

YOUNG SOLUTIONS WORCESTERSHIRE

England & Wales · Charity number 1128461

Details

Other names	WORCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY YOUTH SERVICES LIMITED
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	06707357
Registered	2009-03-10
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Young Solutions Severn House 32 Ombersley Street West Droitwich WR9 8QZ
Phone	01905795098
Email	office@youngsolutions.org.uk
Website	www.youngsolutions.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS (THE OBJECTS) ARE TO HELP AND ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN WORCESTERSHIRE AND SURROUNDING AREAS SO AS TO DEVELOP THEIR PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL CAPACITIES THAT THEY MAY GROW TO FULL MATURITY AS RESPONSIBLE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY

Activities: YOUNG SOLUTIONS WORCESTERSHIRE IS AN INFRASTRUCTURE ORGANISATION SUPPORTING VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE. WE PROVIDE START-UP AND DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT; INFORMATION ADVICE AND GUIDANCE; ADVOCACY AND REPRESENTATION; PARTNERSHIP BUILDING, AND POLICY AND RESEARCH. FORMERLY KNOWN AS WCVYS - WORCESTERSHIRE COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY YOUTH SERVICES

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training
- **Who:** Children/young People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** WORCESTERSHIRE
- Birmingham City
- Dudley
- Gloucestershire
- Herefordshire
- Shropshire
- Solihull
- Staffordshire
- Telford & Wrekin
- Warwickshire
- Worcestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£611,826	£576,294	£185,483	14
2024-03-31	£531,992	£552,472	£149,951	15
2023-03-31	£461,325	£428,283	-	-
2022-03-31	£417,695	£405,295	-	-
2021-03-31	£397,257	£373,582	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Simon Robert Hill	Chair	2015-05-07
Duncan Berry		2020-10-08
GEOFFREY TAYLOR-SMITH		2012-10-22
JOHN GABRIEL DUDDINGTON		2014-10-09
MR RICHARD GARETH ROBERTS		2012-10-22
Michael Douglas Hunter		
Michael John Oliver-Brooke		2022-10-01
Philip Leslie Ashwell		2015-11-05
Sarah Mulhall		2021-07-01

YOUNG SOLUTIONS WORCESTERSHIRE

England & Wales - Charity number 1128461

Accounts

Charity Registration No. 1128461

Company Registration No. 06707357 (England and Wales)

YOUNG SOLUTIONS WORCESTERSHIRE

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

YOUNG SOLUTIONS WORCESTERSHIRE

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity number	1128461
Company number	06707357
Registered office	Severn House 32 Ombersley Street West Droitwich Worcs. WR9 8QZ
Telephone Number	01905 795098
Independent examiner	Paul Tivey FCA, FCCA 10 St. Andrews Street Droitwich Worcs. WR9 8DY
Bankers	Unity Trust Nine Brindley Place Birmingham B1 2HB Barclays Bank 54 High Street Worcester WR1 2QQ

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YOUNG SOLUTIONS WORCESTERSHIRE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016).

Trustees

Simon Hill (Chair)
Duncan Berry
Gareth Roberts
Geoff Taylor-Smith
John Duddington
Michael Hunter
Mike Oliver-Brooke
Phil Ashwell
Sarah Mulhall-Lee

Staff

Pete Sugg – Chief Officer
Helen Wood - Administration Support
Jo Bradley - Administration Support
Margaret Jones – Bookkeeper
Kay Bruton - Communications and Engagement Officer (Worcestershire VCSE Alliance) – left December 2024
Branwen Bingle – Community Health – Research Training Lead (Worcestershire VCSE Alliance) – left February 2025
Sarah Wilkinson – Community Health – Research Engagement Lead (Worcestershire VCSE Alliance) – left February 2025
Sophie Wheeley – Mental Health Programme Manager (Worcestershire VCSE Alliance) – left February 2025
Aisha Masood - Coordinator (Worcestershire VCSE Alliance) - left February 2025
Sarah Whitehead - Seek and Reach Project Co-ordinator
Felicity Vernon - Key Worker/Assistant Project Co-ordinator
Cat Goodwin - Key Worker
Sarah Mitchell - Key Worker
Jennifer Miller – Key Worker
Donna Simmonds – Key Worker
Jade Parker - Enhanced Youth Support Officer – left September 2024
Carly Marie Hay - Enhanced Youth Support Officer– left February 2025
Loretta Bryan - Enhanced Youth Support Officer – left February 2025
Orrin Pendley - Enhanced Youth Support Officer – left February 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee and is, therefore, governed by a Memorandum and Articles of Association (incorporated 25 September 2008). Charitable status for the new company was granted on 10 March 2009. The company name changed from Worcestershire Council for Voluntary Youth Services to Young Solutions Worcestershire on 26 April 2015.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Young Solutions Worcestershire acknowledges that an effective Board of Trustees is at the core of ensuring that the Charity is successful in achieving its objects. The Board seeks to be representative of the people and organisations that it works with and has within its membership.

