



**Registered Number 05999166**

**Charity Number 1119528**

**The Young Lives Foundation**

**A Company Limited by Guarantee**

**Financial Statements - Year Ended 31 March 2024**

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**Kreston Reeves**  
Chartered Accountants  
Montague Place  
Quayside  
Chatham Maritime  
Chatham  
ME4 4QU

## THE YOUNG LIVES FOUNDATION

### REFERENCE & AMNISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

**Trustees and Directors** - The Directors and Trustees that served during the year were:

A M Fisher, Trustee

A Godden, Trustee (*Vice Chair*)

M L Hodges, Trustee (Resigned, December 2023)

L Hutchinson, (*Chairman*)

K A Nichol, Trustee (Appointed, September 2023)

I C Pearson, Trustee (Resigned, September 2024)

R Oates, Trustee (Appointed, March 2024)

P S Powell, Trustee,

S H Wallace, Trustee

S J Williams, Trustee (Resigned, June 2024)

**Charity Number:** 1119528

**Company Number:** 05999166

**Company Secretary:** S H Wallace

**Chief Executive Officer:** S M Gray

**Registered Address:** 71 College Road, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6SX

**Independent Auditors:** Kreston Reeves, Montague Place, Quayside, Chatham Maritime, Chatham, ME4 4QU

## **The Young Lives Foundation - Objectives and Activities for Public Benefit**

The objectives of the charity, as set out in the memorandum of association, are:

- (a) To meet the needs of young people and to promote their personal and social development and advancement in life by providing information, assistance and advice; and
- (b) To meet the needs of adults over the age of 25 who have formerly received support from the charity, or such adults who are in need or socially or economically disadvantaged, by providing information, assistance and advice.

The Trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit reporting when reviewing the charity's aims and objectives and in planning future activities.

The Young Lives Foundation (YLF) has continued to provide a range of services and activities for the benefit of those in need across the South-East of England in line with the charity's vision:

***'We want all young people to live in communities where they are heard, are safe and supported; with opportunities to thrive.'***

YLF works to achieve this by delivering on a mission; to support young people to thrive through highly effective and accessible programmes where:

- **Young People's voices are heard and empowered (LISTEN)**
- **Young People are supported by consistent adults through times of challenge and change (SUPPORT)**
- **Young People have opportunities and resources to be happy and thrive (EMPOWER)**

YLF support is delivered through a set of unique programmes in the following areas:

- **Youth Programmes**
- **Advocacy Programmes**
- **Programmes for Care Leavers (Including Apprenticeships)**

These programmes are delivered by trained staff and volunteers in 'The YLF Way'; embedding our charity values:

- **Passionate** – a charity that genuinely cares about young people and is driven by passion and setting high standards
- **Stable and Consistent** – offering long term support and a stable presence in communities and people's lives

- **Integrity** – transparent and honest with strong moral principles and clear about what to do and why
- **Innovative & Flexible** – ‘A can do’ charity, agile and adaptable to change, open to new ways of working with courage and ambition to learn, grow and offer value
- **Gratitude** – recognizing and valuing the contributions and support of others, always saying thank you for the gifts of time, money and support
- **Respectful** – treating all people equally and fairly

### YLF Activities and Achievements

The last 12 months has presented continued challenges to the charity, particularly in respect of the higher costs of living, which has impacted on both fundraising and volunteer recruitment. YLF has responded with innovative strategies in response to these challenges with some success. However, the higher costs of living also resulted in higher demand for YLF Programmes to support families and young people.

The impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on children, young people and families remains prevalent. YLF continues to receive high referral rates for young people impacted by the restriction during that time, seeking support for impact on mental health and emotional resilience, isolation, social integration and attendance or attainment in education and employment.

Despite these challenges, YLF continues to demonstrate a high degree of resilience, being agile to change, mobilising rapidly to varying demands whilst ensuring the charity and its people maintain the charity’s mission and values, supporting over 2,000 people in 2023/24.

YLF continues to see growth, in line with its ambitious strategy, being responsive and effective with the development of new support programmes, reaching wider groups of young people, recruiting and retaining a diverse and high performing team of volunteers, maintaining fundraising targets to resource much needed support programmes, whilst remaining financially secure with a shift to self-sustaining programmes.

Feedback from young people and other stakeholders is used to affirm what a positive impact the support provided by YLF has on the lives of young people.

*“YLF’s success is a testament to the incredible efforts the entire YLF community puts into providing services to so many, and the genuine belief in the mission to bring about change, provide support, empower children and young people, and ensure that the voices of children in care, care leavers, and all those involved with children’s services are heard.” (Commissioning Manager, Medway Council)*

## YLF Advocacy Programmes

YLF's Rights, Representation and Advocacy Programmes, continue to support an increasing number of vulnerable people each year with a wide range of issues.

Enabling young people's voices to be heard in the decisions that affect their lives, providing consistent and stable adults and ensuring they are safeguarded in these processes is central to YLF's mission and activity. Over **2,250** people were supported through our Advocacy Programmes in 2023/24.

## **Advocacy Services**

YLF provides the Rights and Advocacy service for young people receiving or eligible to receive support from both Kent and Medway Children's Services and children placed into Kent with neighbouring authorities. These services are commissioned by each local authority under their statutory obligations.

In 2023/24, YLF advocates supported **554** young people who presented with a wide range of issues. Demand far exceeded the commissioning requirements, despite this, YLF Advocates were able to deliver quality support, evidence the outcomes and impact of advocacy interventions, whilst also evidencing added social value.

YLF's advocates supported young people, aged 5-24, through direct advocacy support, or by empowering the young person to self-advocate. Young people present to YLF with a wide range of issues relating to their lives, which this year included: placement moves, leaving care, education, housing, legal or financial matters, appropriateness of treatment, standards of care, and family contact.

YLF's advocates also support and/or represent children and young people in meetings where decisions are being made about their lives. These meetings include Care Plan Reviews, care proceedings, Joint Housing Assessments and Family Group Conferences.

YLF delivers the service using a team of experienced and trained advocates combining an extensive range of skills and experience to support the individual needs of young people accessing the service.

