



**Registered Number 05999166**

**Charity Number 1119528**

**The Young Lives Foundation**

**A Company Limited by Guarantee**

**Financial Statements - Year Ended 31 March 2025**

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### Kreston Reeves

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ME4 4QZ

## THE YOUNG LIVES FOUNDATION

### REFERENCE & AMNISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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

S Brown (*Appointed, June 2025*)

M Daniels, (*Appointed, June 2025*)

C Farrer-Newey (*Appointed, February 2025*)

S Fishenden, Trustee (*Appointed December 2024*)

S Fishenden, (Company Secretary) (*Appointed October 2024*)

A M Fisher, Trustee

A Godden, Trustee (*Chair*)

L Hutchinson, (*Resigned, March 2025*)

N Mason (*Appointed, December 2024*)

K A Nichol, Trustee (Vice Chair)

R Oates, Trustee

P S Powell, Trustee,

S H Wallace, Trustee (*Resigned, June 2025*)

I Pearson (*Resigned, August 2024*)

S Williams (*Resigned, June 2024*)

**Charity Number:** 1119528

**Company Number:** 05999166

**Company Secretary:** S Fishenden

**Chief Executive Officer:** S M Gray

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

**Independent Auditors:** Kreston Reeves Audit LLP, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Maritime Place, Quayside, Chatham Maritime, Chatham, ME4 4QZ

## 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**
- **Futures 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.

YLF continues to receive high referral rates for young people, some of whom were impacted by the pandemic in 2020, with regards to social isolation, seeking support for impact on mental health and emotional resilience, social skills, reliance on tech (phones/tablets/consoles) and attendance or aspiration in education, training 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 2,900 people in 2024/25.

YLF was delighted to be recognised with two awards at the Kent Charity Awards 2024. To be recognised as Kent’s Mental Health Charity of the Year 2024 by the judges was a significant achievement and wonderful tribute of the hard work across the teams of staff and volunteers.

To receive this accolade and recognition, at a time when children and young people’s mental health is of great concern (if not at crisis point) was a real testament of the difference and impact made by YLF’s teams. YLF continues to make progress towards being a ‘trauma informed charity’, and this affirming recognition that ‘non clinical approaches’ such as the programmes delivered by YLF, make a profound difference on the emotional well-being of the young people, reaching into every element of YLF Listen – Support – Empower.

Additionally, for our longest serving Volunteer, Mike, was recognised as Kent’s Volunteer of the Year, for his services to the Appropriate Adult role across the county over the last 29 years! There is no data that accurately indicates how many people across Kent & Medway were supported by Mike, but it is likely to be in the 5,000s plus. So, it was a very proud (and moving) moment when Mike was named the number 1 volunteer in the county 2024 and received his award.

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.

*“Just watched the video of YLF winning Kent mental health charity of the year and Mike getting volunteer of the year. Massive congratulations to you and all the YLF team - such an inspiration to work with you all, please do pass on my congratulations to everyone and thanks for all you do for Kent's young people.” Assistant Director, KCC Children's Services*

### YLF Advocacy Programmes

YLF's 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. A total of **2,537** people were supported through our Advocacy Programmes in 2024/25.

### **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 2024/25, YLF advocates supported **565** 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/homelessness, legal or financial matters, 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.

*“It was only when I referred her to your service, and she had got an advocate that things began to change for her. That is not to say the social worker didn’t try but, young people find it difficult to sometimes engage with social workers, but they do engage with advocates because you are impartial. This then allows you to work towards change with services. In my opinion your service is invaluable You are so child focused and always bring positive outcomes. Your also very quick with referrals today was within an hour. I will continue to refer for all my young people.”*

*– Senior Social Worker*

*“Your Advocates has been involved with a number of cases at Maidstone recently to support 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 your support. I myself have seen Advocates at work and corresponded with your team regarding one particular case, and was impressed at how you championed and challenged appropriately on behalf of those you advocate for. As I understand it, my team have described your service as “brilliant”, “excellent”, “calm”, “amazing” and expressed just how well you advocate for the young people you support. – Housing Officer*

*“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 10 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 **53** 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 **1,452** 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.