The membership of the Board of Trustees contains the range of required knowledge and skills to run the Charity. Individual trustees have sufficient knowledge of the role of a charity trustee to be able to effectively represent Young Solutions Worcestershire at meetings/events. Trustees are elected to the Board at Annual General Meetings. The number and procedure for nomination and election is contained in Young Solutions Worcestershire governance documents. Members can nominate individuals to stand for election at the AGM. When a need is identified the Chair will recruit and propose to the Board the co-option of trustees between AGMs. Full membership of the Board can only be approved at the AGM.

Induction and training of new trustees

Young Solutions Worcestershire provides personalised induction for trustees by the Chair. The induction involves familiarisation with the role of the trustees, objects of the charity, its procedures, and its history.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Organisational structure

The Trustees/Directors (executive committee) are elected at the Annual General Meeting each year and they meet bimonthly to manage the business of the charity. At each meeting the executive committee review the finances.

None of the staff have delegated financial authority.

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. They review this annually.

Reserves policy

The trustees confirmed the reserves policy of maintaining sufficient funds to continue operations for four months. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

The trustees approved a new business plan and budget for 2024 - 2025. Young Solutions maintained rigorous control over its finances, continuing to find ways to strengthen its financial management systems.

Aims

The aims of Young Solutions are to:

ensure the safety and involvement of young people in Worcestershire.

Objectives

The objects were amended at the 2022 AGM and the principal objects of the charity now read as to:

*Help and advance the education of **people of all ages and in particular** young people in Worcestershire and surrounding areas so as to develop their physical, mental and spiritual capabilities that they may grow to full maturity as responsible members of society.*

Fee charging

Throughout the year the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance, including guidance on public benefit and fee charging. We consider all our activities are for the public benefit. Most of our income comes from contracts and our activities are funded by the income.

We charge for our Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checking support and pass on the charges that we have to pay to the DBS service for disclosures for paid staff. In addition, we charge a small administrative fee towards our costs for membership and for some of our training courses.

ANNUAL REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

Highlights of the year

2024 – 2025 has proved to be another successful year for Young Solutions, and are pleased to report our highest ever turnover. This has allowed us to increase our support to young people and our membership. We are pleased that a significant proportion of the income has been in the form of partnership grants, which have enabled us to access funding and distribute it directly to communities to help meet the needs of their young people.

With our successful receipt of year long UKSPF Employment Funding from 1st April 2024, the trustees' bold decision at the end of the previous financial year to invest in Seek and Reach staff was vindicated. As this funding is currently issued on an annual basis and is subject to government change, the trustees continued to monitor this closely.

2024-2025 was the last year of our Covid-related additional funding and a number of our projects concluded during this period. We are mindful of looking to additional funding for the next period to try to offer as many future opportunities.

During 2024 - 2025 Young Solutions has pursued the following five key priorities:

1. Provide Support
2. Promote Safeguarding
3. Promote Participation
4. Provide a Voice and Representation
5. Enable Training

Some of the highlighted achievements for each priority are in the sections below.

Young Solutions Priorities

1. Provide Support

Young Solutions is widely acknowledged as occupying a central role in the promotion and support for the voluntary youth to a wide range of organisations, both the Worcestershire County Council funded Youth Offer providers and other organisations that deliver services to young people.

Membership

Young Solutions is the voluntary youth infrastructure organisation for Worcestershire and as such exists to serve its members. Our aim is to be fast, friendly, focused, and flexible, and we deliver advice, guidance and support. We were pleased to see that **78%** of our previous membership re-joined Young Solutions as members, as well as welcome some emerging new organisations.