*"I hope you don't mind me emailing directly, but I wanted to provide some feedback on one of your advocates. AM has been involved with a number of cases at Maidstone recently where he has supported 16/17-year-olds during a Joint Housing Assessment. Some of those cases were very challenging for a variety of reasons, but I have received nothing but glowing feedback from multiple members of my team about AM. I myself have seen him at work and corresponded with him regarding one particular case and was impressed at how he championed and challenged appropriately on behalf of those he advocates for. As I understand it, my team have described him as "brilliant", "excellent", "calm", "amazing" and expressed just how well he delivers the advocacy to the young people he supports. Please do accept my thanks and that of my team for the work Andrew has done. He is an asset to your organisation and we look forwards to working with him again in the future." (Housing Manager, District Council)*



*"I just wanted to say a massive thank you from all my family members for all the amazing work you've done for our little E. It's been amazing working with you, and I wish you well on your future endeavours, you'll be amazing at your new job just like you are now. E has already said she's going to be very lost without you, and to be fair so will I."*

*"I feel much happier and calmer now I have spoken to you. I feel like someone is actually listening to me finally and cares about how I feel".*

*"Despite the difficulties you face, you are still one of the best advocacy services in the country"  
(Office of the Children's Commissioner)*

### Accompanying Adult Service

When asylum seeking children arrive in the UK unaccompanied, there will sometimes be confusion over their age. YLF has been delivering the Accompanying Adult Service across Kent for over 8 years, assisting in an age assessment interview process. YLF's Accompanying Adults are trained staff and volunteers, who ensure interviews are conducted properly and fairly and are compliant with legal requirements.

YLF Accompanying Adult Volunteers act independently from the Local Authority and are fully trained to ensure they can give the best support during assessments. The role of the Accompanying Adult is to ensure that the child understands why the age assessment is taking place and has an interpreter present, and to facilitate communication between all parties.

YLF's experience in working with vulnerable young people in times of distress, particularly in an interview setting, means it can offer excellent support to the young person and provide the right training to the volunteers who are delivering this crucial frontline work.

In the last 12 months YLF supported **95** people at age assessment interviews.

### Independent Person Service

An Independent Person (IP) is appointed to oversee the process of a Stage Two Complaint Investigation when a local authority receives a complaint about a child they have supported.

An IP is not an Advocate for the complainant. The role of the IP is to work alongside the Investigating Officer (IO) to provide an independent and objective view into the investigation of the complaint.

YLF's IPs are self-employed to avoid conflict of interest and comply with timescales for completion (up to a maximum 65 working days) in line with the requirements of The Children Act 1989

Representations Procedure Regulations and Guidance, 'Getting the Best from Complaints'. IPs provide a written report on the investigation written in plain language.

### Secure Panel Reviews

YLF can provide trained and experienced staff to support further statutory processes such as Return Interviews and Secure Panel Reviews. YLF staff have expertise to ensure the young person has opportunities to express their views and opinions, feel listened to and, when appropriate, offer advice on further support or signpost them to other supportive services.

Although independent from local authorities, YLF staff have established excellent protocols for partnership working with social work teams and are key in the delivery of effective communications which help safeguard young people.

### Appropriate Adult Service

YLF recruits, trains and supports volunteers to act as appropriate adults for young people aged 10-17 and vulnerable adults when they are in Kent Police custody. The presence of an appropriate adult is a legal requirement under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE). In most cases, this role is carried out by a parent, family member, or carer, but when one of these is not in attendance, Kent Police call a volunteer to act as the appropriate adult.

The role of an appropriate adult is to monitor procedures in custody, facilitate communication between the detained person and the police and to ensure that the detained person is safeguarded whilst in custody. In addition to the above, YLF volunteers will raise any concerns they have about the safety or well-being of the detained person outside the police custody environment.

In the year, YLF's appropriate adults attended custody suites on **1,324** occasions.

YLF is delighted and incredibly proud that the Appropriate Adult Service received The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS).

The service is available to all custody suites in the Kent Police area and is funded through Kent County Council and Medway Council under a contract.

YLF's Appropriate Adult Service meets the national standards set by the National Appropriate Adult Network and Home Office.

*"M was a face I saw both from my role as a custody Sgt upon promotion at Medway custody, and now in my role as the head of that department. M was always a consistent face in the custody suite and had a pragmatic way of dealing with the challenges as they came up. He was always straight talking and was a character within the custody environment, everyone knows him. His professionalism and dedication to your work in the appropriate adult arena will be missed, I am personally grateful for his support over the years and I hope you enjoy your well-deserved retirement, thank you." (Chief Inspector & Head of Custody, Kent Police)*



## Medway Children and Young People's Council (MCYPC)

YLF facilitates and supports young people speaking collectively about their experiences of being in care – principally through the Medway Children and Young People's Council (MCYPC).

YLF provides the MCYPC for Medway Council and facilitates young people's involvement and engagement with the local authority as their corporate parent. The overall aim of MCYPC is to be the effective and representative voice of all children and young people in and leaving Medway Council's care, influencing the local authority's policy, performance, practice and provision affecting life in care.

The MCYPC has a mission to:

- Empower and promote the voice of Medway's children in care and care leavers
- Improve resilience and social and emotional wellbeing
- Improve the experiences of those growing up in or leaving care
- Influence policy and practice
- Provide positive and educational experiences

Members of the MCYPC have continued being the voice of Medway's 400 plus children in care by attending formal meetings with the Director of Children's and Adults' Services and by providing a proactive voice on the Corporate Parenting Group.

During the year, over **160** young people participated in MCYPC Events and consultations, which included positive changes for individuals, influencing social care and health policy, changes to the wider community and changes to how MCYPC is delivered. This year MCYPC activities and campaigns include, the 'Change Makers Programme', undertaking voice of the child training, Time to Shine Awards Event for children in care and participation in Medway Council's staff recruitment processes.

