

# YOUTH FOCUS WEST MIDLANDS

England & Wales · Charity number 1148687

## Details

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**Other names** YFWM

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Charitable company

**Company number** [08114745](#)

**Registered** 2012-08-23

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

## Contact

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**Address** Severn House  
32 Ombersley Street West  
Droitwich  
Worcestershire  
WR9 8QZ

**Phone** 07791557907

**Email** [info@yfwm.org.uk](mailto:info@yfwm.org.uk)

**Website** [www.yfwm.org.uk](http://www.yfwm.org.uk)

## Activities

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**Objects:** 1) THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION AND PERSONAL AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF YOUNG PEOPLE AND THOSE WHO WORK WITH YOUNG PEOPLE2) THE RELIEF OF UNEMPLOYMENT AMONGST YOUNG PEOPLE

**Activities:** The Charity operates across the West Midlands providing support to local youth services to deliver direct services to young people in their communities

## Classification

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

## Geography

- **Area of benefit:** UNDEFINED. IN PRACTICE, LOCAL.
- Throughout England

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£141,177	£146,126	-	-
2024-03-31	£119,098	£88,777	-	-
2023-06-30	£129,401	£95,294	-	-
2022-06-30	£127,687	£101,483	-	-
2021-06-30	£114,293	£45,730	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Amanda Jane Grove		2024-03-01
JON BOAGEY		2023-01-12
KERRY BARNES		2012-08-06
Simon Gillings		2022-06-10
William Paul Finnemore		2019-09-10

**YOUTH FOCUS WEST MIDLANDS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1148687

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# Accounts

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**YOUTH FOCUS WEST MIDLANDS  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**2024  
-2025**



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# About YFWM

Youth Focus West Midlands is the non-aligned network lead and support for work with young people in the West Midlands & the lead for the national youth work infrastructure partnership in the West Midlands Region

**YFWM** was established to build upon the work of the previous West Midlands Regional Youth Work Unit; continuing to work with youth work and related youth professionals, agencies and policy makers to support the development and delivery of high quality youth work opportunities for young people across the West Midlands region.

The aim of YFWM is to encourage, promote and support both individual practitioners and organisations that look to develop and deliver youth work across the West Midlands region.

At the heart of the organisation's role is the development of clear communication routes and networks that complement a consistent understanding and approach to youth work.

We believe this approach is an essential element in ensuring that young people are offered personal development experiences regardless of where they live in the West Midlands region. YFWM leads a number of professional networks; bringing together strategic leads and specialists

from across the region as well as service and professional development learning and task groups. The range of YFWM work has been reviewed and refocused. Whilst approaches need to move with the times and reflect resourcing the priorities remain the same:

## **Ben Gibson - Stoke Youth Collective**

*“Youth Focus West Midlands plays a vital role in connecting, equipping, and empowering the regional youth sector. They bring organisations together to collaborate, share learning, and build collective strength. Their support has been instrumental in developing our local youth strategy in Stoke, helping partners across sectors to align their efforts, amplify youth voice, and co-create solutions that reflect the real needs of young people. They are also supporting us to build local capacity to deliver high-quality youth work, ensuring that services are sustainable, inclusive, and grounded in best practice.”*

# Chair's Foreword



The economic and funding environment is still very challenging. Positive noises continue to come from government about the role that good youth work plays in supporting and developing young people and communities, but the economic situation that they are struggling with has meant that opportunities for new or increased funding have been scarce. There have been some positives where existing funding has been extended beyond original end dates and Youth Focus West Midlands has benefited from some of those.

I expressed my sadness last year about the news of the planned decimation of the Youth Service in Birmingham and it is good to look back and recognise the passion and resilience of youth workers and their supporters that fuelled the successful campaign to retain the service for the city. There is work going on across our region to keep youth work in the minds and policies of our politicians and other decision makers.

Collective voices are often stronger than isolated local ones and the networks of partners and stakeholders that YFWM supports and participates in are vital in keeping youth work on the agenda of local regional and national policy making. During the year we have extended our reach and engagement with all 14 of the local authorities in our region and have strengthened the networking and collaboration with all the other regional youth work units across the country, leading to joint working on both lobbying and specific delivery projects.

I also used the words “adapt and survive” last year, but as an organisation I think we have gone beyond that stage and have adapted and grown very effectively. This has required significant change, and that has continued throughout the year. Changes nationally have meant that our role in supporting and delivering Youth Voice work is now even more significant than it was before whilst our Training Centre has continued to be crucial in addressing the challenges of workforce development for the sector.

Every aspect of our organisation has grown and our current financial position is healthier than it has ever been. However, we recognise that this can change quickly as funding sources come and go, so we continue to be vigilant and prudent as we go forward.

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***“Every aspect of our organisation has grown and our current financial position is healthier than it has ever been”***

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We now operate as a team of staff, associates and trustees that complement and support one another very well. Recently, we said goodbye to George Stroud, who had been central to our business transformation process. We wish him well for his future.

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***“We now operate as a team of staff, associates and trustees that complement and support one another”***

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We then welcomed Emma Boundford to our team and she is already making a very positive contribution alongside Emma Keenan, Cal Williams supporting our Training Centre work and our CEO Ruth who holds it all together, is active across all our key networks and pursues development opportunities where they arise. Finally, a thank you to all our partners and stakeholders who work with Youth Focus West Midlands to enable us to continue supporting good quality youth work.

The year ahead will, no doubt, bring challenges but Youth Focus West Midlands and our partners are in a strong position to respond, grow and make a crucial contribution to the youth sector in our region.

We look forward to it!

**Paul Finnemore**  
**Chair of Board of Trustees**



## *Annual Overview*

### *Chief Executive Officer's Report*

2024- 2025 has been a significant year for YFWM both in terms of contract delivery and organisational development

The organisation is now in a strong place, but we recognise the fragile nature of funding and policy environments.

YFWM has been pleased to support the consultation around the National Youth Strategy. The key drivers to support the Strategy are all key areas of delivery for YFWM:

- Supporting and Growing a skilled and sustainable paid and volunteer workforce
- Building effective and integrated partnerships between voluntary, public and private sectors
- Strengthening 'Youth Voice' and clarifying standards and accountability structures for youth provision

We now need to build on these solid foundations in order that YFWM sustains the capacity to provide key infrastructure support for the youth work sector across the region.

What remains important is our primary focus on the needs of young people, who continue to tell us they want safe spaces in local communities along with trusted adults and I think it goes beyond just particular safe spaces for young people; I believe

it's about safe communities for young people to grow up in.

Youth work and youth workers are not the only answer, but as a profession that moulds services around young people's needs and other provision, they are a significant part of the picture that is currently 'missing' or at best patchy. As always, we face these challenges with commitment, as facilitators, negotiators and above all passionate advocates for the young people who are our future: I look forward to continuing to work with our national partners and the youth work sector across the region to ensure that youth work is recognised, understood, and effectively financed.

DCMS support has been invaluable in helping sustain the core functions of the organisation and consolidating core organisational infrastructure

The work of the Network of Regional Youth Work Units has also been invaluable in helping grow our work nationally and raising the profile of the importance of regional infrastructure to the youth work landscape

# Our Workstreams

## Buisness Transformation

The work on the business transformation process is now complete. The organisation is now well placed to be able to successfully manage both staff and contracts from a range of funders as well as delivering a range of support services to the youth work sector across the west Midlands. George Stroud who successfully led this process for YFWM left us at the end of April 2025 and we have been joined by Emma Boundford who joined us as our new Business Support Officer in April 1st 2025. Emma is now picking up the range of business support functions across the organisation.

## Workforce Development

### Training Centre Achievements

YFWM has been an Accredited Training Centre for 7 years delivering both level 2 and 3 accredited qualifications in youth work and we have built a strong reputation, recognised by the awarding body as delivering a quality service as confirmed by feedback from our EQA at Skills Education Group

The Training Centre has registered and supported 57 learners at level 2 and 5 at level 3

### Sue Wilson – EQA, Skills & Education Group Awards:

*“Youth Focus West Midlands is a high functioning centre benefitting from a strong professional and competent youth work training team. The assessment and IQA practice is very strong. Learners’ work is of a high standard across all courses. The assessors use a range of appropriate assessment methods to support learners collective and individual needs.*

*It is evident from what I have seen and discussed with the team members I met that the centre is offering its learners a very positive and rewarding learning experience. This is further validated by the end of course learner evaluations I read.”*

### Bursary Management

The organisation has successfully delivered the management of the training bursaries programme for the last five years and look forward to a further 12 months of managing this programme delivered in partnership with the NYA

The allocation target for bursary numbers was 47 places: The YFWM Training Centre allocated 98.

### Training Centre Development

YFWM has responded rapidly over the past few years to changing opportunities and demand for youth worker training, at the same time as growing and developing our own support staff and developing the training capacity of partner organisations in local authority areas.

During this time of growth we have identified the need to update, upgrade and consolidate systems, content and communications to keep pace with changes in youth work roles and settings, the benefits and challenges of developing technology and the increasing scale of our relationships and responsibilities.

With a newly created part-time coordinator role to pull the wider ‘training team’ together and lead on review and development we will build on our collective experience and skills to address lessons learned and ensure our training provision is high quality, accessible and professionally relevant.

### IQA Support

YFWM also provides IQA support to five other centres nationally, helping them embed strong standards for delivery and achievement outcomes for learners.

We have registered and provided IQA for 87 learners at level 2 and 8 at level 3



**Mark Straw – Director, Community Praxis:**

*“I was introduced to Ruth at YFWM and immediately felt comfortable, I was impressed in the professional outlook and the robust systems and processes in place to manage the accreditation process.*

*YFWM are always available to respond to my accreditation needs, they are committed to sharing best practice and actioning areas discussed in meetings. It is clear that YFWM are an organisation with integrity and a collaborative approach.*

*I have been impressed at the ongoing feedback to my assessing & I have been actively encouraged to be involved in standardisation and other quality assurance meetings.*

## Partnerships & Capacity Building

We are pleased with our capacity building programme working both in Birmingham with BAYC and Worcestershire with Young Solutions.

The organisations are now able to deliver and assess level 2 youth work programmes and we will extend this to encompass level 3 in the future.

YFWM remains as the accredited centre providing registration, administration and quality assurance for all courses.

We are also really pleased to have been able to work with Phil Pusey at SCVYS on the roll out of an Introduction to Youth Work course that signed up members of the Strategic Youth leads Network who are now able to deliver at a local level. A great piece of cross regional collaboration.

The organisation has also begun to extend it's CPD offer through its Associate Trainers. Feedback from learners has been extremely positive and we are now looking to extend the range of training sessions and Associate pool

## Professional Pathways

YFWM have been keen to ensure we are able to support clear pathways for Youth Work as a career.

The West Midlands now has only one HEI provider of the level 6 qualification in youth work, a significant decrease from where we were a few years ago. This reduction is also reflected nationally.

The NYA in response to this have proposed a reform to the qualification framework, which looks at the pathway spanning levels 2 - 6, with entry and exit points all the way through thus increasing the opportunities for qualification at all levels.

There has also been the development of the level 3 and 6 degree apprenticeships although we currently don't have any regional providers for these.

We are working with the NYA through engagement in the Education and standards Committee to look at how all of this can best be supported.



