

ACE YOUTH TRUST

England & Wales · Charity number 1120282

Details

Other names ACE YOUTH WORKER TRUST

Status Registered

Legal form Trust

Registered 2007-07-26

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address The Parish Office
St. Oswalds Church Hall
School Lane
Ashbourne
DE6 1AN

Phone 07468 424287

Email admin@aceyouth.org.uk

Website www.aceyouth.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH WITHIN THE AREAS OF DERBYSHIRE AND STAFFORDSHIRE, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY AMONGST CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 11 TO 19 RESIDENT IN THE QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREA, THE WEAVER WARD OF EAST STAFFORDSHIRE OR SURROUNDING AREAS BY THE PROVISION OF RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES AND SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE INTENDED TO HELP THEM GROW AS INDIVIDUALS AND IMPROVE THEIR QUALITY OF LIFE.

Activities: THE MISSION OF ACE YOUTH TRUST IS TO OFFER PRACTICAL SUPPORT TO LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE ON A RANGE OF ISSUES AFFECTING THEIR DAILY LIVES TO HELP THEM FULFIL THEIR POTENTIAL.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NOT DEFINED IN PRACTICE, ASHBOURNE, DERBYSHIRE AND STAFFORDSHIRE
- Derbyshire
- Staffordshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£49,024	£54,413	-	-
2023-12-31	£59,481	£52,474	-	-
2022-12-31	£58,844	£51,852	-	-
2021-12-31	£65,746	£47,787	-	-
2020-12-31	£66,393	£53,230	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Louise Doble	Chair	2009-11-19
Dr Madhuri Manley		2022-06-15
Dr Robert Woore		2018-04-25
Helen Wainwright		2018-06-13
Jane Denise Stoney		2020-04-01
Rev PHILIP MICHELL		2013-11-12

ACE YOUTH TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1120282

Accounts

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1120282

ACE YOUTH TRUST
working with young people



ACE YOUTH TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2024.

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

ACE Youth Trust continues to be a safe space where children and young people are known, listened to and supported. Our work continues to be shaped by the voices of the children and young people we serve, and our commitment to creating a nurturing and empowering environment remains strong.

2024 brought both opportunities and challenges, but through the hard work of our volunteers and the trust of our community, ACE remained a place of stability, support and growth for those who need it most. We thank our team of ACE staff and volunteers who work tirelessly to make this possible. Throughout the year, ACE sessional project leaders, youth support workers and our amazing volunteers have gone the extra mile, giving up their free time to deliver vital youth services and undertake training to better understand how to support the children and young people in a variety of ways.

And most importantly, we thank all our funders, supporters and partners who enable us to continue this valuable work in the Derbyshire Dales.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

ACE Youth Trust supports disadvantaged, vulnerable and hard-to-reach children and young people by delivering high-quality youth work, pastoral care, and therapeutic services. Our aim is to help young people overcome social, emotional, and practical challenges so they can build confidence, resilience, and brighter futures.

The charity was established by Deed of Trust in May 2006. Its formal charitable object is:

"The advancement of the Christian faith within the areas of Derbyshire and Staffordshire, particularly (but not exclusively) among children and young people aged 11 to 19 living in the Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School catchment area, the Weaver Ward of East Staffordshire, and surrounding areas, through the provision of recreational and leisure activities, support and guidance to promote personal development and quality of life."

In practice, ACE delivers a wide range of services shaped around the specific and often complex needs of the children and young people referred to us. Referrals come from local authority children's services and schools, and the young people we support often face serious challenges such as:

- Poverty and social deprivation
- Family breakdown or instability
- Being in care or leaving care
- Bullying, exclusion, or school non-attendance
- Low self-esteem, anxiety, or mental health struggles
- Additional needs such as autism, ADHD or dyslexia

We offer tailored support including:

- After-school and holiday clubs
- Group therapy and nurture sessions
- Wellbeing and life skills programmes
- One-to-one mentoring
- Practical support with essentials such as clothing and hygiene items

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

Projects are led by trained youth workers and supported by DBS-checked volunteers. Services are designed to be trauma-informed, child-centred and relationship-based. Our goal is to reduce isolation, promote wellbeing, and give young people the skills, confidence, and support they need to thrive in education, family life, and the wider community.

ACE continues to be shaped by values of kindness, trust, consistency, and understanding — qualities we believe are essential to building lasting, supportive relationships with young people. In 2019, we received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in recognition of the lasting difference we make.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

2024 has been another successful year for ACE, delivering a range of projects supporting 85 disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people throughout the twelve months with an average of 60+ children and young people attending the range of projects at any one time.

During the year the following project services were delivered:

Wednesday Club delivered recreational and leisure activities and much-needed opportunities for socialisation to 51 young people aged 12-16 on a referral basis. A total of 46 weekly sessions ran throughout the year: 37 during the school term and 9 over the school holidays. Average attendance was 20 children and young people per session. The project was delivered by qualified sessional workers and trained volunteers, the latter providing almost 400 volunteer hours during the year. A highlight of the year was a full-day visit to the National Justice Museum in Nottingham during the summer holidays.

Thursday Club delivered recreational and leisure activities and much-needed opportunities for socialisation to 31 children aged 11-12 on a referral basis. A total of 44 weekly sessions ran throughout the year. The project was delivered by qualified sessional workers and trained volunteers, the latter providing over 200 volunteer hours during the year.

Friday Club offered nurture group therapy to 34 vulnerable children in Year 6 who were expected to struggle with the transition to secondary school. A total of 25 sessions ran throughout the year. The project was delivered by qualified sessional workers and trained volunteers, the latter providing over 50 volunteer hours during the year.

A-Team delivered targeted activities to address anger and aggression to 7 young people at risk of exclusion from school, mainstream services and society. A total of 17 four-hour sessions were delivered by trained sessional workers and volunteers, the latter providing 200 volunteer hours during the year.

spACE4u delivered nurture group therapy to 5 young people affected by poor emotional and mental health. The project was delivered by professional sessional workers trained in nurture therapy and practice. A total of 13 sessions were delivered by qualified staff and trained volunteers providing 50 hours of targeted intervention and 100 volunteer hours.

The **Hardship Fund** provided practical assistance to disadvantaged local children and young people struggling to buy necessities such as school shoes, clothing, school sports kit, bed linen and other basic hygiene items. The fund is managed and operated by volunteers providing 25 volunteer hours.

1-2-1 Support delivered targeted support and mentoring to vulnerable young people struggling with social isolation, family breakdown and trauma seriously affecting their emotional and mental wellbeing. 1-2-1 support took the form of regular outdoor walks and physical exercise which provided a safe space for listening, supporting, befriending, encouraging and guiding vulnerable young people. In addition, Maths and Science tuition were provided to a small number of children struggling with GCSEs due to family circumstances. 220 hours of support were delivered by ACE staff and trained volunteers.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

All the above services were delivered with the assistance of a team of 17 volunteers under the direction of 3 sessional youth workers and with the support of a sessional project coordinator. In 2024 the ACE team provided over 1,000 voluntary hours to deliver front line services. In addition, volunteers provided management and administrative services. All staff completed first aid and safeguarding training. Ensuring the wellbeing of our volunteers is essential to ACE's operational success.

Young people are at the heart of everything that ACE does. ACE projects are developed and designed with the child and their best interests in mind. We listen, question, and learn from each of the young people. We set aside time to understand their needs and wants, what works for them, what makes a difference to their lives. We consult with young people, their families and carers, and the wider community to better understand need. We run pilot projects. We make it clear that there is no compulsion to attend ACE. **We give the child a voice and a choice.**

In 2024 referrals were accepted for 26 children with Pupil Premium status, 37 children in receipt of Free School Meals and 22 children with Education Health Care Plans covering a range of additional needs and vulnerabilities. Young people's scores on how they rated ACE ranged from 8/10 to 10/10. Feedback and monitoring showed 100% of the children experienced significant or some progress in socialisation, improved confidence, and self-esteem leading to improved emotional and mental wellbeing. 100% of the children reported that they experienced significant or some progress in developing greater independence and self-reliance, benefitting their school attendance and enabling them to cope with changing home life circumstances, particularly those young people who experienced familial loss and change of living arrangements such as entering the care system. 41% experienced significant progress and 51% started to experience progress in their willingness to overcome fears, try something new and develop perseverance. This was particularly noteworthy when the young people experienced the world outside the safe environment of after-school club to visit new places and share new experiences such as dragon boat racing, the visit to the National Justice Museum and a trip to Magna Science Museum.

All the young people and their parents/carers reported that ACE projects make them feel happy, provide an opportunity to make friends, feel safe, and experience new things. 100% of the young people and their parents/carers reported that attendance at ACE projects brought significant improvement in mental health and emotional wellbeing; this is especially important for children who are home schooled and have no or very little interaction with peers and suffer social isolation. Comments included *"I love ACE. Everyone is so kind and caring. The support means a lot to me."* *"I get to do creative things I wouldn't normally do, and in the summer holidays I went to places I'd never been before with ACE."* *"Everything ACE does is brilliant. Making friends, hanging out, trips, the space to be myself, everything. I get time to be happy, to be myself."*

One young person aged 14 with social emotional and mental health issues relating to domestic abuse made amazing progress in his mental and emotional wellbeing. He attended 46/46 Wednesday Club sessions and asked to lead a session. He said *"It's so good to have something after school like ACE. I'd be at home alone sitting on my phone if I didn't have Wednesday Club to come to each week. It's such a good place to make new friends to have fun, laugh and chat and we get to do really cool things. It makes me so happy to be here. I'd be so lost without ACE. It makes me joyful and lifts me after all the hassle and grief of school. There's such a good atmosphere at ACE. Everyone supports you and helps you. No one is left out."*

There is no one element of our work that is more important than another in creating positive change. It is about creating the right balance. ACE projects are referral-only. Attendance is voluntary. Each project is designed to build confidence; forge trusting relationships and friendships; facilitate and teach practical skills for improving emotional and mental health; and enable the development of lifelong social and communication skills. These objectives are achieved by creating the right environment characterised by a nurturing culture and ethos; offering appropriate and well-considered activities; and gathering a team of people who genuinely believe that helping and nurturing disadvantaged children

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024

and young people can bring positive change and make a real difference to their lives. ACE people are key to supporting positive change. The children recognise this and tell us that the helpers are very important. One young person aged 15 said *“ACE has helped me feel calmer and cope with my medical condition. I feel that the helpers understand me and know how difficult life can be at times.”*

It has been great fun and a privilege to work together serving the children in our local community.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

In 2024, ACE Youth Trust received total income of £49,024, with £36,278 restricted for specific projects and £12,746 available to support core activities. This compares to £59,481 in 2023, reflecting a slight decrease in one-off grant awards, and reduced funding from QEGS for the spACE4u project.

Total spending during the year was £54,413, resulting in a planned deficit of £5,389 (£7,006 surplus in 2023). This reflects the use of restricted funds carried over from previous years. ACE’s overall financial position remains strong, with year-end funds of £79,169, of which £60,258 are unrestricted.

The charity’s cash balance increased to £92,719 at year-end, up from £86,408 in 2023, in part due to grant funding received from the National Lottery for future years. £14,000 of this has been formally deferred to 2025–2026, to maintain transparency in our reporting.

ACE’s approach to funding is cautious and aims to secure at least a year of funding for each of our core projects to provide stability for the children and young people we support and our staff. The Trustees maintain a reserves policy designed to cover 12 months of essential delivery costs which based on historical levels is currently at least £55,000. This ensures continuity of services if funding gaps arise.

The Trustees are grateful to all supporters and funders. Their contributions have enabled ACE to provide safe, effective and responsive services for children and young people in our community. The charity remains committed to demonstrating value for money, achieving strong outcomes, and using all funding with care and integrity.