79 organisations joined in total, with **8** of these being new organisations that had recently started or ones who joined us for the first time. **22%** of the members had an income under £25,000 and **16%** were led solely by volunteers. Our members employ over **750** staff between them and have over **10600** volunteers. They work with nearly **35,000** young people in Worcestershire and the surrounding areas.

68% of members received direct and bespoke support during the year. This included a combination of advice, visits, online/telephone calls, DBS checks and training.

During the year we noticed broadening in the range of people seeking safeguarding support from us. A retired police-officer-turned-handyman received advice and guidance on how to keep his clients,

himself and his dog safe when working in the homes of vulnerable people, an electrical company have an updated and relevant safeguarding policy for their work in schools and several individuals received advice on setting up a new youth provision.

We keep the sector up to date with the latest news, information and training courses through our weekly **e-bulletin and monthly newsletter** and sent out **50** of these communications through the year. We also posted on social media more than **220** times! The information was shared on behalf of a range of organisations, from local members to statutory services and national partner, and covered diverse topics, such as:

- Information – local charity awarded The King's Award for Voluntary Service, The Big Give Christmas Challenge, how to help young people to get ID for voting, Barclays Young People Online Scams guide, Children and Young People Subject to Domestic Abuse: Professionals' Insight Briefing
- Surveys – All-Age Autism Strategy (H&W Autism Partnership Boards), Young Carers (WCC), Young People's Health and Emotional Wellbeing (Healthwatch), Cost of Living (Active HW), Air Quality (WCC), Big Ambition Survey (Children's Commissioner for England)
- Events – members' events, Volunteers' Week, Kooth Information Webinars, Youth Work Week, Lead the Way Youth Summit, Starting Well Wyre Forest – Family Showcase, INSANE Festival - free festival of arts and well-being for young people
- Training – face to face and online, free and paid, local and national
- Funders and funding rounds, including specialist funding pots

Over **200** people were subscribed to receive this information directly, but we know that many share the information with others in their organisation and network, so the number reached is much higher than this.

Youth Offer Infrastructure Support

Young Solutions successfully completed the first year of the new Youth Offer Infrastructure contract and this was our **15th** year in total over **four** consecutive contracts. Young Solutions continues to work in partnership with Worcestershire Public Health and Worcestershire County Council in delivering the new provision.

Over the next four years, in line with the contract, key areas of focus will be:

- Development and maintenance of high quality youth provision
- Capacity building of the sector
- Support to source and increase funding for the sector
- Workforce Development – including Youth Work Level 2, 3 and 6 qualifications
- Professional Youth Service Advice and Guidance

Youthscape2 Project

We continued to deliver our National Lottery Reaching Communities Funded YouthScape2 project, which is now in its final of three years. The aim of YouthScape2 is increase the provision of support for young people in 12 areas of socio-economic deprivation in Worcestershire, focussing on where there is little or insufficient provision currently available.

Services were delivered by key partners in each of the six districts of Worcestershire and these were:

- Bromsgrove Youth and Community Hub
- Kidderminster District Youth Trust
- Outside Youth Club, Evesham
- Your Ideas (Redditch)
- YMCA Worcestershire (Tenbury)
- Worcester Community Trust

Young Solutions provides oversight, guidance, coordination and training for the project, allowing the partners to concentrate on delivery through an offer of outreach, targeted youth support, open access youth work and virtual social networking. There is also a focus on youth voice, and each partner has a

youth council or youth advisers which meet regularly and have a key role in co-producing YouthScape2 local activities and learning opportunities.

The project is going from strength to strength and remains ahead of all targets (see below). The partners are also reporting that having additional funding which is flexible is having a huge impact on their delivery and how they support young people.

Some Key Partner Feedback:

- *We are able to be more pro-active around positive mental health and well-being and the support we can offer compared to a more reactive approach previously*
- *We have developed wider connections with supporting services and agencies. Improved independence & learnt valuable life skills*
- *We are able to respond well to the needs of young people due to the range of volunteers and opportunities offered by the funding. This means we can access support for young people quickly and in a way that best suits them.*
- *For some young people it has increased in their attendance at school. We have also seen a real change in their behaviour and attitudes to other adults in authority who are in their lives.*

Outcomes	Year 3 target to date (6 months)	Actual no. young people
1. Outreach support to engage vulnerable young people in the areas of highest need - Number reached	425	579
2. Targeted youth support and life skills support - Number of young people reporting improvements in well-being and resilience	275	459
Percentage of young people report knowing where to get support with their mental health issues	90%	94
3. Provision of open access youth activities in community-based youth facilities - Number of young people participating in activities	825	901
Percentage of young people participating in activities giving positive feedback	90%	91%
4. Online information and support - Young people have easy access to online professional support and quality information	400	702

Laptop Donations

Our laptop donation scheme from 2023 – 2024 has expanded to include other Worcestershire based companies, and we have continued to distribute reconditioned laptops to our membership locally and to linked overseas projects.

