



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Covering the period from
1st May 2022 to 30th April 2023

**Children &
Young People Now
Awards 2023**

Winner

THE YOUTH WORK AWARD

**Children &
Young People Now
Awards 2023**

Winner

THE ADVICE AND GUIDANCE AWARD

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'You are amazing. I'll forever be grateful and will support the charity forever.'

(Young Dad)

CONTENTS

FOREWORD By The Right Reverend Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham	02
CHAIR'S REPORT By Professor Anna Tarrant	03
CEO'S REPORT By Kevin Stoodley	04
OUR IMPACT By Doug Laidlaw	05
MEET THE TEAM	06
SUPPORTING YOUNG DADS: A CASE STUDY By Doug Laidlaw & Steven (A young Dad)	06
TEEN DADS By Doug Laidlaw	07
EVALUATING THE TEEN DADS PROJECT By Dr Michael J Richardson	07
DIGIDAD: FROM PETERLEE TO PERU By Kevin Stoodley	08
AN EVALUATION OF DIGIDAD: A PIONEERING DIGITAL EDUCATION AND SUPPORT OFFER FOR YOUNG FATHERS By Professor Anna Tarrant & Dr Izram Chaudry	09
GAMING TOGETHER By Will Patterson, Robert Oughton & Nathan Noble	09
A STANDING OVATION: FATHER UNKNOWN By Kevin Stoodley	10
FIRST AID FATHERS By Kevin Stoodley	11
BEES ON THE BALTIC & BEES IN THE BOROUGH By Tom Jamieson and Jordan Pike	11
STORY GATHERING AND SYSTEM BARRIERS INQUIRY By Will Patterson and Dr Richard Gibbons	12
AMBASSADADS ASSEMBLE! By Dr Linzi Ladlow & Robert Oughton	12
DAD2DAD PEER SUPPORT By Will Patterson & Andy Appleyard	13
DAD2DAD PEER SUPPORT YEAR 1 INDEPENDENT EVALUATION By Dr Linzi Ladlow & Professor Anna Tarrant	14
WHEELIE GOOD DADS By Nathan Noble	15
DAD2DAD PERINATAL HEALTH PROJECT By Jan Rigby & Robert Oughton	16
KEEP ON RUNNING By Jonah York	17
DURHAM DADS By Andy Appleyard and Nathan Noble with Colin Cowings and Robert Oughton	17
SUPPORT FOR YOUNG DADS THROUGH FAMILY HUBS By Kevin Stoodley	18
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	19

FOREWORD

By The Right Reverend Paul Butler, Bishop of Durham

Children need their Dads. Dads, especially young ones, need guidance and support in knowing how best they can be a full part of caring for their partner and their baby / child. So, reading the wide range of ways in which North East Young Dads and Lads (NEYDL) offer such guidance and support is inspiring and encouraging.

The value of this work is seen very clearly in the way that it has steadily grown and developed over the years since it started. The breadth of resources, always backed up by the irreplaceable need for person-to-person contact, is impressive. Quite rightly the place of peer-to-peer support is growing. There will always be an important role for the support and advice of older Dads and Grandads, but it is also key that young Dads and Lads have someone of their own age and experience to share with them. Intergenerational support will always be the strongest support.

It is also extremely good to see careful and thoughtful evaluations of the work being undertaken. The insights and skills that researchers can bring not only ensure that the work is achieving what it seeks to do, but also offers insights into how further improvements and developments can be found. As the demand for the services offered grows it will be important for NEYDL to always hold on to the very best and develop fresh ways of support.

It is an honour to write this Foreword. Congratulations on the work undertaken – and keep pressing forward because Children need their Dads. Dads will always need guidance and support.



'I don't think I'd be at the stage I am now without North East Young Lads and Dads.'

(Young Dad)

"According to my research a good Chair of Trustees is altruistic, has a good sense of humour, empowers others, and is friendly and humble."

(Professor Anna Tarrant)



CHAIR'S REPORT

By Professor Anna Tarrant

It is an absolute honour to introduce the North East Young Dads and Lads' 2023 Annual Report in my brand-new capacity as the Chair of Trustees. As a starter for ten, please permit me to provide a brief overview of how I came to take on this role. I first became acquainted with the charity in 2017 and then again in 2020 in my capacity as a researcher, initially at the University of Leeds and now the University of Lincoln. I have been researching the lives of men in low-income families for a long time now, including a strand of work with young fathers and have always been interested in capturing the pioneering work of services that are involved in supporting fathers and families to flourish. My research team (Following Young Fathers Further) and I approached the charity in 2020 having seen CEO Kev talk about the pioneering work of the North East Young Dads and Lads on the BBC and it was clear that our interests and agendas for supporting young fathers in innovative ways aligned. In a research capacity, we worked to support some of NEYDL's young dads to conduct peer research as part of the Diverse Dads study. We co-wrote two research reports and a peer reviewed journal article with the dads as the Diverse Dads Collaborative and demonstrated the capacity of young dads to challenge negative stereotypes about themselves and others by contributing new knowledge and by changing the narrative. I later joined the Board of Trustees in 2022, bringing my research experience into the conversations of the board.

When Steven Bramwell announced he was stepping down as Chair of Trustees, I made the decision to take the step up; to support Kev and the NEYDL team with their ambitions for this thriving charity, to work with the Board of Trustees to support Kev and his strategic vision, and to sustain the ethos and ambitions of the charity. And what big shoes I must fill! According to my research a good Chair of Trustees is altruistic, has a good sense of humour, empowers others, and is friendly and humble. I'd like to think I epitomise all of those things (sense of humour included!) but certainly our outgoing Chair Steven is all these things in spades. It is therefore my aim to bring these qualities and a comparable level of passion, drive, and enthusiasm to the role as Steven did.



As the items in this year's report demonstrate, the anticipated trajectory of growth and innovation that was described in the 2022 report, has been realised and some! It has certainly been another fantastic and progressive year as promised! The charity continues to attract significant grant funding and is supporting an ever-expanding portfolio of young fathers, not just across the North East and Tyne and Wear region, but also nationally and even internationally. The community beekeeping, and Wheelie Good Dads projects have gone from strength to strength and via the DigiDAD platform, the charity is reaching new and increasingly distant destinations, from the depths of Wales to the far flung reaches of Peru. Testament to the increasing visibility and recognition of the charity and its work on DigiDAD, the charity was shortlisted in the category of Charity of the Year in the prestigious Children and Young People Now Awards 2022 and a further 2 categories in 2023 (Advice and Guidance and Youth Work categories). At the point of publication I'm pleased to report that we won in both categories in 2023. This is a huge honour and testament to the rising visibility and impact of the charity, and its work with and for young fathers.

As the year 2023 unfolds, I wish to say a huge thank you to the young dads, to the Board, to the consultants, the funders, and the ever-expanding staff team at NEYDL for everything that you do. Thanks also to Kev, for your tireless commitment to the dads and to the charity as it develops and as it grows in its reach and influence. I look forward to working with you all in the year ahead.

Anna Tarrant

Professor Anna Tarrant

(Chair of Trustees since 11th July 2023 and Vice Chair from 7th July 2022 to 11th July 2023)



UK Research
and Innovation

'They (NEYDL) were in our corner every single step of the way.'

(Young Dad)

'Congratulations on your 6th anniversary, the traditional gift for which is iron. May you continue to have the strength of girders and the elegance of the wrought iron gates of a palace.'

(Neil Shashoua, Manager, Lloyds Bank Foundation)



CEO's Report

By Kevin Stoodley

Dear Friend,

A very warm welcome to this, our sixth Annual Report, covering the charity's endeavours and achievements over a 12-month period from May 2022 to April 2023.

Like the best laid plans of mice and men, every year I endeavour to release a short and snappy Annual Report as soon as the charity's year ends, only to lose myself in the wealth of rich, varied and wonderful stories, quotes and imagery shared by our incredible staff, trustees, volunteers and project partners, resulting in a burning desire to showcase this work in all its glory, even if it does mean adding yet another page or four to the final report. In the words of Roy Scheider (Chief Brody) during his first encounter with the oversized and rubberised Great White Shark in the movie Jaws, 'you're gonna need a bigger boat!' Or in our case a bigger printer!

I know I say this every year but 2023 really has been our best year ever, reaching and supporting more young dads, expectant fathers and non-birthing people (any young person who identifies as a father figure including kinship carers) than ever before, across a geographic area which now extends from Tyne and Wear to Tees Valley, and that's without mentioning the tens of thousands of people who access our online films, animations, podcasts and course content made by young dads for young dads and showcased on DigiDAD.

Whilst there are many things about NEYDL's work in 2023 deserving of high praise as detailed in this wonderful report, I believe our defining achievement this year has been to support, empower and enable young dads to progress from the position of service beneficiaries into one or more of the many volunteering opportunities we offer, from peer researchers to community cycling group leaders, community beekeepers and bee-entrepreneurs to DigiDAD content co-creators and expert advisors, AmbassaDADS to trustees. For young dads Rob, Nathan, Will and Jordan, this journey has ultimately led to their employment at NEYDL, taking on new, vital, and valued roles as Peer Enablers and Cycling Group Leaders who other young dads naturally gravitate towards, trust, and look up to as positive male role models as the following feedback from 2 young dads perfectly demonstrates:

'The service (NEYDL) and Rob himself (NEYDL staff member) have been amazing and I am so grateful for the support I have received. You have helped me adapt and become the Father I want to be.'

'I feel involved and more confident around people who's in the group. I'm much happier and I start loving it, cause whenever Doug or Will (NEYDL staff members) say oh we're doing a group session this date, then I get excited about it cause I always want to hang out with them. Because they're, like, really nice people...and if I need help, they come and talk to me. If I need help on something then they just step on the pedal and then talk to us and help me, like, you know, calm the stress, or get much confidence. I really look up to Will in the group because I appreciate what he, like he helped me through since I came into the group. I feel appreciative for him.'

Rest assured, as a strength/asset-based community development service, we are fully committed to supporting ever more young dads to grow in confidence, skills, knowledge and expertise as both parents and valued members of society, and I look forward to a day not too far away when a former service beneficiary of NEYDL is sitting in my seat (and doing a far better job of it I don't doubt).

Although it's been a good year for NEYDL, it has been incredibly challenging and desperate for many of the young families we support, who often live in the most deprived North East neighbourhoods and are thus most starkly affected by the cost-of-living crisis, poor housing, homelessness, limited job and career prospects. In addition, young men continue to report high levels of social isolation and loneliness and poor mental health (including suicidal thoughts, depression, social anxiety, loss and bereavement). We will continue to do everything within our powers and capacity to draw attention to the challenges and inequalities facing this long-neglected community whilst providing meaningful support to young dads whenever and wherever it's needed, in close collaboration with our service partners which next year will include Sunderland, Gateshead, County Durham and Middlesbrough Family Hubs.

The incredible work and achievements celebrated in this report would not have been possible without the generosity, support and encouragement shown by our amazing funders, sponsors and organisational partners, and the determination, skills and expertise shown by of our super talented current staff team - the brilliant Doug, Will, Jordan, Robert, Andy, Colin, Nathan, Tom, Amy and Nikki, our departing staff members Jonah York, Andrew Thorp and Dylan Brown, our volunteers, trustees, project consultants and of course young dads and their families. It is because of you that we look forward to another highly productive and successful seventh year supporting young dads.