FUTURE PLANS

ACE Youth Trust remains committed to the delivery of quality youth services to children and young people who are vulnerable and hard to reach from disadvantaged backgrounds and rural communities in the Derbyshire Dales and nearby areas. We recognise that our projects fill the vacuum left by the cutbacks to statutory services. We will endeavour through our projects to address inequalities: social isolation, lack of opportunities for personal growth, absence of fulfilling activities, difficult home lives and lack of guidance and support.

Our core after-school projects are funded for the year ahead, with further grant applications and donations being sought to support additional activities during school holidays. Organisational changes and budgetary pressures within the local secondary school have necessitated a review of partnership working and joint funding arrangements for the *A Team* and *spACE4u* projects which have been delivered in school time. As a result of these changes and financial pressures, this targeted intensive work will cease in 2025. We will be giving careful consideration to finding alternative ways of facilitating and improving young people’s well-being, connectedness to others and meaning to life.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Document

ACE Youth Trust is constituted as a Trust and is governed by a Declaration of Trust dated 15 May 2006, with an Amending Deed dated 18 July 2010. The charity operates within the scope of its stated charitable objectives and is registered with the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Trustee Recruitment and Meetings

Trustees are appointed by the existing board in accordance with the Trust Deed. The Board of Trustees meets 5 to 6 times a year to review strategy, monitor performance, approve budgets, and oversee governance. Details of trustees who served during the year and since the year end are listed under "Reference and Administrative Details."

Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment

ACE takes safeguarding extremely seriously and ensures all children and young people are supported in safe, caring environments. We follow the Safeguarding Procedures and Safer Recruitment guidelines issued by the Diocese of Derby. All staff and volunteers working with children undergo enhanced child workforce DBS checks, and safeguarding training is refreshed every three years or annually as required by regulatory changes and best practice.

Public Benefit

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with their duty under Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit. ACE delivers a wide range of free services to vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people, all in alignment with its charitable aims. These services aim to improve confidence, emotional wellbeing and life skills, and to reduce isolation. The work of the charity benefits not only the individual young people but also their families and the wider community.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

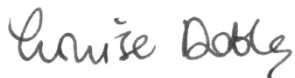
Registered Charity number: 1120282

Principal address: The Parish Office
St Oswald's Church
School Lane
Ashbourne
Derbyshire. DE6 1AN

Trustees:	Mrs Louise Doble	Chair
	Rev Philip Michell	Vice Chair
	Mrs Jane Stoney	Treasurer
	Mrs Helen Wainwright	
	Dr Robert Woore	
	Dr Madhuri Manley	

Independent Examiner: Fiona Brown
Hillocks Farm
Kniveton
Ashbourne
DE6 1JH

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 2nd October 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs Louise Doble
Chair of Trustees

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of ACE Youth Trust (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2024, which are set out on pages 10 and 11.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed:  _____

Date: _____

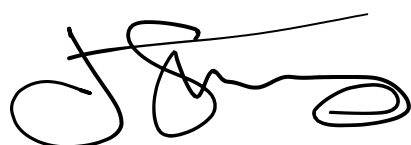
Name: Fiona Brown

Address: Hillocks Farm
Kniveton
Ashbourne
DE6 1JH

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Donations	11,458	405	11,862	14,010
Grant Income				
Grant from BBC Children In Need	0	15,000	15,000	10,000
Grant from National Lottery	0	6,000	6,000	10,000
Grant from Comic Relief	0	0	0	10,500
Grant from StreetGames	0	0	0	4,500
Grant from Police & Crime Commissioner	0	0	0	3,920
Other Grant Income	0	0	0	950
Total Grant Income	0	21,000	21,000	39,870
Charitable Activities	0	13,460	13,460	4,420
Fundraising & Other Income	79	1,413	1,492	512
Interest Income	1,209	0	1,209	668
Total INCOMING RESOURCES	12,746	36,278	49,024	59,481
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Raising Funds	3,900	0	3,900	0
Charitable Activities				
Fees	0	32,131	32,131	27,272
Activity Costs and Direct Expenses	300	13,364	13,664	15,440
Travel & Mileage	0	1,137	1,137	2,609
Food, Clothing & Essential Provisions	0	885	885	4,415
Governance and Overheads				
Staff Training & DBS	57	324	381	726
IT, Telephone & Stationery	565	444	1,009	649
Insurance and Other Expenses	196	1,109	1,306	1,363
Total RESOURCES EXPENDED	5,018	49,394	54,413	52,474
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	7,727	(13,117)	(5,389)	7,006
Transfer between funds	(2,500)	2,500	0	0
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	5,227	(10,617)	(5,389)	7,006
Reconciliation of Funds				
Funds Brought Forward	55,030	29,527	84,558	77,552
Incoming Resources	12,746	36,278	49,024	59,481
Resources Expended	(5,018)	(49,394)	(54,413)	(52,474)
Transfer between funds	(2,500)	2,500	0	0
Total Funds Carried Forward	60,258	18,911	79,169	84,558



Signed on behalf of the Trustees by Jane Stoney

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

STATEMENT OF FUNDS

For 12 Months ended 31st December 2024

Project	Opening 01/01/24	Income	Costs	Transfers	Net Movement	Carried Forward
121 Support	-346	4,025	(3,360)	0	665	319
A Team	7,012	6,795	(6,631)	0	164	7,176
spACE4u	7,229	3,045	(6,721)	0	(3,677)	3,553
Wednesday Club	4,068	15,000	(17,673)	0	(2,673)	1,395
Thursday Club	2,771	6,000	(8,563)	0	(2,563)	208
Friday Club	7,642	1,413	(5,177)	2,500	(1,264)	6,378
Hardship Funds	1,151	0	(1,270)	0	(1,270)	(119)
Restricted Funds	29,527	36,278	(49,394)	2,500	(10,617)	18,911
Unrestricted	55,030	12,746	(5,018)	(2,500)	5,227	60,258
Total	84,558	49,024	(54,413)	0	(5,389)	79,169

Transfers between funds are discussed and agreed at the Trustee Meetings to ensure that projects are adequately supported. Restricted funds are managed in line with any restrictions and our unrestricted funds are maintained in line with our reserves policy.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	31 December 2024 £	31 December 2023 £
FIXED ASSETS				
Computer Equipment	550	-	550	-
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(31)	-	(31)	-
Total FIXED ASSETS	519	-	519	-
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash at bank and in hand	59,639	33,081	92,719	86,408
Debtors	100	-	100	-
Total CURRENT ASSETS	59,739	33,081	92,819	86,408
CURRENT LIABILITIES				
Outstanding Payments and Accruals	-	170	170	1,850
Deferred Income	-	14,000	14,000	-
Total CURRENT LIABILITIES	-	14,170	14,170	1,850
TOTAL NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)	60,258	18,911	79,169	84,558
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY				
Funds Brought Forward	55,030	29,527	84,558	77,552
Surplus/(Deficit) in the period	5,227	(10,617)	(5,389)	7,006
Total FUNDS OF THE CHARITY	60,258	18,911	79,169	84,558



Signed on behalf of the Trustees by Jane Stoney

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

STATUTORY INFORMATION

ACE Youth Trust is a registered charity in England and Wales (Charity Number: 1120282). It is governed by a Declaration of Trust dated 15 May 2006 and a Deed of Amendment dated 18 July 2010. The charity's principal office address can be found under the reference and administrative details in the Report of the Trustees. The financial statements are presented in Pounds Sterling (£).

As a registered charity, ACE Youth Trust is exempt from income tax and capital gains tax on income and gains used for its charitable purposes.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Basis of Preparation

These financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis, meaning income and expenditure are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when they are earned or incurred, not just when money is received or paid.

The charity previously used the cash basis but changed to accruals in 2024 after receiving grant funding that covers future years. No adjustments were needed to restate the prior year figures.

2. Fund Accounting

The charity holds two types of funds: Unrestricted funds can be used for any of the charity's work, as agreed by the Trustees; Restricted funds can only be used for specific purposes, as set by the donor or funder. Restricted Funds are monitored to ensure they are spent as intended.

3. Income

Income is raised through donations from individuals and local charitable organisations including local churches, local Rotary clubs, and Ashbourne Partnership Trust, and through Grants from national and regional organisations and Trusts. Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activity when the charity is entitled to it, it can be reliably measured, and it is likely to be received.

Grants are recognised when the charity has met the conditions for receiving them. If a grant is given for future activities, the income is deferred until the activity takes place. In 2024, £14,000 of a grant received from the National Lottery relates to sessions due to be delivered in 2025 and 2026 and is therefore shown as deferred income on the Balance Sheet.

The following grants were received during the year and are accounted for as restricted funds:

Funder	Project	Amount Received	Notes
BBC Children in Need	Wednesday Club	£15,000	Fully spent in 2024
National Lottery	Thursday Club	£ 6,000	An additional £14,000 was received for sessions to be held in 2025–2026 (deferred)

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

4. Expenditure

Costs are included in the accounts when the charity is committed to paying them. Costs directly related to projects are allocated to those specific funds.

General costs, such as insurance or IT, are included in unrestricted expenditure unless directly linked to a project.

5. Fixed Assets

Items of equipment costing over £500 are capitalised and depreciated over their useful life. In 2024, computer equipment was capitalised and depreciated over three years on a straight-line basis.

The value of the assets at year-end was £519. There were no Fixed Assets in 2023.

6. Cash at Bank and In Hand

At 31 December 2024, the charity held the following balances:

Current Account	£ 2,719	Used for day-to-day operations
Instant Access Savings Account	£40,000	Used to manage cashflow and project delivery
Long-term Savings Account	<u>£50,000</u>	Holds the majority of our required reserves
Total	£92,719	

These balances include £59,639 unrestricted and £33,081 restricted funds.

7. Debtors and Creditors

Debtors include amounts owed to the charity at year-end. In 2024, this included a refundable deposit of £100 which was received after the year end.

Creditors are costs incurred but not yet paid, and cash received for services not yet delivered. At year-end, the charity had £170 of unpaid costs and £14,000 in deferred income, the latter being part of the National Lottery Grant to support Thursday Club sessions in 2025 and 2026.

8. Staff Costs

The charity does not directly employ any staff. Sessional workers are engaged on a freelance basis and are paid by invoice. All other work is carried out by volunteers.

9. Trustee Expenses and Related Party Transactions

No Trustee received any payment for their role. Trustees may be reimbursed for pre-approved expenses related to project delivery, in line with the charity's policy and authorised by fellow trustees. No other related party transactions occurred.

ACE YOUTH TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1120282

Accounts

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1120282

ACE YOUTH TRUST
working with young people



ACE YOUTH TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

ACE Youth Trust delivers life-changing youth work, pastoral support, therapeutic and nurture services to disadvantaged, vulnerable and hard-to-reach children and young people.

The charity was formed by Deed of Trust in May 2006. The charitable objects of the trust are the advancement of the Christian Faith within the areas of Derbyshire/Staffordshire, in particular but not exclusively among children and young people aged 11-19 resident in the Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School catchment area, the Weaver Ward of East Staffordshire, or surrounding areas, by the provision of recreational / leisure time activities and support / guidance intended to help them grow as individuals and improve their quality of life.

The charity accepts referrals from local authority children's services (Early Help and Social Care) and local primary and secondary schools. Services are targeted at children and young people facing troubling and serious issues such as poverty, poor family/peer relationships, instability at home, being a carer, being a care leaver, involvement with youth offending, anti-social behaviour, bullying, missing education, substance misuse, self-harm, suicidal thoughts, depression, low self-esteem, and mental health issues. A significant number of the young people are disadvantaged by reason of additional needs such as autism, ADHD, child in need, dyslexia, and dyspraxia.

Typically, for the young people we work with, quality of life is poor, and the future is uncertain, particularly for those who are struggling with social and rural isolation and lacking in confidence. Without ACE's help, the impact on many of these children and young people would be protracted, placing them at risk of developing a long-lasting dependency on expensive State interventions.