2. Promote Safeguarding

Keeping children and young people safe is a central part of Young Solutions mission, and safeguarding permeates through all of our work.

Safeguarding Handbook

As part of our continuous monitoring of safeguarding, we reviewed our Safeguarding Handbook and issued a minor update with the latest information. This was shared with the sector through our e-bulletin and website. Copies continued to be given to members, especially at our safeguarding training sessions, and they told us how comprehensive, useful and reliable they find it.

Young Solutions is a key partner of the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Get Safe Partnership Group (responsible for the overall effectiveness of the multi-agency response to child criminal exploitation within Worcestershire). As such we assisted with initiatives and ensured the voice of the voluntary sector was heard within the Get Safe agenda.

DBS

We continued to offer a Disclosure and Barring Checking Service (DBS) for staff and volunteers, and we carried out **249** DBS checks for **43** organisations during the year. 58% were for volunteers and 42% for paid workers. In comparison to the previous year, the total number of DBS checks was very similar but the number of organisations increased by 23%. DBS checks for volunteers also increased by 12%, whereas DBSs for paid staff went down. The change in paid staff numbers may reflect that more have joined the DBS Update Service, but the increase in volunteer numbers would suggest the changing nature of provision, funding available for paid staff and an increased reliance on volunteers.

Organisations tell us how much they appreciate being able to get their staff and volunteers checked quickly and locally and for a very modest fee (many are free).

3. Promote Participation

Young Solutions wants to ensure all young people can obtain the full benefits of living in the county and therefore delivers a variety of projects which either directly or indirectly encourage young people to become active. This could be doing something in their community, attending education or gaining employment.

Seek & Reach Programme

Our Seek and Reach Programme continued to support 15 to 24-year-olds who were furthest away from training and employment, and we were pleased to be successful in gaining a one year UKSPF contract from Worcestershire County Council, which enabled us to extend the Seek and Reach team's contact for another year.

During the 2024 - 2025 financial year we worked with 161 young people, all whom had a number of additional needs or circumstances which had prevented them from achieving so far. In addition 40% had special education needs or a disability. We were really pleased that during this time period 50% progressed into education, employment or volunteering, with placements such as a restaurant apprenticeship, Level 1 course in Working Skills, Level 1 in Hair & Beauty, Level 2 in IT & Media, Level 2 in Animal Care, volunteering at a hospice and volunteering at a charity shop.

The remaining 50% received social, emotional and signposting support as appropriate to their needs to help them progress towards employment, education or volunteering in the future.

WISE - Enhanced Youth Support Officers – Redditch

2024 – 2025 was the final year of the COMF funding which enabled us to deliver our W.I.S.E project in Redditch and it continued to be a busy year for the project up to February 2025. The open access sessions on a Monday and a Wednesday were busy supporting young people with issues such as employment, education, and personal and sexual health, and the centre had a core group of young people who attended.

The outreach staff team also carried out their patrols in the Redditch town centre but predominately focused on one area due to quite a challenging group of young people gathering there. This group had attracted a group of young people who joined them from Birmingham. The staff team worked hard with the young people and partners to address the young people's anti-social behaviour, by diverting the young people into positive activities and incentive sessions. This programme proved very positive for the local community and the young people engaged with it.

In order to continue the sustainable outcomes from February 2025, the elements of the project became embedded within the work of local youth organisations, including Your Ideas and Re-Imagine Redditch, and especially in the targeted areas of the Woodrow estate.

Tryangle Awards

Our Tryangle Awards, sponsored by the Margaret Westwood Foundation, were awarded to deserving young people and adults at our AGM in October. Four young people received our 'Peter Pinfield Citizenship & Environment' awards, including two young people who raised over £5,000 for charity, a young adult with additional needs for volunteering in his community and a young person for setting up five food banks in his areas, though he is only 13 years old!

Amazing adults who work with young people were also recognised, including several volunteers, a Scout leader who goes above and beyond, and a PCSO who gives up his time to meet with young people at a youth club.