*"I feel like part of a team and we are making a difference for others, which is really important to me. That's why I am proud to be part of MCYPC."*

*"MCYPC is a safe place for me to go, where we do fun activities, chat about things around growing up in care, and tell the council what changes can happen to make it better...and everyone is just really nice."*

*"I am writing to celebrate and praise the hard work that took place to set up the amazing Football event tonight it was delightful to see so many happy children and young people having fun and enjoying the event. Plus, our amazing foster carers too."*

*I am so grateful to all who were able to attend, but also for all you do in Medway to challenge children and young people to succeed."*

*It's such a pleasure to work with committed professionals who dedicate their working day to ensure our children and young people matter in Medway. Your teams are truly awesome, and exceptional."*

*Your generosity of time, and support, expertise and knowledge help to make such a difference. Your teams are always so helpful and so generous with their time.”*  
(Foster Carer)

### Befriending (Independent Visitors)

YLF also recruits, trains and supports volunteers to act as Independent Visitors (IV) or Befrienders for young people in care. The statutory role of the IV, as defined in The Children Act, is “to visit, advise and befriend” and to take a long-term interest in the young person’s well-being and development.

YLF’s befriending programme is designed for children in the care of local authorities and the Independent Visitor is a consistent and stable adult in the young person’s life. Independent visitors spend good quality time with young people and vary the time between informal support and activities.

The service is available to any eligible young person placed in Kent or Medway, with referrals being received from the young person’s Social Worker. The service is funded through agreements with Kent County Council and Medway Council and through spot-purchase arrangements with other local authorities who place young people into the region. This support and having a consistent adult supporting a child as they navigate growing up in care is invaluable and often YLF’s Befrienders are the most consistent adult in the child’s life.

Over **105** children benefitted from having a YLF Befriender last year.

*“I just wanted you to know how impressed I have been with the work you have done with T. You could not have been a more perfect match with him, this arrangement has worked so well. You may never know how much you have helped him, but for him to be able to use public transport independently like he does now, was unthinkable a year or so ago. The impact of your support shines through in some of the changes he has made. I know he really values having you as his Independent Visitor.”*

*“It’s been really good, I am more confident than I was and the visits mean I can go out and learn new stuff away from others at home. I have not had this much fun for ages”*

### YLF Youth Programmes

YLF’s investment in Youth Programmes has become increasingly important given recent cuts to youth work across Kent and the closing of youth centres. With a focus on trauma informed approaches, preventative initiatives and early interventions, YLF’s Youth Programmes plug a vital gap in provision for children in tier 2-4 across the county and offer opportunities for education, one-to-one, small nurture groups or larger group programmes. YLF’s district-based youth programmes offer safe and supportive spaces where young people are heard and have opportunities to thrive.

### LEGENDS Positive Activities Programme

The Legends Programme continues to provide a safe and secure setting for disadvantaged young people to come together and be given opportunities to try new things. The young people engaging in

these programmes are children in care, those with learning or behavioural difficulties or having special educational needs or those from deprived backgrounds. Most would not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy some of the activities YLF has been able to offer them.

Funding from TNL Reaching Communities, Kent Community Foundation and Colyer Ferguson, have enabled YLF to expand the range of activities offered throughout the year and deliver new and increased opportunities for a wider range of young people.

Over **180** young people were supported during the year the past year, with 91% of these young people attending activities rating the programme as 10 out of 10.

*"I want to say a huge thank you to YLF for everything they have done for my son. YLF have been the only consistent on a rocky road. He has never settled in any kind of group before, and usually gives up after a few weeks. He has been at the legends group for 3 years now!! You have given him opportunities and experiences he would have missed out on, and he has more confidence and self-esteem now. I truly believe you are a big part in his life and the reason why he is happier and the confident boy he is today."*

The Legends Programme offers weekly youth interventions in targeted districts across Kent and Medway, working with early help teams, schools and district partners to ensure engaging programmes are available. These include more intensive school holiday programmes and residential experiences.

Alongside YLF's district-based hubs, offering safe spaces to meet, YLF offers 'virtual gaming groups', safe spaces for young people to meet online, where young people are provided with safe gaming zones to interact with peers, staff and volunteers, educating young people on how to game safely and the risks that the virtual gaming world can present.

Many young people lack opportunities, self-confidence, self-esteem and social skills. Many do not have appropriate role models and have limited relationships with peers. This is where the support of YLF makes a lasting difference.

100% of the Legends Programme activities offered are funded using YLF's fundraised income. YLF is extremely grateful to its supporters and grant making trusts for the success of these programmes.

YLF believes that involving the young people in designing, planning and then participating in each activity gives them ownership of their programme and an opportunity to develop life skills including budgeting, confidence and social skills.

*"J has told us he wants to return to school now, so he can make friends like he has done at the Legends Hub. We have noticed his confidence grow, and for him to make this decision, shows how far he has come. He really struggled to form any kind of friendships, hence the need for home schooling for the last 2 years. We can't thank you enough for your help with his development in this area and being so patient with him."*

Referrals to the programme are primarily from Specialist Children's Services, Foster Carers, Early Help Teams, Schools and other Voluntary Groups.

## Mentoring Programmes

YLF's mentoring programmes have been developed and expanded to meet the continued increase in demand, particularly for children and young people who have been identified as having increased needs due to the pandemic. YLF has established a successful model for delivering both group and one to one mentoring in schools and in the community. YLF's Mentoring Programmes benefit from funding from trusts, grant making bodies and corporate supporters.

YLF's successful mentoring programmes in primary and secondary schools, complement the work of the school and offers additional guidance and support to young people who have additional needs or are experiencing difficulties.

*"Just spoke to F & he is in such good spirits. So different from the boy we had a year ago! We have noticed such a change in them both & have you to thank largely for that! So glad we have found you & have you working with us." (Head of Year, Comprehensive School)*

YLF recruits, trains, supports and retains volunteers to act as mentors, who, motivate, guide and assist young people and work with them in the achievement of positive goals.

YLF's mentors build young people's self-esteem and confidence, encourage and reward positive behaviours, diverting them away from risk taking, crime and exploitation. They do this by introducing positive activities and assisting with the achievement of positive goals. During the past year, these goals included: building resilience, addressing safeguarding concerns, improving relationships within the home, returning to school, improving schoolwork/attendance, gaining work experience or employment and taking part in activities within their communities and/or school.