ACE makes a significant impact on local children and young people's lives by delivering an array of age-appropriate projects to meet identified and evidenced needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people. Services offered range from pastoral support, one-to-one mentoring, after school clubs and holiday clubs delivering recreational and leisure activities, nurture therapy and transition support, emotional and mental wellbeing programmes and pro-social behavioural support programmes, as well as practical help and advocacy with CVs, work experience placements, and interviews. The overarching objectives of the projects are to build confidence and improve self-esteem, develop emotional resilience, develop independence and enhance life skills, learn strategies and techniques to manage and overcome fears and anxieties, facilitate supportive peer relationships, engage in activities that promote physical, emotional and mental wellbeing, and build happy memories.

Projects are led by professional trained youth workers and staffed by a team of trained and DBS checked volunteers. The charity is managed and run by volunteers. The services offered are matched to the needs of the young people whilst ensuring that volunteers are not overstretched and can continue to demonstrate the human qualities that make ACE successful; namely, reliability, trust, consistency, kindness, good humour, patience and understanding.

In 2019 ACE received the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Services in recognition of the positive impact that the charity has made to children and young people's lives. The charity received the Bishop of Derby's Award for outstanding voluntary services in 2016 and Derbyshire County Council Beacon of Hope Award in 2021 for its extensive work supplying child-friendly food parcels and providing leisure and recreational activities to disadvantaged children and young people during the Covid pandemic.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

2023 has been another successful year for ACE, delivering a range of projects supporting over 85 disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people throughout the twelve months with an average of 65+ children and young people attending the range of projects at any one time.

During the year the following project services were delivered:

Wednesday Club delivered recreational and leisure activities and much-needed opportunities for socialisation to 50 young people aged 12-16 on a referral basis. A total of 45 weekly sessions ran throughout the school term and school holidays. The project was delivered by qualified sessional workers and trained volunteers, the latter providing almost 400 volunteer hours during the year. The highlight of the year was a full day visit to the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey during the summer holidays. None of the young people had visited London previously.

Thursday Club delivered recreational and leisure activities and much-needed opportunities for socialisation to 32 children aged 11-12 on a referral basis. A total of 44 weekly sessions ran throughout the year. The project was delivered by qualified sessional workers and trained volunteers, the latter providing over 200 volunteer hours during the year.

Friday Club offered nurture group therapy to 30 vulnerable children in Year 6 who were expected to struggle with the transition to secondary school. A total of 27 sessions ran throughout the year. The project was delivered by qualified sessional workers and trained volunteers, the latter providing over 50 volunteer hours during the year.

A-Team delivered targeted group activities to 14 young people at risk of exclusion from school, mainstream services, and society to address anger and aggression. A total of 34 four-hour sessions were delivered by qualified sessional workers and trained volunteers, the latter providing 400 volunteer hours during the year.

spACE4u delivered nurture group therapy to 12 young people affected by poor emotional and mental health. The project was delivered by professional sessional workers trained in nurture therapy and practice. A total of 24 sessions were delivered by qualified sessional workers and trained volunteers providing 300 hours of targeted intervention.

The **Hardship Fund** provided practical assistance to disadvantaged local children and young people struggling to buy necessities such as school shoes, clothing, school sports kit, bed linen and other basic hygiene items. The fund is managed by trustees and items sourced and delivered by volunteers providing 25 volunteer hours.

1-2-1 Support delivered targeted support and mentoring to vulnerable young people struggling with social isolation, family breakdown and trauma seriously affecting their emotional and mental wellbeing. 1-2-1 support took the form of regular outdoor walks and physical exercise which provided a safe space for listening, supporting, befriending, encouraging, and guiding vulnerable young people. 160 hours of support were delivered by ACE staff and trained volunteers.

The above services were operated with the assistance of a team of 18 volunteers under the direction of 3 paid sessional youth workers and supported by a project coordinator. In 2023 the ACE team provided around 1,500 voluntary hours to deliver front line services. In addition, volunteers provided management and administrative services. All staff completed first aid and safeguarding training. Ensuring the wellbeing of our volunteers is essential to ACE's operational success.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Young people are at the heart of everything that ACE does. ACE projects are developed and designed with the child and their best interests in mind. We listen, question, and learn from each of the young people. We set aside time to understand their needs and wants, what works for them, what makes a difference to their lives. We consult with young people, their families and carers, and the wider community to better understand need. We run pilot projects. We make it clear that there is no compulsion to attend ACE. **We give the child a voice and a choice.**

In late 2023 young people's scores on how they rated ACE ranged from 8.5/10 to 10/10. Feedback and monitoring showed 100% of the children experienced significant or some reduction in social isolation and improvement in confidence and self-esteem leading to improved emotional and mental wellbeing. 100% of the children reported that they experienced significant or some progress in developing greater independence and self-reliance benefitting their school attendance and enabling them to cope with changing home life circumstances, particularly those young people who experienced familial loss and change of living arrangements such as entering the care system. 52% experienced significant progress and 48% started to experience progress in their willingness to overcome fears, try something new and develop perseverance. All the young people and their parents/carers reported that ACE projects make them feel happy and provide an opportunity to make friends, feel safe, and experience new things. Comments included *"Making friends is the best thing about ACE."* *"I loved the trip to London; I've never experienced anything like it."* *"Everything ACE does is fantastic. You guys understand me and know me. You know how to help me. I like that I can be with one of the staff from ACE, it helps reduce my anxiety."*

One young person reported that ACE staff had provided support at a very dark time in life, helping and providing stability amidst danger and turmoil. Despite missing school, the young person attended ACE Wednesday Club every week and remarked that the need to self-harm was significantly reduced after attending the project. ACE was the only place to go to feel safe outside the home, the only place to socialise with peers and adults outside of the immediate family. ACE worked on reintegration back into school and supported the return to part-time education. X said *"The point I was at when I came to ACE, chaos was better than peace. Thanks to you guys, I'm ready to restart my life."* Mum said *"ACE was the only thing X had for support. The staff have been fantastic. They kept X safe and alive. I can't thank everyone enough for what you did for my child and me."*

During 2023 we have been reminded about the benefits of working collaboratively with external agencies and the value of building new relationships. Since the end of the pandemic and the semblance of a return to normal operations we have linked up with external organisations to access increased training opportunities, reconvene face-to-face meetings, extend our links with new schools and educators that can make referrals to ACE and national bodies. We have encouraged the children and young people to be outward looking and express their views by organising debates and talks and inviting local councillors and our local MP to meet and talk with the young people. We have received visits to ACE projects from the House of Parliament Education Office. This has brought significant benefits to the children and young people in terms of confidence and community awareness and enabled them to share ideas, engage in our democracy and learn how to influence their community and national life. The young people have fed back that this has aided their sense of empowerment, improved mental health and wellbeing, and raised future aspirations. ACE has offered an inclusive, safe and respectful environment for disadvantaged, vulnerable and hard to reach children and young people from diverse backgrounds to come together to relax, socialise, forge new friendships, learn and understand about each other and what it means to belong and live in our local community. It has been great fun and a privilege to serve.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During 2023 income raised exceeded expenditure and accumulated funds have increased by £7,006 from £77,552 to £84,558.

The charity aims to hold reserves sufficient to fund 12 months of activity which, based on historic spending trends, is in the region of £50,000. This allows the charity to ensure consistency for the young people we support if there should be a failure or shortfall in funding.

Unrestricted funds at the end of 2023 total £55,030 (£56,121 in 2022) which is aligned with the Reserves Policy and provides a reasonable allowance for anticipated inflation.

FUTURE PLANS

Funding has been secured to sustain our core project activities in 2024. Additional funding is being sought to operate the highly popular school holiday programme. The charity continues to work closely with the local primary and secondary schools to meet the needs of the children and young people and to address the growing demand for services.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The organisation is governed by the Declaration of Trust dated 15th May 2006 and Deed of Amendment dated 18th July 2010. The Charity is constituted as a Trust.

Recruitment and Appointment of new Trustees

The trustees of ACE Youth Trust are appointed by the existing Trustees. The trustees meet 5 to 6 times a year. The trustees who served during the year and since the year end are set out in the following section.

Safeguarding & Child Protection Training

The ACE Board of Trustees are committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of children and young people supported by the charity and has elected to adopt the Safeguarding Procedures developed by the Diocese of Derby. Disclosure and Barring Service applications are processed by the Diocese of Derby on behalf of the Trust. DBS certifications are renewed every three years. ACE adheres to the Diocese of Derby Safer Recruitment guidelines and undertakes enhanced DBS checks, reference checks and induction and safeguarding training for all staff and volunteers working with children and young people. Level 2 safeguarding training is refreshed annually. Designated safeguarding leads complete Level 3 training.

Public Benefit

The trustees have regard to the guidelines issued by the Charity Commission and are satisfied that the charity confers a public benefit. ACE provides a range of free services within the scope of its charitable objects to vulnerable, disadvantaged, and hard to reach children and young people. All services are funded by grants, donations, and fundraised income. In shaping its services, ACE considers how the individual needs of the young person – whether by reason of additional need, social deprivation, or disability – can best be met to reduce social isolation, improve emotional and mental wellbeing, and build confidence, self-esteem, and self-reliance to prepare them for life at school, college, work and living in the wider community. By doing so, ACE activities achieve outcomes that are positive not only for the individual young person but also in terms of the impact on their families and society.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity number: 1120282

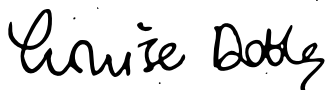
Principal address: The Parish Office
St Oswald's Church
School Lane
Ashbourne
Derbyshire. DE6 1AN

Trustees:	Mrs Louise Doble	Chair
	Rev Philip Michell	Vice Chair
	Mrs Jane Stoney	Treasurer
	Mrs Helen Wainwright	
	Dr Robert Woore	

Dr Madhuri Manley

Independent Examiner: Fiona Brown
Hillocks Farm
Kniveton
Ashbourne
DE6 1JH

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 24th September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs Louise Doble
Chair of Trustees

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Ace Youth Trust (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out on pages 9 and 10.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed: 

Date: 14/4/24

Name: Fiona Brown
Address: Hillocks Farm
Kniveton
Ashbourne
DE6 1JH

**STATEMENTS / NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
RECEIPTS				
Donations				
Planned Giving	5,811	0	5,811	6,676
Other Donations	5,605	2,594	8,199	7,908
Grant Income				
Grant from BBC Children In Need	0	10,000	10,000	10,500
Grant from National Lottery	0	10,000	10,000	0
Grant from Comic Relief	0	10,500	10,500	5,000
Grant from StreetGames	0	4,500	4,500	0
Grant from Police & Crime Commissioner	0	3,920	3,920	0
Grant from 29th May 1961 CT	0	0	0	8,000
Other Grant Income	0	950	950	7,477
Other Income				
Specific Project Contributions	0	4,420	4,420	7,252
Fundraising & Other Income	62	450	512	1,009
Tax Recovered through Gift Aid	0	0	0	4,911
Interest Income	668	0	668	110
Total RECEIPTS	12,147	47,334	59,481	58,844
PAYMENTS				
Charitable Activities				
Fees	237	27,035	27,272	29,291
Travel & Mileage	146	2,463	2,609	3,111
Activity Costs and Direct Expenses	100	15,340	15,440	16,491
Food, Clothing & Essential Provisions	0	4,415	4,415	53
Governance and Overheads				
Staff Training	30	696	726	552
IT, Telephone, Postage	554	0	554	351
Printing & Stationery	0	95	95	297
Insurance and Other Expenses	170	1,193	1,363	1,706
Total PAYMENTS	1,237	51,238	52,474	51,852
Transfer between funds	(12,000)	12,000	0	0
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) IN THE PERIOD	(1,090)	8,096	7,006	6,992

