

	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 (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.

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)

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 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.

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

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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

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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

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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

Section G

Declaration

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

Louise Doble

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
HSPP		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