*"I want to express my sincere appreciation for the professionalism, compassion, and dedication shown by your volunteers and staff. The way you mobilised swiftly and supported the young people involved, particularly in such emotionally charged circumstances, is a testament to the strength and integrity of your service. Appropriate Adults ensured consistent support for the young people. That level of commitment is extraordinary and speaks volumes about the values your team upholds.*

*Please pass on my thanks and admiration to everyone involved. Your continued dedication makes a real difference, and I'm incredibly grateful for your ongoing partnership and support."*

*Senior Commissioner, Kent County Council*

## 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 500 plus children in care by attending formal meetings with the Director of Children's and Adults' Services and by providing a proactive voice to the Corporate Parenting Group.

During the year, over **364** 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, 'Make Care a Protected Characteristic', introduced the MCYPC Buddy Scheme with Corporate Parents, delivered voice of the child training, co-facilitated and hosted the Time to Shine Awards Event for children in care and participation in Medway Council's staff recruitment processes.

*"I really enjoy being part of the MCYPC, and very much feel part of the team. I like all the young people and helpers and feel like I have bonded with them all My confidence has grown and I feel like I am heard and can make a difference for other kids in care."*

*"I just wanted to let you know how much I've enjoyed the reverse buddy meetings I have been having with the young man from the MCYPC I am privileged to be matched with. I believe you have come up trumps with this idea. I have learnt a lot from my match, and I hope he has too."*

Chair of Medway Corporate Parenting Board

### 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 **103** children benefitted from having a YLF Befriender last year.

*"I feel free to talk to her, our relationship is honest, and I tell her things'. I tell her how I feel, and she understands my perspective, I am happy that I can tell her how I feel, and she will understand why I did what I did" – Young Person, aged 15*

*"This is an absolutely fantastic scheme; my foster son has an Independent Visitor, and it has been the best thing for him, I cannot speak highly enough about it. He loves his visitor and they have a great relationship. I would recommend it to all young people!"- Foster Carer*

### YLF Youth Programmes

Youth programmes remain an integral pillar of the organisation's work, as the number of young people requiring preventative services in schools and communities continues to increase. Rising levels of social isolation, low resilience, and poor mental health have created a sustained need, to which the charity is responding by securing funding to expand its reach into new areas and communities most in need.

The programmes have been refreshed and aspirational in their growth and development, reflecting a forward-looking approach that enhances quality, broadens reach, and strengthens impact for young people and communities. The nature-based model is a key attribute to the programmes.

## LEGENDS Positive Activities Programme

Legends Youth Groups operate weekly across the county, offering tailored sessions for junior and senior young people aged 8–17 who are experiencing isolation, low resilience, poor self-confidence, low mood, and the effects of deprivation. Led by experienced youth workers and supported by trained community volunteers, the groups provide inclusive safe, trusted spaces where young people can be themselves and take a break from the pressures they face in other areas of their lives.

The sessions are primarily play-based, with integrated opportunities to explore new hobbies and activities, strengthen peer and community relationships, and participate in interventions that promote both physical and mental wellbeing. These experiences not only foster enjoyment but also build confidence, resilience, and a stronger sense of belonging.

The impact of the groups is evidenced through outcomes for both young people and their families. Participants demonstrate improved school attendance, families report better dynamics and stronger relationships at home, and—most importantly—young people themselves consistently report that they feel safe, valued, and enjoy attending the groups. The groups provide a real safety net for young people who candidly talk to their youth workers about issues and challenges, which are responded to with warmth and professionalism, and in line with safeguarding procedures as and when required. Over 90% of young people report feeling safe when attending the groups.

During the year the programmes reached **130** individual young people across the county, with combined attendances reaching over **3000**, demonstrating the consistency of support and positive year-round engagement of our members.