Reconciliation of Funds				
Funds Brought Forward	56,121	21,431	77,552	70,560
Incoming Resources	12,147	47,334	59,481	58,844
Resources Expended	(1,237)	(51,238)	(52,474)	(51,852)
Transfer between funds	(12,000)	12,000	0	0
Total Funds Carried Forward	55,030	29,527	84,558	77,552

Jane Brown 14/4/24

Signed on behalf of the Trustees by Jane Stoney



**STATEMENTS / NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

STATEMENT OF FUNDS

For 12 Months ended 31st December 2023

Project	Brought Forward 01/01/23	Income	Costs	Transfers between Funds	Movement in 2023	Carried Forward 31/12/23
121 Support	187	-	(534)	-	(534)	(346)
A Team	9,116	6,300	(8,403)	-	(2,103)	7,012
spACE4u	1,775	7,040	(8,018)	6,432	5,454	7,229
Wednesday Club	4,074	16,900	(16,906)	-	(6)	4,068
Thursday Club	(49)	10,500	(7,681)	-	2,819	2,771
Friday Club	6,015	1,042	(4,416)	5,000	1,626	7,642
Hardship Funds	312	51	(1,212)	2,000	839	1,151
Special Projects	-	5,500	(4,068)	(1,432)	0	0
Restricted Funds	21,431	47,334	(51,238)	12,000	8,096	29,527
Unrestricted	56,121	12,147	(1,237)	(12,000)	(1,090)	55,030
Total Funds	77,552	59,481	(52,474)	-	7,006	84,558

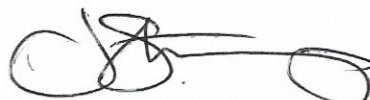
Transfers between funds are discussed and agreed at the Trustee Meetings to ensure that projects are adequately supported. Restricted funds are managed in line with any restrictions and our unrestricted funds are maintained in line with our reserves policy.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Assets				
Cash at bank and in hand				
Current Account	5,691		5,691	28,013
Reserve Account	51,050	29,667	80,717	50,049
Total Cash at bank and in hand	56,741	29,667	86,408	78,062
Debtors	0	0	0	188
Total Assets	56,741	29,667	86,408	78,250
Liabilities				
Creditors and accruals	1,710	140	1,850	698
Total Liabilities	1,710	140	1,850	698
Net Assets	55,030	29,527	84,558	77,552
Capital and Reserves				
Funds Brought Forward	56,121	21,431	77,552	70,560
Surplus/Deficit in the period	(1,090)	8,096	7,006	6,992
Total Capital and Reserves	55,030	29,527	84,558	77,552

J. Brown 14/4/24

Signed on behalf of the Trustees by Jane Stoney



**STATEMENTS / NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

STATUTORY INFORMATION

Ace Youth Trust is managed by The Trustees and is a charity registered in England and Wales. The registered charity number and principal office address can be found under the reference and administrative details in the Report of the Trustees.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is Pound Sterling (£)

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the charity have been prepared on a Cash Basis.

Income

Income is raised through donations from individuals and local charitable organisations including local churches, local Rotary clubs, and Ashbourne Partnership Trust, and through Grants from national and regional organisations and Trusts.

During 2023 grants over £3,000 were received to fund the following projects:

- BBC Children in Need - Wednesday Club
- National Lottery – Thursday Club
- Street Games – Wednesday Club holiday activity programme
- Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner – A Team
- Comic Relief – spACE4u and Winter Relief (under Special Projects) addressing the cost of living increases experienced in winter 2022/23

Debtors

There were no amounts outstanding at the end of the financial year. In 2022 a total of £188 was included to recognise income that had not cleared the bank at the end of December.

Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on a cash basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the cost category and relevant project. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to a project, they have been allocated to unrestricted resources. Creditors represent invoices and expense claims received for December activities that cleared the bank in early January.

Staff Costs

People are hired to support and run our programmes and activities. The costs are incurred by invoice and are included in Fees above. The charity has no payroll employees.

Payments to Trustees

Trustees Expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2023 and 2022 are directly related to the running of activities and are duly approved by fellow trustees. No other payments were made to Trustees.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees. Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific projects or activities.

ACE YOUTH TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1120282

Accounts

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1120282

ACE YOUTH TRUST
working with young people



ACE YOUTH TRUST

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND

UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

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**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

The Trustees present their annual report together with the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2022.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

ACE Youth Trust delivers life-changing youth work, pastoral support, therapeutic and nurture services to disadvantaged, vulnerable and hard-to-reach children and young people.

The charity was formed by Deed of Trust in May 2006. The charitable objects of the trust are the advancement of the Christian Faith within the areas of Derbyshire/Staffordshire, in particular but not exclusively among children and young people aged 11-19 resident in the Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School catchment area, the Weaver Ward of East Staffordshire, or surrounding areas, by the provision of recreational / leisure time activities and support / guidance intended to help them grow as individuals and improve their quality of life.

The charity accepts referrals from local authority children's services (Early Help and Social Care) and local primary and secondary schools. Services are targeted at children and young people facing troubling and serious issues such as poverty, poor family/peer relationships, instability at home, being a carer, being a care leaver, involvement with youth offending, anti-social behaviour, bullying, missing education, substance misuse, self-harm, suicidal thoughts, depression, low self-esteem, and mental health issues. A significant number of the young people are disadvantaged by reason of additional needs such as autism, ADHD, child in need, dyslexia, and dyspraxia.

Typically, for the young people we work with, quality of life is poor, and the future is uncertain, particularly for those who are struggling with social and rural isolation and lacking in confidence. Without ACE's help, the impact on many of these young people would be protracted, placing them at risk of developing a long-lasting dependency on expensive State interventions.

Over the last fifteen years ACE has made a significant impact on local children and young people's lives by delivering an array of age-appropriate projects to meet identified and evidenced needs of disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people. Services offered range from pastoral support, one-to-one mentoring, after school clubs and holiday clubs delivering recreational and leisure activities, nurture therapy and transition support, emotional and mental wellbeing programmes and pro-social behavioural support programmes, as well as practical help and advocacy with CVs, work experience placements, and interviews. The overarching objectives of the projects is to build confidence and improve self-esteem, develop emotional resilience, develop independence, and enhance life skills, learn strategies and techniques to manage and overcome fears and anxieties, facilitate supportive peer relationships, engage in activities that promote physical, emotional and mental wellbeing and build happy memories.

Projects are led by professional trained youth workers and staffed by a team of trained and DBS checked volunteers. The charity is managed and run by volunteers. The services offered are matched to the needs of the young people whilst ensuring that volunteers are not overstretched and can continue to demonstrate the human qualities that make ACE successful; namely, reliability, trust, consistency, kindness, good humour, patience and understanding.

In 2019 ACE received the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Services in recognition of the positive impact that the charity has made to children and young people's lives. The charity received the Bishop of Derby's Award for outstanding voluntary services in 2016 and Derbyshire County Council Beacon of Hope Award in 2021 for its extensive work supplying child-friendly food parcels and providing leisure and recreational activities to disadvantaged children and young people during the Covid pandemic.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

During 2022 the charity provided operational project services for 44 weeks with administrative and planning tasks undertaken over a further 8 weeks. This essential work enabled ACE to offer a range of support services to disadvantaged and vulnerable children and young people. The charity supported over 130 children and young people throughout the twelve-month period with an average of 65+ children and young people attending the range of projects at any one time.

In total the following project services were delivered:

Wednesday Club delivered recreational and leisure activities and much-needed opportunities for socialisation to 60 young people aged 12-16 on a referral basis. A total of 44 weekly sessions ran throughout the school term and school holidays. The project was delivered by qualified sessional workers and trained volunteers, the latter providing over 500 volunteer hours during the year.

Thursday Club delivered recreational and leisure activities and much-needed opportunities for socialisation to 17 children aged 11-12 on a referral basis. A total of 36 weekly sessions ran throughout the year. The project was delivered by qualified sessional workers and trained volunteers, the latter providing over 150 volunteer hours during the year.

Friday Club offered nurture group therapy to 28 vulnerable children in Year 6 who were expected to struggle with the transition to secondary school. A total of 23 sessions ran throughout the year. The project was delivered by qualified sessional workers and trained volunteers, the latter providing over 50 volunteer hours during the year.

A-Team delivered targeted group activities to 12 young people at risk of exclusion from school, mainstream services, and society to address anger and aggression. A total of 34 four-hour sessions were delivered by qualified sessional workers and trained volunteers, the latter providing 340 volunteer hours during the year.

spACE4u delivered nurture group therapy to 13 young people affected by poor emotional and mental health. The project was delivered by professional sessional workers trained in nurture therapy and practice. A total of 24 sessions were delivered by qualified sessional workers and trained volunteers providing 80 hours of targeted intervention.

The **Hardship Fund** provided practical assistance to disadvantaged local children and young people struggling to buy necessities such as school shoes, clothing, school sports kit, bed linen and other basic hygiene items. The fund is managed by trustees and items sourced and delivered by volunteers providing 30 volunteer hours.

1-2-1 Support delivered targeted support and mentoring to vulnerable young people struggling with social isolation, family breakdown and trauma seriously affecting their emotional and mental wellbeing. 1-2-1 support took the form of regular outdoor walks and physical exercise which provided a safe space for listening, supporting, befriending, encouraging, and guiding vulnerable young people. 80 hours of support were delivered by ACE staff and trained volunteers.

The above services were operated with the assistance of a team of 20 volunteers under the direction of 4 paid sessional youth workers and supported by a project coordinator. In 2022 the ACE team provided 2,500 voluntary hours to deliver front line services. In addition, volunteers provided management and administrative services. All staff completed first aid and safeguarding training. Ensuring the wellbeing of our volunteers is essential to ACE's operational success.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

Young people are at the heart of everything that ACE does. ACE projects are developed and designed with the child and their best interests in mind. We listen, question, and learn from each of the young people. We set aside time to understand their needs and wants, what works for them, what makes a difference to their lives. We consult with young people, their families and carers, and the wider community to better understand need. We run pilot projects. We make it clear that there is no compulsion to attend ACE. We give the child a voice and a choice.

Young people's scores on how they rate ACE out of 10 range from 8.5/10 to 10/10. Comments include 'I love ACE, I've never experienced anything like it. I get so excited on Wednesdays, everyone is so nice', 'ACE is such a great place. It has really helped me', 'ACE is inclusive, everyone respects me, no one judges me', "I do love ACE, it gets me away from bad stuff", "I love the food when we go on trips, I keep thinking about the delicious sandwiches. The food is the best ever", "ACE is such a great place. It has really helped me. I can't thank you enough for taking me on trips."

Staff have recorded improvements on a range of social and life skills, namely: willingness to engage in activities, take part in conversation, share stories, improved eye contact, inclination to smile and laugh. Of those young people attending the projects, 80% experienced a significant reduction or some reduction in social isolation, and an improvement in confidence and self-esteem with positive outcomes for emotional and mental well-being. 61% of young people experienced significant improvement, and 35% started to experience progress in their emotional and mental health particularly after attending the holiday programme where the focus is on developing self-confidence, experiencing new activities that require perseverance, and self-esteem by overcoming fears such as dry slope skiing and fishing. 100% of the young people have experienced significant or some progress in developing greater independence and self-reliance, benefitting their attendance and experience at school and enabling them to cope with changing home life circumstances, particularly those young people who have experienced familial loss and change of living arrangements such as entering the care system. Young people unanimously reported that attendance at ACE makes them feel happy, gives them an opportunity to make friends, feel safe and experience new things. All the young people and their parents/carers have remarked that attendance brings significant and/or some improvements in mental health and emotional wellbeing; this has been especially important as the young people have no or very limited access to other services and suffer from social isolation. Staff have observed an increased willingness by the young people to try new things rather than resist over time as their trust in ACE staff grows. In addition, parents and teachers have observed improvements in behaviour and mood at home and school following attendance at ACE sessions. As one young person put it, "Doing activities and talking is good, it's what I like about ACE. I can talk to adults in a safe place. I can make friends in a small group. I feel comfortable because I'm not being judged."