Before I sign off, can I please take a moment to thank our departing Chair Steven Bramwell, who recently stepped down after 6 years in office, having expertly steered the charity from its infancy as a little known and part-time Gateshead based service to the Peruvian powerhouse it has become (see article entitled DIGIDAD: From Peterlee to Peru). We couldn't have got here without you Steven! A very warm welcome is also due to our incoming Chair Professor Anna Tarrant - we are in safe hands!

I will end this Introduction with an unexpected message we recently received from the parent of a young dad supported by NEYDL which moved me deeply:

'You have done more than you'll ever know for my son and grandson.'

Best wishes.

Kevin Stoodley (Founder and CEO)



'I know I say this every year but 2023 really has been our best year ever, reaching and supporting more young dads.'

(Kevin Stoodley)

OUR IMPACT

(Covering the period from 1st May 2022 to 30th April 2023)

REASON FOR REFERRAL	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	INDIVIDUAL CONTACT TIME (HRS)	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Young father / expectant dad	105	68	63	46	61	Dads and Toddlers groups	32	12	0	106	44
Non birthing people	10	4	2	1	1	1:1 support (face to face)	850	408	440	350	306
TOTAL:	115	72	65	47	62	1:1 support (telephone & social media)	572	234	450	140	92
ENGAGEMENT BY YOUNG MEN						Joint meetings with other professionals	350	460	250	190	119
New referral	48	25	33	25	53	Peer supported group work	480	202	850	959	912
Ongoing support	67	47	32	22	9	Training delivered to professionals	150	51	40	56	101
TOTAL:	115	72	65	47	62	Research activities	400	451	254	134	420
LOCALITY						Campaigning, media, and film-work	350	257	428	142	238
Sunderland	34	23	26	22	19	Community beekeeping	268	196	131	250	98
Gateshead	20	26	32	20	31	Peer mentoring & volunteering	2,625	1,491	280	230	216
South Tyneside	9	6	6	2	5	Other activities	50	17	20	36	0
Newcastle upon Tyne	57	7	1	3	7	TOTAL:	6,127	3,779	3,143	2,593	2,546
North Tyneside	14	3	0	0	0	AVERAGE INDIVIDUAL CONTACT TIME (HRS)	53	52.5	48	55	41
Durham	15	6	0	0	0	Key outcomes					
Northumberland	0	1	0	0	0	Child Protection Plans downgraded or completed	22	18	9	5	8
Middlesbrough	18	0	0	0	0	Child-In-Need plans downgraded or completed	9	10	3	3	4
TOTAL:	115	72	65	47	62	Progressed into full time work or study	18	9	10	5	8
YOUNG MEN LIVING IN AREAS OF HIGHEST DEPRIVATION (Based on IMD2019)						Accessed specialist medical help and support	45	15	2	5	5
10% most deprived areas	115	71	Not previously recorded			TOTAL:	94	52	24	18	25
Other	0	1	Not previously recorded			SOCIAL MEDIA METRICS					
TOTAL	115	72				YouTube Channel – launched 6th April 2021					
AGE AT ENTRY POINT						Views:	30,598	12,400			
Under 16	16	4	8	4	5	Watch time (hours):	1,049	903			
16-18	28	18	8	28	21	Organic subscribers:	106	80			
19-25	71	50	49	15	31	Impressions:	97,700	41,600			
Not given	0	0	0	0	5	Gender demographics:					
TOTAL:	115	72	65	47	62	Male:	56.5%	58.2%			
REFERRAL PATHWAY						Female:	43.5%	41.8%			
Youth work charities	10	8	11	11	16	Age demographics					
Social services	23	21	18	11	7	18-24:	30.9%	33%			
Early Help Teams	10	3	0	1	1	25-34:	44.3%	40%			
Family Nurse Partnership	18	18	16	17	17	35-44:	19.1%	19.4%			
Self-Referrals	5	6	5	4	14	44+:	5.7%	7.6%			
School & Education	8	1	2	1	2	TWITTER					
Housing	6	8	4	2	4	Followers:	1,152	887			
Health	25	6	0	0	0	FACEBOOK					
Criminal Justice	0	1	0	0	0	Followers:	806	624			
Other	10	0	9	0	1	Likes:	684	549			
TOTAL:	115	72	65	47	62	Average reach per post:	8,000	209			
INDIVIDUAL HELP RECEIVED						DIGIDAD E-LEARNING PLATFORM					
Child Protection proceedings	30	24	23	12	27	Registered users:	110	43			
Child/Team around the family	10	1	1	3	7						
Family law proceedings	5	5	5	0	8						
NEET status	30	17	14	13	27						
Career progression	15	11	5	4	8						
Housing, homelessness & benefits	25	16	9	4	8						
Completing essential paperwork	30	16	13	5	19						
Poverty & debt management	55	9	17	10	12						
Domestic abuse	15	21	12	7	21						
Offending behaviour	25	6	16	3	10						
Mental & emotional wellbeing	45	23	30	26	31						
Substance misuse & addiction	15	7	8	6	12						
Sexual health	18	5	3	5	2						
Other physical health conditions	10	6	4	4	6						
Learning difficulties	10	3	8	5	8						
Social isolation and loneliness	101	72	60	47	51						
Parenting skills	50	35	34	20	46						
Relationship skills	40	23	27	24	25						
Bereavement & loss	15	8	4	6	8						
Volunteering*	105	74	3	8	25						
School exclusion	8	6	5	3	2						
TOTAL:	657	388	301	215	363						

*This figure represents the total number of young men who volunteered at NEYDL over a 12-month period

'It has certainly been another fantastic and progressive year as promised!'

(Professor Anna Tarrant)

'All my mates knew about NEYDL already. Not just those that are dads, but lads, young men in general. It's just something that people know about and respect.'

(Young Dad)

MEET THE TEAM



Andy Appleyard
(Senior Young Dads Worker)



Amy Bowman
(Financial Officer)



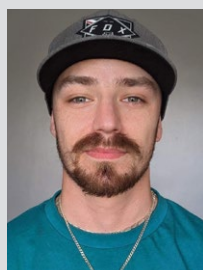
Colin Cowings
(Young Dads Worker)



Tom Jamieson
(Community Beekeeper)



Doug Laidlaw
(Programmes Manager)



Nathan Noble
(Cycling Coordinator and Peer Enabler)



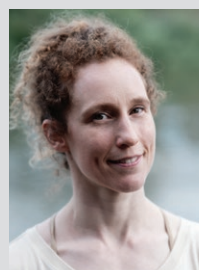
Robert Oughton
(Peer Enabler)



William Patterson
(Peer Enabler)



Jordan Richardson
(Peer Enabler)



Nikki Rummer
(Fundraiser)



Kevin Stoodley
(Founder and CEO)

SUPPORTING YOUNG DADS: A CASE STUDY

By Doug Laidlaw & Steven (A young Dad)

Steven was referred to the service at 16. At the time he was in a relationship with the future mother of his child (age 15). Both Steven and his partner had previously been cared for by the local authority and were living together. The referral for support for Steven came from the Pre-Birth Intervention Team who identified support needs around parenting skills and reduction in social isolation. Steven and his partner were not in education, employment or training at the time.

Doug (NEYDL staff member) met with Steven to discuss the service at the family home. Steven asked if his partner could also attend part of this meeting to understand what support he could get. After discussing support and showcasing DigiDAD, Steven was keen to access this resource. Steven registered on the DigiDAD platform at our first meeting.

Steven and Doug agreed a work plan and met weekly. Steven completed the DigiDAD programme. Feedback from Steven included:

'The videos were fun and made me feel more confident that I can do all the things new dads need to do.' Steven reported that his partner had also been watching the videos.

As Steven grew in confidence, he started engaging in NEYDL's peer supported group work offer including football, cycling, bowling, Escape Room visits and go-karting. In response, he has formed close friendships with other young dads from NEYDL and joined their video gaming group.

As the pregnancy progressed, Steven called Doug and informed him that his partner had gone into labour prematurely and was rushed into hospital. Doug offered emotional support to Steven via telephone.

Following the birth, Steven contacted Doug to inform him that the baby had to go into hospital in Middlesbrough. Steven didn't know how he could make the 30-mile journey from home to visit his child. Doug supported Steven to make these visits and stayed with Steven during the initial visits to offer emotional support.

After baby was transferred to the RVI Children's Hospital, Doug continued to provide visitation support for a further 6 weeks. With Doug's support Steven grew more comfortable and confident in caring for his baby within the hospital setting and one day announced:

'Doug I've got this!'

Steven also started to ask the hospital staff questions concerning both his baby's care and what support his partner and the baby would need when they came home.

Doug and the Pre-Birth Team worked with the family to develop a support plan for when baby came home.

Steven continues to be supported by NEYDL and dad, mam and baby are doing well.

Unsolicited feedback from Steven included:

'You were the only one I could ask for help, and you were always there for me.'



'The videos (DigiDAD) were fun and made me feel more confident that I can do all the things new dads need to do.'

(A Young Dad)

'Hey Doug, hope all is well...I wanted to say a massive thank you! When I was living up north, honestly if it wasn't for you, I know genuinely I would have committed suicide...You was the only person who never judge me...You truly are an amazing person! An amazing dad and I never grew up with a dad myself, but you are what dads should inspire to be!'

(Young Dad)

TEEN DADS

By Doug Laidlaw

Thanks to a 3-year continuation grant from BBC Children in Need, the Teen Dads Project remains a vital part of our service offer in support of young men aged 19 and under in Tyne & Wear and Tees Valley. This is reflected by the marked increase in total young dads supported in both Middlesbrough (rising from 0 in 2022 to 18 in 2023) and Newcastle upon Tyne (rising from 7 in 2022 to 57 in 2023) over a 12-month period.

Bespoke and intensive 1:1 support is still at the core of our service offer to teen dads. In addition to help and support to understand, attend and contribute positively to complex and emotionally challenging proceedings (including children's social care, family mediation and private family court meetings), over the last year I have seen an increase in teen dads reporting poor mental health including anxiety, depression, and low mood. My support for these dads has included help to register with and access support via GP's and talking therapies.

All the teen dads we have supported are now registered on and actively using our DigiDAD e-learning platform, which demonstrates their willingness to improve their parenting knowledge and skills to be the best dads they can be for their children. I have also continued to work closely with maternal and paternal families including grandparents and the mother of the child(ren) so that a 'whole family' support approach is taken to ensure the best possible outcomes for all involved with the child(ren).

Peer supported group work and learning opportunities are also a key feature of the Teen Dads Project, and this year has been no different, with teen dads supported to attend Stay and Play sessions with their children, family outings, go-karting, gym sessions and bike rides. In addition, I have supported teen dads to become AmbassaDADS as part of the charity's Regional Young Dads Council.

It has been a joy and a privilege to work with so many amazing teenage dads who have often overcome significant adversity to play an active, attentive, and loving part in their children's lives and I deeply look forward to another great year in their company.



EVALUATING THE TEEN DADS PROJECT

By Dr Michael J Richardson

I was asked to independently evaluate the final two years of North East Young Dads and Lads (NEYDL's) Teen Dads Project (Year 2 covering June 2020 – July 2021 and Year 3 covering July 2021 – June 2022), funded by BBC Children in Need. Dominating the timeframe of this project were the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the effects this has had on the ability for NEYDL to conduct their work during these times. I have continued to work with NEYDL in the months since the evaluation window had closed, through an Innovation and Knowledge Exchange Sabbatical (between September 2022 and February 2023) at Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art (supported by the School of Geography, Politics and Sociology and the Humanities and Social Sciences Faculty at Newcastle University). This has given me unique insight to the legacies of the Teen Dads Project, especially through the development of the Regional Young Dads Council and the emergence of the AmbassaDADS (see article entitled AmbassaDADS Assemble!).