4. Provide a Voice and Representation

It is important to Young Solutions to enable those in the voluntary youth sector to get their voice heard and we facilitate conversations, provide representation, encourage networking, and empower young people, individuals and organisations.

For example, over the last year young people across a range of districts have been supporting initiatives via their local youth forums. These have included garden and environmental projects in Bromsgrove (such as tree planting) and new and potential capital projects in Droitwich (plans for a skatepark in partnership with Droitwich High School).

Cultural Compact for North East Worcestershire

Following on from the development of the Cultural Compact for North East Worcestershire last year, Young Solutions was a key partner in achieving a total award of £735,000 over three years for a new partnership project. There are two project strands:

1. Shaping Futures:

- Skills & capacity building in local cultural sector
- Young people's skills development through applied arts industry opportunities in urban & rural places (performing, visual and digital arts)

2. Sharing Stories:

- Celebrating local culture and heritage, local engagement - 3 projects- Awe & Wander, Gateway to Nature, Wagon's Roll.

The monies are being held by Bromsgrove District Council, and Young Solutions will be receiving a contribution to lead the young people's skills develop section of the bid from April 2025.

Worcestershire VCSE Alliance

The Worcestershire VCSE Alliance is a collective of 25 representative Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations with a mission to build a stronger VCSE sector working together effectively to deliver excellent services aligned to need. The Alliance is a key partner of the Integrated Care System (ICS), a partnership of NHS organisations, local authorities and others to take collective responsibility for planning services, improving health and reducing inequalities across the county.

After having Young Solutions as the key organisation providing governance and HR support to the Alliance since inception in July 2022, in February 2025 the Alliance formed a partnership with Community Power to enable the project to become independent. Young Solutions will continue to be a member of the Alliance through our young people's infrastructure role, but has now ceased to be the provider of direct services for the Alliance.

Network Meetings / Youth Forums

Young Solutions provides representation for the sector on the Worcestershire Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Worcestershire Safeguarding Adults Board. Young Solutions also attend the regional Youth Network, the County Council's NEET strategic group, the Get Safe strategic group for

Worcestershire, Community Wellbeing Theme, Cultural Compact Youth Theme group and Early Help Partnership amongst others.

Within the sector, Young Solutions also attends meetings across the county and hosts the Youth Offer provider forum. A District Youth Service Provider Network has now been set up in each of the six districts and Young Solutions leads and support these meetings as part of our Infrastructure Support role.

5. Enable Training

This financial year overlapped two training programmes for the sector, i.e. the second half of the spring/summer 2024 programme, and the first half of the spring 2025 programme. **214** places were requested on **36** courses, covering **24** subjects and delivered by **12** trainers, with all courses identified in response to needs from the sector.

Introductory level courses were offered in:

- Autism Awareness
- Challenging Behaviour
- Contextual Safeguarding
- Data Protection BITESIZE
- Detached Youth Work
- Drill Music and Young People
- Drugs and Alcohol Awareness
- Emergency First Aid at Work
- Fundraising Webinars
- INTENT Smoking/Vaping Resource
- Introduction to Measuring Impact
- Knife Awareness and Young People
- Managing Allegations
- Mental Health Awareness,
- Safeguarding Children
- Safe Recruitment of Volunteers
- Sexual Health
- Youth Voice and Participation
- Youth Work Level 2
- Youth Work Level 3

Some feedback from across the different courses:

- *Brilliant session - really insightful and the discussion was great.*
- *It was a lovely session, [the trainer] was really knowledgeable and included the participants really well. It was a great opportunity to make links with other organisations*
- *[The trainer] was really open to questions and inclusive of everyone*
- *This session taught me so so much that was useful for my knowledge, thank you!*

Our e-learning courses remained popular, and organisations told us how vital these are for skilling up their workers. Being online means that their volunteers / staff could both access the training at a time convenient to them and learn at their own pace. This is crucial in a county with so many isolated rural communities and limited transport options.