Steve Bembridge, Assistant Head and SENCO at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School said "I would like to endorse my support for ACE Youth Trust. We have referred 12 boys who are disadvantaged and have pupil premium status to the A Team project. Since attending the project, we have witnessed improvements in self-esteem and self-confidence. The boys are calmer, more rounded, more respectful to staff. There has been a marked improvement in school attendance and less evidence of poor behaviour. The boys are visibly happier, more relaxed, and less angry and angst ridden. I am delighted to say that in all cases their demeanour is noticeably calmer and much changed. Attendance at the project has shown a positive light on their personalities and potential. The A Team project has made a real difference not only to the young people, but also to the school and wider community."

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During 2022 income raised exceeded expenditure and accumulated funds have increased by £6,992 from £70,560 to £77,552.

The charity aims to hold reserves sufficient to fund 12 months of activity which, based on historic spending trends, is in the region of £50,000. This allows the charity to ensure consistency for the young people we support if there should be a failure or shortfall in funding.

Unrestricted funds at the end of 2022 total £56,121 which is aligned with the Reserves Policy and provides a reasonable allowance for anticipated inflation.

FUTURE PLANS

Funding has been secured to sustain our core project activities in 2023. Additional funding is being sought to operate the highly popular school holiday programme. The charity is continuing to work closely with the local primary and secondary schools to meet the needs of the children and young people and to address the growing demand for services.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The organisation is governed by the Declaration of Trust dated 15th May 2006 and Deed of Amendment dated 18th July 2010. The Charity is constituted as a Trust.

Recruitment and Appointment of new Trustees

The trustees of ACE Youth Trust are appointed by the existing Trustees. The trustees meet 5 to 6 times a year. The trustees who served during the year and since the year end are set out below.

Safeguarding & Child Protection Training

The ACE Board of Trustees are committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of children and young people supported by the charity and has elected to adopt the Safeguarding Procedures developed by the Diocese of Derby. Disclosure and Barring Service applications are processed by the Diocese of Derby on behalf of the Trust. DBS certifications are renewed every three years. ACE adheres to the Diocese of Derby Safer Recruitment guidelines and undertakes enhanced DBS checks, reference checks and induction and safeguarding training for all staff and volunteers working with children and young people. Level 2 safeguarding training is refreshed annually. Designated safeguarding leads complete Level 3 training.

Public Benefit

The trustees have regard to the guidelines issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and are satisfied that the charity confers a public benefit. ACE provides a range of free services within the scope of its charitable objects to vulnerable, disadvantaged, and hard to reach children and young people. All services are funded by grants, donations, and fundraised income. In shaping its services, ACE considers the individual needs of the young person – whether by reason of additional need, social deprivation, or disability – can best be met to reduce social isolation, improve emotional and mental wellbeing, and build confidence, self-esteem, and self-reliance to prepare them for life at school, college, work and living in the wider community. By doing so, ACE activities achieve outcomes that are positive not only for the individual young person but also in terms of the impact on their families and society.

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS


Registered Charity number: 1120282

Principal address: The Parish Office
St Oswald's Church
School Lane
Ashbourne
Derbyshire. DE6 1AN

Trustees:	Mrs Louise Doble	Chair
	Rev Philip Michell	Vice Chair
	Mrs Jane Stoney	Treasurer
	Mrs Helen Wainwright	
	Dr Robert Woore	
	Dr Madhuri Manley	Appointed as Trustee 15 th June 2022

Independent Examiner: Fiona Brown
Hillocks Farm
Kniveton
Ashbourne
DE6 1JH

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 24th May 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



Mrs Louise Doble
Chair of Trustees

**REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Ace Youth Trust (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 9 and 10.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

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

Signed: 

Date: 13/6/23

Name: Fiona Brown

Address: Hillocks Farm
Kniveton
Ashbourne
DE6 1JH

**STATEMENTS / NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2022	Total 2021
RECEIPTS				
Donations				
Planned Giving	6,426	250	6,676	8,032
Other Donations	7,434	474	7,908	3,590
Total Donations	13,860	724	14,584	11,622
Grant Income				
Grant Income from Children In Need	0	10,500	10,500	10,000
Grant from National Lottery	0	0	0	10,000
Grant from Derbyshire County Council	0	500	500	19,755
Grant from 29th May 1961 CT	0	8,000	8,000	0
Grant from Comic Relief	0	5,000	5,000	0
Grant from Derbyshire Dales CVS	0	3,000	3,000	0
Other Grant Income	0	3,977	3,977	0
Total Grant Income	0	30,977	30,977	39,755
Other Income				
Specific Project Contributions	0	7,252	7,252	6,886
Fundraising	1,009	0	1,009	5,982
Tax Recovered through Gift Aid	4,803	109	4,911	0
Interest Income	110	0	110	1
Other Incoming Resources	0	0	0	1,500
Total Other Income	5,923	7,361	13,283	14,369
Total RECEIPTS	19,783	39,061	58,844	65,746
PAYMENTS				
Charitable Activities				
Fees	640	28,651	29,291	25,854
Travel & Mileage	5	3,106	3,111	2,068
Activity Costs & Direct Expenses	0	16,544	16,544	13,784
Food & Hygiene Provisions	0	0	0	2,733
Total Charitable Activities	645	48,301	48,947	44,439
Governance and Overhead Costs				
Staff Training	420	132	552	457
IT, Telephone, Postage	351	0	351	582
Printing & Stationery	0	297	297	561
Other Expenses	211	1,495	1,706	1,748
Total Governance and Overhead Costs	981	1,924	2,906	3,348
Total PAYMENTS	1,627	50,225	51,852	47,787
Transfer between funds	(5,511)	5,511	0	0
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) IN THE PERIOD	12,644	(5,653)	6,992	17,959
Reconciliation of Funds				
Total Funds brought forward	43,476	27,084	70,560	52,601
Surplus / Deficit for the Year	12,644	(5,653)	6,992	17,959
Debtors	(136)	(51)	(188)	0
Accrual	0	698	698	0
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	55,984	22,078	78,062	70,560

Signed on behalf of the Trustees by Jane Stoney



**STATEMENTS / NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

STATEMENT of FUNDS

For 12 Months ended 31st December 2022

	Opening Balance 01/01/22	Income	Costs	Transfers	Net Movement	Closing Balance 31/12/22
121 Support	(30)	0	(2,282)	2,500	218	187
A Team	3,590	11,534	(9,020)	3,011	5,526	9,116
spACE4u	2,591	8,968	(9,785)	0	(816)	1,775
Wednesday Club	2,366	16,150	(15,160)	717	1,708	4,074
Thursday Club	7,219	538	(7,805)	0	(7,268)	(49)
Friday Club	10,130	1,189	(5,303)	0	(4,114)	6,015
Hardship Funds	1,217	683	(870)	(717)	(905)	312
Restricted Funds	27,084	39,061	(50,225)	5,511	(5,653)	21,431
Unrestricted Funds	43,476	19,783	(1,627)	(5,511)	12,644	56,121
Total Funds	70,560	58,844	(51,852)	0	6,992	77,552
Outstanding Income		(188)			(188)	(188)
Outstanding Payments			698		698	698
Cash Balance	70,560	58,656	(51,154)	0	7,502	78,062

Transfers between funds are discussed and agreed by the Trustees at the Trustees Meetings to ensure that projects are adequately supported, restricted funds are managed in line with any restrictions and our unrestricted funds are maintained in line with our reserves policy.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 December 2022

	31 Dec 2022	31 Dec 2021
Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand		
Coop Account	28,013	70,560
Co-op Reserve Account	50,049	0
Total Cash at bank and in hand	78,062	70,560
Debtors	188	0
Total Assets	78,250	70,560
Liabilities		
Accruals	(698)	0
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(698)	0
Net Assets	77,552	70,560
Capital and Reserves		
Restricted Project Funds	21,431	27,084
Unrestricted Funds	56,121	43,476
Total Capital and Reserves	77,552	70,560

Signed on behalf of the Trustees by Jane Stoney



**STATEMENTS / NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022**

STATUTORY INFORMATION

Ace Youth Trust is managed by The Trustees and is a charity registered in England and Wales. The registered charity number and principal office address can be found under the reference and administrative details in the Report of the Trustees.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (£)

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements of the charity have been prepared on a Cash Basis.

Income

Income is raised through donations from individuals and local charitable organisations including local churches, local Rotary clubs, and Ashbourne Partnership Trust, and through Grants from national and regional organisations and Trusts.

During 2022 grants over £3,000 were received to fund the following projects:

- BBC Children in Need - Wednesday Club
- 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust – A Team
- Comic Relief – spACE4u
- Derbyshire Dales CVS – Wednesday Club

Other Income includes Gift Aid recovered in 2022 for the years 2018-£996 / 2019-£799 / 2020-£1,495 / 2021-£1,621.

Debtors

A total of £188 has been included to recognise income that had not cleared the bank in 2022. All items were cleared in the beginning of January 2023.

Expenditure

Expenditure is accounted for on a cash basis, coupled with clearly evidenced accruals and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular projects, they have been allocated to unrestricted resources. Creditors represent invoices and expense claims received for December and paid in early January.

Staff Costs

People are hired for provision of activities and administration and the costs are incurred by invoice and are included in Fees above.

Payments to Trustees

Trustees Expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2022 and 2021 are directly related to the running of activities and duly approved by fellow trustees. No other payments were made to Trustees.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees. Restricted funds can only be used for particularly restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for specific projects or activities.

ACE YOUTH TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1120282

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
		Period start date			Period end date		
From	01	01	2021	To	31	12	2021

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address

The Parish Office
St Oswald's Church
School Lane, Ashbourne
Postcode DE6 1AN

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Louise Doble	Chair		Trustees
2	Philip Michell	Vice Chair		Trustees
3	Jane Stoney	Treasurer		Trustees
4	Robert Woore			Trustees
5	Helen Wainwright			Trustees
6	Madhuri Manley		Appointed 15 th June 2022	Trustees

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
None		

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Not applicable

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <small>(eg. trust deed, constitution)</small>	Declaration of Trust dated 15 th May 2006 and Deed of Amendment dated 18 th July 2010
How the charity is constituted <small>(eg. trust, association, company)</small>	Trust
Trustee selection methods <small>(eg. appointed by, elected by)</small>	Appointed by existing trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

The ACE Board of Trustees is committed to the safeguarding, care and nurture of children and young people supported by the charity and has elected to adopt the Safeguarding Procedures developed by the Diocese of Derby as amended from time to time. Accordingly, the ACE Board of Trustees accept and work to the Diocesan policy as it is deemed to form part of ACE Youth Trust's policies. The Diocese of Derby processes all Disclosure and Barring Service applications on behalf of the ACE Youth Trust. DBS certification is renewed every three years. ACE provides training in safeguarding and child protection for its staff (sessional workers, volunteers, and trustees) working with children and young people. Level 2 safeguarding training is refreshed annually. Designated safeguarding leads complete Level 4 training. All safeguarding checks and training costs are chargeable directly to ACE.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

Advancement of the Christian Faith within the areas of Derbyshire/Staffordshire, in particular but not exclusively among children and young people aged 11-19 resident in the Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School catchment area, the Weaver Ward of East Staffordshire, or surrounding areas, by the provision of recreational / leisure time activities and support / guidance intended to help them grow as individuals and improve their quality of life.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Trustees have had regard to the guidelines issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and are satisfied that ACE Youth Trust confers a public benefit. The charity provides a range of free services within the scope of its charitable objects to young people aged 11 to 19 particularly to those who are identified as vulnerable, disadvantaged, and disabled children and young people living in the Derbyshire Dales and East Staffordshire. In shaping its services, ACE Youth Trust considers how the individual needs of the young person – whether by reason of special need, social deprivation, or disability – can best be met to reduce social isolation, improve emotional and mental health, and build confidence, self-esteem, and self-reliance to prepare them for life at school, college and work and living in the wider community. By so doing, ACE activities achieve outcomes that are positive not only for the individual young person but also in terms of impact on their families and the wider communities in Derbyshire Dales and East Staffordshire. The cost to society of supporting young people referred to ACE is significant and is ameliorated by the free services offered by ACE. All services are paid for by grants, donations, and fundraised income. The charity is managed and operated by volunteer trustees. In addition, a large proportion of operational and administrative work is undertaken by unpaid volunteers. The organisation makes use of community facilities and community resources wherever possible.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

ACE is largely run and managed by a team of trained and DBS checked volunteers. Without their dedication and hard work, ACE would not be able to provide their services to vulnerable and disadvantaged young people. In 2021, the total number of volunteer hours offered to ACE exceeded 2,000. The charity provided operational project services for 42 weeks with administrative and planning tasks undertaken over a further 8 weeks. This essential work enabled ACE to offer a range of support services to local children and young people.