A number of young people have naturally graduated from the programmes upon reaching 18 years old, a newly established programme now encourages young people to train as peer mentors. This year four service users have remained engaged as peer mentors and continue to attend the groups as role models to young people.

Referrals to the programme remain primarily from Specialist Children's Services, Early Help Teams, Schools and other Voluntary Groups, however we are also experiencing an increase of referrals directly from parents and carers.

*"This place has been an absolute game-changer for K, he has come such a long way since coming to the Youth Club, the people that run it are absolutely amazing and give every child the time they need. Over the summer holidays, K has had some amazing opportunities to go to lots of different places, zoos, parks, beaches.... I just can't thank all the staff enough for everything you have done for us and all the help you have given us along the way. Everyone at this group goes above and beyond to make sure everything runs smoothly and everybody get what they need. Massive thank you to you all"*

*"The summer activities have been really good. They helped me enjoy the school holidays, as otherwise I would have been stuck at home as my mum has to work every day. As I am very anxious, I don't have any other activities I can do on my own so the trips and activities really mean a lot to me and give me something fun to do each week. I am making friends at the group so this helps me too."*

## Mentoring Programmes

Through our mentoring programme, we have supported **312** young people, providing tailored guidance to help them develop the skills, confidence, and resilience needed to succeed. Our reach has increased significantly through 201 school arrangements, where we are able to provide small nurture groups that bring multiple young people together to discuss topical issues and work towards shared goals. In addition, 110 community arrangements have extended our impact beyond the classroom, ensuring that young people are supported within their wider social environments. These outcomes reflect our strong commitment to delivering flexible and meaningful support to young people in environments they feel safe, and promoting greatest impact.

Feedback from young people indicates the high quality and effectiveness of our mentoring programme. Participants rate their mentors at an average of 4.5 out of 5 stars, reflecting strong satisfaction with the guidance, support, and encouragement they receive. Importantly, the percentage of participants reporting higher levels of wellbeing almost doubled following engagement in the mentoring intervention. This substantial increase demonstrates a clear and measurable positive impact on the overall wellbeing of young people, highlighting the programme's effectiveness in improving resilience, confidence, and personal development.

*"I have used YLF mentors for a number of years now. What is great about them is that they are mentors and not counsellors which breaks down the barrier a lot of pupils and parents/carers have about accessing help. If they think it is counselling, they tend to refuse but with mentors they are happy to engage. The YLF mentors will work with the pupils for a longer period of time which means that they build up excellent relationships with the young person and can really impact on their wellbeing. I have had a number of pupils who do not want the mentoring to finish as they find it so incredibly beneficial to help them navigate the day-to-day stresses of secondary school. The mentors who come into school really do change lives - without them I really don't know where the young people would be They are amazing!"*

## YLF's Futures 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, Futures, as 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
- Peer Support Groups
- Hardship Funds and Practical Support
- Participation Opportunities
- Apprenticeships (funded by Cobtree Trust)
- Care Leavers Packs
- Joint Christmas Campaigns 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, **55** care leavers have received support from a specialist Care Leavers Mentor.

*"The support I get from my Leaving Care Mentor is unreal; she always replies to me when she is available and any time, I need support or I need a question answering she will sit on the phone to me or comes to see me. If I need to talk to her when I'm feeling low, I call her and she will always answer the phone. She is a well good listener and makes me laugh when I'm down, she always makes me see the positives in my life and I would recommend her to anyone as a Leaving Care Mentor. She is kind understanding and always wants to help me"*  
(Care Leaver)

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 £10,000 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.

### YLF Apprenticeships

Thanks to funding from The Cobtree Trust, YLF is now in its 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

*"I have just attended training with your apprentice and wanted to say a Huge Thank You. It was so informative and coming from a residential home where young people often feel like they aren't heard or listened to. What you do with MCYPC in promoting a more positive outlook is amazing. H did a great job ay sharing her views and experiences."*

## **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 1,900 people benefiting from that gift in 2024/25. 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 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 **73** new volunteers.