**Bradley Edmunds:**  
Youth Manager  
Pershore Riverside Centre:

*"It has been brilliant for my own personal journey as a Youth worker working with YFWM, as well as Organisationally.*

*Ruth and Cal have supported my team and colleagues with training in the past, and most recently offering the opportunity for development and impact youth workers within Worcestershire.*

*Communicating regularly with Ruth and Cal has provided me with a wider, trusted, support network within what is a very small (and sometimes lonely) Youth work world within Worcestershire.*

*They have supported me by providing my TAQA (Assessment and quality assurance) training. Regular standardisations, meetings and the support network in general with wider colleagues has proved so helpful for my confidence as a trainer & assessor.*

*It is without a doubt that this network will then go on to inspire and impact many people heading for a career in youth work."*

## Local Youth Partnerships & Youth Offer

YFWM has been pleased to be able to work in partnership with the Young People's Foundation Trust. This has enabled us to broker support from YPFT to local areas that are looking to build their local youth partnership.

Areas include: Staffordshire, Solihull, Birmingham, Shropshire, Stoke and Dudley

**Chris Murray - CEO,**  
Young People's  
Foundation Trust

*"This year has been a testament to the power of collaboration & shared vision in youth work. My most recent experiences of working in partnership with YFWM has been both inspiring and impactful. Together, we have fostered a dynamic and supportive environment for youth workers, informal education for & with young people across the region, delivering targeted opportunities for growth of the sector, amplifying youth voices and strengthening community engagement.*

*The partnership has proven to be a cornerstone of our joint working and also successful, combining local insight with regional strategy to ensure that youth services are responsive, inclusive, and forward-thinking. Through joint initiatives, training opportunities, and advocacy efforts, we envisage not only enhancing the quality of youth work but also building a resilient network of practitioners committed to empowering the next generation"*

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## Strategic Youth Leads

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The Strategic Youth Leads Network brings together key leads from across the region to look at a range of issues including; policy into practice, horizon scanning, sharing management and practice perspectives and local developments.

Feedback from members of the network has



been extremely positive with colleagues welcoming the opportunity to come together and share information, intelligence and learning.

The network now covers all 14 of the local authority areas across the region.

### Phil Pusey – CEO, SCVYS

*“SCVYS has always valued the regional connections facilitated by Youth Focus West Midlands. They enable more in-depth conversations to happen that can’t happen nationally because the national cohort size is larger and more diverse in terms of core business.*

*The network also facilitates quantifiable actions, for example taking the Introduction to Youth Work content from Staffordshire and adopting it for the region saving other local authority areas time and resources.*

*This is in addition to the general sharing of local news and updates which often inspire us here in Staffordshire to innovate and continuously improve.”*

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## Youth Voice

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YFWM has been pleased to continue to support Youth Voice across the region; bringing together key strategic youth voice leads to look at sharing information and practice from across the range of youth voice programmes in delivery.

### Youth Parliament & Regional Youth Engagement

YFWM is committed to supporting an inclusive approach to youth voice across the region, and led by Aimee Sharpe provides both the opportunity for youth voice involvement and representation across all local authority areas and the platform for those authorities engaging in the UKYP programme.

YFWM supports the UKYP programme across both the West and East Midlands, building connections through digital engagement and regular online ‘catch-ups’ as well as a regional youth conference, supporting MYP elections, induction and their engagement in the national MYP conference.

Through this work two MYPs are elected to the Youth Select Committee, ensuring that regional voices contribute to national policy discussions. MYP’s from the Midlands achieved 100% turnout for the national House of Commons Debate strengthening the representation of young people’s views and aspirations across the regions.

Ongoing advocacy through regional networks and the NYA aims to increase government engagement and influence policy including working to address policy gaps in mental health, climate change, and poverty.

Midlands MYPs were actively engaged in the House of Commons debate and the Youth Select Committee and regionally through the young people’s Poverty Postcards campaign initiative they created a strengthened evidence base to bring the voice of young people directly into policy conversations.

Key stakeholders are brought together through Regional Youth Voice Network meetings to provide vital cross-sector collaboration through strong networks of local authorities and youth organisations.

This creates a platform to share resources and best practice, to review and respond to feedback and changing youth needs to promote youth engagement and to press for increased investment in youth services.

Despite challenges such as reduced funding, logistical barriers, and uneven representation, Youth Focus West Midlands has successfully sustained and advanced the UKYP program.

Through innovative strategies young people have been equipped with skills, platforms, and confidence to influence local and national policy.

Importantly, participation must be recognised in the wider context beyond the elected MYPs, ensuring broader inclusivity and valuing the contributions of all young people in the Midlands. The year has demonstrated that, even under constraints, youth voice remains a powerful driver of democratic engagement and policy change.

## West Midlands Combined Authority Area

The WMCA Area has had three strategic youth voice groups over the last few years covering the West Midlands Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Violence Reduction Partnership and the WMCA itself. YFWM is now working with these key stakeholders to develop a more joined up approach to Youth Voice across the WMCA area.

## Inspire

YFWM has also been working on a large international project on participatory democracy for the WMCA, being led by an Associate professor from the University of Birmingham, Juliette Foulkner has led YFWM's work to support young people's recruitment and safeguarding.

The project aims to work with young people to plan a legislative theatre process, supported by other creative methods, including the use of a digital participatory platform.

It provides an opportunity to help embed a more participatory culture in policymaking and strengthening inclusive participation of young people from diverse backgrounds.

With Dr Sonia Bussu leading the project, the University of Birmingham (UoB) partnered with Youth Focus West Midlands (YFWM) in January 2025 to deliver the Inspire project in the West Midlands.

Inspire is a project funded by the EU under Horizon Europe, and it involved 17 partners across Europe.

The aim is to strengthen democracy by developing inclusive approaches to participation that centre the lived experience of groups often marginalised in policymaking.

In the West Midlands, UoB and YFWM collaborated with the Young Combined Authority and institutional partners to recruit 15 young people (14-17 years old) from diverse backgrounds to influence policies on work experience and youth employment. The young people worked over several months with Legislative Theatre practitioners and UoB researchers to co-create a play representing their experience of navigating career choices and (lack of) support.

During two events, hosted with WMCA and Birmingham City Council, the young people co-created policy ideas to respond to the problems they experience, working with audiences of community members and policymakers.

The group produced a short film on the project which can be found on Youtube and all the policy proposals and commitments from policymakers can be found on the Inspire website.



### Dr Sonia Bussu – Inspire Project Leader, University of Birmingham

*“YFWM played a crucial role in development; they supported recruitment and provided safeguarding and pastoral care for the select 15 young people throughout the project, which in the West Midlands ends in September 2025. Their passion, commitment, professionalism and flexibility has been key to the success of this work. Ruth Rickman-Williams is also a member the Inspire Advisory Board and her expertise will continue to inform the wider project, which concludes in March 2027.”*



## Data / Impact Networks

YFWM was saddened to hear of the closure of the Centre for Youth Impact/ George Williams College in March 2025. YFWM has enjoyed a long and rich relationship with the centre for many years, with YFWM leading regional impact network meetings along with training and support for the sector more widely.

The national network of regional youth work units is now exploring with DCMS how this work and its legacy could be continued and maintained moving forwards.

### Ruth Rickman-Williams Chief Executive Officer

# Youth Focus West Midlands

*"Supporting Quality Work With Young People"*



Strategy



Collaboration



Training



Support



Information



Innovation

*"Young people should be at the forefront of global change and innovation. Empowered, they can be key agents for development and peace.*

*If, however, they are left on society's margins, all of us will be impoverished. Let us ensure that all young people have every opportunity to participate fully in the lives of their societies."*

Kofi Anan - Former UN Secretary-General

Charity# 1148687

Company# 8114745



**YOUTH FOCUS WEST MIDLANDS**  
**TRUSTEE'S FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**AND UNAUDITED STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

**Charity No.** 1148687  
**Company No.** 08114745

**YOUTH FOCUS WEST MIDLANDS**  
**LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**  
*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025*

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**Directors and Trustees**

The Directors of the charitable company are its Trustees for the purpose of charity law. The following Directors and Trustees served during the year:

K. Barnes  
J. Boagey  
P. Finnemore  
S. Gillings  
A. Grove

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Company No. 08114745**  
**Charity No. 1148687**

**Registered Office**

32 Ombersley Street West  
Droitwich  
WR9 8QZ

**Accountants**

KC Accountancy Services  
Youth & Community Centre  
High Street  
Llanfyllin  
Powys  
SY22 5DB

YOUTH FOCUS WEST MIDLANDS  
**Financial Report Contents**  
*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025*

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**CHAIR'S DECLARATION**

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

This financial report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime as set out in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 and in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102).

Signed on behalf of the board

P. Finnemore - Trustee  
23rd September 2025

**YOUTH FOCUS WEST MIDLANDS**  
**INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT**  
*FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025*

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I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Youth Focus West Midlands for the year ended 31 March 2025.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity's trustees of the company (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 your charity's financial statements as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the 2006 Act ; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements under section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the financial statements give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 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.

Kim Cleminson-Jones FMAAT  
KC Accountancy Services  
Youth & Community Centre  
High Street  
Llanfyllin  
Powys  
SY22 5DB  
23rd September 2025

**YOUTH FOCUS WEST MIDLANDS**  
**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 £
<b>Income and endowments</b>					
<b>from:</b>					
Charitable activities	4	90,584	47,667	138,251	117,355
Investments	5	2,926	-	2,926	1,743
<b>Total</b>		<b>93,510</b>	<b>47,667</b>	<b>141,177</b>	<b>119,098</b>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities	6	81,336	64,477	145,813	88,430
Other	7	313	-	313	347
<b>Total</b>		<b>81,649</b>	<b>64,477</b>	<b>146,126</b>	<b>88,777</b>
Net gains on investments		-	-	-	-
<b>Net (expenditure)/income</b>	8	<b>11,861</b>	<b>(16,810)</b>	<b>(4,949)</b>	<b>30,321</b>
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
<b>Net (expenditure)/income before other gains/(losses)</b>		<b>11,861</b>	<b>(16,810)</b>	<b>(4,949)</b>	<b>30,321</b>
<b>Other gains and losses</b>					
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>11,861</b>	<b>(16,810)</b>	<b>(4,949)</b>	<b>30,321</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>					
Total funds brought forward		122,446	84,237	206,683	176,362
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>		<b>134,307</b>	<b>67,427</b>	<b>201,734</b>	<b>206,683</b>

**YOUTH FOCUS WEST MIDLANDS****BALANCE SHEET**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

<b>Company No.</b>	<b>08114745</b>	<b>Notes</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
			<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>				
Tangible assets	10		2,815	3,128
			<u>2,815</u>	<u>3,128</u>
<b>Current assets</b>				
Debtors	11		22,190	76,781
Cash at bank and in hand			199,683	127,748
			<u>221,873</u>	<u>204,529</u>
<b>Creditors: Amount falling due within one year</b>	12		(22,954)	(974)
<b>Net current assets</b>			<u>198,919</u>	<u>203,555</u>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities</b>			<u>201,734</u>	<u>206,683</u>
<b>Net assets excluding pension asset or liability</b>			<u>201,734</u>	<u>206,683</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>			<u><u>201,734</u></u>	<u><u>206,683</u></u>
<b>The funds of the charity</b>				
<b>Restricted funds</b>	13			
Restricted income funds			67,427	84,237
			<u>67,427</u>	<u>84,237</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>	13			
General funds			134,307	122,446
			<u>134,307</u>	<u>122,446</u>
<b>Reserves</b>	13			
<b>Total funds</b>			<u><u>201,734</u></u>	<u><u>206,683</u></u>

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

For the year ended 31 March 2025 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

Approved by the board on 23rd September 2025

And signed on its behalf by:

P. Finnemore

Trustee

23rd September 2025

**1 Accounting policies**

**Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

**Change in basis of accounting or to previous accounts**

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and method of accounting) since last year and no changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds	These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.
Designated funds	These are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.
Revaluation funds	These are unrestricted funds which include a revaluation reserve representing the restatement of investment assets at their market values.
Restricted funds	These are available for use subject to restrictions imposed by the donor or through terms of an appeal.