*"Having a mentor is having someone to talk to and it makes you feel like someone is listening and understands you. It's a chance to have a break from everything going on. I thought mentoring would just be talking about my family and be boring. It's been SO much more than that. It's helpful, motivating and empowering - I can be me. I don't know where I'd be now if I hadn't had mentoring for the last year. I'm so proud of how far I've come!"*

Over **260** young people received mentoring support from YLF last year.

85% of mentoring arrangements were successful in supporting the young person to achieve their agreed goals/objectives.

90% of young people receiving mentoring support show an increase in positive behaviour at home or school.

Referrals are received principally through the Early Help Teams, Social Workers and Schools.

*"Having a mentor helps, it's kinda good. I personally love having a likeminded person to chat to. They make chatting away so easy but you don't necessarily have to chat about serious stuff and your emotions if you don't want to, so it is on your terms which works for me."*

### YLF's Care Leavers Offer

YLF supports young people leaving foster care and transitioning to independent living through both its Advocacy Programmes and Youth Programmes. YLF also has a separate Care Leavers Offer, part of its strategic commitment to care leavers and as part of its pledge with the National Care Leavers Covenant. YLF's care leavers offer includes:

- Advocacy Support
- Mentoring Support (Life-skills, transition to independent living, routes into education & employment)
- Peer Support Groups (Supper Clubs)
- Hardship Funds and Practical Support (equipment, leisure pursuits etc.)
- Participation Opportunities (MCYPC (protected characteristics achievement) etc.)
- Apprenticeships (funded by Cobtree Trust)
- Care Leavers Packs (Starter packs for care leavers moving into accommodation)
- Weekly drop in (partnership with KCC)
- Joint Christmas Campaign with KCC
- Alumni Support for young adults (like an extended family role)

YLF is fully committed to ensuring care leavers are supported, have access to funding, support and training, opportunities and employment as part of its programme, which:

- Supports care leavers practically in developing life skills
- Reduces care leavers who are at risk of being Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)
- Sustains tenancies and placement stability
- Reduces loneliness and isolation by giving someone to talk to

As part of YLF's offer, care leavers can refer (or be referred) for a mentor, a trained volunteer who is independent from the Care system and Corporate Parent. Often young people who have an Independent Visitor will extend support post 18 and ensure that young people in transition to independence receives consistent support from a trusted adult. Over the last 12 months, **42** care leavers have received support from a specialist Care Leavers Mentor.

*"Thank you so much for being there and all your amazing support. You have helped me get my place at university, gave me food when I had no money and helped me in so many other ways. You have listened and connected me to people I need. YLF brings many good things and opportunities for my life."*

YLF has developed a positive network and partnerships with local businesses, trusts and community groups to ensure care leavers can access work experience, apprenticeships, training opportunities and resources, i.e. Hygiene Bank. YLF has been able to distribute over £8,000 to care leavers in hardship grants, to support young people with clothing and equipment for work, pursue talents and interests and purchase resources for college/university. YLF also provides 'Welcome Packs' to care leavers moving into new accommodation, so they have essentials on arrival.



YLF has established a positive partnership with Kent County Council in running a fundraising campaign so that every Christmas, all 2,000+ Kent Care Leavers receive a Christmas gift.

*“My mentor really helped me build confidence. She has helped me when I moved house, getting all the things I needed. The fact she was also in care means she gets it, and that has been really helpful.”*

### **YLF Apprenticeships**

Thanks to funding from The Cobtree Trust, YLF is now in its tenth year of offering apprenticeships to care experienced young people who were previously not in education or employment. This ambitious scheme provides opportunities for care leavers to learn and develop skills for the world of work in a safe and supportive environment. Apprentices are required to complete an NVQ Level 2 Qualification and when the time has come for them to move on, they do so with a qualification, skills, experience and a new found confidence - along with a helping hand and practical help to find alternative employment.

*“Being an Apprentice at YLF is amazing. It has given me opportunities and experiences I couldn’t have dreamed of. I have skills and qualifications, achieved things I never thought I would and the support around me has been amazing”.*

### **YLF Empowering Our People**

#### **The Value and Benefits of Volunteering**

Volunteers from YLF have once again shown how valuable the gift of time can be with over 2,000 people benefiting from that gift in 2023/24. YLF continues to recognise the importance of ensuring its team of 200 volunteers are trained and supported in delivering high quality frontline services and achieving the exemplary standards that have been set. YLF continues to be recognised as leading charity in Kent in delivering volunteer led support, across all aspects of volunteer management, safer recruitment, selection, training, support and retention. Over the last 12 months YLF recruited and trained **97** new volunteers.

*“Having family is one thing, but having family who choose to be in your life is something entirely special. You truly brighten my day and make me feel so much better. You know how to make me smile and I appreciate you so much. “*

Over the year, YLF’s volunteers gave over 25,000 hours of frontline support to vulnerable people. When calculated at the minimum wage this equates to a value of £286,400.

Volunteers tell us how they themselves also benefit from these volunteering activities. Their horizons have been broadened; they have found new employment/career pathways, supported their educational attainment and they are able to see beyond the stereotypes of ‘young people today’ and understand better the challenges and issues that some young people have to face.



*“So proud to be involved with a great charity and the hard work YLF does. I am relishing my time as a volunteer and playing a small part in shaping lives, I’m learning so much so that the shaping of lives includes my own! “*

YLF is delighted to have been awarded The National Appropriate Adult Network Standard and the NCVO Investing in Volunteers Award. This demonstrates that YLF is a supportive organisation to volunteer with and that there are effective systems in place for keeping volunteers and service users safe.

### **Student Placements & Work Experience**

YLF also offers placements for MA and BA Social Work Students from local universities. These placements offer invaluable learning experiences to students to support them in their studies and future career goals.

We have also offered young people unique work experience opportunities, learning about the world of work in a thriving charity environment.

### **YLF - Financial Review**

#### **Going concern.**

After making appropriate enquiries, the Trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. For this reason, they continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the financial statements. Further details regarding the adoption of the going concern basis can be found in the Accounting Policies.

#### **Reserves Policy**

The policy in respect of reserve funds is to build and maintain reserves at a level sufficient to sustain and enhance existing work, where necessary and appropriate; enable the development of new areas of work and contribute towards the central costs of the charity. YLF Trustees aim to build free reserves to cover six months operational costs.