*"I have been volunteering with YLF for several years now and as a retired children's nurse the charity has enabled me to continue to support vulnerable children and young people but in a less formal role. Seeing children positively impacted by community support is extremely rewarding and a huge highlight for me was receiving a voice note from a young person telling me how much he valued my support in a time that had been so very challenging for him. We get to witness both big and small wins frequently from the CYP themselves and their families. The progress the CYP make is truly inspirational."*

Over the year, YLF's volunteers gave over **10,000** hours of frontline support to vulnerable people. When calculated at the minimum wage this equates to an estimated value of £125,000 – a gift to the Kent economy.

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.

*"My experience from volunteering with YLF is how good it makes me feel. It's like having another family where you all support each other and are very looked after. There's always someone on hand if you're feeling overwhelmed. It's such a positive atmosphere."*

*We get to experience so many different things that make it great and watching how the children grow and how you've been a positive part of their lives just from being there feels great. It feels good to do something positive for people who so desperately need it. Knowing that what I'm giving is invaluable and appreciated to someone else. There's nothing I'd want to do more with my free time. A few years back I didn't think I was capable of anything like this. Now I couldn't imagine doing anything else."*

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, supported by our programmes, unique work experience opportunities, learning about the world of work in a thriving charity environment.

*"I have now come to the end of my 70-day placement with YLF and I would like to thank everyone for making my time with you all so enjoyable. I have learnt so so much from you all and hope to continue a small volunteering role when I can. Being able to see a 'niche' side of the profession I want to go into and seeing how social workers affect so many young people whether that be positively or negatively. I hope to positively impact people and this placement has helped me to develop the skills and knowledge to do this. Thank you all again and I look forward to the future."*

### **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 £566,363 of which, £480,586 are free reserves. This is slightly above the charity's reserves policy of allowing for 6 months of operating costs which equates to £441,628 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, which has been secured for 2025.

## Financial Overview

The charity generated total income of £983,562 during the year (2024: £925,845), primarily from contract income from local authorities, grants and fundraising events. Expenditure totalled £1,124,223 (2024: £1,103,149), resulting in a net deficit of £140,661 (2024: £177,304 deficit). (see below)

## Fund Performance

Unrestricted funds decreased by £92,047, reflecting the Board of Trustees strategic decision to maintain services despite funding being withdrawn due to funding constraints within a key partner. This has resulted in the charity running deficit for the past 3 years. Fortunately, the level of brought forward reserves had enabled the charity to continue its full range of services during these years of annual deficit. Post April 2025, the charity received confirmation of new funding via new contracts and has achieved increased donations. Indications are that the deficit will be substantially reduced in the year 2025/26 and will further improve in the following year once we have had the full annual benefit of these new funding arrangements. Restricted funds were applied in accordance with donor intentions, supporting YLF Youth Programmes and innovative developments in relation to YLF Futures Care Leavers Offer.

## 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 continues to come from local authority contracts for commissioned services and activities (44% of income). Fundraising events, fundraised grants and voluntary donations (48% of income) have played an increasingly important part during the year. The remaining 7% 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 2024, 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 audit registration of Kreston Reeves LLP was transferred to Kreston Reeves Audit LLP on 6 October 2025. Kreston Reeves Audit LLP were formally appointed as auditor to the company on 6 October 2025.

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 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025 and signed on their behalf by: -



**A Godden | CHAIRMAN**

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

## **Independent auditors' 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 2025 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 2025 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 Auditors' 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.

**Independent auditors' 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 Auditors' 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 auditors' report to the Members of The Young Lives Foundation (continued)**

**Auditors' 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 Auditors' 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.

**Independent auditors' 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 our Auditors' 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 our Auditors' 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 Auditors' 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.