Readers of this annual report will know that at entry point to NEYDL, teen dads and expectant dads are often identified as socially isolated and severely marginalised. That they often lack access to professional parenting support due to their age and gender, experience social isolation from their immediate peer group and a loss of friendship networks often follows, due to changes in their circumstances. As a result, young dads often reported poor mental health, which is exacerbated by the lack of available support services. The different sections of this Annual Report are testament to the outstanding work NEYDL does to redress the balance.

Throughout my time working with NEYDL I have always been impressed by the 'revolving door' policy that enables young men to return time and again for help, assistance, and friendship. Some young men who were service beneficiaries at the beginning of my working relationship with NEYDL, were absent for a period of time and then made a return when it suited them. This return was for different reasons, and what is impressive about the work of NEYDL is their lifelong commitment to supporting young dads. Some of these 'young' men are no longer teens. Some are no longer even classed as 'young men' at all (i.e., they are over the age of 25). However, due to the continued working relationships, NEYDL now has a better and longer standing knowledge of the difficulties facing young men who are fathers across different life course stages.

Key learning points from this work are as follows:

1. The value of a flexible support offer (being responsive to participants' needs and not assuming any particular method of communication will be desired).
2. There is a clear need for early intervention (due to the isolating factors brought about by young fatherhood).
3. The value of DigiDAD as an online resource.
4. Continued value placed on face-to-face contact (running concurrently alongside the increased demand for digital resources).



'Honestly, without the support from the guys here (NEYDL) I don't want to know where I probably would've ended up.'

(Young Dad)

'I've been working with a dad, supporting his confidence around parenting. I had attended a webinar of DigiDAD...and provided the information to a North East Dad I was working with. The Dad provided some feedback to me which I feel you should know. He said, "he had really enjoyed the DigiDAD parenting course". He sent me two certificates, appeared really proud of achieving them, which supported raising his confidence around parenting...He said, "the courses were amazing!" Thanks, and thought you needed to be aware of the lovely, positive feedback you've been given.'

(Senior Resource Worker, Middlesbrough Council)

DIGIDAD: FROM PETERLEE TO PERU

By Kevin Stoodley

A year or so on from the well-attended and indeed internationally attended launch of the DigiDAD platform (February 2022), and I'm pleased to report that DigiDAD is still going strong, attracting a whopping 30,598 YouTube viewers (compared to 12,400 in year 1), viewing times in excess of 1,049 hours and a 110 registered users who have successfully completed e-learning courses via www.digidad.uk. Moreover, contrary to our wildest imaginings, DigiDAD – a platform co-created with 86 local young dads (and counting) who have recorded over 1,100 volunteering hours whilst gaining employability skills (including scriptwriting, storyboarding, acting, presenting, research and film making, social marketing and digital youth work) is attracting a diverse geographic audience with representation across the UK (including Northern Ireland, Scotland, South East London, Coventry and Wales) and further afield, including USA, Indonesia, Ukraine and Lima, Peru. 'Way aye Peru!'

Building on the 35 short films, animations, podcasts and e-learning courses we co-created with young dads in preparation for the launch of DigiDAD, the platform's content has grown significantly in the past year with the addition of the following series developed in partnership with Cumbria Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust, Following Young Fathers Further (The University of Lincoln), first aid consultant Carole Hewison and our 16 strong DigiDAD Advisory Board (with expertise in infant feeding, perinatal mental health and psychology, LGBTQIA+ community support, Family Law, Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting, Social Work, Youth Work and last but by no means least, lived experience of young fatherhood):

- 6-part Paediatric First Aid
- 6-part Perinatal Mental Health
- 6-part Perinatal Parenting

We have also developed a 3-part film series on behalf of the Fatherhood Institute to support social workers to understand the challenges faced by young fathers in families where children have social care involvement, have collaborated with FutureMen to showcase DigiDAD content on their pioneering parenting app and are putting the finishing touches to a 3-part infant feeding series and revised 0-6 month parenting course in line with changes to best practice, all of which will be made freely available on the new look DigiDAD website to be launched in early 2024.



In addition to content made specifically for young dads by young dads, our regional young dads council members (AmbassaDADS) have peer researched and co-created a father inclusive toolkit for professionals (Think Dad!) accessed via DigiDAD and featuring extensive links to new films and recorded interviews with expert stakeholders. Moreover, DigiDAD is extremely proud to be the chosen host platform of a pre-recording of 'Father Unknown', a play inspired by and co-created with young dads from NEYDL (see article entitled A Standing Ovation: Father Unknown).



NEYDL has also worked closely with Keda Consulting to create a comprehensive development plan to enable the platform to achieve the following vision and outcomes:

The vision for DigiDAD is to become the leading platform providing young dads with a community and a comprehensive early years (age 0-2) parenting and relationship skills programme using multiple formats, which is externally recognised.

DigiDAD aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- Young dads have improved knowledge because of completing e-courses and watching videos on DigiDAD. The learning outcomes will be course-specific, within the content topic areas.
- More minoritised young dads engage with NEYDL through our digital channels.
- Young dads have improved peer-relationships and reduced isolation (through Video Gaming and Discord features).

In addition, young dads from NEYDL have worked closely with Research Software Engineer Dr Mike Simpson (Newcastle University) to create a technical specification to upscale our current peer and professionally moderated video gaming channel (see article entitled Gaming Together).

At the time of publication, I'm pleased to report that DigiDAD did the unthinkable, taking home winners awards in two categories at the prestigious **Children and Young People Now Awards 2023** held in London (Advice and Guidance and Youth Work). Recognition if it was needed of the platform's trailblazing approach to supporting and empowering young fathers to be the best dads they can possibly be.

DigiDAD! Made by young dads for young dads from Peterlee to Peru!



'I follow the work of NEYDL from a distance, and am a fan of the organisation.'

(Gateshead Councillor and Cabinet Member)

'We were watching the (DigiDAD) videos together not too long ago and it was quite funny, and then obviously I had a bit reminder of the examples and the answers of things, like what the things obviously you can do, or you can't do. And I still watch them still, just obviously to get reminded.'

(Young Dad)

AN EVALUATION OF DIGIDAD: A PIONEERING DIGITAL EDUCATION AND SUPPORT OFFER FOR YOUNG FATHERS

By Professor Anna Tarrant & Dr Izram Chaudry

DigiDAD was launched officially in 2022 but was established during the pandemic when there were curbs on meeting and providing support face to face for young fathers and aspects of support were shifted online. Towards the end of 2022, before Anna was appointed as Chair of Trustees at NEYDL, Dr Izram Chaudry (The University of Bradford) and Professor Anna Tarrant (The University of Lincoln) conducted an independent evaluation of this pioneering new e-learning education and support platform that has been developed with and for young fathers.

The evaluation confirmed that just one year following its inception, DigiDAD has huge potential for supporting young fathers to develop their knowledge and skills in relation to parenting. Evidence generated further demonstrated that it is already meeting its primary objectives, namely, to ensure that:

1. More young fathers have the confidence, skills, and opportunities to be a positive presence in their children's lives.
2. Statutory services recognise and value the role of young fathers, and that,
3. The stigma of being a young father is reduced.

Findings show that young father users of DigiDAD value its accessibility and creativity and that through interaction with the content they felt supported to develop their confidence around their parenting skills with increased knowledge. The young fathers at NEYDL who have been involved in the content creation have also benefitted from gaining new skills, engaging in knowledge exchange processes with professionals and later securing employment. The platform is beginning to feature more professionals and is available to them to refer to young fathers.

The evaluation process also highlighted the value of showcasing the capabilities of young fathers, in turn changing the narrative about young fatherhood in order to reduce stigma. The co-creation methodology that underpins the process for creating content also showcases the skills and strengths of young fathers engaged with the North East Young Dads and Lads and ensures that the content combines lived experience with the evidence-base.

In terms of future growth for the platform, the evaluation process supported the following recommendations:

- The retention of the co-creation process and partnership work between young fathers, experts and specialists to ensure further quality outputs,
- Increasing the visibility of DigiDAD through more effective marketing and referrals from professionals to a wider cohort of young fathers,
- Maintaining its USP and local/regional identity as the platform grows, balanced alongside visuals presenting diverse experiences and identities of fatherhood,
- Relatedly, developing all content so that it is as inclusive as possible, and
- Monitoring the use of the platform longer term to evidence its reach and impact.

These recommendations are being taken forward by the charity as it seeks to fund and support further co-creation work and content development for the site. DigiDAD is a really exciting digital offer created by young fathers for young fathers, with great potential to reshape the support landscape for young fathers around the world.

A link to the final evaluation report is provided here:

<https://fyff.co.uk/files/0bd83ad6e931e5eae8115a97e23a915cd6962dd7.pdf>



GAMING TOGETHER

By Will Patterson, Robert Oughton & Nathan Noble

As discussed in our 2021 Annual Report, NEYDL has always been impressed by the potential of online video gaming to bring young dads together and strengthen peer relationships outside of facilitated group work activities, so much so that with the support of our funders (BBC Children in Need and The National Lottery Community Fund) we invested in a gaming pc and purchased gift vouchers as tournament prizes to support closed-group video gaming competitions. In addition, we have purchased and distributed gaming headsets and controllers to support engagement by young dads living in poverty.



Using 'Discord' (a software familiar and accessible to most of the dads we support which allows users to chat in real time as they play), we currently deliver video gaming sessions every Monday and Friday evening to up to 13 young dads living in Durham, Gateshead, Sunderland, and Newcastle.

The gaming group is a big success for the charity, helping young dads to open-up about their difficulties, talk to NEYDL staff and young dads and form lasting friendships. Some of the dads who game with us suffer from social anxiety and have previously turned down invitations to meet other young dads face to face, but since we started

the gaming group they've now started to meet up in person with and without NEYDL's support.

Some of the ways young dads are benefitting from the video gaming group are presented below, in their own words:

'I'm happier sitting in the house and gaming than going out drinking and stuff. It stops you from getting into trouble.'

'When you're gaming, people are more confident to talk about stuff.'

'I was brought up by the most manly man. He'd go to the pub, get pissed, get in a fight, and come home. That's just what he did. But that's not me. I don't want to be like that. Gaming's my gateway. It's how I vent.'

'It's a community. You start talking about the game and then end up getting into a conversation about anything and everything.'

'Your brain goes left. You don't think about your problems. You think about the game. You think about the enemies you're fighting and stuff. It's like mindfulness.'

Funded and supported by Following Young Fathers Further at The University of Lincoln, we recently commissioned Research Software Engineer Dr Mike Simpson, Newcastle University, to work with our young dads to develop a technical specification for upscaling the video gaming project to support a regional audience of young dads, with consideration to GDPR compliance, accessibility, functionality, and safeguarding. At the time of publication, we are seeking additional grant funding to implement this technical specification and support more young dads through video gaming.

Watch this space!



'The (DigiDAD) courses...they helped me very much and I got more active and got more, like, very comfortable with what I'm doing as a dad.'

(Young Dad)

'The play (Father Unknown) represented young dads exactly how life is for us, and Ryan (actor) couldn't have done a better job at acting. It was great. Maybe it will open people's eyes about young dads and the struggles.'