We provided e-learning courses in:

- Basics of Good Youth Work
- Safeguarding Adolescence
- Introduction to Young People's Mental Health
- Dealing with Challenging Behaviours
- Basic Drug and Alcohol Awareness

These courses were also successful with the participants and **37** staff and volunteers signed up for **185** courses in the past financial year. 100% rated the courses as 'somewhat useful' or 'very useful'; with knowledge levels going from 53% having 'some' or 'a lot' at the start to **96%** by the end. The Safeguarding Adolescents course showed the biggest increase with 61% of participants saying they had a 'lot of knowledge' after completing it (from 4% at the start). Other participant feedback included:

- *Fun, interesting, professional, easy to follow, useful*
- *Great course with not too much reading and simple explanations that are easy to remember*
- *All of it was useful and helped me to gain a better understanding.*

FORWARD PLANNING

The trustees have expressed their satisfaction with Young Solutions' performance in the past year, but they remain cautious and vigilant. Young Solutions has received the biggest income this year, but the trustees are mindful that some of the project funding is short term so they continue to operate rigorous financial control. We will start conversations with potential funders to create a 'YouthScape3' project building on the success of the previous two programmes.

Delivery of Seek and Reach funded through UKSPF will continue from 1st April 2025 and additional funding from Worcestershire County Council has been secured for after-care young people's employment support. Two additional funding schemes have been targeted for widening the scope of Seek and Reach in 2025-2026. The newly launched Connect to Work scheme is another initiative that Young Solutions will be aiming to deliver, with the project due to start in April 2026.

We look forward to developing and continuing to grow the infrastructure element of the Youth Offer programme, and to responding to issues and opportunities that arise from the sector. This includes expanding the training programme, including delivering more bespoke training, and rolling out a new Level 1 course in Introduction to Youth Work.

We will also continue to review the form of the Tryangle Awards through our close association with Margaret Westwood, long term sponsor of the award, and are discussing funding to ensure full cost recovery.

The trustees are currently discussing more diversification, amalgamations, and acquisitions as a way of spreading the financial costs as Young Solutions moves away from dependence on the County Council. They are committed to the pursuit of an ambitious model designed to secure the longer-term sustainability of the charity.

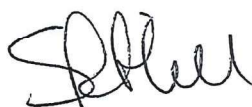
THANKS

The trustees wish to record their thanks to Simon Hill, the Chair of Young Solutions, and to the Chief Officer, Pete Sugg, for all his hard work and commitment to the organisation. The trustees also record their gratitude to the administration team, which includes Helen Wood, Jo Bradley and Marg Jones. Thanks also go to Sarah Whitehead, all the Seek and Reach team and the Redditch Enhanced Youth Officers.

Special thanks to Sarah Knott for her support with internal financial auditing and we are grateful for the consistent support of our peripatetic team, including Cat Illingworth who continues to support members and projects, Sam Flatley for fundraising support and all our external trainers.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees:

Simon Hill, Chair
Dated: 05th September 2025



YOUNG SOLUTIONS WORCESTERSHIRE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

TO THE TRUSTEES OF YOUNG SOLUTIONS WORCESTERSHIRE

I report to the trustees of my examination of the financial statements of Young Solutions Worcestershire (the charity) for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial; statements carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act). In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

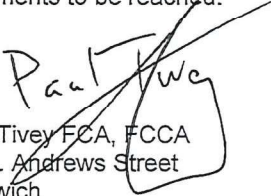
Independent examiner's statement

Since the charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no 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 charity as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- 3 the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
- 4 the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 financial statements to be reached.


Paul Tivey FCA, FCCA
10 St. Andrews Street
Droitwich
Worcs.
WR9 8DY

Dated: 4th August 2025

YOUNG SOLUTIONS WORCESTERSHIRE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>					
Grants	2	283,029	302,648	585,677	520,345
Investments	3	4,519	-	4,519	2,054
Other income	4	21,630	-	21,630	9,593
Total income		<u>309,178</u>	<u>302,648</u>	<u>611,826</u>	<u>531,992</u>
<u>Expenditure on:</u>					
Charitable activities	5	274,973	301,321	576,294	552,472
Total resources expended		<u>274,973</u>	<u>301,321</u>	<u>576,294</u>	<u>552,472</u>
Net income/(deficit) for the year		34,205	1,327	35,532	(20,480)
Transfers between funds	17	12,542	(12,542)	-	-
Net movement in funds		<u>46,747</u>	<u>(11,215)</u>	<u>35,532</u>	<u>(20,480)</u>
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		135,620	14,331	149,951	170,431
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		<u><u>182,367</u></u>	<u><u>3,116</u></u>	<u><u>185,483</u></u>	<u><u>149,951</u></u>