*Kreston Reeves Audit LLP*

**Samantha Rouse FCCA DChA (Senior statutory auditor)**  
for and on behalf of  
**Kreston Reeves Audit LLP**

Statutory Auditor  
Chatham Maritime

Date: 27 November 2025

**Statement of financial activities (incorporating income and expenditure account)**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2025**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>
<b>Income from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	15,862	173,364	189,226	59,930
Charitable activities	4	203,527	519,277	722,804	831,201
Other trading activities	5	2,249	41,622	43,871	32,492
Investments	6	-	27,661	27,661	2,222
<b>Total income</b>		<b>221,638</b>	<b>761,924</b>	<b>983,562</b>	<b>925,845</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities	7	270,252	853,971	1,124,223	1,103,149
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>270,252</b>	<b>853,971</b>	<b>1,124,223</b>	<b>1,103,149</b>
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>(48,614)</b>	<b>(92,047)</b>	<b>(140,661)</b>	<b>(177,304)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		134,391	572,633	707,024	884,328
Net movement in funds		(48,614)	(92,047)	(140,661)	(177,304)
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>85,777</b>	<b>480,586</b>	<b>566,363</b>	<b>707,024</b>

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

The notes on pages 29 to 41 form part of these financial statements.

**Balance sheet**  
**As at 31 March 2025**

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2025 £</b>	<b>2024 £</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	12	-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	13	13,372	46,466
Cash at bank and in hand		622,778	761,100
		<u>636,150</u>	<u>807,566</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	14	(69,787)	(100,542)
		<u>566,363</u>	<u>707,024</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>566,363</u>	<u>707,024</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>		<u>566,363</u>	<u>707,024</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>		<u>566,363</u>	<u>707,024</u>
<b>Charity funds</b>			
Restricted funds	15	85,777	134,391
Unrestricted funds	15	480,586	572,633
<b>Total funds</b>		<u>566,363</u>	<u>707,024</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 authorized for issue by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by:



**A Godden**  
 (Chair of Trustees)  
 Date: 26<sup>th</sup> November 2025

The notes on pages 29 to 41 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 2025**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Net cash used in operating activities	<b>(165,983)</b>	<b>(151,768)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	<b>27,661</b>	<b>2,222</b>
<b>Net cash provided by investing activities</b>	<b>27,661</b>	<b>2,222</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year</b>	<b>(138,322)</b>	<b>(149,546)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	<b>761,100</b>	<b>910,646</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	<b>622,778</b>	<b>761,100</b>

The notes on pages 29 to 41 form part of these financial statements



**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2025**

**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 2025**

**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 2025**

**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.

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 March 2025

3. Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Donations	15,862	173,364	189,226	59,930
Total 2024	18,517	41,413	59,930	

4. Income from charitable activities

	Restricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Local Authority Service Agreements	15,481	466,173	481,654	507,448
Fundraised Income - Grants and Trusts	185,041	7,370	192,411	284,582
Fundraised income - Events	-	22,853	22,853	17,712
Earned income	3,005	22,881	25,886	21,459
	203,527	519,277	722,804	831,201
Total 2024	198,067	633,134	831,201	

5. Income from other trading activities

Income from fundraising events

	Restricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Fundraising Events	2,249	41,622	43,871	32,492
Total 2024	26,154	6,338	32,492	

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2025**

**6. Investment income**

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>
Bank interest	27,661	<b>27,661</b>	2,222
Total 2024	2,222	2,222	

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

**Summary by fund type**

	<b>Restricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total 2025 £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>
Charitable activities	270,252	853,971	<b>1,124,223</b>	1,103,149
Total 2024	250,286	852,863	1,103,149	

**8. Analysis of expenditure by activities**

	<b>Activities undertaken directly 2025 £</b>	<b>Support costs 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>
Charitable Activities	1,011,707	112,516	<b>1,124,223</b>	1,103,149
Total 2024	994,861	108,288	1,103,149	

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 March 2025

8. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Activities 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Staff costs	825,362	<b>825,362</b>	821,451
Project expenses	186,345	<b>186,345</b>	173,410
	<u>1,011,707</u>	<u><b>1,011,707</b></u>	<u>994,861</u>
Total 2024	<u>994,861</u>	<u>994,861</u>	