(Young Dad)

A STANDING OVATION: FATHER UNKNOWN

By Kevin Stoodley

On a balmy summer's evening in 2023, I was lucky enough to be in the audience for the first performance of *Father Unknown*, a funny, honest, and powerful exploration of young fatherhood majestically portrayed by rising North East star of stage and screen Ryan Noble (most recently appearing in the BBC comedy drama series *Power of Parker*) at Durham's Gala Theatre.

In *Father Unknown*, Ryan plays the role of Alfie, a 16-year-old Gateshead lad who discovers he's going to be a young dad during his GCSE exams. Over the course of the next hour, Ryan takes us on a rollercoaster ride as Alfie tries to navigate the complexities of young fatherhood, from 'breadwinner' expectations to exam pressures, maternal family interference and gatekeeping, to misunderstanding and misjudgement.

And whilst it's fair to say that Alfie does drop a few major dangers along the way (who hasn't?) and probably wouldn't be everyone's choice for 'father of the year', he is unrelenting in his desire to play an active, loving and meaningful role in his son's life, like so many of the young men we are lucky enough to meet and support every day here at NEYDL.

In a deeply moving scene towards the end of the play, we are invited to watch Alfie just being a dad to his child, a cherished experience for young Alfie which offers both hope and yet fragility, due to factors that are largely out of his control.

The play closes with anonymous and authentic voice recordings made by the eloquent young dads supported by NEYDL, recollecting how they felt when they first heard they were going to be a dad, their first encounter with their new-born and what fatherhood means to them now. It's fair to say that you could hear a pin drop in the theatre at this moment, as it suddenly dawned on the uninitiated members of the audience that Alfie's story was not a work of escapist fiction, but an accurate portrayal of the very real challenges and barriers sadly faced by so many young dads both in our region and beyond.

Following an extended and rapturous standing ovation (a reaction repeated during sold out performances at Northern Stage over the next 2 days), I had the pleasure to hang out with a group of NEYDL's first ever service beneficiaries (the 'Founding Fathers' as they are lovingly known here at NEYDL), who had travelled from Durham, Gateshead, and Wales to see the play. We laughed, talked, and spun stories well into the night, covering many subjects including their children and families, new relationships, career changes, studies (one of the dads is now studying marine biology at university) and memories of the Wednesday night young dads group in Gateshead they had all attended for several years at the start of their fatherhood journeys, at a similar age to young Alfie in the play.

Whilst none of their fatherhood journeys have been easy, and more challenges lie ahead for at least one of the dads in trying to maintain regular contact with his non-resident child, their love for their children and commitment to the role of father and parent was just as strong as it was on the first day we met. But unlike Alfie, thanks to the connections they had made through NEYDL (none of the dads in question had ever met another young dad before they joined us), these guys have each other, through thick and thin! Not a bad legacy for a 'small but vital charity' such as ours.

Father Unknown was directed by the brilliant Jonah York (formerly a NEYDL staff member), produced by Jonah and the equally brilliant Dr Michael J Richardson (former trustee of NEYDL and current volunteer beekeeper), and written by Jonah, Michael, Elijah Young, Steve Byron, and members of the charity's young dads council (AmbassaDADS), following extensive research involving young dads supported by NEYDL.

A prerecording of *Father Unknown* is freely available to view only on NEYDL's flagship DigiDAD website <https://www.digidad.uk/father-unknown/>



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'There was a load of anxiety building up to being a first-time dad at such a young age.'

(Young Dad)

'I am a dad! I am not babysitting my own kids! I am parenting!'

(Young Dad)

FIRST AID FATHERS

By Kevin Stoodley

Since the earliest days of the charity, NEYDL has committed to supporting young dads to gain the skills, knowledge and confidence necessary to play a safe, active and meaningful role in their children's lives. As part of this support, we have committed to providing Paediatric First Aid skills training to young dads on a regular basis and this year has been no different.



Thanks to an unexpected and most welcome donor support grant from Robson Laidler Accountants supported by County Durham Community Foundation, we have recently supported thirteen young dads from County Durham to attend and

complete certified First Aid at Work and Paediatric First Aid courses in conjunction with first aid trainer and long-term collaborator Carole Hewison, with two further courses for young dads scheduled to take place in November and December 2023.

Both courses delivered this year have been well received by young dads and expectant fathers, providing new opportunities for young dads to meet their peers whilst practicing essential first aid skills including CPR, applying bandages and yes, eating pizzas!

In addition to our face to face first aid training, this year NEYDL committed to co-creating an online paediatric first aid course and film series for our DigiDAD website, supported by final year grant funding from The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. Expertly presented by young dads Robert and Jordan and featuring other young men and dads who have attended our first aid training courses, this 6-part course covers essential first aid themes including emergency readiness, prioritising treatment, head-to-toe checks, choking, CPR, minor injuries and illness. It is now available to watch and complete (along with quizzes, downloadable handy hints, and certification) on the DigiDAD website (www.digidad.uk).

A massive congratulations to all the young dads who have so far attended our first aid courses in person and thank you to Carole Hewison and the DigiDAD content creation team for producing an excellent and widely accessible resource.



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BEES ON THE BALTIC & BEES IN THE BOROUGH

By Tom Jamieson & Jordan Pike

We had a bumper harvest of honey in the Autumn of 2022. Our two hives on the south roof of BALTIC produced over 30 kilos of honey of exceptional quality, made by colonies which grew to huge numbers in mid-summer and then overwintered strong. It's been a steep learning curve for our young beekeeping team, as all our normal patterns of work have needed adaptation in that unusual context. But, in a word, Success!

We have enjoyed the massive interest in rooftop beekeeping from BALTIC staff and visitors alike. No surprise, we decided in Spring 2023 to double our rooftop hives to four, and further research the foraging areas which our bees visit in east Gateshead. Meanwhile, established hives producing our Staiths Honey in Dunston and Forest Honey near Chopwell were productive too, allowing us to offer honey to five retail outlets in Gateshead and Newcastle.

Our relationship with local charity The Comfrey Project has also proved a happy one. BUZZ beekeeping training sessions in their community room have proved popular, with six young men enjoying a first introduction to the craft. It was also a joy to attend The Comfrey Project Annual General Meeting and present every household of asylum seekers and refugees attending, with a jar of honey from the hives we keep on their site.

Community beekeeper extraordinaire (and young dad) Jordan Pike's own honey brand Raw & Rich Honey, produced from the hives and bees he has adopted from NEYDL, is in high demand and sold via two artisan food outlets he supplies in Newcastle upon Tyne. One of them included a jar in their Christmas Hamper of artisan goods produced on Tyneside, under the aptly named 'Local Hero' hamper.

Remember the fantastic image (The Realm) which featured on the cover of last year's Annual Report? Designed by Atomhawk and taking Baltic Beekeeping into their fictional world, the poster version has so far sold a whopping 139 copies via the BALTIC shop, raising funds to support both NEYDL and BALTIC's important charitable work. A great measure of the public interest in our urban and rooftop beekeeping.



the
Tudor trust

BALTIC

ComfreyProject

Forestry England

Newcastle University

'The hum of a bee is the voice of the garden, my second language! I am but an extra hand in a hive, a friendly neighbour checking in from time to time and the taster of hard work.'

(By Jordan Pike, NEYDL young Dad and community beekeeper extraordinaire)

'I don't think I'd be at the stage I am now without North East Young Dads and Lads.'

(Young Dad)

STORY GATHERING AND SYSTEM BARRIERS INQUIRY

By Will Patterson & Dr Richard Gibbons

We are currently delivering a number of projects which support the different communities of Gateshead. In last year's NEYDL Annual Report, we detailed how some of our young dads had received training to gather people's stories as part of a research endeavour. In partnership with the Gateshead Community Bridgebuilders and funded by The Lankelly Chase Foundation, this inquiry mapped thousands of factors that people shared with us about their lives, which highlighted many difficult-to-see systemic challenges people face in Gateshead.

This work has now evolved into a number of peer community groups, one of which focuses on marginalised young people. Supported by Will (NEYDL Peer Enabler) this work offers a weekly session which seeks to support young people to address their day-to-day problems and difficulties. Because the stories we collected suggest how young people are often excluded from meaningful participation in decision-making spaces, our groups are built around certain core principles. They are 'relationship centred'; created as open and supportive spaces where the group members make decisions that help to steer how the space evolves and shapes moving forward. Groups also embrace the idea of 'transformational participation', which is promoted by supporting young people to develop their motivation and confidence to engage in decision making processes.

Long term it is our ambition that the young people currently supported by this project become role models and community champions within their communities, just like Will Patterson, Dylan Brown, Adam Gorzelanczyk and Mark Ridden, the four young dads employed by NEYDL as Peer Link Workers and Peer Enablers on behalf of this inquiry over the past 3 years.



AMBASSADADS ASSEMBLE!

By Dr Linzi Ladlow & Robert Oughton

The AmbassaDADS are a group of 20 young dads from Tyne & Wear, County Durham and Teesside working together as a collective to affect social, policy and practice change that improves the lives of young fathers.

The group has grown from the pioneering work of NEYDL's Tyne and Wear based Young Dads Council, some of which has been detailed in previous editions of the charity's Annual Report. This includes the creation of a poster and e-zine responding to the BALTIC's 'Equal Play' exhibition led by International Artist Albert Potrony and supported by Dr Michael J Richardson <https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2021/sep/27/they-wanted-to-end-masculinity-the-artist-inspired-by-anti-sexist-mens-groups>



Supported by NEYDL, Professor Anna Tarrant and Dr Linzi Ladlow from the University of Lincoln, key highlights from the group's activities over the past year include the following:

Father Unknown: Inspired by and co-created with the AmbassaDADS, former NEYDL trustee Dr Michael J Richardson and former NEYDL employee Jonah York presented a 50-minute play about young fatherhood to sold out audiences at Durham's Gala Theatre (15th June) and Northern Stage (16th and 17th June). Starring Ryan Noble, the play included a post-performance Q&A on Wednesday and

Saturday evenings involving AmbassaDADS members. The play now features as a permanent recording via the charity's DigiDAD website <https://www.digidad.uk/father-unknown/>

Think Dad! Father Inclusive Practice Toolkit: AmbassaDADS members co-created a professional development toolkit following extensive peer research with other young dads and professionals. Launched via a webinar event attended by 165 professionals on 20th February 2023, this resource has been made freely accessible via the charities DigiDAD website: https://www.digidad.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/NEYDL_toolkit_v13.pdf



BBC Radio 1 Newsbeat: 4 members of the AmbassaDADS recently featured in a written and spoken word piece by BBC Radio 1's news programme Newsbeat, gaining a readership of over 600,000 people.

Over the next 12 months, the members hope to engage and involve more young dads from across the region in the AmbassaDADS project and work together to both change the narrative and challenge negative stereotypes of young fatherhood. Further, we are working with young dads in County Durham and Middlesbrough to develop geographic AmbassaDADS subgroups to contribute to Parent and Carer Panels associated with local Family Hubs.

The AmbassaDADS have assembled... *watch this space!*



'Thank you so much for sharing DigiDAD (Think Dad! Father Inclusive Toolkit). I am very impressed by the work that is being done by the project. It made me think about how I can engage with dads, and I will be using DigiDAD information to support dads as well.'

(Midwife)

'I'm so glad we came. Meeting other Mams and Dads our age is so cool. Thanks for inviting us.'