**Income**

Recognition of income	Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to, and virtually certain to receive, the income and the amount of the income can be measured with sufficient reliability.
Income with related expenditure	Where income has related expenditure the income and related expenditure is reported gross in the SoFA.
Donations and legacies	Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in the the SoFA when receivable and only when the Charity has unconditional entitlement to the income.
Tax reclaims on donations and gifts	Income from tax reclaims is included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift/donation to which it relates.
Donated services and facilities	These are only included in income (with an equivalent amount in expenditure) where the benefit to the Charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material.
Volunteer help	The value of any volunteer help received is not included in the accounts.
Investment income	This is included in the accounts when receivable.
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	This includes any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.
Gains/(losses) on investment assets	This includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments.

## **Expenditure**

Recognition of expenditure	Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.
Expenditure on raising funds	These comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income, fundraising trading costs and investment management costs.
Expenditure on charitable activities	These comprise the costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services in the furtherance of its objects, including the making of grants and governance costs.
Grants payable	All grant expenditure is accounted for on an actual paid basis plus an accrual for grants that have been approved by the trustees at the end of the year but not yet paid.
Governance costs	These include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Charity, including any audit/independent examination fees, costs linked to the strategic management of the Charity, together with a share of other administration costs.
Other expenditure	These are support costs not allocated to a particular activity.

## **Taxation**

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

## **Tangible fixed assets and depreciation**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life:

Office Equipment	10% Reducing Balance
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## **Freehold investment property**

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value at each balance sheet date and are not depreciated. All gains or losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise.

## **Stocks**

Stock is included at the lower of cost or net realisable value. Donated items of stock are recognised at fair value which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay for the items on the open market.

## **Trade and other debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

## **Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and on hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the statement of financial position, bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings or current liabilities. In the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the company's cash management.

**Trade and other creditors**

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

**Research and development**

Expenditure on research and development is written off in the year in which it is incurred.

**Foreign currencies**

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in currencies other than the functional currency of the charity are translated at the rates of exchange prevailing at the end of the reporting period.

Transactions in currencies other than the functional currency of the charity are recorded at the rate of exchange on the date that the transaction occurred.

All exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at net income/expenditure.

**Leased assets**

Where the charity enters into a lease which entails taking substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset, the lease is treated as a finance lease.

Leases which do not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to charity are classified as operating leases.

Assets held under finance leases are initially recognised as assets of the charity at their fair value at the inception of the lease or, if lower, at the present value of the minimum lease payments. The corresponding liability to the lessor is included in the balance sheet date as a finance lease obligation. Lease payments are apportioned between finance expenses and reduction of the lease obligation so as to achieve a constant rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability. Finance expenses are recognised immediately, unless they are directly attributable to qualifying assets, in which case they are capitalised in accordance with the charity's policy on borrowing costs.

Assets held under finance leases are depreciated in the same way as owned assets.

Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term. In the event that lease incentives are received to enter into operating leases, such incentives are recognised as a liability. The aggregate benefit of incentives is recognised as a reduction of rental expense on a straight-line basis.

**Pension costs**

The charity operates a defined contribution plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the company pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the company has no further payments obligations. The contributions are recognised as expenses when they fall due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals in the balance sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the company in independently administered funds.

**Receipt of donated goods, facilities and services**

All donated goods, facilities and services received are recognised within incoming resources and expenditure at an estimate of the value to the charity.

## 2 Company status

The company is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital.

## 3 Statement of Financial Activities - prior year

	<b>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds 2024 £</b>	<b>Total funds 2024 £</b>
<b>Income and endowments from:</b>			
Charitable activities	50,778	66,577	117,355
Investments	1,743	-	1,743
<b>Total</b>	<u>52,521</u>	<u>66,577</u>	<u>119,098</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>			
Charitable activities	20,053	68,377	88,430
Other	347	-	347
<b>Total</b>	<u>20,400</u>	<u>68,377</u>	<u>88,777</u>
<b>Net income</b>	<u>32,121</u>	<u>(1,800)</u>	<u>30,321</u>
<b>Net income before other gains/(losses)</b>	<u>32,121</u>	<u>(1,800)</u>	<u>30,321</u>
<b>Other gains and losses:</b>			
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<u>32,121</u>	<u>(1,800)</u>	<u>30,321</u>
<b>Reconciliation of funds:</b>			
Total funds brought forward	90,325	86,037	176,362
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<u><u>122,446</u></u>	<u><u>84,237</u></u>	<u><u>206,683</u></u>

## 4 Income from charitable activities

	<b>Unrestricted £</b>	<b>Restricted £</b>	<b>Total 2025 £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>
Charitable income	90,585	47,667	138,252	117,355
	<u>90,585</u>	<u>47,667</u>	<u>138,252</u>	<u>117,355</u>

## 5 Income from investments

	<b>Unrestricted £</b>	<b>Total 2025 £</b>	<b>Total 2024 £</b>
Interest income	2,926	2,926	1,743
	<u>2,926</u>	<u>2,926</u>	<u>1,743</u>

**6 Expenditure on charitable activities**

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Restricted</b>	<b>Total 2025</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities</i>				
Staff costs	35,537	17,660	53,197	17,954
Project costs	38,504	46,817	85,321	68,932
Charitable support costs	7,295	-	7,295	1,544
<i>Governance costs</i>				
	<u>81,336</u>	<u>64,477</u>	<u>145,813</u>	<u>88,430</u>

**7 Other expenditure**

	<b>Unrestricted</b>	<b>Total 2025</b>	<b>Total 2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Amortisation, depreciation, impairment, profit/loss on disposal of fixed assets	313	313	347
	<u>313</u>	<u>313</u>	<u>347</u>

**8 Net (expenditure)/income before transfers**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	313	347
Independent Examiner's fee	1,260	-

**9 Staff costs**

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

The average monthly number of full time equivalent employees during the year was as follows:

	<b>2025 Number</b>	<b>2024 Number</b>
Administration & Support	2	1
CEO	1	1
	<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>
People's Pension		

## 10 Tangible fixed assets

	<b>Office Equipment</b>	<b>Total</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Cost or revaluation</b>		
At 1 April 2024	3,475	3,475
At 31 March 2025	<u>3,475</u>	<u>3,475</u>
<b>Depreciation and impairment</b>		
At 1 April 2024	347	347
Depreciation charge for the year	313	313
At 31 March 2025	<u>660</u>	<u>660</u>
<b>Net book values</b>		
At 31 March 2025	<u>2,815</u>	<u>2,815</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>3,128</u>	<u>3,128</u>
<b>11 Debtors</b>		
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade debtors	21,723	76,377
Prepayments and accrued income	467	404
	<u>22,190</u>	<u>76,781</u>
<b>12 Creditors:</b>		
amounts falling due within one year		
	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	115	-
Other taxes and social security	376	574
Other creditors	183	-
Accruals	22,280	400
	<u>22,954</u>	<u>974</u>

### 13 Movement in funds

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources (including other gains/losses ) £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2025 £
<b>Restricted funds:</b>				
<b>Restricted income funds:</b>				
Awards for All	6,179	-	(6,179)	-
NYA - Bursary Round 4	11,481	-	(11,481)	-
NYA - Bursary Round 5	66,577	-	(46,817)	19,760
NYA - Bursary Round 6	-	47,667	-	47,667
<i>Total</i>	<u>84,237</u>	<u>47,667</u>	<u>(64,477)</u>	<u>67,427</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds:</b>				
<b>General funds</b>				
	122,446	93,510	(81,649)	134,307
<b>Total funds</b>	<u><u>206,683</u></u>	<u><u>141,177</u></u>	<u><u>(146,126)</u></u>	<u><u>201,734</u></u>

Purposes and restrictions in relation to the funds:

Restricted funds:

Awards for All	National Lottery Community Fund grant supporting our Youth Voice work
NYA - Bursary Round 4	NYA grant allows YFWM to deliver funded places for Level 2 and 3 Youth Work qualifications in conjunction with our partners
NYA - Bursary Round 5	NYA grant allows YFWM to deliver funded places for Level 2 and 3 Youth Work qualifications in conjunction with our partners
NYA - Bursary Round 6	NYA grant allows YFWM to deliver funded places for Level 2 and 3 Youth Work qualifications in conjunction with our partners

### 14 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Fixed assets	2,815	-	2,815
Net current assets	221,406	(22,487)	198,919
	<u><u>224,221</u></u>	<u><u>(22,487)</u></u>	<u><u>201,734</u></u>

15 **Reconciliation of net debt**

	<b>At 1 April 2024</b>	<b>Cash flows</b>	<b>At 31 March 2025</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	127,748	71,935	199,683
	<u>127,748</u>	<u>71,935</u>	<u>199,683</u>
Net debt	<u>127,748</u>	<u>71,935</u>	<u>199,683</u>

16 **Related party disclosures**

		<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<i>Transactions with related parties</i>			
<i>Name of related party</i>	Cal Williams		
<i>Description of relationship between the parties</i>	Spouse of Ruth Rickman-Williams		
<i>Description of transaction and general amounts involved</i>	Payment to Cal for services provided to charity		
<i>Amount due from/(to) the related party</i>		-	(2,300)
<i>Controlling party</i>			

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital; thus no single party controls the company.

**STAFF / WORKSTREAM LEADS:**

**Ruth Rickman-Williams**  
*Chief Executive Officer*  
ruth@yfwm.org.uk

**Emma Boundford**  
*Business Support Officer*  
emmab@yfwm.org.uk

**Emma Keenan**  
*Training & Finance Administrator*  
emma@yfwm.org.uk

**Cal Williams**  
*Training Centre Coordinator*  
cal@yfwm.org.uk

**Aimee Sharpe**  
*Youth Voice Network*  
aimee@yfwm.org.uk

**TRUSTEES:**

**Paul Finnemore**

**Kerry Barnes**

**Amanda Groves**

**John Boagey**

**Simon Gillings**

**ASSOCIATES:**

**Ed Wright**  
*Lead Trainer/Assessor*

**Bradley Edmunds**  
*Lead Trainer/Assessor*

**REGISTERED OFFICE:**

32 Ombersley Street West  
Droitwich  
WR9 8QZ

[www.yfwm.org.uk](http://www.yfwm.org.uk)



**Charity# 1148687**

**Company# 8114745**

**YOUTH FOCUS WEST MIDLANDS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1148687

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# Accounts

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**Charity No.** 1148687  
**Company No.** 08114745

**YOUTH FOCUS WEST MIDLANDS**  
**TRUSTEE'S REPORT AND UNAUDITED STATEMENTS**  
FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024

**YOUTH FOCUS WEST MIDLANDS**  
**LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

*FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024*

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**Directors and Trustees**

The Directors of the charitable company are its Trustees for the purpose of charity law.