Analysis of support costs

	Activities 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Repairs & Maintenance	1,706	<b>1,706</b>	2,212
Legal & Professional	19,802	<b>19,802</b>	12,134
Rent, Rates & Utilities	24,622	<b>24,622</b>	24,816
Printing, Postage & Stationery	13,656	<b>13,656</b>	10,723
IT costs	18,334	<b>18,334</b>	17,988
Telephone costs	17,957	<b>17,957</b>	16,500
Motor costs	8,331	<b>8,331</b>	7,817
Sundry expenditure	7,847	<b>7,847</b>	14,535
Fundraising costs	-	-	1,323
Interpreting costs	261	<b>261</b>	240
	<u>112,516</u>	<u><b>112,516</b></u>	<u>108,288</u>
Total 2024	<u>108,288</u>	<u>108,288</u>	

9. Auditors' remuneration

	2025 £	2024 £
Fees payable to the Charity's auditor for the audit of the Charity's annual accounts	<u><b>11,500</b></u>	<u>7,800</u>

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2025**

**10. Staff costs**

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	<b>736,024</b>	740,255
Social security costs	<b>58,708</b>	50,766
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	<b>30,630</b>	30,430
	<b>825,362</b>	821,451

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

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Employees	<b>37</b>	35

The average headcount expressed as full-time equivalents was:

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
Employees	<b>24</b>	24

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

	<b>2025</b>	2024
	<b>No.</b>	<b>No.</b>
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 £212,197 (2024 - £178,469)

**11. Trustees' remuneration and expenses**

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2024 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2025, no Trustee expenses have been incurred (2024 - £162).

**12. Tangible fixed assets**

	<b>Motor vehicles £</b>	<b>Office equipment £</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost or valuation</b>			
At 1 April 2024	<b>22,075</b>	<b>2,793</b>	<b>24,868</b>
At 31 March 2025	<b>22,075</b>	<b>2,793</b>	<b>24,868</b>

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 March 2025

12. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

	Motor vehicles £	Office equipment £	Total £
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 April 2024	22,075	2,793	24,868
At 31 March 2025	22,075	2,793	24,868
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 March 2025	-	-	-
At 31 March 2024	-	-	-

13. Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
<b>Due within one year</b>		
Trade debtors	7,852	44,388
Other debtors	-	1,264
Prepayments and accrued income	5,520	814
	13,372	46,466

14. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	6,002	5,464
Other taxation and social security	13,844	26,268
Other creditors	11,717	13,153
Accruals and deferred income	38,224	55,657
	69,787	100,542



Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 March 2025

15. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	As restated Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General Funds	572,633	761,924	(853,971)	480,586
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Leaving care	58,648	93,661	(112,592)	39,717
Cobtree Trust Apprentices	12,934	13,700	(10,243)	16,391
Hardship grants	5,771	5,720	(5,423)	6,068
Positive activities (Legends Programme)	45,601	106,341	(117,394)	34,548
Reaching Communities (National Lottery)	11,437	2,216	(24,600)	(10,947)
	134,391	221,638	(270,252)	85,777
<b>Total of funds</b>	<b>707,024</b>	<b>983,562</b>	<b>(1,124,223)</b>	<b>566,363</b>

**Cobree Trust Apprentices** – This is an agreement that we used this grant to pay an apprentice

**Hardship Grants** – These are individual grants that are requested for and only used for the purpose applied for, for example help with course fees, interview/work clothing or travel costs.

**Positive Activities (Legends programs)** – These are grants that specifically require us to use them in the youth hubs

**Reaching communities (National Lottery)** – This project grant is to support young people to thrive through highly effective and accessible programmes where they: are given a voice, are heard and empowered are supported by consistent adults through times of challenge and change have opportunities and resources to be happy and thrive.

**Leaving Care** – This fund consists of several awarded grants, to support care leavers with activities, such as ‘Supper Clubs’ where they can interact/engage with peers and mentoring and our Christmas campaign which raises fund to provide 2000 care leavers with a gift voucher and the opportunity to attend a Christmas dinner on Christmas day.