(Young Dad)

DAD2DAD PEER SUPPORT

By Will Patterson & Andy Appleyard



Overview: Thanks to funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, NEYDL has been able to employ 2 Peer Enablers with lived experience of either fatherhood or young fatherhood to provide direct and intensive 1:1 support and peer supported group work opportunities to young dads/expectant fathers living in the geographic areas of Tyne & Wear and Tees Valley. Building on the charity's existing Teen Dads Project provision for young dads aged under 19, Dad2Dad Peer Support has helped NEYDL in its ambitions to reach and support more disadvantaged young men, including those who fall outside the threshold of 'teenage fatherhood', or who live in geographic areas of greatest need (including Middlesbrough where the highest rates of young fatherhood in our region have been recorded and no previous dedicated service provision has existed for this community).

Will's report: I've worked closely with 18 young dads aged 17 to 24 so far, covering areas of North and South Tyneside, Gateshead, Sunderland, and Newcastle. Whilst most of the dads I've worked with have needed support to address social isolation and improve their parenting skills using DigiDAD, I've also helped with housing issues, food banks, job searches, first aid training and family mediation. Seven of the young dads I've supported are involved in Child Protection and Child in Need proceedings and I've accompanied five dads to attend these proceedings, often advocating on their behalf to social work professionals. This has enabled one young dad to progress from having no direct contact with his child to unsupervised child contact arrangements, whilst a second has been granted supervised contact during activities hosted by NEYDL. Currently I'm also supporting one young dad to understand and navigate private family courts.

Alongside 1:1 support, I've also created opportunities that bring young dads together to share experiences and make new friends, which can be difficult for some due to social anxiety and autism. This year I've organised snooker and pool activities for four young dads, museum visits for three young dads, ten pin bowling with six young dads and even a walking group. On one of the group sessions one of my dad's brought his daughter along so it shows that he is feeling safe and comfortable. I've also delivered a weekly online video gaming project for young dads outside of normal working hours and supported two young dads to join our community beekeeping project. Finally, I've supported the Rainbow Family Centre in Washington to develop a father-inclusive service offer and father-friendly space, co-authored published sociological research in conjunction with the Following Young Fathers Further research team at The University of Lincoln <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/epub/10.1177/13607804221090550> and contributed video evidence to the House



of Lords Parliamentary Inquiry on Youth Unemployment (May 2021) <https://fyff.co.uk/files/74825caf47380b5e50c5019dceb30d1103d3934.pdf>

Andy's report: In creating a new service for young dads in Middlesbrough on behalf of NEYDL, I initially focused my efforts on establishing new referral pathways with Early Help Services (part of Children's Social Services), Maternity and Midwifery Services. This has so far led to direct work with 15 young dads (aged 13 to 23), many of whom faced similar challenges to those described by Will. In addition, I have accessed NEYDL's Wheelie Good Dads Community Cycling Project to provide a mountain bike and related safety equipment to a Middlesbrough young dad (aged 23) on long term loan and made use of NEYDL's Crisis Fund to help young dads purchase essential goods, buy Christmas presents for their children, cover essential travel costs, rent a removal van to move house and hire a professional gas fitter to install a cooker.

Recognising the importance of bringing young dads together for peer support, fitness and learning, I have worked in partnership with NHS and Local Authority services (My Place, Healthier Together Programme, Head Start, Substance Misuse and Youth Offending) to establish and run a fortnightly drop-in for seventeen young men (including seven young dads) held at the Live Well Centre in Middlesbrough from 4-6.30pm with access to pool tables, a gymnasium, video-gaming, crisis support and food bank/care parcels. In addition, I have supported one young dad (neurodiverse) and his daughter to attend fortnightly Dads and Toddlers 'Stay and Play' sessions at BALTIC, Gateshead and created wider social activities for four young dads including ten-pin bowling.



'The hospital provided information about NEYDL. It took me a few weeks to like reach out but I'm stoked to be able to be a part of it now.'

(Young Dad)

'It (NEYDL) gets me out of the house and doing stuff... Sometimes I bring (named daughter) and (named partner) as well, if she's not working. I like meeting new people. Playing football. Talking to the other lads about what it's like for them and what they do, and I tell them about me.'

(Young Dad)

DAD2DAD PEER SUPPORT YEAR 1 INDEPENDENT EVALUATION

By Dr Linzi Ladlow & Professor Anna Tarrant

Funded by The National Lottery Community Fund, the Dad2Dad Peer Support project began in May 2022. In May 2023, we submitted an interim report evaluating the first year of the programme. Dad2Dad Peer Support provides direct and intensive 1:1 support and peer supported group work opportunities for young fathers and expectant fathers living in the regions of Tyne and Wear and Teesside. Led by two 'Peer Enablers', Will and Andy, Dad2Dad sets out to reach and support disadvantaged young men in these areas, including young fathers who fall outside the threshold of 'teenage fatherhood' or who live in geographic areas of greatest need. NEYDL remains the only dedicated service provision for young fathers in the region.

We conducted in-depth qualitative longitudinal interviews with two young fathers and four support workers to evaluate whether the programme was meeting its 5 key objectives:

1. Helping young dads to recognise their potential and establish positive support networks.
2. Improving parenting skills and relationships leading to safer and more resilient families.
3. Addressing social, health and financial issues to break the cycle of poverty and overcome inequalities.
4. Enabling dads to attend and navigate complex and stressful private family court and child protection proceedings, leading to safer families and more stable child contact arrangements for dads and their children.
5. Providing practical support to develop employability skills.

Against the 5 key objectives, we found that Dad2Dad Peer Support is successfully meeting its outcomes. The passion and skillset of the support workers, alongside the resources available to them, has enabled Dad2Dad Peer Support to establish itself as an essential support service for young fathers that has adapted well to new local conditions.

The provision provides proactive and reactive support, responding directly and immediately to the varied needs of the young fathers who attend each week, as well as proactively building on long-term goals. Dad2Dad is having a significant and meaningful impact on the young men and their families with reported improvements in parenting skills, relationships, confidence and social networks. Young men have also received more holistic support around their finances, preparing for or gaining employment, and moving to better housing. Dad2Dad Peer Support effectively utilises the strengths of the Peer-Support workers and the available resources in each location, creating tangible investments in these young men and their employability.



From the interviews, one story was particularly striking. Andy supported a young father, his partner and their daughter, to move from unsuitable accommodation to a new home. Andy was with them every step of the way, supporting their application to the Housing Association, helping them access a charity that provides furniture and white goods, and using the NEYDL crisis fund to hire a moving van. Andy even drove the van himself! The support Andy provided to help this family move house is a powerful example of the life changing impact Dad2Dad Peer Support has had on this young man and family:

When the mum of that family, when she moved house, she got a job within a week, and you could just see how much she'd grown. And, you know, she was going out to work and then dad was looking after the baby. You know, the house, there was a park at the end of the road, and it was just great, like he'd show me his photographs on his phone of baby going down the slide or on the swings and stuff like that. I've seen them grow personally over the past few months, which wouldn't have been possible without this work (Andy).

Our interim report shows that the project is on a strong trajectory. The service provided by NEYDL through the extended Dad2Dad Peer Support offer is an example of best practice in working with marginalised young fathers in the UK. Being a father is at the heart of service provision and the focus on fatherhood is a motivational factor for young fathers in overcoming challenges and meeting their aspirations. This service has potential to be developed further, by extending provision to more young fathers across the region.



'You were the only one that I could ask for help and you were always there for me.'

(Young Dad)

'Thanks for today. It was good to be out with just me and my daughter and to meet other people.'

(Young Dad)

WHEELIE GOOD DADS

By Nathan Noble

Over the past 12 months, myself and a team of 4 Community Cycling Group Leaders (also young dads) have planned and delivered 32 cycling excursions to 29 young dads, in addition to 4 cycling excursions for families, involving 6 children aged 1, 2, 3 and 7 years. The dads have really valued this project, as the following feedback shows:

'I feel so good out on the bike. It feels supportive.'

'Getting out on the bikes helps me to reflect and think.'

'I'm going to places I've never been before, and I've lived here all my life.'

Myself and the Community Cycling Group Leaders have also established a regular safety inspection and maintenance programme which includes home visits to young dads benefitting from our long-term bike loan scheme which includes access to cycle helmets, locks, pumps, and a puncture repair kit.

The bike loan scheme is currently supporting 12 young dads living in the 10% most deprived areas of Gateshead, Sunderland, Durham, and Middlesbrough to get to work, attend training, access regular volunteering opportunities, visit and maintain contact with non-resident children and stay in touch with family and friends. The scheme is a huge hit with young dads as the following feedback demonstrates:

'Being able to use a new bike is so good. I've only ever had rubbish bikes to go out on and it put me off going out.'

'Having a bike to get to my training course (forklift truck driving) has helped me so much. I used to have to get 3 buses to get there which used to take me an hour. Now it just takes me 20 minutes. And the money I've saved on bus fares has really helped too.'

In addition to gaining new skills and expertise in bike maintenance, I've also supported our Community Cycling Group Leaders to develop their skills as peer mentors and supporters (including completion of safeguarding training, First Aid at Work, Paediatric First Aid and Level 3 Mental Health First Aid).

Alongside the cycling related activities, I've also planned and co-facilitated 'Stay and Play' sessions at the BALTIC attended by 8 families on a regular basis, plus family outings to Santa's Grotto in December 2022 (attended by 16 young parents and 14 children aged 6 months to 7 years) and more recently Tynemouth Aquarium (attended by 14 young dads, 12 partners and 16 children aged 3 months to 7 years). For some young parents, these events represented the first time they had met other young parents as evidenced by the following feedback:

'I'm so glad we came. Meeting other Mams and Dads our age is so cool. Thank you for inviting us.'



As part of our close working relationships with our funder Warburtons, young dads supported by NEYDL have made regular visits to the Warburtons bakery in Newburn, including attendance in a skills day delivered by Warburton's HR staff which enabled the lads to practice and refine their interview skills and update their CV's.

Finally, I've been busy supporting 6 of our most committed cyclists, all of whom are young dads to prepare for the Great North Bike Ride - a 60-mile day ride from Seahouses to Tynemouth due to take place on Sunday 27th August 2023. At the time of publication, I'm pleased to report that young dads Jordan and Jordan completed the mammoth and rain-soaked course in an admirable 4 hours and 35 minutes, alongside myself and staff members Doug and Kev.

A tremendous achievement!

Warburton's CAF

we are cycling UK

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY

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'I feel so good out on the bike. It feels supportive.'

(Young Dad)

'My observation has been that NEYDL's just been really innovative and got this group of lads, what can we do to get them together, meeting each other, talking with each other about wellbeing without saying right, you've got to come here and talk about your feelings.'