The following Directors and Trustees served during the year:

A. Grove

S. Gillings

P. Finnemore

J. Boagey

K. Barnes

**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

**Company No.** 08114745

**Charity No.** 1148687

**Registered Office**

32 Ombersley Street West

Droitwich

England

WR9 8QZ

**Independent Examiners**

KC Accountancy Services

Youth & Community Centre

High Street

Llanfyllin

SY22 5DB

**Trustees Annual Report**  
**Annual Accounts**

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**p 12-22**

### Foreword – Chair of the Board of Trustees

I write my contribution to this year's report with mixed of feelings.

On the one hand, there is positivity and optimism about the strong development and effective positioning of Youth Focus West Midlands (YFWM) – both regionally and nationally - as a key contributor to supporting and reshaping of Youth Work in an ever-changing environment. On the other hand, disappointment and sadness about the continued decimation of local authority youth services and the consequent pressure to do more for less inflicted on the voluntary and community sector.



Having experienced the decommissioning of a whole Youth Service in 2010, it was painful to learn this year of the plight of colleagues in Birmingham, where my Youth Service career began in the mid-'80s. Our thoughts have been with colleagues there, and others across the region, who have had to deal with the impact of this on their communities, organisations and themselves.

Nationally, there have also been significant changes, not least a new Government after 14 years. This could and should give rise to new opportunities to raise the profile of Youth Work: its unique place in the landscape of services crucial in supporting the personal development and wellbeing of young people. Unfortunately, the state of the economy means it is unlikely, at least in the short term, that the significant & badly needed reinvestment in our sector will be realised.

However, there is cause for optimism. YFWM has continued to develop & invest in building our organisational capacity to improve our service offering for the Youth Work sector. We have transformed our business practices and processes and have increased staff capacity in response to demand for our services - much to the relief of existing staff, I'm sure! I thank George Stroud and Emma Keenan for the invaluable contributions they have made to this.

We have a Board of Trustees, small in number, but strong in range of experience, knowledge and skills that they bring to the governance of the organisation. We have welcomed Amanda Grove as a new Board member this year and she has already contributed significantly, particularly around safeguarding. My thanks to all our Board members who give generously of their time and expertise.

As you will read in the detailed reports that follow, YFWM is playing a crucial role in improving the range of training opportunities for new Youth Workers and in ensuring that Young People are enabled to have their voices heard locally, regionally and nationally. Our Training Centre is thriving, exceeding our funders' targets. Our expertise in delivering, enabling and assessing quality course content, as well as outcomes for participants, is in great demand across our region and beyond. This is even more important as some traditional higher education routes to qualifications have been suspended.

Since the demise of the British Youth Council our coordination and support of Youth Voice work has become even more vital and is being ably led by Aimee Sharp. Media coverage of the situation in Birmingham showed Young People were enabled to clearly express the power and essential importance of Youth Work in helping them address issues that face.

I would like to thank all those who contribute in so many ways to the work of YFWM: our CEO Ruth, our core staff and Board members, our Associates who deliver training. Thanks also to our colleagues and partners across the region and nationally: the other regional youth work units, the West Midlands Combined Authority, West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, the NYA and government

departments such as the DCMS. Your support, which comes in many forms, is greatly valued and appreciated.

Whilst there will undoubtedly be difficult times ahead, I do believe that Youth Work will adapt, survive and is here to stay. I believe this because I know the incredible commitment of its vocational workforce and the massive impact that they make on young people's lives. Together, we will adapt and find new ways of working with and for Young People in the future. Youth Focus West Midlands exists to support that and to be a crucial bridge between the local, the regional and the national – we can be the eyes and ears and “boots on the ground” for those who need them to progress new initiatives.

I commend this report to you and wish everyone in the Youth Work sector the very best for the year ahead.

***Paul Finnemore***  
***Chair of Board of Trustees***

## Annual Overview- Chief Executive Officers Report



2023 - 2024 has been a significant year for YFWM both in terms of contract delivery and organisational development.

Amongst other substantial changes, we changed registered office and are now formally located with Young Solutions in Worcestershire. This decision was taken as a long-term result of the Birmingham City Council decision that The Factory was no longer available to serve this purpose.

In October 2023 we were awarded funding from DCMS for two years under their Regional Youth Infrastructure Support Fund. As the grant decision occurred late in the funding cycle, the first year's money needed to be spent by March 2024; 12 months funding in just 6 months. The intention was to invest in core business infrastructure, such that the organisation was sufficiently robust to take on significant programmes of work: this included moving core staff onto payroll with new contracts & developing systems and processes to allow sustainable delivery of core organisational functions with effective contract management. Huge thanks go to George Stroud, our Business Development Manager, who has led implementation of this work & delivered within tight timescales. In January we also welcomed Emma Keenan who joins us as Training and Finance Administrator – bringing our core team to a total of three.

The organisation is now in a strong place, but we recognise the fragile nature of funding and policy environments. We now need to build on these solid foundations such that that YFWM sustains its capacity to provide key infrastructure support for the Youth Work sector across the region. I would like to thank our Trustees for their invaluable voluntary work strategically steering the organisation and for underpinning the work of our staff.

The squeeze on Local Authority budgets has had a major impact with several Local Authorities across the region reporting significant concerns over their financial position and prospects, not least Birmingham City Council. The VCS is not immune either, seeing short-term funding streams, reduced contract values for demanding targets and the management of multiple funding streams with poorly aligned purposes.

As part of devolved powers to deliver change for local communities through local plans, this year saw the development of the West Midlands Combined Authority with a Violence Reduction Partnership covering the new authority area. As a result, the region now has a complex operational dynamic and funding environment as only 7 of the 14 regional authorities are included in the new Combined Authority area.

This combination of administrative changes and budget pressures places Youth Work in a volatile environment, with a real funding mix and range of delivery models. I am particularly saddened to see the loss of Birmingham Youth Service as we know it: a long-standing tradition of delivering quality youth work opportunities for Young People across the city ends. The coming year will also see the closure of the Youth Work related degree course at Newman University, with roots firmly embedded in Youth Work training, and a Birmingham-based history that goes back a long way.

What remains important is our primary focus: the needs of Young People, who continue to tell us they want safe spaces, with trusted adults, in local communities. I think it goes beyond just specific safe spaces for young people; I believe it's about safe communities for Young People to grow up in.

Youth Work and Youth Workers are not the only answer but - as a profession that moulds services around Young People's needs and other provision - they are a significant part of the picture that is currently 'missing' or at best patchy. As always, we face these challenges with commitment: as facilitators, negotiators and above all passionate advocates for the Young People who are our future. I look forward to continuing to work with our national partners and the Youth Work sector across the region to ensure that Youth Work is recognised, understood, and effectively & sustainably financed.

## **Our Workstreams**

### **1. BUSINESS TRANSFORMATION**

Over the past year, YFWM has undergone significant changes aimed at enhancing sustainability, streamlining operations, and better aligning our work with our strategic goals. Carried out at a furious pace due to the sudden injection of DCMS infrastructure funding in October, these changes have involved restructuring the staffing framework, revising business systems, and laying the groundwork for ongoing development.

This year we have focused on consolidating the existing staff structure, improving business systems, and increasing team capacity by hiring our Training & Finance Administrator. Aligning our accounting year with the DCMS funding cycle, recruiting new staff and revising freelance & bursary rates to reflect increased responsibilities & cost-of-living hikes, have been key steps in this consolidation process. We have also made essential investments in IT infrastructure and staff devices to enhance data security and compliance with regulations like GDPR.

To further professionalise our financial management, we have engaged an accountant and with their support have implemented Xero as our accounting software package. This shift will allow for quarterly financial monitoring, support payroll processes, and improve our overall financial transparency. Additionally, formal contracts and terms of employment were established with existing staff by December 2023, ensuring compliance with HMRC rules and supporting long-term organisational stability.

Another key shift was our first formal annual budget which was approved for the start of the new financial year. This will guide our planning and expenditure, providing a clear benchmark to measure financial performance and manage risks. With the necessary systems in place and responsibilities clearly defined, we are well-positioned to build on these foundations and scale our impact over the next three years. We believe these changes will allow us to better serve our community and achieve our long-term objectives.

## 2. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

YFWM continues to advocate clear pathways for Youth Work as a career.

We were saddened to hear of the closure of the Newman University degree course, leaving just one HEI provider for the Youth Work degree course in the West Midlands. Additionally, there are currently no regional for Level 3 or 6 Apprenticeships, although courses are available nationally. This creates challenges for individuals wishing to progress to qualification at Level 6. With NYA, we are working through the Education and Training Standards Committee to look at how this situation can be improved.



YFWM has now been a Skills Education Group (SEG) Approved Training Centre, delivering both Level 2 and 3 accredited qualifications in Youth Work, for six years. We have built a strong reputation and are recognised by the awarding body to be delivering a quality service. This was confirmed by feedback from our External Quality Assessor at Skills Education Group:

‘The standard of learners’ work seen today is very high. It is evident that learners have had a positive learning journey, & this is also reflected in the learner evaluation records seen today. Overall, a very positive EQA process of a strong centre providing learners with an excellent learning experience to enhance their Youth Work skills, knowledge and behaviours.’

### Training Centre

The capacity building programme, started last year, has borne fruit allowing us to deliver the following courses in-house to a total of 45 individuals:

Intake	Course	Location	Delivered by	Trainer	Registrations
Apr-23	Level 2 Award	Worcester	Cal Williams	Associate	14
Apr-23	Level 2 Award	Birmingham	Ed Wright	BAYC	12
Nov-23	Level 2 Award	Wolverhampton	Ed Wright	BAYC	10
Feb-24	Level 2 Award	Birmingham	Ed Wright	BAYC	9
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>45</b>

In addition, a total of six additional courses were registered through YFWM as Training Centre during the period, delivered by four external organisations. We now also provide IQA support to five other centres nationally, helping them embed strong standards for delivery and achievement outcomes for learners. This also provides additional earned income for the organisation, improving our financial stability.

### Bursary Management

The organisation has successfully managed the regional training bursaries programme for the last four years. We look forward to a further 12 months of managing this programme in partnership with the NYA.

During the fourth round of the scheme (BR4) we strengthened our partnership arrangements and fine-tuned the financial & administrative aspects of the bursary awards scheme. This allowed us this year to once again exceed our contract target of 59 awards - by 88%. Across the partnership we delivered slightly more accredited places in BR4 than in BR3, to a total of 111 individuals.

Qualification	Awarded
Level 2 Award	79
Level 3 Certificate Top-up	27
Level 3 Certificate	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>111</b>

Partner	Delivered
YFWM	41
Aptitude	39
SYA	31
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>111</b>



In particular, the higher proportion of Level 3 courses (29% in BR4, 12% BR3) undertaken during this cycle represents a maturing of the workforce, consolidating & building on earlier years' progress.