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

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

YOUNG SOLUTIONS WORCESTERSHIRE

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11	3,130	478	3,608	4,811
Current assets					
Debtors	12	27,067	-	27,067	41,676
Cash at bank and in hand		162,518	34,419	196,937	228,510
		<u>189,585</u>	<u>34,419</u>	<u>224,004</u>	<u>270,186</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(10,348)	(31,781)	(42,129)	(125,046)
Net current assets		<u>179,237</u>	<u>2,638</u>	<u>181,875</u>	<u>145,140</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>182,367</u>	<u>3,116</u>	<u>185,483</u>	<u>149,951</u>
Income funds					
Unrestricted funds				182,367	135,620
Restricted funds				3,116	14,331
				<u>185,483</u>	<u>149,951</u>

The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement contained in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the charity keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and for preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

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

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on Friday 4th July 2025.

Trustee : S Hill

Company Registration No. 06707357

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

Young Solutions Worcestershire is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Severn House, 32 Ombersley Street West, Droitwich, Worcestershire. WR9 8QZ.

1.1 Accounting convention

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from October 2019). The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The charity has taken advantage of the provisions in the SORP for charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 1 not to prepare a Statement of Cash Flows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charity is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1.5 Expenditure

1. Accounting policies

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment	25% reducing balance
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The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset and is recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, the bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.9 Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transactions costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

1 Accounting policies

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.10 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.11 Retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

1.12 Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

1.13 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 objectives of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

2 Grants

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £
Government and general grants	283,029	-	283,029	187,358
Redditch Youth Work	-	49,555	49,555	76,566
Youthscape	-	151,492	151,492	145,094
VCSE Alliance	-	101,601	101,601	111,327
Eveson Trust	-	-	-	-
Holiday Hunger	-	-	-	-
HAF Half Term	-	-	-	-
COMF Grant	-	-	-	-
	<u>283,029</u>	<u>302,648</u>	<u>585,677</u>	<u>520,345</u>

There are no unfulfilled conditions attaching to the government grants.

3 Investments

	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds
	2025 £	2024 £
Interest receivable	4,519	2,054
	<u>4,519</u>	<u>2,054</u>

4 Other income

	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds
	2025 £	2024 £
Training projects	13,860	1,260
Membership subscriptions	2,425	2,125
DBS checks	5,345	6,208
	<u>21,630</u>	<u>9,593</u>

5 Charitable activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £
Direct charitable activity (see note 6)	53,145	247,003	300,148	267,596
Support and governance costs (see note 7)	221,638	54,318	275,956	284,693
Other (see note 10)	190	-	190	183
	<u>274,973</u>	<u>301,321</u>	<u>576,294</u>	<u>552,472</u>

6 Grants payable

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £
COMF Grant	-	-	-	-
Youthscape Grants	-	151,670	151,670	137,201
ICS Alliance	-	95,333	95,333	101,527
Eveson Trust	-	-	-	-
Local Project Grants	53,145	-	53,145	28,868
	<u>53,145</u>	<u>247,003</u>	<u>300,148</u>	<u>267,596</u>

YOUNG SOLUTIONS WORCESTERSHIRE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

7 Support costs

Unrestricted

	Support Costs £	Governance Costs £	2025 £	Support Costs £	Governance Costs £	2024 £
Project Worker costs	115,031	-	115,031	105,477	-	105,477
Admin costs	54,042	-	54,042	68,242	-	68,242
Depreciation	1,043	-	1,043	1,391	-	1,391
Insurance	2,119	-	2,119	1,857	-	1,857
Postage, stationery and telephone	12,397	-	12,397	10,908	-	10,908
Rent	7,180	-	7,180	7,140	-	7,140
Training and events	-	-	-	-	-	-
Computer running costs	5,728	-	5,728	5,440	-	5,440
Sundry expenses	3,168	-	3,168	1,859	-	1,859
Subscriptions	2,848	-	2,848	2,670	-	2,670
Staff and volunteer expenses	5,580	-	5,580	2,463	-	2,463
Independent Examiner fees	-	2,304	2,304	-	1,922	1,922
Accountancy	-	6,230	6,230	-	6,495	6,495
Legal and professional	-	35	35	-	35	35
DBS checks	-	3,933	3,933	-	4,636	4,636
	<u>209,136</u>	<u>12,502</u>	<u>221,638</u>	<u>207,447</u>	<u>13,088</u>	<u>220,535</u>

Restricted

	Support Costs £	Governance Costs £	2025 £	Support Costs £	Governance Costs £	2024 £
Project worker costs	53,659	-	53,659	59,881	-	59,881
Depreciation	159	-	159	213	-	213
Staff and volunteer expenses	500	-	500	4,064	-	4,064
	<u>54,318</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>54,318</u>	<u>64,158</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>64,158</u>

8 Trustees

There were no trustees' remuneration, expenses or benefits paid for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the period ended 31 March 2024.