Total reserves are £707,024 of which, £127,592 is free reserves. The Trustees consider this is consistent with the charity’s reserves policy allowing for 6 months of operating costs to meet its charitable objectives over the coming period.

During the year, following the withdrawal of funding from Kent County Council, the Trustees took the strategic decision to utilise a proportion of the charity reserves in order to maintain mentoring support of young people and address the continued high demand this service. It was deemed that this was appropriate use of reserves whilst implementing a fundraising strategy to source external and sustainable funding for mentoring going forward.

## Risk Management

Risk management measures are in place covering both financial and non-financial risks. The latter category includes health and safety, lone working, business continuity and safeguarding the young people and vulnerable adults with whom the charity works. All activities involving young people are rigorously risk assessed.

The financial risks to which the charity might be exposed are regularly reviewed and action taken, as required, to protect the charity's cash assets.

Particular attention has been paid during the year to the risks the charity might face from changes in the social care landscape, funding environment and commissioning regime. A business continuity strategy and risk register are in place and monitored quarterly by the Finance and Risk Committee, a subcommittee of the Full Board of Trustees. They ensure that the charity can engage positively and creatively with the challenges and opportunities being presented and can also mitigate the impact of any reductions in local authority grants or external fundraising.

## Principal Funding Sources

The charity's principal funding (55% of income) continues to come from local authority contracts for commissioned services and activities. Fundraising events, fundraised grants and voluntary donations (43% of income) have played an increasingly important part during the year. The remaining 2% of income is made up of investment and earned income.

For every £1 raised by YLF fundraising activity, at least 90 pence is allocated to front line services and support.

## Investment Policy

The Trustees have kept the charity's investment policy under review during the year balancing diversification, to ensure that funds placed on deposit are covered by compensation arrangements, with the need to obtain a reasonable return on investments.

## YLF - Structure, Governance and Management

### Constitution

The Young Lives Foundation is a registered as a charitable company limited by guarantee and was set up by a Trust Deed.

### Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The Directors of the company are also charity Trustees as defined by Section 97 of the Charities Act 1993.

All Trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity.

The charity is fortunate in retaining Trustees who have a demonstrable commitment to its work and who collectively possess a range of business and professional skills including business management

and development, finance and fundraising, marketing, HR and family law. YLF also has Trustees who acts as a frontline volunteer with the charity and Trustees with lived experience having previously been supported by the charity.

### Trustee Induction and Training

Trustees receive regular written and oral briefings on the charity's services and activities. There are also opportunities during the year for Trustees to meet with staff, volunteers and young people with whom the charity works.

Those invited to become Trustees have opportunities to meet with the Chairman and existing Trustees and with the CEO and YLF staff team to discuss the role and to learn more about the charity's organisation, aims, objectives and operations. New Trustees also receive a comprehensive induction to the work and management of the charity from the CEO and an experienced Trustee and undertake training on Safeguarding, GDPR, Prevent and Equality and Diversity.

### The Board

The Board of Trustees meets at least four times a year.

The Board has overall responsibility for the effective governance of the charity and for setting the long-term strategy. Managerial responsibility is delegated to the CEO.

In addition, there are sub-committees of the Board where vital areas of the charity's governance can be given more focused input. Sub Committees are Finance and Risk, Fundraising and Governance. Trustees also commission an annual Safeguarding Audit of YLF's safeguarding policies and practices.

Trustees undergo training relevant to their duties and responsibilities during their term in office, undertaking mandatory eLearning as required. YLF adopts the Charity Commission Good Governance Code as a benchmark for the governance of the charity.

### Plans for Future Period

The Young Lives Foundation is dedicated to maintaining the highest standards of practice throughout its work with vulnerable young people.

The input and feedback given by partners, professionals, staff, volunteers and most importantly, the young people supported is highly valued. YLF aims to develop and enhance its services to meet the needs and demands of beneficiaries each year whilst ensuring that positive outcomes are achieved.

YLF launched a new 5-year strategy in 2023, with the objectives of protecting, building and strengthening the charity to ensure it can sustain and develop activity and support and be the best it can be through:

- **Effective Programmes**
- **Empowered People**
- **Sustainable & Resilient Infrastructure**

## Be the Best We Can Be Through Effective and Responsive Programmes

We are led by the needs of young people, providing high quality programmes which are measurable, efficient, innovative and offer added social value:

- **Be Effective**
  - Embed a variety of inclusive measuring tools to review and evidence quality and impact on young people's lives.
  - Guarantee programmes meet National Standards and undertake collaborative benchmarking with partners to inform and improve practice.
  - Demonstrate and communicate impact and added social value across all programmes and the 'YLF Way' (being the best we can be) to a wider audience.
- **Be Responsive**
  - Increase organizational capacity to meet the needs of young people in a timely way.
  - Increase and maximize technologies and resources in the digital world to ensure programmes are accessible and inclusive for young people, volunteers, and donors/supporters.
- **Increase Reach**
  - Increase programmes that are flexible and innovative to ensure more young people can be supported year on year.
  - Grow effective collaborations internally and externally to ensure young people can access the best support available.
  - Increasing availability of new, well-resourced, and innovative spaces for young people and volunteers to access and work from

## Empowering People to Be the Best They Can

Sustain our reputation as an outstanding employer and place to volunteer, a champion of development, inclusion, recognition and aspiration.

- **Empowering strong and effective individuals, teams, leadership and governance**
  - Embed a set of key competencies and opportunities with training and development programmes to build appropriate skills and expertise across the charity.
- **Ensure the YLF Volunteer experience is the best it can be, volunteers are valued and embedded in the charity (The YLF Way)**
  - Have an effective Volunteer Recruitment Strategy ensuring capacity to meet demand and that recruitment processes are accessible and timely.
  - Develop effective support packages for volunteers across programmes with reward and recognition built in, so that volunteers are retained and get the best volunteering experience (The YLF Way)

## Investment in Resources Towards a Self-Sustaining and Resilient Charity

Maintain and grow our financial sustainability and resilience towards a self-sustaining, secure charity, maximizing resources and is resilient to change and challenges

- **Develop and implement an ambitious fundraising strategy**
  - Increase reach across a wide-ranging audience, utilising a variety of fundraising tools which are inclusive, accessible, time and cost efficient.
  - Retain and improve relationships with donors and offer regular communications about our work, and the difference they make through their donations and support.
- **Develop innovative and ambitious strategies for YLF trading and social enterprises**
  - Increase opportunities and business models for compliant charity trading to generate income.
  - Develop structures for delivering entrepreneurial programmes as social enterprises to generate income.
- **Ensuring the charity remains financially secure**
  - Maintain responsible levels of reserves in line with the reserves policy, investing in low-risk investments to generate income.
  - Ensure overhead costs are constantly minimized.