We are proud to report that - to date & with many learners' work towards qualifications ongoing - the West Midlands workforce has an additional 27 L2 Certifications & 12 L3 Certifications because of work carried out under Bursary Round 4.

### Capacity Building

We are pleased with the progress of our capacity building programme, working both in Birmingham with BAYC and Worcestershire with Young Solutions. These organisations are now able to deliver and assess Level 2 youth work programmes which we will extend to encompass Level 3 in the future. YFWM remains as the Accredited Centre - providing registration, administration, cloud systems and quality assurance - for the courses they deliver.

"The partnership between Birmingham Association of Youth Clubs (BAYC) and YFWM has resulted in an incredible 12 months. At the start of this period, BAYC was keen to deliver Youth Work training but lacked the means to make it a reality. YFWM supported us through their bursary scheme, helping BAYC get trained in assessment. They allowed us to shadow an existing Level 2 Youth Work course, which eventually enabled us to deliver three successful Level 2 courses independently. Throughout this time, YFWM provided regular supervision and external quality assurance, which helped us reach as many youth workers as possible across the Birmingham and Wolverhampton areas.

We are now actively recruiting for the next year of Level 2 Youth Work courses. Alongside this, YFWM continues to offer guidance and assistance, supporting us in assessing the learners who have completed the course, returning their assignments, and helping us to secure their Level 2 certificates."

***Ed Wright, Birmingham Association of Youth Clubs (BAYC)***

"I have been a Youth Work practitioner in Worcester for 9 years now. As one of the last to graduate from the Degree level youth and communities JNC studies in 2014 at Worcester University, it has been extremely worrying times for the future of *traditional* Youth Work and the gateway to Youth Work as a career in general. I have been able to witness many brilliant practices and organisations - all of which have brilliant training opportunities - but none based on Youth Work principles. I am so relieved YFWM have been able to offer this in Worcestershire over the last few years, which is now the only pathway to Youth Work studies in the locality. Many of my team throughout the years have faced barriers to local degree level courses (such as travel, money and family commitments!) so being able to offer this accessible course has been a real lifeline. In early 2024 I had the privilege to join as a trainer and to complete my TAQA Assessor course with YFWM.

I must be honest, *despite it being my career*, I have been overwhelmed and overjoyed by the number of trainees signing up and participating. Particularly sharing all the passion, commitment and learning for Young People in various ways. I think it is a special element that the training room can come together to share such sensitive, caring and selfless reflections.

So- thank you to YFWM for enabling this to continue to not only benefit its learners, but the thousands of Young People no-doubt reflecting on in Worcestershire too!"

***Bradley Edmunds, Pershore Riverside Centre***

We are also really pleased to have been able to work with Phil Pusey at SCVYS on the roll out of an Introduction to Youth Work course that signed up members of the Strategic Youth Leads Network are now able to deliver at a local level. Great piece of cross regional collaboration. Huge thanks to Phil for his generosity and commitment to cross regional working.

### **Associate Trainers & Continual Professional Development (CPD)**

The organisation has also begun to extend our CPD offer through Associate Trainers, such as Mike Collyer. Feedback from learners has been extremely positive and we are now looking to extend both the range of training sessions and our pool of trainers.

#### ***Feedback from Mike's CPD delivery:***

'The session was varied relevant and widened my understanding of youth work role and the condition of society and community.'

'I enjoyed the web activity which showed how everything is linked and the relationships within these communities with Young People.'

'Mike was very informative and taught us some valuable information around Youth Work and Safeguarding'

'It was an enjoyable session - I loved the way it was delivered. Able to listen to everyone's ideas, stories, and practices.'

'Mike's delivery is always ten out of ten.'

'Able to hear real life situations and discussion on oppression and group discussions. I will be using the session plan we created.'



### 3. LOCAL YOUTH PARTNERSHIPS/YOUTH OFFER

YFWM has been pleased to work in partnership with the Young People's Foundation Trust (YPFT). This relationship has enabled us to broker support from YPFT to local areas that are looking to build their local youth partnership including: Staffordshire, Solihull, Birmingham, Shropshire and Dudley.

#### ***A few words from YPFT CEO Justin:***

"We are passionate about people, partnership and place – and enabling local areas to support children and young people to thrive. This needs passionate expertise at a regional level, bridging gaps (locally, and from local to national), and helping to create the right conditions at a local level. It is hard work, takes time and commitment – and in the West Midlands this has been driven by the commitment and passion of Youth Focus West Midlands. There is growing appetite for local and regional connections across the region, and we are delighted to be working closely with our colleagues at YFWM to ensure that children and young people have the very best opportunities through collaboration"

These partnerships are also developing the Local Youth Offer across their areas. This has been strengthened through the long-awaited Statutory Guidance which was finally published in September 2023.

### 4. STRATEGIC YOUTH LEADS

Our Strategic Youth Leads Network brings together key individuals from across the region to discuss topics such as:

- putting policy into practice
- horizon scanning
- local developments
- sharing management and practice perspectives

Feedback from members of the network has been extremely positive with colleagues welcoming the opportunity to come together and share information, intelligence and learning. The network covers 12 of the 14 authority areas across the region.

### 5. YOUTH VOICE



YFWM is pleased to support Youth Voice across the region by bringing together key regional Youth Voice leads to share information and practice from across the range of Youth Voice programmes currently in delivery. This is in large part thanks to the efforts of our associate Aimee Sharpe.

#### **UK Youth Parliament**

Youth Focus West Midlands has supported the UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) program through a series of initiatives, events, and collaborations. The program focused on increasing youth engagement and participation

across the region while building partnerships to expand its reach.

Key activities included the UKYP Annual Conference in July 2023, which brought together young people and workers for workshops that strengthened debating skills and boosted participation in the UKYP manifesto.

An online youth conference in November further developed public speaking skills in preparation for a House of Commons debate, providing a platform for young people to advocate on important issues.

## Strategic Groups

Youth Focus West Midlands played an instrumental role in facilitating monthly online catchups and Regional Youth Voice Network meetings. These engagements fostered collaboration among regional workers and young people, while the monthly steering group meetings allowed youth voice leads to take on leadership roles in shaping the program, reinforcing the youth-led approach.

The strategic program has made considerable progress, particularly through the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) and the re-establishment of partnerships with Worcestershire, Northamptonshire, and the Derby Youth Alliance. These collaborations have strengthened regional networks and enhanced opportunities for youth participation, laying the groundwork for future growth and empowerment.

## Demise of the British Youth Council

Towards the end of the year, this 75-year-old charity announced insolvency, with their Chair admitting that: “Despite our best efforts, we have been unable to provide a sustainable future for the charity.” BYC was responsible for channelling DCMS funds for Youth Voice activity to regional units including YFWM – leaving us with an inherited funding gap. Thanks to a prompt agreement to repurpose funds awarded by the National Lottery Community Fund, we were able to successfully pivot and maintain activity levels until NYA took over the BYC role early in the next financial year.



## West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA)

The WMCA area has operated three strategic Youth Voice groups over the past few years: West Midlands Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Violence Reduction Partnership and the WMCA itself.

YFWM is now working with these key stakeholders to develop a joined-up approach to Youth Voice across the WMCA area.

We are also representing the WMCA on a large international project on participatory democracy, led by an associate professor from the University of Birmingham. It aims to work with Young People to create a legislative theatre process, supported by other creative methods, including a participatory digital platform. This provides an opportunity to embed participatory culture in policymaking and to strengthen inclusive participation of Young People from diverse backgrounds.

## #MyTomorrow campaign

We are working with the VRP who, with the Youth Assembly, have developed a West Midlands Violence Reduction Strategy (2023-2026) which helps professionals and communities understand the needs of Young People and the contribution they can make to ensure communities are safer.

#MyTomorrow sheds light on the realities of being young today, aiming to challenge stereotypes and showcase the diversity, strengths, and contributions of young people in the West Midlands. The campaign highlights opportunities and challenges, often unseen, in Young People’s lives, sparking conversations between young people and communities to build understanding that leads to collaborative, positive action.

## DATA/IMPACT

The Regional Impact Network, delivered in partnership with George Williams College/Centre for Youth Impact, continues to meet quarterly & has grown from 21 to 32 members during the period. The network brings together managers and practitioners from across the region to share insights into data, outcomes, evaluation, quality and impact.

### Healthy Data Ecosystems

This project has faced challenges throughout. There have been several changes in key personnel at George Williams College which have slowed progress on the programme of work. The project aims to support organisations in using some of the tools and measures produced by GWC that look at both Quality and ESL outcomes for young people. We hope that this project will, in time, feed into a regional intelligence hub that YFWM aspires to create to enhance understanding of the work in the Youth Sector across the West Midlands.

“Sandwell Youth Service embarked on a journey with the Data Ecosystems Project as part of our overall review of data systems and how we capture outcomes for young people. After a delayed start to the project, we were able to commit to trialling the Youth Engagement Survey (YES) and the Quality Practice Tool (QPT). The YES survey was completed with young people within our open access and targeted youth provisions. We are yet to complete the second survey, which will enable us to draw any conclusions regarding whether we have seen any significant improvement in young people’s social and emotional learning and development. Once we have been able to assess the full impact of this pilot, we will be able to decide whether this is a tool that we want to embed across the wider Youth Service.

The QPT, an observational tool to assess the relationship between practitioners and young people, and the environment created by practitioners, was completed in an open access setting at our Coneygre Arts Centre. Whilst we felt this tool may be useful in some settings, it didn’t work in this context as it only responds to what is observed during the timeframe of the observation and doesn’t take into consideration work that may have been undertaken prior. There were also limitations to the observations, as the session was busy, and having just one observer meant there were many missed opportunities to capture everything happening. In conclusion, we felt that our existing self-assessment and observation tool serves us better to quality assure our youth offer.”

***Tariq Karim, Sandwell Youth Service***

YOUTH FOCUS WEST MIDLANDS  
INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT

FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024

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I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Youth Focus West Midlands for the period ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the company (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 your charity's financial statements as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the 2006 Act ; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements under section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the financial statements give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- 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.

Kim Cleminson-Jones FMAAT  
KC Accountancy Services  
Room A027  
Youth & Community Centre  
High Street  
Llanfyllin  
SY22 5DB  
30 September 2024

YOUTH FOCUS WEST MIDLANDS  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES  
INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income and endowments from:					
Charitable activities	4	50,778	66,577	117,355	129,206
Investments	5	1,743	-	1,743	195
Total		52,521	66,577	119,098	129,401
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	6	20,053	68,377	88,430	95,294
Other	7	347	-	347	-
Total		20,400	68,377	88,777	95,294
Net gains on investments		-	-	-	-
Net income	8	32,121	(1,800)	30,321	34,107
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net income before other gains/(losses)		32,121	(1,800)	30,321	34,107
Other gains and losses					
Net movement in funds		32,121	(1,800)	30,321	34,107
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		90,325	86,037	176,362	142,255
Total funds carried forward		122,446	84,237	206,683	176,362

YOUTH FOCUS WEST MIDLANDS

BALANCE SHEET

FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024

Company No. 08114745	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	10	3,128	-
		<u>3,128</u>	<u>-</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	11	76,781	-
Cash at bank and in hand		127,748	176,362
		<u>204,529</u>	<u>176,362</u>
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	12	(974)	-
Net current assets		203,555	176,362
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>206,683</u>	<u>176,362</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset or liability		<u>206,683</u>	<u>176,362</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>206,683</u></u>	<u><u>176,362</u></u>
The funds of the charity			
Restricted funds	13		
Restricted income funds		84,237	86,037
		<u>84,237</u>	<u>86,037</u>
Unrestricted funds	13		
General funds		122,446	90,325
		<u>122,446</u>	<u>90,325</u>
Reserves	13		
Total funds		<u><u>206,683</u></u>	<u><u>176,362</u></u>

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

For the period ended 31 March 2024 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

Approved by the board on 30 September 2024

And signed on its behalf by:

P. Finemore  
Trustee



30 September 2024

## YOUTH FOCUS WEST MIDLANDS

### NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024

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#### 1 Accounting policies

##### Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

##### Change in basis of accounting or to previous accounts

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and method of accounting) since last year and no changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

##### Fund accounting

**Unrestricted funds** These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.

**Designated funds** These are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

**Revaluation funds** These are unrestricted funds which include a revaluation reserve representing the restatement of investment assets at their market values.

