4pm -7pm for open access to young people aged 10 -18 years.

The youth team provided weekly 1-2-1 support for two clients aged 20 -25 years from the local Early Psychosis unit and one young person aged 13 years.

From June, a Kent Wildlife Community worker visited weekly to do extra environmental work with young people focusing on their Blue water project.

Young people and the youth team worked together to mend the potting/greenhouse and erect sunshade for the kitchen garden area. This work was funded by local councillors.

The Charity purchased a new Air Hockey table for young people.

Young people had a Christmas Party.

The youth team attended two school engagement mornings.

The project provided work experience for four young people from the local secondary school and one young person from East Kent College.

Currently we have one student from Canterbury University doing work placement.

Preventive education has focused on positive relationships and vaping.

### **COMMUNITY AND URBAN WILDERNESS WORK.**

The youth team have continued to develop the sustainability ethos of the project.

Partnership working on this includes Kent Wildlife, AW Rail for building supplies and Sandgate Community Gardens for compost.

A local sustainable flower farm held a fundraising plant sale for the project and donated any unsold plants.

We had the large trees onsite checked for safety and overhanging branches trimmed to allow more sunlight onto the meadow area.

The youth team continued to keep the site weeded and safe for use.

A new septic tank was fitted.

We started 2025 off with the installation of a disabled ramp, allowing more access for all to the project.

In March we started an extensive revamp of the meadow area which includes the addition of a seating area, expansion of the meadow area and animal habitats.

### **FUNDING**

We secured multi year funding from The National Lottery.

Starbucks Community fund provided the creation of the new decking area/meadow revamp.

Rotarians

FHDC

Kent Community Foundation





CHARITY COMMISSION  
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

FOLKESTONE YOUTH PROJECT

## Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period  
from

01/05/2024

To

30/04/2025

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>					
Rental	11,050	-	-	11,050	9,350
Grants	-	56,108	-	56,108	54,762
Donations	4,999	-	-	4,999	2,637
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total (Gross income for AR)</b>	<b>16,049</b>	<b>56,108</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>72,157</b>	<b>66,749</b>
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>16,049</b>	<b>56,108</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>72,157</b>	<b>66,749</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>					
Activities	-	16,451	-	16,451	4,848
Security	678	-	-	678	912
Waste Removal	-	1,841	-	1,841	4,170
Insurance and Professional Services	2,427	-	-	2,427	2,245
Wages	-	41,461	-	41,461	44,681
Internet/Telephone	611	-	-	611	576
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>3,716</b>	<b>59,753</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>63,469</b>	<b>57,432</b>
<b>A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)</b>					
	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>3,716</b>	<b>59,753</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>63,469</b>	<b>57,432</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>12,333</b>	<b>- 3,645</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,688</b>	<b>9,317</b>
<b>A5 Transfers between funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>A6 Cash funds last year end</b>	<b>35,971</b>	<b>68,700</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>104,671</b>	<b>95,354</b>
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>48,304</b>	<b>65,055</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>113,359</b>	<b>104,671</b>

## Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B1 Cash funds</b>	Bank balance	48,304	65,055	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	<b>Total cash funds</b>	<b>48,304</b>	<b>65,055</b>	<b>-</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			

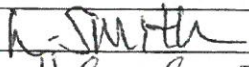
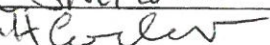
	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
<b>B2 Other monetary assets</b>		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B3 Investment assets</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
<b>B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
<b>B5 Liabilities</b>			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	L. SMITH	23.9.25
	H. COCKE R	23/9/25





**Section A**

**Independent Examiner's Report**

**Report to the trustees/  
members of**

Charity Name  
FOLKESTONE YOUTH PROJECT

**On accounts for the year  
ended**

30 April 2025

**Charity no  
(if any)**

1113379

**Set out on pages**

Annual Report and Receipts and payments accounts pages 1-2

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 30/04/2025.

**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 (other than that disclosed below \*) 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.

*\* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

**Signed:**

**Date:**

26/09/2025

**Name:**

Mark Minus FCA, Beresfords

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

ICAEW

**Address:**

1-2 Rhodium Point, Spindle Close,  
Hawkinge, Folkestone, Kent  
CT18 7TQ

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.**