## Post Balance Sheet Events

There have been no events since the Balance Sheet date that have materially altered the position of the charity as represented within these financial statements.

## Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the directors of YLF for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the Trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

In preparing these financial statements the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent



- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

### **Disclosure of Information to Auditors**

Each of the persons who are Trustees at the time when this Trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as Trustees are aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditors are unaware, and;
- that Trustees have taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a Trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's auditors are aware of that information.

### **Auditors**

The auditors, Kreston Reeves, have indicated their willingness to continue in office. The Designated Trustees will propose a motion re-appointing the auditors at a meeting of the Trustees.

In preparing this report, the Trustees have taken advantage of the small companies exemptions provided by section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 4th November 2024 and signed on their behalf by: -

**L HUTCHINSON | CHAIRMAN**

**Registered office** 71 College Road, Maidstone Kent ME15 6SX



**The Young Lives Foundation**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Independent auditor's report to the Members of The Young Lives Foundation**

**Opinion**

We have audited the financial statements of The Young Lives Foundation (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

**Basis for opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

**Conclusions relating to going concern**

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

**The Young Lives Foundation**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Independent auditor's report to the Members of The Young Lives Foundation (continued)**

**Other information**

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the Annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

**Opinion on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006**

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

**Matters on which we are required to report by exception**

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of Trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the Trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a Strategic report.

**Responsibilities of trustees**

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

**Independent auditor's report to the Members of The Young Lives Foundation (continued)**

**Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

*Capability of the audit in detecting irregularities, including fraud*

The objectives of our audit are to identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements due to fraud or error; to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the assessed risks of material misstatement due to fraud or error; and to respond appropriately to those risks.

Based on our understanding of the Charity and sector, and through discussion with the Trustees and other management (as required by auditing standards), we identified that the principal risks of non-compliance with laws and regulations related to health and safety, anti-bribery and employment law. We considered the extent to which non-compliance might have a material effect on the financial statements. We also considered those laws and regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Charities Act 2011 and the Statement of Recommended Practice. We communicated identified laws and regulations throughout our team and remained alert to any indications of non-compliance throughout the audit. We evaluated management's incentives and opportunities for fraudulent manipulation of the financial statements (including the risk of override of controls) and determined that the principal risks related to management bias in accounting estimates and judgemental areas of the financial statements such. Audit procedures performed by the audit engagement team included:

- Discussions with management and assessment of known or suspected instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations (including health and safety) and fraud; and
- Assessment of identified fraud risk factors; and
- Review of cash expenditure to confirm no evidence of personal benefit; and
- Challenging assumptions and judgements made by management in its significant accounting estimates; and
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships, including related party transactions, that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud; and
- Confirmation of related parties with management, and review of transactions throughout the period to identify any previously undisclosed transactions with related parties outside the normal course of business; and
- Reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- Performing analytical procedures with automated data analytics tools to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships, including related party transactions, that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud; and
- Physical inspection of tangible assets susceptible to fraud or irregularity; and
- Review of significant and unusual transactions; and
- Identifying and testing journal entries, in particular any manual entries made at the year end for financial statement preparation.

**The Young Lives Foundation**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Independent auditor's report to the Members of The Young Lives Foundation (continued)**

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion of the effectiveness of the charitable company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in my Auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my Auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charitable company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

**Use of our report**

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kreston Reeves LLP".

**Samantha Rouse FCCA DChA (Senior statutory auditor)**

for and on behalf of

**Kreston Reeves LLP**

Chartered Accountants

Statutory Auditor

Chatham Maritime

Date: 5 November 2024

**The Young Lives Foundation**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	18,517	41,413	59,930	132,406
Charitable activities	4	733,512	97,689	831,201	934,845
Other trading activities	5	26,154	6,338	32,492	9,083
Investments	6	-	2,222	2,222	823
<b>Total income</b>		<b>778,183</b>	<b>147,662</b>	<b>925,845</b>	<b>1,077,157</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities	7	824,712	278,437	1,103,149	1,021,232
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>824,712</b>	<b>278,437</b>	<b>1,103,149</b>	<b>1,021,232</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(46,529)</b>	<b>(130,775)</b>	<b>(177,304)</b>	<b>55,925</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		625,961	258,367	884,328	828,403
Net movement in funds		(46,529)	(130,775)	(177,304)	55,925
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>579,432</b>	<b>127,592</b>	<b>707,024</b>	<b>884,328</b>

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 28 to 40 form part of these financial statements.

**The Young Lives Foundation**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**  
**Registered number: 05999166**

**Balance sheet**  
**As at 31 March 2024**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	12	-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	13	46,466	55,143
Cash at bank and in hand		761,100	910,646
		<u>807,566</u>	<u>965,789</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(100,542)	(81,461)
		<u>707,024</u>	<u>884,328</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>707,024</u>	<u>884,328</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>707,024</u>	<u>884,328</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u><u>707,024</u></u>	<u><u>884,328</u></u>
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Restricted funds	15	579,432	625,961
Unrestricted funds	15	127,592	258,367
		<u>707,024</u>	<u>884,328</u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<u><u>707,024</u></u>	<u><u>884,328</u></u>

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to entities subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:



**L Hutchinson**  
 (Chair of Trustees)  
 Date: 4th November 2024

The notes on pages 28 to 40 form part of these financial statements.



