



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

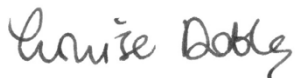
Registered Charity number: 1120282

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: _____

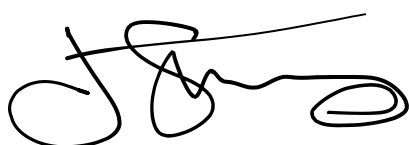
Name: Fiona Brown

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.