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Commented [RW1]: Just wanted to check this bit, given that it says below "Volunteers provided 500 hours of voluntary time in 2020" - ?.

Section D Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

ACE Youth Trust delivers life changing youth work, providing high quality pastoral support and youth services to young people who are vulnerable, disadvantaged, disabled and hard to reach, living in the rural communities in and around Ashbourne. Over the last decade, ACE has made a significant impact on young people's lives, providing opportunities for those who are socially isolated to receive support and helping them to continue in education and to access college, work experience placements or employment. The services provided have grown steadily and today we support on average 65+ young people at any one time. Young people are referred to ACE by statutory organisations including Derbyshire County Council's Children & Young People's Services (Early Help Team and Social Care), local schools, safer neighbourhood policing team and other statutory bodies.

ACE provides a range of services which are targeted to meet the individual needs of the young people involved, including pastoral support, one-to-one mentoring, recreational and leisure activities, opportunities for socialisation, support for schooling, training, and coaching as well as practical help and advocacy with CVs, work experience placements, interviews, plus advice and guidance and for Education Health and Care Plans.

ACE targets its services at children and young people facing troubling and serious issues such as poverty, poor family/peer relationships, instability at home, being a carer, being a care leaver, involved in youth offending, anti-social behaviour, bullying, truancy, missing education, alcohol/substance misuse, self-harm, suicidal thoughts, depression, low self-esteem, mental health issues, ADHD/disruptive behaviour, and social exclusion. Some have additional needs including autism and other learning disabilities. Typically, for the young people we work with, quality of life is poor, and the future is uncertain, particularly for those who are struggling with social isolation and lacking in confidence. Without ACE's help, the impact on many of these children and young people would be protracted placing them at risk of developing a long-lasting dependency on expensive State interventions.

During 2021 much-needed support was provided to the referred children and young people in the following areas:

Wednesday Club delivered recreational and leisure activities and much-required opportunities for socialisation to 36 young people aged 12-16 on a referral basis. A total of 42 weekly sessions ran throughout the school term and school holidays. The project was delivered by qualified sessional workers and trained volunteers, the latter providing over 400 volunteer hours during the year.

Thursday Club delivered recreational and leisure activities and much-wanted opportunities for socialisation to 17 children aged 11-12 on a referral basis. A total of 36 weekly sessions ran throughout the year. The project was delivered by qualified sessional workers and trained volunteers, the latter providing over 150 volunteer hours during the year.

Friday Club offered nurture group therapy to 27 vulnerable children in Year 6 who were expected to struggle with the transition to secondary school. A total of 25 sessions ran throughout the year. The project was delivered by qualified sessional workers and trained volunteers, the latter providing over 50 volunteer hours during the year.

A Team delivered targeted group activities to 14 young people at risk of exclusion from school, mainstream services, and society to address anger and aggression. A total of 28 four-hour sessions were delivered by

Section D

Achievements and performance

qualified sessional workers and trained volunteers, the latter providing 340 volunteer hours during the year.

spACE4u delivered nurture group therapy to 12 young people affected by poor emotional and mental health. The project was delivered by professional sessional workers trained in nurture therapy and practice. A total of 16 sessions were delivered by qualified sessional workers and trained volunteers providing 80 hours of targeted intervention.

Hardship Fund provided help to disadvantaged local children and young people struggling to buy necessities such as school shoes, clothing, school sports kit, bed linen and other basic hygiene items. The fund is managed by trustees and items sourced and delivered by volunteers providing 30 volunteer hours.

1-2-1 Mentoring delivered one-to-one support to vulnerable young people struggling with social isolation, family breakdown and trauma seriously affecting their emotional and mental wellbeing. Mentoring took the form of regular outdoor walks and physical exercise which provided a safe space for listening, supporting, befriending, encouraging, and guiding vulnerable young people. The project was delivered by ACE staff and trained volunteers.

The above services are managed and run by a team of 20 volunteers with support and professional direction from 4 paid sessional youth workers and a project coordinator. Volunteers provided 2,000 hours of voluntary time to deliver front line services in 2021. In addition, volunteers provided management and administrative services. All staff completed first aid and safeguarding training.

2021 has been a challenging year. It was necessary to cancel several project sessions early in the year due to ongoing Coronavirus outbreaks affecting the children and young people. The negative impact of the COVID pandemic on young people's development continues. Witnessing the effects on young people's mental health and wellbeing this year has been deeply concerning. Observed emotional difficulties that young people are facing include low resilience, poor thinking skills, immature behaviour, panic attacks, school avoidance, unregulated emotions, heightened emotional sensitivity, and aggression. The significance of the charity's project work to the young people has become very evident: ACE is the one and only local social hub and support network for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our community. No other services are available in the area. Local authority support has dwindled to such an extent that it is virtually non-existent for many children and young people. There are no longer places to signpost young people to for extra help; CAMHS is stretched to breaking point, teachers are under immense pressure. Increasing challenges at home are putting strains on family life; parents/carers struggle with economic and social hardship, family breakdowns and domestic abuse are increasing, adult mental health cases are rising. ACE staff have found themselves tasked with resolving complex issues that previously would have been referred to statutory agencies. Furthermore, the palpable benefit of the consistency and continuity of ACE projects to the children and young people's lives has been acutely apparent to all. Knowing that ACE staff can be relied on, trusted, available to listen and offer guidance matters hugely to the youngsters. For these reasons we have felt a heavy weight of responsibility and overwhelming sense of public service duty in holding young people's lives together at this particularly daunting time. The dedication and commitment of the ACE team has proffered a lifeline to some of the hardest hit and most vulnerable in this testing period. A core team of dedicated staff, both sessional and voluntary, put together an amazing programme of interactive and engaging sessions throughout 2021 to provide these vulnerable, disadvantaged and

Section D

Achievements and performance

socially isolated children and young people with socialisation and enrichment opportunities, physical exercise, and positive developmental experiences. Projects and services continued to operate in accordance with Government and National Youth Agency COVID-19 Guidelines throughout the year safeguarding the children and adult helpers alike.

For reasons previously stated, the demand for ACE services continued to grow in 2021 along with the extent and complexity of the needs of the young people referred to ACE projects. Of the 68 cases open at the end of December 2021, the array of diagnoses and social care status was as follows:

- 3 x ADHD
- 14 x Autism Spectrum Condition
- 3 x Anger Management
- 24 x Anxiety/Trauma
- 4 x Behavioural
- 1 x Bereavement
- 2 x Child in Need
- 4 x Child Protection Plan
- 3 x Domestic Abuse/Family Breakdown
- 1 x Dyspraxia
- 6 x Emotional/Mental Health
- 1 x Hearing Impairment
- 2 x Social Care

During 2021, the range of activities offered through the projects included: Quiz Night, Silent Communications, Sports Challenge, Clay Modelling, Candle-Making, Golf Challenge, Charades, Nature Trail, Bingo, Film Night, Outdoor Games, Indoor Games, Sensory Craft, Battleship Challenge, Dragons Den, Teamwork Challenge, Peak District hike, Gardening, Stone Decorating, Graffiti Art, Scavenger Hunt, Pumpkin Carving, Armistice Clay Poppy Making, Lantern Making for Christmas Parade, BBC CiN Rowathon, Christmas Wreath-making, and Christmas Candlelit Walk. Extended school holiday session activities included: orienteering and high walk challenge at Lea Green, a visit to NT Ilam Hall, a visit to Peak Wildlife Park for wallaby encounter, fishing trip, coding workshop at Derby Museum of Making, trampolining session at Oxygen, visit to dry ski slope, self-defence workshop, visit to climbing unit, bootcamp, equine therapy, mindfulness session, and clay pigeon shoot.

Monitoring and observations showed that 100% of attendees experienced significant or some reduction in social isolation and improvement in confidence and self-esteem which led to improved emotional and mental well-being. 50% experienced significant improvement, and 50% started to experience progress particularly after attending the holiday outings where the focus is on developing self-confidence, experiencing new activities that require perseverance, and overcoming fears such as fishing. All the young people have experienced significant or some progress in developing greater independence and self-reliance benefitting their attendance and experience at school and enabling them to cope with changing home life circumstances, particularly those young people who have experienced bereavement and change of living arrangements such as entering the care system due to familial loss. Young people unanimously reported that attendance at ACE makes them "feel happy", provides an opportunity "to make friends", "feel safe" and "experience new things". All the young people and their parents/carers have remarked that attendance brings significant and/or improvements in mental health and emotional wellbeing, this has been especially important for those young people whose emotional and mental wellbeing has been affected by limited access to other services. Staff observed an increased willingness by the young

Section D

Achievements and performance

people to try new things rather than resist over time as their trust in ACE staff grows. For example, this was evidenced by a fishing trip; a significant number of the young people especially girls were reluctant to go fishing because of fear of water and contact with fish. Young people's scores on how they rate ACE out of 10 range from 8.5/10 to 10/10. Comments include 'I never feel unhappy at ACE', 'it makes me feel good about myself', 'we laugh and laugh and joke at ACE', 'ACE is inclusive'. Observations: good eye contact, smiles, willingness to engage in conversation, sharing stories, laughter, and positivity "I do love my ACE experience". Furthermore, parents have observed improvements in behaviour and mood at home after attendance ACE project sessions.

The following case studies illustrate the benefits experienced by young people from participating in ACE activities:

A (14) PTSD, witnessed mum's suicide attempts, moved into foster care. Significant progress in mental health and wellbeing, less anxious and willing to try rather than sit out, less volatile, and emotional, increased socialisation and engagement with other young people. "I love the people that come to ACE. The staff are very kind, trustworthy and funny. The staff make me laugh. I feel excited on Wednesdays. It makes me feel so happy. I loved our trampolining trip. It was such fun to hang out with everyone."

B (12) autism and neglect. Significant progress in socialisation, confidence, and mental wellbeing. "I love to come to ACE to see my friends and do fun things. I get chance to talk to people. It makes me feel happy. I like that we get to do sports and be outside playing games."

C (14) poor mental health, high anxiety, low self-esteem due to witnessing domestic abuse. Significant improvement in socialisation, some improvement in mental health and wellbeing. "The best thing about ACE is not being at home. It's so much quieter and calmer here. I can laugh and be myself. I have fun with friends. I love it when we go outside to play games. I love the freedom and the space to run and be myself."

D (12) ASD, family breakdown. D made significant improvement in socialisation, mental health and wellbeing and independence. "ACE is the best time for me. I can tell people about anything that's happened to me. It's a good place to talk. I like the creative activities that we do. I loved the visit to Peak Wildlife Park being together with the animals. It makes me feel happy coming to ACE. There's no one at ACE who yells at me. Everyone is kind."

E (14) dyspraxia and parental bereavement. E has made significant improvement in his mental health and wellbeing. He has grown in self-confidence and independence. "ACE is better than anything else. I love it. It makes me feel happy. I feel so good about myself."