**The Young Lives Foundation**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Statement of cash flows**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

	<b>2024</b> £	2023 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net cash used in operating activities	<b>(151,768)</b>	189,532
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	<b>2,222</b>	823
<b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>	<b>2,222</b>	<b>823</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
<b>Net cash provided by financing activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	<b>(149,546)</b>	<b>190,355</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	<b>910,646</b>	720,291
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>761,100</b>	910,646

The notes on pages 28 to 40 form part of these financial statements

**The Young Lives Foundation**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

**1. General information**

The Young Lives Foundation is a company, limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales. The company registration number is 05999166.

The registered office address is 71 College Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6SX.

**2. Accounting policies**

**2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The Young Lives Foundation meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

**2.2 Going concern**

The Trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the Charity to continue as a going concern. The Trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of at least one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements and have concluded that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future and there are no material uncertainties about the Charity's ability to continue as a going concern, thus they continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

**2.3 Income**

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

The recognition of income from legacies is dependent on establishing entitlement, the probability of receipt and the ability to estimate with sufficient accuracy the amount receivable. Evidence of entitlement to a legacy exists when the Charity has sufficient evidence that a gift has been left to them (through knowledge of the existence of a valid will and the death of the benefactor) and the executor is satisfied that the property in question will not be required to satisfy claims in the estate. Receipt of a legacy must be recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the Charity, can be reliably measured.

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities on a receivable basis. The balance of income received for specific purposes but not expended during the period is shown in the relevant funds on the Balance sheet. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.4 Expenditure**

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the Charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

**2.5 Interest receivable**

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the Charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the institution with whom the funds are deposited.

**2.6 Taxation**

The Charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the Charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

**2.7 Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

**2.8 Cash at bank and in hand**

Cash at bank and in hand includes cash and short-term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

**2.9 Liabilities and provisions**

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

Liabilities are recognised at the amount that the Charity anticipates it will pay to settle the debt or the amount it has received as advanced payments for the goods or services it must provide.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation. Where the effect of the time value of money is material, the provision is based on the present value of those amounts, discounted at the pre-tax discount rate that reflects the risks specific to the liability. The unwinding of the discount is recognised in the Statement of financial activities as a finance cost.

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

**2. Accounting policies (continued)**

**2.10 Financial instruments**

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

**2.11 Operating leases**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Statement of financial activities on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

**2.12 Pensions**

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the year.

**2.13 Fund accounting**

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Investment income, gains and losses are allocated to the appropriate fund.

**The Young Lives Foundation**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

**3. Income from donations and legacies**

	<b>Restricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
Donations	18,517	41,413	<b>59,930</b>	132,406
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Total 2023	78,098	54,308	132,406	
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	

**4. Income from charitable activities**

	<b>Restricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<b>As restated Total funds 2023 £</b>
Local Authority Service Agreements	430,744	76,704	<b>507,448</b>	706,211
Fundraised Income - Grants and Trusts	284,582	-	<b>284,582</b>	200,671
Fundraised income - Events	-	17,712	<b>17,712</b>	6,406
Earned income	18,186	3,273	<b>21,459</b>	21,557
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
	733,512	97,689	<b>831,201</b>	934,845
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Total 2023 as restated	922,375	12,470	934,845	
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	

**5. Income from other trading activities**

**Income from fundraising events**

	<b>Restricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<b>As restated Total funds 2023 £</b>
Fundraising Events	26,154	6,338	<b>32,492</b>	9,083
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
Total 2023 as restated	4,600	4,483	9,083	
	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	

**The Young Lives Foundation**  
**(A company limited by guarantee)**

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

**6. Investment income**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
Bank interest	2,222	<b>2,222</b>	823
	<u>2,222</u>	<u>2,222</u>	
Total 2023	823	823	
	<u>823</u>	<u>823</u>	

**7. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities**

**Summary by fund type**

	<b>Restricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>	<b>Total 2023 £</b>
Charitable activities	824,712	278,437	<b>1,103,149</b>	1,021,232
	<u>824,712</u>	<u>278,437</u>	<u>1,103,149</u>	
Total 2023	870,245	150,987	1,021,232	
	<u>870,245</u>	<u>150,987</u>	<u>1,021,232</u>	

**8. Analysis of expenditure by activities**

	<b>Activities undertaken directly 2024 £</b>	<b>Support costs 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
Charitable Activities	994,861	108,288	<b>1,103,149</b>	1,021,232
	<u>994,861</u>	<u>108,288</u>	<u>1,103,149</u>	
Total 2023	932,489	88,743	1,021,232	
	<u>932,489</u>	<u>88,743</u>	<u>1,021,232</u>	



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**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

**8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)**

**Analysis of direct costs**

	<b>Activities 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
Staff costs	821,451	<b>821,451</b>	779,407
Project expenses	173,410	<b>173,410</b>	153,082
	<u>994,861</u>	<u><b>994,861</b></u>	<u>932,489</u>
Total 2023	<u>932,489</u>	<u>932,489</u>	

**Analysis of support costs**

	<b>Activities 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
Repairs & Maintenance	2,212	<b>2,212</b>	3,042
Legal & Professional	12,134	<b>12,134</b>	10,161
Rent, Rates & Utilities	24,816	<b>24,816</b>	24,334
Printing, Postage & Stationery	10,723	<b>10,723</b>	11,775
IT costs	17,988	<b>17,988</b>	25,243
Telephone costs	16,500	<b>16,500</b>	14,593
Motor costs	7,817	<b>7,817</b>	6,920
Sundry expenditure	14,535	<b>14,535</b>	(8,397)
Fundraising costs	1,323	<b>1,323</b>	538
Interpreting costs	240	<b>240</b>	534
	<u>108,288</u>	<u><b>108,288</b></u>	<u>88,743</u>
Total 2023	<u>88,743</u>	<u>88,743</u>	

**9. Auditor's remuneration**

	<b>2024 £</b>	<b>2023 £</b>
Fees payable to the Charity's auditor for the audit of the Charity's annual accounts	<u><b>7,800</b></u>	<u>5,072</u>

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**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

**10. Staff costs**

	<b>2024</b> £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	<b>740,255</b>	700,261
Social security costs	<b>50,766</b>	50,016
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	<b>30,430</b>	29,130
	<b>821,451</b>	779,407

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the year was as follows:

	<b>2024</b> No.	2023 No.
Employees	<b>35</b>	39

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	<b>2024</b> No.	2023 No.
Employees	<b>24</b>	27

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	<b>2024</b> No.	2023 No.
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	<b>1</b>	1

The total employment benefits including employers' pension contributions and employers' national insurance of the key management personnel were £178,469 (2023 - £166,360)

**11. Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2023 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2024, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2023 - £NIL).