**Restricted funds** These are available for use subject to restrictions imposed by the donor or through terms of an appeal.

##### Income

**Recognition of income** Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to, and virtually certain to receive, the income and the amount of the income can be measured with sufficient reliability.

**Income with related expenditure** Where income has related expenditure the income and related expenditure is reported gross in the SoFA.

**Donations and legacies** Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in the the SoFA when receivable and only when the Charity has unconditional entitlement to the income.

**Tax reclaims on donations and gifts** Income from tax reclaims is included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift/donation to which it relates.

**Donated services and facilities** These are only included in income (with an equivalent amount in expenditure) where the benefit to the Charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material.

**Volunteer help** The value of any volunteer help received is not included in the accounts.

**Investment income** This is included in the accounts when receivable.

**Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets** This includes any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.

**Gains/(losses) on investment assets** This includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments.

## Expenditure

Recognition of expenditure	Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.
Expenditure on raising funds	These comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income, fundraising trading costs and investment management costs.
Expenditure on charitable activities	These comprise the costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services in the furtherance of its objects, including the making of grants and governance costs.
Grants payable	All grant expenditure is accounted for on an actual paid basis plus an accrual for grants that have been approved by the trustees at the end of the year but not yet paid.
Governance costs	These include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Charity, including any audit/independent examination fees, costs linked to the strategic management of the Charity, together with a share of other administration costs.
Other expenditure	These are support costs not allocated to a particular activity.

## Taxation

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

## Freehold investment property

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value at each balance sheet date and are not depreciated. All gains or losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise.

## Stocks

Stock is included at the lower of cost or net realisable value. Donated items of stock are recognised at fair value which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay for the items on the open market.

## Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

## Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and on hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the statement of financial position, bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings or current liabilities. In the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the company's cash management.

#### Trade and other creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

#### Research and development

Expenditure on research and development is written off in the year in which it is incurred.

#### Foreign currencies

Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in currencies other than the functional currency of the charity are translated at the rates of exchange prevailing at the end of the reporting period.

Transactions in currencies other than the functional currency of the charity are recorded at the rate of exchange on the date that the transaction occurred.

All exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at net income/expenditure.

#### Leased assets

Where the charity enters into a lease which entails taking substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset, the lease is treated as a finance lease.

Leases which do not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to charity are classified as operating leases.

Assets held under finance leases are initially recognised as assets of the charity at their fair value at the inception of the lease or, if lower, at the present value of the minimum lease payments. The corresponding liability to the lessor is included in the balance sheet date as a finance lease obligation. Lease payments are apportioned between finance expenses and reduction of the lease obligation so as to achieve a constant rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability. Finance expenses are recognised immediately, unless they are directly attributable to qualifying assets, in which case they are capitalised in accordance with the charity's policy on borrowing costs.

Assets held under finance leases are depreciated in the same way as owned assets.

Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term. In the event that lease incentives are received to enter into operating leases, such incentives are recognised as a liability. The aggregate benefit of incentives is recognised as a reduction of rental expense on a straight-line basis.

#### Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the company pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the company has no further payments obligations. The contributions are recognised as expenses when they fall due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals in the balance sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the company in independently administered funds.

#### Receipt of donated goods, facilities and services

All donated goods, facilities and services received are recognised within incoming resources and expenditure at an estimate of the value to the charity.

2 Company status

The company is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital.

3 Statement of Financial Activities - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Income and endowments from:			
Charitable activities	77,674	51,532	129,206
Investments	195	-	195
Total	<u>77,869</u>	<u>51,532</u>	<u>129,401</u>
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	95,294	-	95,294
Total	<u>95,294</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>95,294</u>
Net income	<u>(17,425)</u>	<u>51,532</u>	<u>34,107</u>
Net income before other gains/(losses)	(17,425)	51,532	34,107
Other gains and losses:			
Net movement in funds	<u>(17,425)</u>	<u>51,532</u>	<u>34,107</u>
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward	142,255	-	142,255
Total funds carried forward	<u><u>124,830</u></u>	<u><u>51,532</u></u>	<u><u>176,362</u></u>

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Charitable income	48,548	66,577	115,125	129,206
Membership Subscriptions	2,230	-	2,230	-
	<u>50,778</u>	<u>66,577</u>	<u>117,355</u>	<u>129,206</u>

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Interest income	1,743	1,743	195
	<u>1,743</u>	<u>1,743</u>	<u>195</u>

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities</i>				
Staff Costs	17,954	-	17,954	95,294
Project Costs	555	68,377	68,932	-
Charitable Support Costs	1,544	-	1,544	-
<i>Governance costs</i>				
	<u>20,053</u>	<u>68,377</u>	<u>88,430</u>	<u>95,294</u>

7 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Amortisation, depreciation, impairment, profit/loss on disposal of fixed assets	347	347	-
	<u>347</u>	<u>347</u>	<u>-</u>

8 Net income before transfers

	2024	2023
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	347	-
Independent Examiner's fee	1,260	-

9 Staff costs

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

The average monthly number of full time equivalent employees during the year was as follows:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Administration & Support	1	-
CEO	1	-
	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>
People's Pension		

10 Tangible fixed assets

	£	£
Cost or revaluation		
Additions	3,475	3,475
At 31 March 2024	<u>3,475</u>	<u>3,475</u>
Depreciation and impairment		
Depreciation charge for the year	347	347
At 31 March 2024	<u>347</u>	<u>347</u>
Net book values		
At 31 March 2024	<u>3,128</u>	<u>3,128</u>

11 Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	76,377	-
Prepayments and accrued income	404	-
	<u>76,781</u>	<u>-</u>

12 Creditors:

amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other taxes and social security	574	-
Accruals	400	-
	<u>974</u>	<u>-</u>

### 13 Movement in funds

	At 1 July 2023	Incoming resources (including other gains/losses)	Resources expended	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds:				
Restricted income funds:				
Awards for All	9,220	-	(3,041)	6,179
Bursary Round 4	76,817	-	(65,336)	11,481
Bursary Round 5	-	66,577	-	66,577
<i>Total</i>	<u>86,037</u>	<u>66,577</u>	<u>(68,377)</u>	<u>84,237</u>
Unrestricted funds:				
General funds	90,325	52,521	(20,400)	122,446
<b>Total funds</b>	<u><u>176,362</u></u>	<u><u>119,098</u></u>	<u><u>(88,777)</u></u>	<u><u>206,683</u></u>

#### Purposes and restrictions in relation to the funds:

##### Restricted funds:

Awards for All	National Lottery Community Fund grant supporting our Youth Voice work
Bursary Round 4	NYA grant allows YFWM to deliver funded places for Level 2 and 3 Youth Work qualifications in conjunction with our partners
Bursary Round 5	NYA grant allows YFWM to deliver funded places for Level 2 and 3 Youth Work qualifications in conjunction with our partners

### 14 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fixed assets	3,128	-	3,128
Net current assets	204,126	(570)	203,556
	<u>207,254</u>	<u>(570)</u>	<u>206,684</u>

### 15 Reconciliation of net debt

	At 1 July 2023	Cash flows	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£
Cash and cash equivalents	176,362	(48,614)	127,748
	<u>176,362</u>	<u>(48,614)</u>	<u>127,748</u>
Net debt	<u>176,362</u>	<u>(48,614)</u>	<u>127,748</u>

16 Related party disclosures

2024  
£

*Transactions with related parties*

*Name of related party* Cal Williams

*Description of relationship between the parties* Spouse of Ruth Rickman-Williams

*Description of transaction and general amounts involved* Payment to Cal for services provided to charity

*Amount due from/(to) the related party* (2,300)

*Controlling party*

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital; thus no single party controls the company.

**YOUTH FOCUS WEST MIDLANDS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1148687

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# Accounts

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# **Youth Focus West Midlands**

## **Annual Report**

**2022/23 June 2023**

**Charity Registration Number 1148687**

**Company Registration Number 8114745**

## **Contents**

- **Introduction**
- **Chair's Report**
- **Annual Overview**
- **CEO's Report**
- **Financial Report**

# Introduction

## Chair's Report

It is a great pleasure to contribute to my second report as Chair of Youth Focus West Midlands (YFWM) in such positive circumstances. Our organisation is probably in the healthiest position it has ever been in, and this should be welcomed and celebrated.

Challenges come with success, and the coming year will require us to continue to review and carefully manage our priorities, capacity, development needs and finances as we respond to growth in demand.

The environment for the youth sector is still very challenging and the wider issues for the national economy will continue to distract national and local government from prioritising policies and spending for youth work. In this context, it is even more important that advocacy and infrastructure support for organisations, practitioners and young people is visible and effective.

YFWM is an important bridge between national government, important agencies and training institutions and the regional and local youth sector. We are often the “glue” that bonds national initiatives to action on the ground in our region. We are building local capacity to recruit and train a new workforce of youth workers, helping to ensure young people get their voices heard, raising the profile of youth work by improving the evidencing of its

impact on young people's lives and playing a key role in strengthening the development and national influence of the network of youth work units in other regions.

My thanks go to everyone who has contributed to a successful year, especially to Ruth Rickman-Williams, whose commitment and creativity is the foundation of our growth and success and to our associates who support the work. Also, to all the members of the Board who are invaluable in bringing a diverse range of experience and skills to the organisation.

During the year we said goodbye to Rachel Edwards as a Board member and I want to record my thanks for her excellent contribution to our development, particularly in progressing the work on evidence and impact.

I look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Paul Finnemore

Chair

Youth Focus West Midlands

# Annual Overview

## Chief Executive Officer's Report

2022 – 2023 has been a positive year for YFWM. Post Covid we have now got a hybrid model of delivery established. This has worked well for us as a regional body. Online delivery has meant we have been able to engage a wide range of people in conversations and collaboration, across of range of strategic and delivery areas of the work. Face to face delivery has been a lot less and has been used where significant discussion and development time is needed.

It is good to see that Youth work is still clearly on the agenda and is being recognised more and more for the role it has to play in the lives of young people, which is good news, although we still have a long way to go.

We still await the review of the statutory guidance, which we have been waiting for, for over 4 years now. This is still promised and expected in the Autumn. We hope this will help further strengthen the role of youth work in the wider agenda for young people.