9 Employees

The average monthly number employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Number of Employees	14	15

Employment costs

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	2025 £	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries – Project workers	112,898	52,871	165,769	162,551
Pension costs – Project workers	2,133	788	2,921	2,807
Wages and salaries - Admin	52,748	-	52,748	67,011
Pension costs - Admin	1,294	-	1,294	1,231
	<u>169,073</u>	<u>53,659</u>	<u>222,732</u>	<u>233,600</u>

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

The aggregate remuneration paid to Key Management Personnel (including employer's pension contributions was £52,201 (2024 - £50,138).

10 Other

	Unrestricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds
	2025	2024
Financing costs	190	183
	<u>190</u>	<u>183</u>

YOUNG SOLUTIONS WORCESTERSHIRE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings & equipment £
Cost	
At 1 April 2024	16,769
Disposals	-
At 31 March 2025	<u>16,769</u>
Depreciation and impairment	
At 1 April 2024	11,958
Depreciation charged in the year	1,203
Depreciation eliminated on disposals	-
At 31 March 2025	<u>13,161</u>
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2025	<u>3,608</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>4,811</u>

12 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	25,060	36,612
Prepayments and accrued income	2,007	5,064
	<u>27,067</u>	<u>41,676</u>

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income	14	31,781	110,462
Trade creditors		3,534	4,822
Other creditors		4,464	6,216
Accruals		2,350	3,546
		<u>42,129</u>	<u>125,046</u>

14 Deferred income

	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	2024 £
At 1 April 2024	-	110,462	110,462	77,274
Income released in the year	-	(110,462)	(110,462)	(69,683)
Income deferred in the year	-	31,781	31,781	102,871
At 31 March 2025	-	31,781	31,781	110,462

15 Comparatives for the Statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
<u>Income and endowments from:</u>			
Grants	187,358	332,987	520,345
Investments	2,054	-	2,054
Other income	9,593	-	9,593
Total income	199,005	332,987	531,992
<u>Expenditure on:</u>			
Charitable activities	249,586	302,886	552,472
Total resources expended	249,586	302,886	552,472
Net Deficit	(50,581)	30,101	(20,480)
Transfers between funds	26,206	(26,206)	-
Net movement in funds	(24,375)	3,895	(20,480)
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	159,995	10,436	170,431
Total funds carried forward	135,620	14,331	149,951

16 Purpose Of Funds

Unrestricted Funds

The unrestricted funds can be used for any charitable purpose approved by the trustees. The fund balance, including fixed assets, at 31st March 2025 was £182,367 (2024 - £135,620).

Restricted Funds

The restricted Redditch Youth Work Fund (WISE) from Redditch Borough Council was used to run youth activities in the town. The fund balance at 31st March 2025 was £nil (2024 - £11,091).

The restricted Youthscape Fund from The National Lottery is a countrywide project that increases the support for young people through an offer including outreach, targeted, open access and online youth work. The fund balance, including fixed assets, at 31st March 2025 was £3,116 (2024 - £3,240).

The restricted Eveson Fund from The Eveson Charitable Trust was used for additional training for organisations returning to delivery post pandemic. The fund balance at 31st March 2025 was £nil (2024 - £nil).

The restricted Worcestershire VCSE Alliance fund provides a platform for voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations to collectively amplify their impact, learn from each other and support positive change within their communities. The alliance works with statutory agencies to bridge the gap that exists between voluntary and public sectors, helping to improve public services to better meet the needs of the local population. The fund balance at 31st March 2025 was £nil. (2025 - £nil).

17 Transfers Between Funds

A transfer of £12,542 has been made from the restricted funds to the unrestricted general fund. These are to cover agreed management fees and contributions towards Young Solutions support and governance costs.

18 Related party transactions

There were no disclosable related party transactions during the year (2024 – none).