F (15) Child Protection Plan, Looked after Child, severe anxiety and depression and bereavement. F was referred for socialisation and low self-esteem. F struggled to form friendships and was prone to confrontations. Initially observed to be aloof with anxiety masking as aggression. F engaged well with others forging new friendships. School reported improvements in behaviour. "*Coming to ACE has benefitted me a lot; I've improved my physical fitness, I'm not as lazy as I used to be, and I've made friends. My attitude to school has changed and I engage in class. My reports have improved. I've become more mature and am willing to give things a go. I'm definitely more resilient. ACE has taken me out of my comfort zone. It was tough at times. I'm much more hopeful about the future now.*"

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity's policy is to maintain reserves equivalent to 12 months' operating cost. In this way, the Trustees aim to ensure that funds will be available to continue to provide services to support the needs of young people for a reasonable period, if there is a failure or shortfall in funding.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

During 2021 the principal sources of funding for our projects were:

- BBC Children in Need - Wednesday Club
- Derbyshire County Council – Thursday Club
- National Lottery Community Fund – Friday Club

Donations were received from local churches, local charitable trusts including Ashbourne Partnership Trust and individual donors.

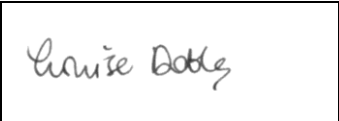
Section F Other optional information

[Empty box for optional information]

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Louise	Doble
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	31 October 2022	

ACE Youth Trust

Registered Charity Number 1120282

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2021



RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
RECEIPTS				
Donations				
Planned Giving	7,862.00	170.00	8,032.00	5,676.00
Other Donations	2,570.26	1,020.00	3,590.26	6,814.28
Total Donations	10,432.26	1,190.00	11,622.26	12,490.28
Grant Income				
Grant Income from Children in Need	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00
Grant from National Lottery	0.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	24,660.00
Grant from Derbyshire County Council	0.00	19,755.00	19,755.00	1,000.00
Grant from 29th May 1961 CT	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00
Grant from UK Youth Fund	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,950.00
Grant from Ernest Hecht CF	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,975.00
Other Grant Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
Total Grant Income	0.00	39,755.00	39,755.00	47,585.00
Other Income				
Specific Project Contributions	0.00	6,885.94	6,885.94	2,412.47
Fundraising	435.84	5,546.35	5,982.19	3,744.86
Interest Income	0.84	0.00	0.84	15.06
Other Incoming Resources	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00	145.39
Total Other Income	1,936.68	12,432.29	14,368.97	6,317.78
Total INCOMING RESOURCES	12,368.94	53,377.29	65,746.23	66,393.06
PAYMENTS				
Charitable Activities				
Fees	1,426.80	24,427.12	25,853.92	25,147.57
Travel & Mileage	5.40	2,062.90	2,068.30	3,871.46
Activity Costs and Direct Expenses	30.00	13,386.18	13,416.18	9,876.14
Food, Clothing & Essential Provisions	0.00	3,100.98	3,100.98	11,511.16
Total Cost of Charitable Activities	1,462.20	42,977.18	44,439.38	50,406.33
Governance and Overheads				
Staff Training	216.00	241.00	457.00	553.50
IT, Telephone, Postage	393.80	188.15	581.95	592.21
Printing & Stationery	213.02	347.63	560.65	528.00
Insurance and Other Expenses	512.65	1,235.29	1,747.94	1,149.59
Total Other Costs	1,335.47	2,012.07	3,347.54	2,823.30
Total RESOURCES EXPENDED	2,797.67	44,989.25	47,786.92	53,229.63
Transfer between funds	2,138.49	(2,138.49)	0.00	0.00
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) IN THE PERIOD	11,709.76	6,249.55	17,959.31	13,163.43
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS				
Balance Brought Forward	31,766.42	20,834.41	52,600.83	39,437.40
Incoming Resources	12,368.94	53,377.29	65,746.23	66,393.06
Resources Expended	(2,797.67)	(44,989.25)	(47,786.92)	(53,229.63)
Transfer Between Funds	2,138.49	(2,138.49)	0.00	0.00
CASH FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	43,476.18	27,083.96	70,560.14	52,600.83

Signed on Behalf of the Trustees by Jane Stoney (Treasurer & Trustee)

Date Approved: 22 February 2022

ACE Youth Trust

Registered Charity Number 1120282

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2021



STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
NET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES				
Current Account Bank Balance	43,476.18	27,083.96	70,560.14	38,145.41
Reserve Account Bank Balance				17,087.27
Unpresented cheques				(2,631.85)
TOTAL NET ASSETS AND LIABILITIES	43,476.18	27,083.96	70,560.14	52,600.83

STATEMENT OF FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
General	43,476.18		43,476.18	31,766.42
121 Mentoring		(30.21)	(30.21)	343.51
A Team		3,590.24	3,590.24	185.42
CCSF		0.00	0.00	5,730.31
spACE4u		2,591.48	2,591.48	5,525.52
Thursday Club		7,219.12	7,219.12	0.00
Wednesday Club		2,366.28	2,366.28	1,179.21
HSPF		0.00	0.00	4,352.14
Total Funds	43,476.18	27,083.96	70,560.14	52,600.83

Signed on Behalf of the Trustees by Jane Stoney (Treasurer & Trustee)

Date Approved: 22 February 2022

ACE YOUTH TRUST

Registered Charity No. 1120282

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021

Respective responsibilities and basis of the report:

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

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

Independent Examiner's Statement

I confirm that in connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) which give me cause to believe that in any material respect:

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

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

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

Signed: *Fiona Brown* Date: 29/3/22

Name: Fiona Brown

Address: Hillocks Farm, Kniveton,
Ashbourne, DE6 1JH

ACE YOUTH TRUST

England & Wales - Charity number 1120282

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
		Period start date			Period end date		
From	01	01	2020	To	31	12	2020

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address

The Parish Office	
St Oswald's Church	
School Lane, Ashbourne	
Postcode	DE6 1AN

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Louise Doble	Chair		Trustees
2	David Holman	Treasurer	Ceased to act 27/02/2020	Trustees
3	Philip Michell	Vice Chair		Trustees
4	Susan Miller		Ceased to act 20/07/2020	Trustees
5	Jane Stoney	Treasurer	Appointed 01/04/2020	Trustees
6	Robert Woore			Trustees
7	Helen Wainwright			Trustees
8	Robert Morton		Ceased to act 07/01/2021	Trustees

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

Not applicable

Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Declaration of Trust dated 15 th May 2006 and Deed of Amendment dated 18 th July 2010
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Trust
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Appointed by existing trustees

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

Advancement of the Christian Faith within the areas of Derbyshire/Staffordshire, in particular but not exclusively among children and young people aged 11-19 resident in the Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School catchment area, the Weaver Ward of East Staffordshire, or surrounding areas, by the provision of recreational / leisure time activities and support / guidance intended to help them grow as individuals and improve their quality of life.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Trustees have had regard to the guidelines issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit and are satisfied that ACE Youth Trust confers a public benefit. The charity provides a range of free services within the scope of its charitable objects to young people aged 11 to 19 particularly to those who are identified as vulnerable, disadvantaged and disabled children and young people living in the Derbyshire Dales and East Staffordshire. In shaping its services, ACE Youth Trust considers how the individual needs of the young person – whether by reason of special need, social deprivation or disability – can best be met to reduce social isolation, improve emotional and mental health, and build confidence, self-esteem and self-reliance to prepare them for life at school, college and work and living in the wider community. By so doing, ACE activities achieve outcomes that are positive not only for the individual young person but also in terms of impact on their families and the wider communities in Derbyshire Dales and East Staffordshire. The cost to society of supporting young people referred to ACE is significant and is ameliorated by the free services offered by ACE. All services are paid for by grants, donations, and fundraised income. The charity is managed and operated by the trustees. In addition, a significant amount of operational work is undertaken by unpaid volunteers. The organisation makes use of community facilities and community resources wherever possible.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

ACE is largely run and managed by a team of trained and DBS checked volunteers. Without their dedication and hard work, ACE would not be able to provide their services to vulnerable and disadvantaged young people. In 2020, the total number of volunteer hours offered to ACE exceeded 3,500. The charity was operational for 40 weeks including during the Coronavirus pandemic lockdown. This enabled ACE to offer a range of support services as well group projects and 1-2-1 services to local children and young people.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

ACE Youth Trust delivers life changing youth work, providing high quality pastoral support and youth services to young people who are vulnerable, disadvantaged, disabled and hard to reach, living in the rural communities in and around Ashbourne. Over the last decade, ACE has made a significant impact on young people's lives, providing opportunities for those who are socially isolated to accept support and helping them to continue in education and to access college, work experience placements or employment. The services provided have grown steadily and today we support on average 50+ young people at any one time. Young people are referred to ACE by statutory organisations including Derbyshire County Council's Children & Young People's Services (Early Help Team and Social Care), local schools, safer neighbourhood policing team and other voluntary organisations. Young people aged 16+ only may self-refer.

ACE provides a range of services which are targeted to meet the individual needs of the young people involved, including pastoral support, one-to-one mentoring, recreational and leisure activities, opportunities for socialisation, support for schooling, training and coaching as well as practical help and advocacy for those who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs), e.g. with job applications, benefit claims, work experience placements, interviews, advice and guidance and for Education Health and Care Plans.

2020 has been the most demanding year for ACE. We have faced the health and safety challenges of COVID-19, professional worker, and volunteer sickness together with their personal trials and tribulations at home - juggling childcare, hospitalisation of family members, and loss of family and friends including our long time committed Treasurer, David Holman in April. The dedication and commitment of the team has ensured that a lifeline was provided to some of the hardest hit and most vulnerable in the most testing of times. A core team of dedicated staff, both sessional and voluntary, put together an amazing programme of interactive and engaging sessions to provide isolated young people with socialisation and enrichment opportunities, physical exercise, and child friendly food. Our projects and services continued to operate in accordance with Government and National Youth Agency COVID-19 Guidelines to provide much-needed support to children and young people in the following areas:

Coronavirus Support Project delivered a range of services to children and young people adversely affected by the Coronavirus crisis, thanks to funding from the National Lottery Coronavirus Community Support Fund.

- In response to the financial hardship and lockdown measures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, between April and December 2020, ACE provided free weekly home deliveries of child-friendly food parcels and essential hygiene packs to 63 children aged 4 to 16 years and their families. In total, 335 child-friendly food parcels and 215 essential hygiene packs were delivered to 30 families, referred to ACE by Derbyshire County Council Social Care Team and local schools operating in the ACE catchment area. This service was operated by a team of volunteers and coordinated by ACE staff.
- Aware of the detrimental impact that the COVID-19 crisis had on the emotional and mental wellbeing of young people and understanding how challenging social isolation has been for many of them, ACE developed and delivered a bespoke 6-week programme to build emotional resilience for 12 disadvantaged young people aged 15-16 whose final school year and exam timetable was disrupted.

- Working in partnership with Ossie's Kitchen at St Oswald's Church Ashbourne, ACE financed and delivered 1,035 hot meals to 60 children and young people from 28 families who were suffering from food poverty and who were referred to ACE by Derbyshire County Council and local schools.

Wednesday Club delivered recreational and leisure activities and much-needed opportunities for socialisation to 30 young people aged 12-16 on a referral basis. A total of 30 weekly sessions ran throughout the school term and school holidays, subject to lockdown and in accordance with National Youth Agency Guidelines on COVID-19. The project was delivered by qualified sessional workers and trained volunteers.

Thursday Club delivered recreational and leisure activities and much-needed opportunities for socialisation to 9 children aged 11-12 on a referral basis. A total of 9 weekly sessions ran throughout the Autumn term. The project was delivered by qualified sessional workers and trained volunteers.

Friday Club offered nurture group therapy to vulnerable children in Year 6 who were expected to struggle with the transition to secondary school. The project was delivered by qualified sessional workers and trained volunteers.