**12. Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Motor vehicles £</b>	<b>Office equipment £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
At 1 April 2023	<b>22,075</b>	<b>9,338</b>	<b>31,413</b>
At 31 March 2024	<b>22,075</b>	<b>9,338</b>	<b>31,413</b>

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**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

**12. Tangible fixed assets (continued)**

	Motor vehicles £	Office equipment £	Total £
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 April 2023	22,075	9,338	31,413
At 31 March 2024	22,075	9,338	31,413
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 March 2024	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	-	-	-

**13. Debtors**

	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Trade debtors	44,388	46,784
Other debtors	1,264	7,268
Prepayments and accrued income	814	1,091
	46,466	55,143

**14. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year**

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade creditors	5,464	4,620
Other taxation and social security	26,268	17,781
Other creditors	13,153	5,971
Accruals and deferred income	55,657	53,089
	100,542	81,461

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**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

**15. Statement of funds**

**Statement of funds - current year**

	<b>Balance at 1 April 2023 £</b>	<b>Income £</b>	<b>Expenditure £</b>	<b>Balance at 31 March 2024 £</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General Funds	<b>258,367</b>	<b>147,662</b>	<b>(278,437)</b>	<b>127,592</b>
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Mentoring	<b>457,984</b>	<b>168,852</b>	<b>(225,248)</b>	<b>401,588</b>
Apprenticeship	<b>10,256</b>	<b>13,200</b>	<b>(10,522)</b>	<b>12,934</b>
Other	<b>1,853</b>	<b>8,905</b>	<b>(4,987)</b>	<b>5,771</b>
Positive activities	<b>64,499</b>	<b>180,256</b>	<b>(187,715)</b>	<b>57,040</b>
Rights, representation and advocacy services	<b>91,369</b>	<b>406,970</b>	<b>(396,240)</b>	<b>102,099</b>
	<b>625,961</b>	<b>778,183</b>	<b>(824,712)</b>	<b>579,432</b>
<b>Total of funds</b>	<b>884,328</b>	<b>925,845</b>	<b>(1,103,149)</b>	<b>707,024</b>

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**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

**15. Statement of funds (continued)**

**Statement of funds - prior year**

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General Funds	337,270	72,084	(150,987)	-	258,367
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Mentoring	419,126	357,596	(307,501)	(37,456)	431,765
Apprenticeship	19,164	12,000	(20,908)	-	10,256
Other	1,313	4,536	(3,996)	-	1,853
Positive activities	3,089	170,679	(150,807)	37,456	60,417
Rights, representation and advocacy services	39,030	417,590	(365,251)	-	91,369
Xmas appeal	9,411	38,072	(21,263)	-	26,220
YLF Golf day 2023	-	4,600	(519)	-	4,081
	491,133	1,005,073	(870,245)	-	625,961
<b>Total of funds</b>	828,403	1,077,157	(1,021,232)	-	884,328

**16. Summary of funds**

**Summary of funds - current year**

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
General funds	258,367	147,662	(278,437)	127,592
Restricted funds	625,961	778,183	(824,712)	579,432
	884,328	925,845	(1,103,149)	707,024

**The Young Lives Foundation**  
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**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

**16. Summary of funds (continued)**

**Summary of funds - prior year**

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
General funds	337,270	72,084	(150,987)	-	258,367
Restricted funds	491,133	1,005,073	(870,245)	-	625,961
	<u>828,403</u>	<u>1,077,157</u>	<u>(1,021,232)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>884,328</u>

**17. Analysis of net assets between funds**

**Analysis of net assets between funds - current period**

	<b>Restricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>
Current assets	579,432	228,134	<b>807,566</b>
Creditors due within one year	-	(100,542)	<b>(100,542)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<u>579,432</u>	<u>127,592</u>	<u><b>707,024</b></u>

**Analysis of net assets between funds - prior period**

	<b>Restricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2023 £</b>
Current assets	625,961	339,828	965,789
Creditors due within one year	-	(81,461)	(81,461)
<b>Total</b>	<u>625,961</u>	<u>258,367</u>	<u>884,328</u>

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**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

**18. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities**

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income/expenditure for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(177,304)	55,925
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	(2,222)	(823)
Decrease in debtors	8,677	99,337
Increase in creditors	19,081	35,093
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>(151,768)</b>	<b>189,532</b>

**19. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents**

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash in hand	761,100	910,646
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>761,100</b>	<b>910,646</b>

**20. Analysis of changes in net debt**

	At 1 April 2023 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	910,646	(149,546)	761,100
	<b>910,646</b>	<b>(149,546)</b>	<b>761,100</b>

**21. Pension commitments**

The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity to the fund and amounted to £30,430 (2023 - £29,130). Contribution totalling £8,390 (2023 - £4,257) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.



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**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2024**

**22. Operating lease commitments**

At 31 March 2024 the Charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	<b>2024</b> £	2023 £
Not later than 1 year	<b>20,996</b>	20,996
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	<b>47,838</b>	68,834
	<b>68,834</b>	89,830

**23. Members' liability**

Each member of the charitable company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up while he/she is a member, or within one year after he/she ceases to be a member, such amount as may be required, not exceeding £NIL for the debts and liabilities contracted before he/she ceases to be a member.

**24. Related party transactions**

A wife of a trustee who volunteers for the charity was reimbursed £558 for expenses relating to mileage in the year. There was no balance outstanding as of the year end (2023 - £Nil).

A Godden (Trustee) is a member of key management of Heathcote Holdings who donated £20,000 during the year (2023- £ Nil). No balances were outstanding at the end of either year.

No other related party transactions occurred to the year ended 31 March 2024 (2023 - £Nil).