(Community Perinatal Mental Health Team)

DAD2DAD PERINATAL HEALTH PROJECT

By Jan Rigby and Robert Oughton

By Robert: Over the last year, Jordan Richardson and I have delivered a part-time peer support service on behalf of Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust enabling young dads, expectant fathers, and non-birthing people whose families are supported by the Perinatal Community Mental Health Team to access help, support, and befriending. Following 9 initial referrals to the service, the Dad2Dad Perinatal Health Project has provided intensive 1:1 support to 7 young dads and families, including help to attend child protection meetings, relationship skills support, gym sessions and parenting support using the charity's DigiDAD e-learning platform. Through the charity's Crisis Fund one family was also supported to purchase and fit new carpets to a bare upstairs flat where a young child resided. In addition to this individual help, 4 of the young dads have engaged in a range of peer supported group work opportunities including father and child focused Stay and Play sessions, peer and professionally moderated online video gaming sessions and social events including bowling, Escape Rooms, pool, cinema trips and restaurant visits. Further, 4 of the young dads have progressed into volunteering roles within the charity including as trustees, AmbassaDADS and DigiDAD content co-creators (including the development of the Think Dad! Father Inclusive Practice Toolkit and a 6-part perinatal mental health film and animation series covering themes including self-care, supporting partners, suicidal thoughts, loss, and bereavement). Following the completion of this project, Jordan has secured employment outside of the charity and I have progressed into full time employment with the charity, supporting the development and delivery of our new Durham Family Hub service.



By Jan Rigby (Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Perinatal Community Mental Health Team): Meeting and supporting the dads whose partners access the Perinatal CMHT is important. We know becoming a father is a huge transition and when their partner becomes unwell this can impact on their own mental health. Dads often take on caring roles for their baby and their partner. For this reason, the Long-Term Plan promoted an assessment to help us understand the dads' mental health and wellbeing needs. Many of the dads we meet have ongoing mental health needs separate from caring and parental roles. How do we promote wellbeing and promote resilience alongside strengthening infant mental health knowledge? The offer of an assessment seems simple, however, promoting authentic engagement can be difficult with barriers, often around trust, fear of being judged, and not feeling we give dads a place to discuss their needs. This is complicated further if the couple separates.



Working with NEYDL on the Dad2Dad Perinatal Health Project has been a fabulous opportunity for us to think together about how best to support dads. The charity's ethos, coming from a youth service approach, always starts with engagement. They recognise engagement can take many forms and it does not start with an assessment which requires a conversation about what might be making a dad feel vulnerable. They acknowledge these conversations happen over time. We found Doug, Robert and Jordan's approach to building relationships with the perinatal service staff worked well to support our discussions with dads. Perinatal staff expressed that they were better able to have more meaningful conversations with the men we met, and this led to a number of dads flourishing during their work with the charity. Understanding that services are keen to help and support dads and recognising the project was to last just over a year with an ambitious aspiration for us to develop a better understanding of how to support fathers. NEYDL's exploration and development of the Think Dad! tool kit and DigiDAD expansion to include perinatal mental health, enables an improved understanding many services can utilise. It has been a great year working together. We hope the shared intention to offer dads the best start in their journeys will continue to develop and go from strength to strength.



Cumbria, Northumberland,
Tyne and Wear
NHS Foundation Trust

'I've worked in services for many years and there are so many people who would have benefitted from North East Young Dads and Lads if it had been around then.'

(Advanced Nurse Practitioner)

'I usually get pulled in at school. Last time...it was because (named daughters) decided they were going to pour paint in each other's pants. And when I bathed them, they had bits of orange and pink and yellow...'

(Young Dad)

KEEP ON RUNNING

By Jonah York

Among the 60,000 people who set off from Newcastle's Town Moor on the morning of Sunday 11th September 2022 to raise much needed funds for brilliant charities in the Northeast, were 11 runners (Amy, Kevin, Ancha, Freya, Sam & Sam (the speed demon duo), Elijah, Anna, Claire, Steph, and Jonah), all wearing distinctive sky-blue t-shirts emblazoned with the slogan 'I'm running for North East Young Dads and Lads.'

Representing the charity's staff, trustees, project partners, family, friends, and most impressively young Mams whose partners are supported by NEYDL, our running team (some running a half marathon for the first time) all completed the course in one piece (although judging by his newly acquired limp at work the morning after, I suspect our CEO Kevin might have something different to say).

In total, our fantastic runners managed to raise a staggering £2,746.00 from their endeavours, which we quickly put to good use through the launch of a crisis fund providing much needed money direct to young dads and their families to help pay for essential food, clothing, baby care products, furnishings, transport costs and bills as we headed into winter during a cost-of-living crisis.

Included on the list of much needed items and activities this fund supported were bus tickets to enable a young dad to make the daily visit to his baby in intensive care, a removal van to help a young family relocate from an unsafe private rented property and new carpets and furnishings to cover bare floorboards in an upstairs flat occupied by a young family with a toddler.

We are extremely grateful to all the amazing people who gave so generously to this appeal and to our fabulous running team (some travelling from as far afield as London and Leeds) who gave their time and feet in aid of NEYDL.

At the time of publication, I am pleased to report that a team of 7 runners including young dads have signed up for the 2023 race. Phew!

Best wishes.

Jonah.



DURHAM DADS

By Andy Appleyard and Nathan Noble with Colin Cowings and Robert Oughton

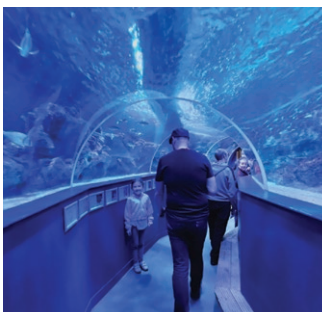
In September 2022, we were thrilled to receive funding from County Durham Community Foundation (NHS Health Improvement Fund) to establish a new provision for young dads and expectant fathers across County Durham under the 'Durham Young Dads Project' banner. Led by Andy and Nathan with support from Colin and Robert, at the time of publication we have worked with 27 young dads aged 15-25 years, helping them to address a range of support needs associated with food and fuel poverty, homelessness, NEET status, mental health and wellbeing, social isolation and loneliness, parenting and relationship skills and involvement in private family court and social care proceedings.

Despite the geographic challenges associated with bringing young dads together from across County Durham, we have managed to run a number of face-to-face and virtual peer supported group work opportunities including cinema and theatre trips, bowling sessions, Escape Room visits, cycling excursions, coffee shop trips, Paediatric First Aid training and video gaming sessions attended by 16 young dads. In addition, 10 young dads, 8 co-parents and 10 children aged under 2 have attended family activities including soft play.

At the time of publication, 6 Durham young dads supported through this project have progressed into key volunteering roles within NEYDL as part of a 20 strong community of AmbassaDADS (see article AmbassaDADS Assemble!). In addition, thanks to new funding from Durham Family Hubs, we are delighted to announce that support for young dads and non-birthing people aged 25 and under will continue beyond the length of this original project, supported by Colin Cowings and Robert Oughton (see article 'Support For Young Dads Through Family Hubs')



Recognising the important part that wider family members can play in supporting young dads to navigate fatherhood, we have also worked closely with 16 adult maternal and paternal family members including 8 co-parents, 2 foster carers and 6 paternal grandparents of the child/unborn child.



County Durham
Community Foundation

'North East Young Dads are an amazing charity who (named young dad) reached out to when he was at his lowest.'

(Parent of a Young Dad supported by NEYDL)

'If I ask the question and then they (NEYDL) can give me the answer and I'll say right, okay, that's what I need to do and that's what I need to be aware of, and then that's me, like me stress, like, calms down. I say right, there's nothing to stress about. I need to just look at the texts just in case I forget, so I know what I'm doing, so that's the best thing about it.'

(Young Dad)

SUPPORT FOR YOUNG DADS THROUGH FAMILY HUBS

By Kevin Stoodley

At the time of publication, the launch of the Government's Family Hubs and Start for Life Programme with a focus on providing a system-wide model of joined up, whole family support has raised the potential for NEYDL to work more closely with local authorities. We are pleased to report that NEYDL has now been commissioned to provide 1:1 and peer supported group opportunities to young dads, expectant fathers, and non-birthing people during the perinatal period (0-2 years) in County Durham (excluding Darlington), Middlesbrough, Sunderland, and Gateshead. Whilst still in its infancy, this work is already showing promise, leading to a marked increase in referrals from young dads identified by health visitors and midwifery services and a strong uptake in our services by young men on a voluntary basis. We look forward to reaching and supporting ever more young dads and families over the next 2 years as an integral part of the Family Hub service.



'No one really thinks about the young Dad and the huge impact it brings. Very few health professionals actually asked how (name of Dad) was coping with a new baby and he was too worried to tell people! Special mention to Rob (NEYDL staff member) who's been amazing.'

(Parent of a Young Dad supported by NEYDL)

'I find it hard sometimes to think about leaving the house, but when I know it's with NEYDL it makes me feel okay.'

(Young Dad)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

None of the outcomes or achievements detailed in this report would have been possible without the continued support, kindness, encouragement, friendship and generosity offered by so many people, groups, projects, organisations, services, foundations and institutions, who have given NEYDL so much and asked for so little in return. Though far from exhaustive, we believe the following individuals and organisations deserve an extra special thank you for their huge contribution to NEYDL over the past 12 months.

Board of Trustees from 7th July 2022:

Emma Alcock
Steven Bramwell (Chair)
Chloe Cottrell
Jennifer Goldstein (Treasurer)
Chris Humba
(Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Officer)
Sarah Oliver
(Safeguarding Advisor)
Jordan Pike
Professor Anna Tarrant (Secretary and Vice Chair)
Angela Ward

Board of Trustees from 11th July 2023:

Jenny Goldstein (Treasurer)
Destiny Greenwood
Chris Humba
(Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Officer)
Mark Hutchinson (Secretary)
Sarah Oliver (Safeguarding Advisor)
Jordan Pike
Tyler Reed
Professor Anna Tarrant (Chair)
Colin Workman (GDPR Compliance Advisor)

DigiDAD Advisory Group

Amy Berry
Colin Cowings
Ella Fielding
Jenny Goldstein
Chris Humba
Mark Hutchinson
Adam Johnson
Doug Laidlaw (Chair)
Nathan Noble
Sarah Oliver
Robert Oughton
Jan Rigby
Margherita Rovida
Kevin Stoodley
Professor Anna Tarrant
Angela Ward
AmbassaDADS;

North East regional young dads council

Jed Donnelly
Lewis England
Ethan Fingleton
Ben Homerman
Josh Nicholson
Cameron Nick
Nathan Noble
Robert Oughton
Will Patterson
Dylan Peggs
Jordan Pike
Andrew Pittman
Karl Preston
Tyler Reed
Curtis Solace
Lewis Spence
Sam Sterling
Alex Teller
Josh Wiborg
James Withycombe

Our volunteer beekeepers

Yakob Araya
Jed Donnelly
Corey Fletcher
Jordan Pike
Dr Michael Richardson
Mark Ridden

Our friends and project partners

Andy Dawson
Arts Council England
Atomhawk Design
BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art
Benjamin Michael Smith (film maker)
Brown March and Bowman Ltd Accountants
Charities Aid Foundation
Chopwell Officials Club
Chopwell Regeneration Group
Durham County Council
Durham Gala
Ernie, Ouseburn, Newcastle upon Tyne
Following Young Fathers Further
at The University of Lincoln
Forestry England
Future Men
Gateshead Council
Honeypot Creative
Immediate Theatre
Keda Consulting
Kingsmeadow Community Comprehensive School
Leeds Dads
Men and Boys Coalition

Middlesbrough Council
Motif Pictures
My Pockets
Ngozi Lyn Cole
Northern Stage
Perinatal Mental Health Clinical Network –
North East and North Cumbria
Pixel Buddy Ltd
Sunderland City Council
The Barn Café, Dunston, Gateshead
The Comfrey Project
The Family Nurse Partnership
The Staiths Café
Thornley Woodlands Centre
Thread Media
Suitability
Sunderland City Council
Throneware Ltd

Our current funders and sponsors

BBC Children in Need
Connected Voice - VCSE Cost of Living Crisis Fund
Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and
Northumberland (1989 Willan Charitable Trust)
County Durham Community Foundation
(NHS Health Improvement Fund)
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear
NHS Foundation Trust
Cycling UK
(Funded by The National Lottery & Sport England)
Fatherhood Institute
Following Young Fathers Further
Garfield Weston
Imagine Foundation
Joicey Trust
Lloyds Bank Foundation
Newcastle University
The Ballinger Charitable Trust
The Council of The of County Durham
The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation
The Lankelly Chase Foundation
The National Lottery Community Fund
The William Leech Charity
The Tudor Trust
Warburton's - Families Matter
County Durham Community Foundation – Donor
Support (Robson Laidler Accountants Ltd)
St Columba's United Reformed Church
Swire Charitable Trust

Our Inspiration

Last but not least, thank you, thank you, thank you to all the utterly brilliant young men and families we have met so far and those we have yet to meet. This project and this report exist because of you!