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 March 2025

15. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	As restated Balance at 1 April 2023 £	As restated Income £	As restated Expenditure £	As restated Balance at 31 March 2024 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
General Funds	742,388	683,107	(852,862)	572,633
	As restated Balance at 1 April 2023 £	As restated Income £	As restated Expenditure £	As restated Balance at 31 March 2024 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Leaving care	65,333	40,377	(52,593)	53,117
Cobtree Trust Apprentices	10,256	13,200	(10,522)	12,934
Hardship grants	1,853	8,905	(4,987)	5,771
Positive Activities	64,498	180,256	(182,185)	62,569
	141,940	242,738	(250,287)	134,391
<b>Total of funds</b>	884,328	925,845	(1,103,149)	707,024

16. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	As restated Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
General funds	572,633	761,924	(853,971)	480,586
Restricted funds	134,391	221,638	(270,252)	85,777
	707,024	983,562	(1,124,223)	566,363

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2025**

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

**Summary of funds - prior year**

	As restated Balance at 1 April 2023 £	As restated Income £	As restated Expenditure £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
General funds	742,388	683,107	(852,862)	572,633
Restricted funds	141,940	242,738	(250,287)	134,391
	<u>884,328</u>	<u>925,845</u>	<u>(1,103,149)</u>	<u>707,024</u>

**17. Prior year adjustment**

Following a review of funding arrangements, income from certain local authority contracts and grants was reclassified from restricted to unrestricted funds. These funds were previously treated as restricted but did not meet the Charities SORP definition, as they were governed by service level agreements rather than donor-imposed restrictions.

Comparative figures have been restated to reflect this, resulting in:

A decrease in restricted funds of £445,041.

A corresponding increase in unrestricted funds of £445,041.

There is no impact on the total funds or net assets of the charity.

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

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

	<b>Restricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Unrestricted funds 2025 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2025 £</b>
Current assets	85,777	550,373	<b>636,150</b>
Creditors due within one year	-	(69,787)	<b>(69,787)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<u>85,777</u>	<u>480,586</u>	<u><b>566,363</b></u>

Notes to the financial statements  
For the year ended 31 March 2025

18. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year (as restated)

	As restated Restricted funds 2024 £	As restated Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Current assets	134,391	673,175	807,566
Creditors due within one year	-	(100,542)	(100,542)
<b>Total</b>	<b>134,391</b>	<b>572,633</b>	<b>707,024</b>

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

	2025 £	2024 £
Net expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(140,661)	(177,304)
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	(27,661)	(2,222)
Decrease in debtors	33,094	8,677
Decrease in creditors	(30,755)	19,081
<b>Net cash used in operating activities</b>	<b>(165,983)</b>	<b>(151,768)</b>

20. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash in hand	622,778	761,100
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>622,778</b>	<b>761,100</b>

21. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2024 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2025 £
Cash at bank and in hand	761,100	(138,322)	622,778
	<b>761,100</b>	<b>(138,322)</b>	<b>622,778</b>

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2025**

**22. 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 £30,630 (2024 - £30,430). Contribution totalling £6,954 (2023 - £8,390) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

**23. Operating lease commitments**

At 31 March 2025 the Charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Not later than 1 year	19,833	20,996
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	28,005	47,838
	<u>47,838</u>	<u>68,834</u>

**24. 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.

**25. Related party transactions**

A wife of a trustee who volunteers for the charity was reimbursed £558 for expenses relating to mileage in the 2024. There was no such balances in the year.

A Godden (Trustee) is a member of key management of Heathcote Holdings who donated £4,734 during the year (2024- £20,000). No balances were outstanding at the end of either year.

All other trustee donations in aggregate amount to £2,480 with no conditions attached to them.

S Fishenden (Trustee) received £578 to cover expenses in his role as a volunteer independent visitor during the year.

No other related party transactions occurred to the year ended 31 March 2025 (2024 - £20,558).