One of the significant challenges for the youth work sector is workforce. With the loss of a significant number of nationally qualified and experienced staff, and the loss of a number of qualifying courses at level 6 we are seeing increasing pressures in both recruitment and support for developing a workforce at levels 2 and 3. This shouldn't be underestimated. Despite these challenges we have seen the youth work sector across the region continue to rise to the challenges and deliver some amazing opportunities and programmes to a wide range of young people across the region. This should be recognised and celebrated.

The organisation continues to work closely with its regional colleagues through the national network of RYWU's and have good links and working relationships at a national level with a range of key organisations

YFWM has had a very positive year and has seen further growth and expansion. The Board are now actively engaged in reviewing the position of the organization, to ensure both investment in growth and development, alongside sustainability of the organisation. I am extremely grateful to them for their continued support.

As we look ahead YFWM will continue to consolidate its position as a key provider of infrastructure support for youth work across the West Midlands, and to look forward to working with partners (old and new)

### **Strategic Leads Network**

- The network has continued to meet online, providing an opportunity for members keep up to date on national and local developments.

The network covers 11 of the 14 local authority areas – Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Shropshire, (Telford) Staffordshire, (Stoke) Warwickshire, Solihull, Worcestershire, and Sandwell. The network sees leads from both voluntary and local authority sector services coming together to help support, inform and develop youth work across the region. This has proved particularly useful with regards to local delivery and strategic planning

- Intelligence gathering by local authority area

This year we have begun to gather information from the network areas. The first phase of this is now complete and work has begun on bringing this together. Capacity within the organization is a challenge and we are now looking to see how this can be increased

- Workshop for WM funders network

YFWM was invited to run a workshop for the WM funders network. This was a great opportunity for a sector wide conversation and although numbers weren't large it proved to be a very useful workshop. Thanks to Positive

Youth Foundation and Young People from Birmingham Youth City Board for working with us and providing some great first hand experiences of the challenges and opportunities

- Links to national bodies

YFWM continues to work closely with the other RYWU's through the national network. This provides the opportunity for engagement and influence at a national level particularly with DCMS, LGA, NYA, UK Youth, YPF Trust, National funders collective. RYWU's are now being recognised as providers of key infrastructure support for youth work at a regional level

### **Quality, Impact and Outcomes**

YFWM has continued to work closely with the Centre for Youth Impact, Now George Williams College, on a range of projects and programmes over the last 12 months

- Impact Network

The network runs quarterly meetings face to face providing an opportunity for workers and managers to come together to explore and share the work they are doing on quality, outcomes and impact. This has been supported by input from George Williams staff

- Impact project – data standard

The impact project brought together 6 organisations from across the region to look at the challenges of producing collective data. This proved to be quite a challenge not least of all being the use of different data platforms and different ways of counting. As a result of this we are hoping to look at the development of a very simple 1<sup>st</sup> stage of data capture that could be widely adopted across the region. This work aligns with work going on nationally and we hope to bring these 2 strands of work together

- Healthy data ecosystems

This project is still in its very early stages of recruitment to the project. The project will support organisations in using some of the tools and measures produced by George Williams to look at both Quality and SEL outcomes. There are 3 regions involved in the project. The project has the support of regional researchers who will both support the organisations involved but also help provide the learning across the 3 regions

- Aspiration for investment in the development of a regional intelligence hub

YFWM has the aspiration to develop increased capacity in this area of work, including the LA information gathering work that has been going on. We would like to see the development of a regional intelligence hub that can bring together a number of strands of work, data and intelligence as a resource for the sector in the region

## **Youth Voice**

- YFWM has continued to run a Strategic Youth Voice Group for the region involving BYC, WMOPCC, WMVRU, WMCS, WMCA and representatives from the strategic leads network. The aim of this group is to provide a strategic steer for where youth voice in the region should head, and to better align different streams of youth voice work. This work has been slowed down by the change in key personnel and gaps in staffing across some of these key organisations
- YFWM has also secured the continued contract for delivery the Midlands UKYP programme, supporting local authorities signed up to the UKYP programme across both East and West Midlands. We have held a couple of conventions bringing young people together from across the region.
- We continue working with BYC on a series of regional events, led by young people to include information sharing and training and collaborative working between young people and workers.

## Training / Workforce Development

YFWM has continued to run an Approved Training Centre, with Skills Education Group (SEG), to support youth work training across the region. The Training Centre has successfully delivered:

- Level 2 Award training in Herefordshire and Birmingham
- Level 2 Award training in Wolverhampton and Walsall (via an associate trainer)
- Level 3 Certificate top-up training in Wolverhampton and Walsall (via an associate trainer)

The established regional training network – funded in part by the NYA/DCMS bursary scheme, now in its 4<sup>th</sup> cycle (BR4) - continues to deliver further approved qualifications at both Level 2 and 3, ensuring good reach across the region. As the lead partner, YFWM takes responsibility for co-ordinating this delivery, contracting with delivery partners & ensuring full geographical coverage. During the 3<sup>rd</sup> bursary cycle (BR3 2022/23) 110 learners undertook accredited courses: 97 at Level 2 and 13 at Level 3. This represents a substantial up-skilling of the regional workforce.

Through this bursaries programme we have developed a capacity building model - with BAYC, who now have a member of staff qualified as an assessor - and also with a YFWM Associate. They have both since started their IQA training. Plans are also underway to deliver a similar capacity building model with Worcestershire.

YFWM has successfully recruited to a freelance Business Support post to help with bursary delivery and other Training Centre functions. This has freed CEO capacity for higher-level tasks and allowed for innovation: worksheets for Level 2 courses are now completed & assessed on-line thanks to a Google Classroom implementation. This allows for a quicker turnaround on assessment of completed work and enhances communication between learners and assessors outside of the face-to-face sessions.

Ruth Rickman-Williams

Chief Executive Officer

**Youth Focus West Midlands**  
**Income/expenditure 2022/2023 as at 30.6.2023**

**Opening Balance 1.7.22** **£142,255.29**

**Income**

SEG	£301.60
Youth Voice	£10,000.00
Bursaries	£80,414.71
George Williams	£13,530.00
IQA	£35.00
PHF	£5,000.00
A4A	£10,000.00
Subscriptions	£3,875.00
Consultation	£1,050.00
Young Solutions	£5,000.00
Interest	£194.71

**Total** **£129,401.02**

**Expenditure**

SEG	£1,751.60
Youth Voice	£5,751.21
Bursaries	£52,657.00
Staff	£29,972.57
Business Support	£3,922.50
IQA	£594.00
Insurance	£366.97
Bank Charges	£65.20
Zoom	£172.80
ICO	£40.00

**Total** **£95,293.85**

**Income over expenditure** **£34,107.17**

**Closing balance 30.6.2023** **£176,362.46**

**Restricted Funds**

Bursaries	£27,312.00
A4A	£9,220.00
Young Solutions	£5,000.00
Salaries	£10,000.00

Sub-total **£51,532.00**

**Available Balance** **£124,830.46**

For the year ending 30.6.23, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

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

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

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

**YOUTH FOCUS WEST MIDLANDS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1148687

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# Accounts

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# **Youth Focus West Midlands**

## **YFWM Annual Report**

**2021/22**

**June 2022**

**Charity Registration Number 1148687**

**Company Registration Number 8114745**



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# Introduction

## Chair's Report

This is my first report as Chair of Youth Focus West Midlands and it is a pleasure to do so with so much that is positive to reflect on.

Firstly, I want to pay tribute to two people who have contributed so much to the history and development of YFWM over its lifetime;

Brian Goredema-Braid, our most recent Chair, has been a strong advocate for youth work in the region for many years and his contribution in supporting our CEO and other Board members over the years has been invaluable. As a small organisation with just one key employee, the provision of accessible, reliable support and advice to our CEO is vital and Brian has done this loyally throughout his tenure as Chair.

Hugh Disley was instrumental in the creation of YFWM's predecessor the West Midlands Regional Youth Work Unit from the outset and has been an ever-present source of advocacy, creative enthusiasm and an extensive network and knowledge of the youth work sector. Hugh recently stepped down from the YFWM Board and it is only right that this report acknowledges his central role in the growth of YFWM. I speak for the whole Board when I offer my sincere thanks to both of these stalwarts of youth work and wish them well with the next phase of their adventures!

Along with the rest of the youth work sector, YFWM has emerged from the challenging pandemic period with much to be positive and optimistic about. Our key contribution to the regrowth of the sector's workforce through the capacity building, partnership approach of our training centre is bearing fruit and it is very encouraging to note the rising demand for the training of new and existing youth workers.

There is new-found (for some!) recognition of the role of youth work and there are green shoots of development at national, regional and local levels that should give us all optimism for the future.

YFWM is better positioned than ever to underpin the work of all those in the West Midlands who share our commitment to work with young people and plays a vital role in helping partners and colleagues to keep in touch with and benefit from the developments and opportunities that are increasingly likely to emerge.

The YFWM board has recently approved a five-year business plan that will serve to keep us on track and maintain our focus on the role and purpose of our organisation. We are clear that we won't just "chase the funding" and risk losing sight of where our organisation can make the most positive difference to our youth work sector. Individual board members now provide support to the CEO on specific workstreams and we are all committed to working hard to make sure that youth work is celebrated, valued and adequately funded across our region.

Finally, my thanks must go to the YFWM CEO, Ruth Rickman-Williams.

The healthy position that the organisation finds itself in and the positioning of YFWM as a respected partner on the regional and national youth work scene is largely due to her tenacity and commitment to youth work and the value of good infrastructure support to the sector. Given the recent challenges and the ever-fluctuating funding environment, many would have faltered or walked away but Ruth has been tireless in developing different ways of working and spotting and grasping new opportunities whilst maintaining her positive attitude throughout. I speak on behalf all YFWM Board members in expressing our gratitude to her.

Onwards and upwards - the future is bright !

Paul Finnemore

Chair

Youth Focus West Midlands

# Annual Overview

## Chief Executive Officer's Report

This has been a different year again. In June 2021 we were tentatively coming out of Covid lockdown for the first time and moving into a period of lingering uncertainty, affecting youth organisations, youth workers and young people themselves. As we now look across the region there have been some losses across the voluntary youth sector, although these don't seem to have impacted as first feared. There has also been some growth and investment in youth work within local authorities. With the lift of lockdown there has been a move back to face-to-face delivery across the region, although some aspects of online delivery have remained, so a hybrid model of delivery is emerging particularly in training delivery.

We still await the review of the statutory guidance, which we have been awaiting for over 12 months now. This is still promised but no clear dates/timeline have been set. The full Youth Investment Fund (YIF) is due to be launched in the Autumn and we are awaiting more details on this, although the Department for Digital, Culture Media & Sport (DCMS) have been in contact with Local Authorities to discuss potential allocations.

Youth work is still clearly on the agenda and is being recognised more and more for the role it has to play in the lives of young people, which is good news.

YFWM has had a very positive year and has seen some further growth and expansion. The Board are now engaged in reviewing the position of the organisation to ensure both growth and development, alongside sustainability of the organisation. I am extremely grateful to them for their continued support.

As we look ahead YFWM will continue to consolidate its position as a key provider of infrastructure support for youth work across the West Midlands, and to look forward to working with partners (old and new)

## **Strategic Leads Network**

- The network has continued to meet online, providing an opportunity for members keep up to date on national and local developments.