'You have done more than you'll ever know for my son and grandson.'

(Parent of a young Dad supported by NEYDL)



THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO READ THIS, OUR SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

For further information, please visit our website and social media feeds, or just send us an email.

Email: info@neydl.uk
 Charity website: www.neydl.uk
 DigiDAD e-learning platform: www.digidad.uk
 Facebook: @the.neydl
 X (formerly Twitter): @NEYDandL
 Instagram: neydl2
 YouTube: DigiDAD

NORTH EAST YOUNG DADS & LADS
 Baltic Centre for Contemporary Arts
 South Shore Road
 Gateshead
 NE8 3BA

Tel: Doug Laidlaw 07990 164449

Registered in England
 Charity No: 1172924
 Company No: CE009920

PayPal
 Giving Fund

To donate to NEYDL and help us to improve the lives and prospects of more young fathers, their children, and families, please use the weblink and QR code provided here.

[Thank you for your support.](https://www.paypal.com/gb/fundraiser/charity/3617049)

<https://www.paypal.com/gb/fundraiser/charity/3617049>

PayPal



Scan. Pay. Go.

Children & Young People Now
 Awards 2023

Winner

THE YOUTH WORK AWARD

Children & Young People Now
 Awards 2023

Winner

THE ADVICE AND GUIDANCE AWARD

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: CE009920 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1172924

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 April 2023
for
North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIO

Brown, March and Bowman Ltd
4 Tyne View
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE15 8DE

North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIOContents of the Financial StatementsFor the Year Ended 30 April 2023

	Page
Report of the Trustees	3 to 14
Independent Examiner's Report	15
Statement of Financial Activities	16 to 17
Balance Sheet	18 to 19
Notes to the Financial Statements	20 to 22
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	23 to 24

North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIOReport of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 30 April 2023

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report alongside the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 April 2023. The trustees have adopted the provision of 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 2019).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**Charity Name**

North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIO

Registered Company number

CE009920 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1172924

Registered office

c/o BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Arts
South Shore Road
Gateshead
NE8 3BA

Trustees

Prof. Anna Tarrant (Chair) (appointed 07/07/2022)
Tyler Reed (appointed 12/09/2023)
Destiny Greenwood (appointed 12/09/2023)
Colin Workman (appointed 11/07/2023)
Mark Hutchinson (appointed 11/07/2023)
Jordan Pike (appointed 07/07/2022)
Jennifer Goldstein (appointed 09/07/2020)
Sarah Oliver (appointed 09/07/2020)
Emma Alcock (now resigned)
Steven Bramwell (now resigned)
Chloe Cottrell (now resigned)
Chris Humba (now resigned)
Angela Ward (now resigned)

Chief Executive Officer

Kevin Stoodley

Independent examiner

PA Brown & Company Ltd
16 Abbey Meadows
Morpeth
NE61 2BD

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank, P.O Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M60 4EP

INCORPORATION

The charitable company was incorporated on 9 May 2017 and commenced trading on the same date.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Trustee Recruitment

The charity is governed by an elected board of trustees, who meet regularly for quarterly board meetings and an annual public AGM with the CEO of the charity. At these meetings, the opportunity arises for new trustees to be nominated, carefully considered by the board, and approved. All trustees are required to hold a valid enhanced DBS certificate which is reviewed every 3 years.

OBJECTIVES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

NEYDL is a unique youth support service that is dedicated to helping young men and young fathers to play an active and meaningful role in the lives of their children, within families and wider society.

Mission and Vision

- Our vision is for young dads to be valued and supported in their role as parents.
- Our mission is to enable young dads to play a safe, active and meaningful role in their children's lives, by supporting and connecting young dads and influencing wider practice.

CHAIR'S REPORT

By Professor Anna Tarrant

It is an absolute honour to introduce the North East Young Dads and Lads' 2023 Annual Report in my brand-new capacity as the Chair of Trustees. As a starter for ten, please permit me to provide a brief overview of how I came to take on this role. I first became acquainted with the charity in 2017 and then again in 2020 in my capacity as a researcher, initially at the University of Leeds and now the University of Lincoln. I have been researching the lives of men in low-income families for a long time now, including a strand of work with young fathers and have always been interested in capturing the pioneering work of services that are involved in supporting fathers and families to flourish. My research team (Following Young Fathers Further) and I approached the charity in 2020 having seen CEO Kev talk about the pioneering work of the North East Young Dads and Lads on the BBC and it was clear that our interests and agendas for supporting young fathers in innovative ways aligned. In a research capacity, we worked to support some of NEYDL's young dads to conduct peer research as part of the Diverse Dads study. We co-wrote two research reports and a peer reviewed journal article with the dads as the Diverse Dads Collaborative and demonstrated the capacity of young dads to challenge negative stereotypes about themselves and others by contributing new knowledge and by changing the narrative. I later joined the Board of Trustees in 2022, bringing my research experience into the conversations of the board.

When Steven Bramwell announced he was stepping down as Chair of Trustees, I made the decision to take the step up; to support Kev and the NEYDL team with their ambitions for this thriving charity, to work with the Board of Trustees to support Kev and his strategic vision, and to sustain the ethos and ambitions of the charity. And what big shoes I must fill! According to my research a good chair of trustees is altruistic, has a good sense of humour, empowers others, and is friendly and humble. I'd like to think I epitomise all of those things (sense of humour included!) but certainly our outgoing Chair Steven is all these things in spades. It is therefore my aim to bring these qualities and a comparable level of passion, drive, and enthusiasm to the role as Steven did.

As the items in this year's report demonstrate, the anticipated trajectory of growth and innovation that was described in the 2022 report, has been realised and some! It has certainly been another fantastic and progressive year as promised! The charity continues to attract significant grant funding and is supporting an ever-expanding portfolio of young fathers, not just across the North East and Tyne and Wear region, but also nationally and even internationally. The community beekeeping, and Wheelie Good Dads projects have gone from strength to strength and via the DigiDAD platform, the charity is reaching new and increasingly distant destinations, from the depths of Wales to the far flung reaches of Peru. Testament to the increasing visibility and recognition of the charity and its work on DigiDAD, the charity was shortlisted in the category of Charity of the Year in the prestigious Children and Young People Now Awards 2022 and a

further 2 categories in 2023 (Advice and Guidance and Youth Work categories). This is a huge honour and testament to the rising visibility and impact of the charity, and its work with and for young fathers.

As the year 2023 unfolds, I wish to say a huge thank you to the young dads, to the Board, to the consultants, the funders, and the ever-expanding staff team at NEYDL for everything that you do. Thanks also to Kev, for your tireless commitment to the dads and to the charity as it develops and as it grows in its reach and influence. I look forward to working with you all in the year ahead.

Best wishes.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Anna Tarrant".

Professor Anna Tarrant (Chair of Trustees since 11th July 2023 and Vice Chair/Secretary from 7th July 2022 to 11th July 2023)

CEO's Report

By Kevin Stoodley

A very warm welcome to this, our sixth Annual Report, covering the charity's endeavours and achievements over a 12-month period from May 2022 to April 2023.

Like the best laid plans of mice and men, every year I endeavour to release a short and snappy Annual Report as soon as the charity's year ends, only to lose myself in the wealth of rich, varied and wonderful stories, quotes and imagery shared by our incredible staff, trustees, volunteers and project partners, resulting in a burning desire to showcase this work in all its glory, even if it does mean adding yet another page or four to the final report. In the words of Roy Scheider (Chief Brody) during his first encounter with the oversized and rubberised Great White Shark in the movie *Jaws*, 'you're gonna need a bigger boat!' Or in our case a bigger printer!

I know I say this every year but 2023 really has been our best year ever, reaching and supporting more young dads, expectant fathers and non-birthing people (any young person who identifies as a father figure including kinship carers) than ever before, across a geographic area which now extends from Tyne and Wear to Tees Valley, and that's without mentioning the tens of thousands of people who access our online films, animations, podcasts and course content made by young dads for young dads and showcased on DigiDAD.

Whilst there are many things about NEYDL's work in 2023 deserving of high praise as detailed in this wonderful report, I believe our defining achievement this year has been to support, empower and enable young dads to progress from the position of service beneficiaries into one or more of the many volunteering opportunities we offer, from peer researchers to community cycling group leaders, community beekeepers and bee-entrepreneurs to DigiDAD content co-creators and expert advisors, AmbassaDADS to trustees. For young dads Rob, Nathan, Will and Jordan, this journey has ultimately led to their employment at NEYDL, taking on new, vital, and valued roles as Peer Enablers and Cycling Group Leaders who other young dads naturally gravitate towards, trust, and look up to as positive male role models as the following feedback from 2 young dads perfectly demonstrates:

'The service (NEYDL) and Rob himself (NEYDL staff member) have been amazing and I am so grateful for the support I have received. You have helped me adapt and become the Father I want to be.'

'I feel involved and more confident around people who's in the group. I'm much happier and I start loving it, cause whenever Doug or Will (NEYDL staff members) say oh we're doing a group session this date, then I get excited about it cause I always want to hang out with them. Because they're, like, really nice people...and if I need help, they come and talk to me. If I need help on something then they just step on the pedal and then talk to us and help me, like, you know, calm the stress, or get much confidence. I really look up to Will in the group because I appreciate what he, like he helped me through since I came into the group. I feel appreciative for him.'

Rest assured, as a strength/asset-based community development service, we are fully committed to supporting ever more young dads to grow in confidence, skills, knowledge and expertise as both parents and valued members of society, and I look forward to a day not too far away when a former service beneficiary of NEYDL is sitting in my seat (and doing a far better job of it I don't doubt).

Although it's been a good year for NEYDL, it has been incredibly challenging and desperate for many of the young families we support, who often live in the most deprived North East neighbourhoods and are thus most starkly affected by the cost-of-living crisis, poor housing, homelessness, limited job and career prospects. In addition, young men continue to report high levels of social isolation and loneliness and poor mental health (including suicidal thoughts, depression, social anxiety, loss and bereavement). We will continue to do everything within our powers and capacity to draw attention to the challenges and inequalities facing this long-neglected community whilst providing meaningful support to young dads whenever and wherever it's needed, in close collaboration with our service partners which next year will include Sunderland, Gateshead, County Durham and Middlesbrough Family Hubs.