Homework Club provided learning support to young people struggling at school or in need of additional support with preparation for examinations. The project continued to operate on Zoom during the pandemic and was led and staffed by trained volunteers.

A Team delivered targeted group activities to 15 young people at risk of exclusion from school, mainstream services and society to address anger and aggression. During 2020, a total of 29 four-hour sessions were delivered by qualified sessional workers and trained volunteers.

spACE4u delivered nurture group therapy to young people affected by poor emotional and mental health. The project was delivered by professional sessional workers trained in nurture therapy and practice.

Hardship Fund provided small grants to help disadvantaged local children and young people struggling to buy essential shoes, clothing, educational materials and other basic items during the COVID-19 pandemic.

1-2-1 Mentoring delivered one-to-one support to vulnerable young people struggling with social isolation, family breakdown and trauma seriously affecting their emotional and mental wellbeing. Mentoring took the form of regular outdoor walks and physical exercise which provided a safe space for listening, supporting, befriending, encouraging, and guiding vulnerable young people. The project was delivered by ACE staff and trained volunteers.

This wide range of services is managed and run by a team of 28 volunteers with support and professional direction from our paid sessional youth workers and project coordinator. Volunteers provided 3,500 hours of voluntary time in 2020. Some volunteers worked for 48 weeks delivering food parcels as well as supporting project sessions. The volunteers also completed first aid training and online safeguarding training.

ACE targets its services at children and young people facing troubling and serious issues such as poverty, poor family/peer relationships, instability at home, being a carer, being a care leaver, involved in youth offending, anti-social behaviour, bullying, truancy, missing education, alcohol/substance misuse, self-harm, suicidal thoughts, depression, low self-esteem, mental health issues, ADHD/disruptive behaviour and social

exclusion. Some have additional needs including autism and other learning disabilities.

Typically, for the young people we work with, quality of life is poor, and the future is uncertain, particularly for those who are struggling with social isolation and lacking in confidence. In addition, the challenges of having to cope with financial hardship, food poverty and COVID-19 lockdown presented many new and unforeseen adversities such as multiple family bereavements, hospitalisations, job losses and relationship breakdowns, all of which deeply affected the children and young people. Without ACE's help, the impact on many of these children and young people would have been terrible and long-lasting, placing them at risk of developing a long-term dependency on expensive State interventions.

The demand for ACE services continued to grow in 2020 along with the extent and complexity of the needs of the young people referred to ACE projects. Of the 66 cases open at the end of December 2020, the array of diagnoses and social care status was as follows:

- 3 x ADHD
- 14 x Autism Spectrum Condition
- 1 x Anger Management
- 14 x Anxiety
- 2 x Bereavement
- 1 x Cerebral Palsy
- 1 x Child in Need
- 4 x Child Protection Plan
- 1 x Crohn's Disease
- 8 x Domestic Abuse/Family Breakdown
- 1 x Dyspraxia
- 1 x Eating Disorder
- 4 x Emotional/Mental Health
- 1 x Foetal Alcohol Syndrome
- 1 x Hearing Impairment
- 2 x Looked After Child
- 3 x PTSD
- 4 x Social Care

During 2020, numbers were limited per session post-lockdown to comply with Government and National Youth Agency COVID-19 regulations. Wednesday Club and Thursday Club activities were organised outdoors, weather permitting, wherever practically possible. The range of activities included: Games Night, It's a Knockout, Dragon's Den, Burn's Night Celebration, Bingo, Self-Defence class, Breadmaking, Old School Games, Spring Planting, St Patrick's Day Celebration, nature walks and hikes in the Peak District, outdoor Graffiti and Street Art, outdoor fitness classes, outdoor team building sessions, outdoor swimming, Bingo, Treasure Hunt, Logic Skills Challenge, Pumpkin Carving, Vintage Comedy, Crazy Golf, Christmas Wreath Making, and a Christmas Party. In addition, 8 young people from A Team project took part in the 2020 High Sheriff Peak Pilgrimage walk as part of a fundraising initiative.

Staff recorded that 97% of attendees experienced a significant reduction in social isolation and improvement in mental health and wellbeing because of attending ACE. 85% experienced significant improvements in confidence and self-esteem. 87% have made significant progress in developing independence and self-reliance. Staff observed significant improvements in young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing due to attendance at ACE projects; this was especially marked in 2020 because other opportunities for socialisation were severely restricted. In addition, a significant reduction in anxiety was reported by parents, alongside improvements in behaviour and mood after attendance at ACE

sessions, plus a willingness to empathise and help each other. Young people's comments included the following: 'feeling so happy to be together', 'feeling good being with friends', experiencing 'laughter and joking', 'feeling confident'. Improvements in anxiety were observed with smiles, laughter, lessening of tension, positivity, and language of hope (for example, "I can't wait until the summer programme starts"), good eye contact, turn-taking, supportive peer relationships, and a willingness to accept that the programme would involve more outdoor sessions and physical activity to focus on physical and mental health, resilience and enriching experiences.

The following case studies illustrate the benefits experienced by young people from participating in ACE activities:

A (age 12), autism and socially isolated. Huge improvements in mental and emotional health, confidence, and self-esteem, more independent and considerate to others. Significant improvements in socialisation enabled A to make friends, take turns, listen, and ask questions of others. Now walking along to Club with other children rather than being brought by a teaching assistant or Mum. "I get to be with friends, we do such fun things, play games and team stuff. It's brilliant because I have such a good time. I get so excited about Wednesdays. I don't like to miss Club. It makes me sad when I can't come because of isolating. Mum says I've grown up a lot and am much better at home since I came to ACE."

B (16) eating disorder, anxiety, low self-esteem, B has low school attendance and concerns regarding her mental health. Records indicate that B attended 10 sessions prior to the summer holidays and made some progress in emotional and mental health, benefiting from positive engagement with others. "Life has been really dark. Coming to Wednesday Club boosted my mood because I spent time with the others. I will never forget ACE. I have lots of good memories of Wednesday Club. Thank you everyone at ACE."

C (14) ADHD/ASC, family separation, social care involvement. Records show C has made significant improvement in socialisation, mental and emotional health, and wellbeing. C has cooperated and complied with COVID-19 rules: wearing a mask and social distancing; participated in physical activities including team games and hikes without moaning. "C was not rude; C smiled; C sat quietly for a few minutes on the occasion where the incline was steep; C was polite and good company." This is a huge achievement for C who can be disruptive and is socially isolated.

D (13) subject to Child Protection Plan, disadvantaged, previously homeless. Referral concerns: D's disruptive behaviour in class, struggles to form friendships and back down from confrontations, angry outbursts. D was invited to attend ACE. D was initially observed to be anxious, withdrawn, and fearful masking as aggression. Through attending ACE activities, D began to form friendships with other peers. As D became more comfortable and relaxed, he would encourage others when they were struggling and attempt to defuse peer group disagreements when they occurred. School reported an improvement in D's behaviour and his engagement with his class teachers and schoolwork during the Easter term. During the first COVID-19 lockdown, D's carer contacted ACE to advise that the family had been subject to a violent attack at their home. D witnessed the event hearing the assailants, both armed with axes, saying they would kill Dad and "cut you up in front of the kids". D was "extremely terrified". D and family were immediately moved out of area, with the items they could fit in a bag. ACE gathered hygiene items and a full food stock and delivered them. As lockdown restrictions eased, project sessions recommenced. D initially presented in an exceptionally low mood. ACE sessions allowed D space to discuss what he had witnessed, and the

group activities allowed him to experience normal childhood fun and games once again. As a result of his attendance, ACE staff and external agencies all noted significant improvement in D's emotional and mental wellbeing, confidence and self-esteem and increased maturity and independence. D's family were relocated to a new area. D said he was very sorry to leave and would always remember the support ACE had provided to him and his family. Dad was extremely appreciative and said: "As a single parent, ACE has provided my son with many different activities and experiences that have allowed him to meet others and make friends. I believe it has helped him progress more and build relationships with people his own age and above. He has developed various skills. Every time he came home from ACE he discussed what he'd been up to and would often say how much he had learned. As his father I have seen a change in how interacts, greater confidence, improved maturity, initiative, and enjoyment. I feel a sense of pride in what he has not just enjoyed but just as importantly achieved. ACE has been a godsend in the circumstances (especially the assault situation). The idea that ACE still supported even though we had been placed into emergency accommodation said it all to me. The charity made it work, even through lockdown and the restrictions they faced, not just me but other people and families in similar circumstances. We will be so sorry to leave but will definitely remember the help and support we have received from ACE".

E (aged 12) was referred to ACE via school, due to social care involvement and concerns regarding lack of socialisation. E is child in need living with foster grandparents, due to Mum's recurring issues with alcohol and drug misuse and Dad currently being in prison for serious offending. E's foster grandmother was registered blind and during the COVID-19 lockdown foster grandfather had regular periods of emergency hospitalisation. E takes on a young carer role and liaises with essential services when needed, including emergency services calls when required. E lives an hour from school and normally travels by public transport. As the household had been advised to shield, they made the decision that E would not attend school. Grandma was very worried about her ability to feed the household, especially considering the extra food that would be needed now that E was not at school. Grandma reported that E was very anxious and depressed, as he couldn't do 'his job' of supporting the house by helping with the shopping as he normally did. From April 2020, ACE commenced delivering weekly child-friendly food parcels to this household which included fresh food, long-life food and frozen foods. The food parcels took into account E's sensory issues, which impact on the food he is able to eat. Grandma reported that these drop-offs have aided E's emotional health and that the level of emotional and financial stress in the house has dropped since they started. Grandma said the deliveries have helped to keep everyone in the house healthy, safe at home and happy in these challenging times. ACE has also purchased items of clothing, shoes, walking boots, a raincoat and underwear for E, together with a cycling helmet and bicycle D lock. A bicycle was donated to ACE and has been overhauled by volunteers and handed to E. Grandma dictated an email to ACE saying: "Thank you for everything ACE is doing. Your help has been a godsend and R dropping off the bags of food has been the highlight of the week for E. I don't know what we would have done without this help as we couldn't go out and didn't know where to get help. The talking watch is a godsend and you taking E out each week for a walk means the world to him. E has been part of a number of ACE projects since 2019, A Team, Wednesday Club and 1-2-1 mentoring. During this time, he has made a very notable improvement in his persona and attitude, especially at home with his grandad and myself. Coming from a dysfunctional family who have a history of mental health issues, I have always felt he has been vulnerable to going the same way if not kept on the right path. ACE has been

instrumental in ensuring this never happens. Through his various experiences with the charity and the peers/staff he mixes with, he has developed greater social skills, become more resilient and gained greatly in self-confidence. His self-esteem is much better and low mood swings have reduced. I would describe him as a happy-go-lucky young man who occasionally does have the arguments any young man of his age would have, but I'm pleased that he is becoming more aware of our situation and now taking on more responsibility at home, helping out more with his grandad's and my health issues. Through helping out more, I feel he gains much more satisfaction. E very much enjoys his time at ACE and gained many friends throughout his meet ups." What a remarkable achievement.

ACE Youth Trust was awarded the Derbyshire Beacon of Hope Award in 2020 in recognition of the volunteer contribution made during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The charity's policy is to maintain reserves equivalent to 12 months' operating cost. In this way, the Trustees aim to ensure that funds will be available to continue to provide services to support the needs of young people for a reasonable period, if there is a failure or shortfall in funding.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

During 2020 the principal sources of funding for our projects were:

- BBC Children in Need - Wednesday Club
- National Lottery Community Fund – Coronavirus Support Project
- The 29th May 1961 Charitable Trust – A Team
- Ernest Hecht Charitable Foundation – A Team
- UK Youth Fund – Wednesday Club

During 2020 the following fundraising event was organised:

- High Sheriff of Derbyshire Peak Pilgrimage

Section F


Other optional information

Section G

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Louise	Doble
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	31 October 2021	