The network covers 12 of the 14 local authority areas – Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Stoke, Telford, Walsall, Warwickshire, Wolverhampton, Worcestershire, Sandwell. The network sees leads from both voluntary and local authority sector services coming together to help support, inform and develop youth work across the region. This has proved particularly useful with regards to local delivery and strategic planning

## **National Work**

- YFWM continues to work with the other ‘regional youth work units’ through the national Network of Regional Youth Work Units. The network now has units in all 9 of the regions in England.
- The network meets regularly in its own right, as well as meeting with a range of strategic partners – DCMS, Local Government Association (LGA), National Youth Agency, (NYA) UK Youth, Centre for Youth Impact (CfYI) , Young People's Foundation Trust (YPF). This allows us to both be involved in, and inform, national debates on youth work at a strategic level.
- YFWM is also working closely with NYA on the development of a workforce development strategy for the sector

## **Quality, Impact and Outcomes – Rachel Edwards**

- YFWM has continued to work closely with the Centre for Youth Impact and as part of this work also run a regional impact network that helps support the work going on at a strategic level, with regards impact and outcomes.
- There have also been developments on the data capture/systems for recording work and outcomes with young people. This group has met to share information on the various platforms that are currently being used. It is planned to develop this further looking at how we can now share data and learning with regards to young people's outcomes. This in turn will help inform 'telling good stories' and turning data into narrative.

## **Youth Voice – Josh Armitage**

- YFWM has established a Strategic Youth Voice Group for the region involving the British Youth Council (BYC), West Midlands Childrens' Services (WMCS), West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) and representatives from the strategic leads network. The aim of this group is to provide a strategic steer for where youth voice in the region should head, and to better align different streams of youth voice work
- YFWM has also secured the contract for delivery the Midlands UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) programme, supporting local authorities signed up to the UKYP programme across both East and West Midlands.

We have held our first convention bringing young people together for the first time since Covid-19 and are now in planning for the Annual Sitting in Hull at the end of July.

- We are working with BYC to secure funding for a series of regional events, led by young people to include information sharing and training and collaborative working between young people and workers.

## **Training / Workforce Development**

YFWM has continued to run an Approved Training Centre, with Skills & Education Group (SEG), formerly Awarding Body Consortium (ABC) Awards, to support youth work training across the region. We have successfully delivered a bespoke programme of management training for Warwickshire and Level 3 certificate top up for Young Solutions members.

Through the bursaries programme we have delivered a capacity building model with Birmingham Association of Youth Clubs (BAYC) who now have a member of staff enrolled on assessor training, along with a YFWM Associate. We have also recently completed delivering a level 2 award for Herefordshire.

Plans are also underway to deliver a capacity building model with Worcestershire.

The established regional training network continues to deliver further approved qualifications at both Level 2 and Level 3, ensuring good reach across the region

### **Worcestershire Mapping & Network Development Work – Cal Williams**

This has been an extensive piece of work for YFWM. Worcestershire is in the process of recommissioning its Positive Activities work. YFWM has supported Young Solutions to undertake a mapping exercise to identify where current provision for young people is available by district. The mapping has included a wide range of activity providers from across the voluntary sector. This mapping will help identify gaps in provision to help inform the re-commissioning process.

Alongside this, work is now underway bringing providers together at district and county level to strengthen local networks able to support commissioning and delivery of Positive Activities.

Ruth Rickman-Williams

Chief Executive Officer

**Youth Focus West Midlands  
Income/expenditure 2021/2022 as at 30.6 2022**

Opening balance 1.7.21 **£116,050.59**

**Income**

CfYI	£13,600.00
Bespoke support	£25,950.00
IQA	£1,830.00
Subscriptions	£3,175.00
Bursaries	£68,905.00
Bursaries mgt	£6,890.00
Paul Hamlyn	£5,000.00
Training Delivery	£2,090.00
RYWU's Event	£242.00
Interest	£5.43

**Total £127,687.43**

**Expenditure**

Salaries & Expenses	£46,726.50
Bursaries	£49,185.00
IQA	£1,845.00
AQA	£400.00
SEG	£1,834.00
Insurance	£339.50
ICO	£40.00
Bank charges	£39.10
RYWU's event	£113.63
Assessor training	£960.00

**TOTAL £101,482.73**

Income over Expenditure **£26,204.70**

Closing balance **£142,255.29**

*Restricted Funds*

<i>Bursaries (ring fenced)</i>	<i>£45,441.00</i>
<i>Bespoke support (ring fenced)</i>	<i>£17,550</i>
<i>Sub-total</i>	<i>£62,991.00</i>

YFWM available balance **£79,264.29**

For the year ending 30.6.22, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

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

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

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

**YOUTH FOCUS WEST MIDLANDS**

England & Wales - Charity number 1148687

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# Accounts

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# **Youth Focus West Midlands**

## **Annual Report 20/21**

**June 2021**

**Charity Registration Number 1148687  
Company Registration Number 8114745**

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# Introduction

## Chair's Report

Youth Focus West Midlands continues to work with its regional colleagues to support the development and delivery of high quality youth work opportunities for young people across the West Midlands region. Despite the impact of COVID-19, YFWM has worked online to encourage, promote and support both individual practitioners and organisations that look to develop and deliver youth work across the West Midlands region. YFWM continues through online opportunities to strive to develop clear communication routes and networks that complement a consistent understanding and approach to youth work.

The fundamental principle of YFWM is in ensuring that young people are offered personal development experiences regardless of where they live in the West Midlands region. There is no doubt that online opportunities have helped to maintain this important development.

YFWM continues holds a clear footprint for quality youth work in the West Midlands with limited resources. The future developments and initiatives of working with young people are beginning to take place. We are looking forward to seeing YFWM begin to grow as an organisation in readiness for whenever the national youth work agenda takes on a higher profile.

This is a considerable achievement when we recognise where YFWM has come from over the past 10 years. Those early days when we often wondered if there would be enough funds and support from the region to survive. Thankfully those days are far behind us now as YFWM continues to thrive.

I will have been the Chair of YFWM for 3 years. As I announced at the previous Board Meeting, I have decided to step down as Chair of the organisation. I do believe that it is essential at this stage of YFWM's development that a new and younger Chair who is more in tune with current youth work practice is required to take the organisation forward. This should be seen as a positive development for YFWM and the exciting opportunities for future progressive youth work.

I would like to thank the Chief Executive Officer Ruth Rickman-Williams for all of her work and in keeping YFWM active during a very difficult period and for her invaluable support to me as Chair

Brian Goredama-Braid  
Chair

# Annual Overview

## Chief Executive Officer

A quite different year for YFWM: In June 2020 we were just coming out of the first lockdown. The year that followed saw the country go in and out of lockdowns so all of YFWM's work moved online., which although proving a bit of a challenge at the start, has now become the main way YFWM delivers its work. This has had a positive impact as we have seen far greater attendance at meetings and events, due to the decrease in travel time for people. This is something we will now look to continue, using face to face meetings for more developmental pieces of work and discussion.

### Strategic leads network

- The network has continued to meet online, providing an opportunity for members to share return and recovery plans throughout the various changes to lockdown as well as keep up to date on national and local developments. The network covers 12 of the 14 local authority areas – Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Shropshire, Staffordshire, Stoke, Telford, Walsall, Warwickshire, Wolverhampton, Worcestershire, Sandwell. The network sees leads from both voluntary and local authority sector services coming together to help support, inform and develop youth work across the region. This has proved particularly useful with regards to the current readiness and recovery mode as we move towards the final stage of the Government's 'roadmap'.

### National Work

- YFWM has continued to work closely with the NYA on national developments, including the National Youth Sector Audit, and is delighted to have received core funding to help support the main infrastructure work of YFWM.
- The organisation is now working closely with other 'regional youth work units' through the Network of Regional Youth Work Units. The network website has been redeveloped and we have seen the establishment of a new unit in the South East, with work progressing in the East/East Midlands. This will see units in all 9 of the regions in England.

## Quality, Impact and Outcomes

- YFWM has continued to work closely with the Centre for Youth Impact (CfYI) and as part of this work also run an impact network that helps support the work going on at a strategic level, with regards impact and outcomes.
- This year we supported the development of a West Midlands regional hub for the Youth Programme Quality Intervention (YPQI) supporting Social and Emotional learning with young people.
- There have also been developments on the data capture/systems for recording work and outcomes with young people. This group is due to report back shortly and it is hoped there will be an event in October to share findings and developments.
- YFWM are also supporting the peer learning element of the Enterprise Development Programme (youth strand) with a focus on those developing their offer to schools.
- We are delighted that Rachel Edwards, one of our trustees is now going to help lead this area of work and help establish an annual calendar of events, training and meetings

## Youth Voice

- YFWM has established a Strategic Youth Voice Group for the region involving BYC, WMOPCC, WMVRU, WMCS, WMCA and representatives from the strategic leads network.
- We are delighted to welcome Josh Armitage from SCVYS, who is working for us a few hours a week, to help strengthen the information and communications element of this work. The sharing of information is proving really useful, and an area we want to grow.
- We have also established a sub-group focusing on developing training for young people in youth voice. To further support this YFWM are seeking to become an AQA approved provider, which Josh is leading on.

## Training/Workforce Development

- YFWM has continued to run an Approved Training Centre, with ABC Awards, to support youth work training across the region. We have successfully delivered a bespoke programme of training Coventry Youth partnership and Level 2 Award for Young Solutions members. We have also established a regional training network, through which we have delivered further approved qualifications at both Level 2 and 3.  
The network has so far delivered 68 places at levels 2 and 3, with more places to allocate in September.

So, despite the onset of COVID-19 we have not only continued to deliver, we have also managed to develop, including increasing our 'reserves', which we are delighted with. It's not that long ago that the organisation was down to its last £10,000 in the bank. This puts YFWM in a much stronger position to support and inform the development and delivery of youth work across the West Midlands as we go into 2021/2022.

Over the coming months YFWM needs to continue to build its financial base in order that it can become more sustainable. Trustees are keen to engage with members, funders and strategic partners to explore possibilities and options for the organisation moving forward.

Ruth Rickman-Williams  
Chief Executive Officer

# Finance

## Youth Focus West Midlands

Income / Expenditure 2020/2021 as at 30.6.2021

Opening balance 1.7.20 £47,487.91

### Expenditure

Salaries + expenses	£15,000
Insurance	£ 325.14
ABC Awards	£ 1,209.40
Bursaries	£24,895.60
Youth Voice	£ 4,300
<b>Sub Total – Expenditure</b>	<b>£45,730.14</b>

### Income

Subscriptions	£ 4,150
Member support	£ 9,000
CfYI	£ 10,300
Paul Hamlyn	£ 600
NYA	£ 25,440
IQA	£ 3,400
Bursaries	£ 59,400
Loneliness project	£ 2,000
Interest	£ 2.82
<b>Sub Total - Income</b>	<b>£114,292.82</b>
<b>Closing balance as at 30.6.20</b>	<b>£116,050.59</b>
<b>Commitments:</b>	
<i>Bursary balance</i>	<i>£45,587.40</i>
<i>Pending 'salary' claims</i>	<i>£3,612.60</i>
<b>YFWM available balance</b>	<b>£66,850.59</b>

For the year ending 30.6.21, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

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

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

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