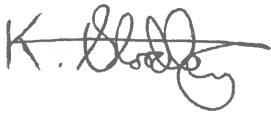
The incredible work and achievements celebrated in this report would not have been possible without the generosity, support and encouragement shown by our amazing funders, sponsors and organisational partners, and the determination, skills and expertise shown by of our super talented current staff team - the brilliant Doug, Will, Jordan, Robert, Andy, Colin, Nathan, Tom, Amy and Nikki, our departing staff members Jonah York and Dylan Brown, our volunteers, trustees, project consultants and of course young dads and their families. It is because of you that we look forward to another highly productive and successful seventh year supporting young dads.

Before I sign off, can I please take a moment to thank our departing Chair Steven Bramwell, who recently stepped down after 6 years in office, having expertly steered the charity from its infancy as a little known and part-time Gateshead based service to the Peruvian powerhouse it has become (see article entitled DIGIDAD: From Peterlee to Peru). We couldn't have got here without you Steven! A very warm welcome is also due to our incoming Chair Professor Anna Tarrant – we are in safe hands!

I will end this Introduction with an unexpected message we recently received from the parent of a young dad supported by NEYDL which moved me deeply:

'You have done more than you'll ever know for my son and grandson.'

Best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Stoodley', with a horizontal line drawn through the middle of the signature.

Kevin Stoodley (Founder and CEO)

OUR IMPACT

(Covering the period from 1st May 2022 to 30th April 2023)

Reason for referral	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Young father / expectant dad	105	68	63	46	61	46
Non birthing people	10	4	2	1	1	2
Total:	115	72	65	47	62	48
Engagement by young men						
New referral	48	25	33	25	53	48
Ongoing support	67	47	32	22	9	6
Total:	115	72	65	47	62	54
Locality						
Sunderland	34	23	26	22	19	7
Gateshead	20	26	32	20	31	44
South Tyneside	9	6	6	2	5	0
Newcastle upon Tyne	57	7	1	3	7	3
North Tyneside	14	3	0	0	0	0
Durham	15	6	0	0	0	0
Northumberland	0	1	0	0	0	0
Middlesbrough	18	0	0	0	0	0
Total:	115	72	65	47	62	54
Young Men Living in Areas of Highest Deprivation (Based on IMD2019)						
10% most deprived areas	115	71	Not previously recorded			
Other	0	1	Not previously recorded			
Total	115	72				
Age at entry point						
Under 16	16	4	8	4	5	7
16-18	28	18	8	28	21	21
19-25	71	50	49	15	31	24
Not given	0	0	0	0	5	2
Total:	115	72	65	47	62	54
Referral pathway						
Youth work charities	10	8	11	11	16	23
Social services	23	21	18	11	7	7
Early Help Teams	10	3	0	1	1	2
Family Nurse Partnership	18	18	16	17	17	7
Self-Referrals	5	6	5	4	14	5
School & Education	8	1	2	1	2	4
Housing	6	8	4	2	4	0
Health	25	6	0	0	0	0
Criminal Justice	0	1	0	0	0	0
Other	10	0	9	0	1	6
Total:	115	72	65	47	62	54
Individual help received.						
Child Protection proceedings	30	24	23	12	27	24
Child/Team around the family	10	1	1	3	7	1
Family law proceedings	5	5	5	0	8	7
NEET status	30	17	14	13	27	14
Career progression	15	11	5	4	8	Not recorded.
Housing, homelessness & benefits	25	16	9	4	8	9
Completing essential paperwork	30	16	13	5	19	Not recorded
Poverty & debt management	55	9	17	10	12	Not recorded.
Domestic abuse	15	21	12	7	21	12
Offending behaviour	25	6	16	3	10	4
Mental & emotional wellbeing	45	23	30	26	31	11
Substance misuse & addiction	15	7	8	6	12	6
Sexual health	18	5	3	5	2	0
Other physical health conditions	10	6	4	4	6	2
Learning difficulties	10	3	8	5	8	Not recorded
Social isolation and loneliness	101	72	60	47	51	5
Parenting skills	50	35	34	20	46	19
Relationship skills	40	23	27	24	25	5
Bereavement & loss	15	8	4	6	8	2
Volunteering*	105	74	3	8	25	9
School exclusion	8	6	5	3	2	4

Total:	657	388	301	215	363	134
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*This figure represents the total number of young men who volunteered at NEYDL over a 12-month period

Individual contact time (hrs)

Dads and Toddlers groups	32	12	0	106	44
1:1 support (face to face)	850	408	440	350	306
1:1 support (telephone & social media)	572	234	450	140	92
Joint meetings with other professionals	350	460	250	190	119
Peer supported group work	480	202	850	959	912
Training delivered to professionals	150	51	40	56	101
Research activities	400	451	254	134	420
Campaigning, media, and film-work	350	257	428	142	238
Community beekeeping	268	196	131	250	98
Peer mentoring & volunteering	2,625	1,491	280	230	216
Other activities	50	17	20	36	0
Total:	6,127	3,779	3,143	2,593	2,546

Average individual contact time (hrs)	53	52.5	48	55	41
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Key outcomes

Child Protection Plans downgraded or completed	22	18	9	5	8
Child-In-Need plans downgraded or completed	9	10	3	3	4
Progressed into full time work or study	18	9	10	5	8
Accessed specialist medical help and support	45	15	2	5	5
Total:	94	52	24	18	25

Social Media Metrics

YouTube Channel – launched 6th April 2021

Views:	30,598	12,400
Watch time (hours):	1,049	903
Organic subscribers:	106	80
Impressions:	97,700	41,600

Gender demographics:

Male:	56.5%	58.2%
Female:	43.5%	41.8%

Age demographics

18-24:	30.9%	33%
25-34:	44.3%	40%
35-44:	19.1%	19.4%
44+:	5.7%	7.6%

Twitter

Followers:	1,152	887
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Facebook

Followers:	806	624
Likes:	684	549
Average reach per post:	8,000	209

DigiDAD E-learning Platform

Registered users:	110	43
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SUPPORTING YOUNG DADS: A CASE STUDY

By Doug Laidlaw & Steven (A young Dad)

Steven was referred to the service at 16. At the time he was in a relationship with the future mother of his child (age 15). Both Steven and his partner had previously been cared for by the local authority and were living together. The referral for support for Steven came from the Pre-Birth Intervention Team who identified support around parenting skills and reduction in social isolation. Steven and his partner were not in education, employment or training at the time.

Doug (NEYDL staff member) met with Steven to discuss the service at the family home. Steven asked if his partner could also attend part of this meeting to understand what support he could get. After discussing support and showcasing DigiDAD, Steven was keen to access this resource. Steven registered on the DigiDAD platform at our first meeting.

Steven and Doug agreed a work plan and met weekly. Steven completed the DigiDAD programme. Feedback from Steven included:

‘The videos were fun and made me feel more confident that I can do all the things new dads need to do.’ Steven reported that his partner had also been watching the videos.

As Steven grew in confidence, he started engaging in NEYDL’s peer supported group work offer including football, cycling, bowling, Escape Room visits and go-karting. In response, he has formed close friendships with other young dads from NEYDL and joined their video gaming group.

As the pregnancy progressed, Steven called Doug and informed him that his partner had gone into labour prematurely and was rushed into hospital. Doug offered emotional support to Steven via telephone.

Following the birth, Steven contacted Doug to inform him that the baby had to go into hospital in Middlesbrough. Steven didn't know how he could make the 30-mile journey from home to visit his child. Doug supported Steven to make these visits and stayed with Steven during the initial visits to offer emotional support.

After baby was transferred to the RVI Children’s Hospital, Doug continued to provide visitation support for a further 6 weeks. With Doug’s support Steven grew more comfortable and confident in caring for his baby within the hospital setting and one day announced:

‘Doug I've got this!’

Steven also started to ask the hospital staff questions concerning both his baby's care and what support his partner and the baby would need when they came home.

Doug and the Pre-Birth Team worked with the family to develop a support plan for when baby came home.

Steven continues to be supported by NEYDL and dad, mam and baby are doing well.

Unsolicited feedback from Steven included:

‘You were the only one I could ask for help, and you were always there for me.’

Feedback from our service beneficiaries:

'Yous are amazing. I'll forever be grateful and will support the charity forever.'

(Young Dad)

'They (NEYDL) were in our corner every single step of the way.'

(Young Dad)

'Hey (NEYDL staff member), hope all is well...I wanted to say a massive thank you! When I was living up north, honestly if it wasn't for you, I know genuinely I would have committed suicide...You was the only person who never judge me...You truly are an amazing person! An amazing dad and I never grew up with a dad myself, but you are what dads should inspire to be!'

(Young Dad)

'Honestly, without the support from the guys here (NEYDL) I don't want to know where I probably would've ended up.'

(Young Dad)

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Over the next year, the charity will continue to work to our strategic objectives as defined below.

- Provide individual support to young dads to address their issues and achieve personal outcomes.
- Enable young Dads to engage in activities (i) where they can share experience and support with other young dads and (ii) where they can spend time with mother and child.
- Provide opportunities to improve knowledge, skills, confidence and self-esteem through training and information resources.
- Influence policy and practice to be more inclusive and supportive of young Dads.
- Ensure NEYDL has the resources required to achieve the above objectives, maintaining high quality, authenticity, and effectiveness.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

At the year end, the board of trustees considered the charity to be in a healthy financial position with approximately six months of operating costs being held within unrestricted reserves. At the 30th April 2023, the board of trustees identified no uncertainties relating to the charity ability to continue as a going concern. The board of trustees' review and update their financial controls on a regular basis.

Principal funds

The charities principal source of funds is made up of voluntary grants from trusts and foundations and statutory grants and service commissioning.

In the year ended 30th April 2023, North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIO continued to work on projects, which during the current year were funded largely by the following foundations and organisations with our deepest gratitude and heartfelt thanks:

The Ballinger Charitable Trust
 Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust
 BBC Children in Need
 Connected Voice – VCSE Cost of Living Crisis Fund
 County Durham Community Foundation – Donor Support
 Cycling UK funded by The National Lottery & Sports England
 The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation
 Fatherhood Institute
 Garfield Weston Foundation
 The Imagine Foundation
 The Lankelly Chase Foundation
 Lloyds Bank Foundation
 Newcastle University
 NHS Health Improvement Fund c/o County Durham Community Foundation
 Swire Charitable Trust
 The National Lottery Community Fund
 The William Leech Charity
 The 1989 Willan Charitable Trust c/o Community Foundation Tyne & Wear & Northumberland
 The Tudor Trust
 The Joicey Trust
 Warburtons Project Grant
 The Council of The County of Durham – Durham Family Hubs

The North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIO will carry forward £287,160 of restricted funds and £141,000 of unrestricted funds to be spent in the 2023-2024 financial year.

Financial reserves policy

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that the North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIO can meet its contractual obligations and finance the planned future growth of the organisation. The level of free reserves (excluding restricted funds)

is reviewed annually by the Trustees. The Trustees consider that the most appropriate level of reserves on 30th April 2023 would be £143,202 which is equivalent to approximately six months basis operating costs.

The general reserves on 30th April 2023 amounted to £141,000, which is considered as free reserves.

Fundraising Policy

The North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIO engages fundraising consultants from time to time to support the charities CEO to develop strategic plans of activities relevant to voluntary and statutory grant fundraising and service commissioning opportunities. The charity does not purchase external lists of potential individual donors or undertake Direct Mail appeals to such lists.

The charity adheres to the Fundraising Code of Practice issued by the Fundraising Regulator and does not approach or pressure vulnerable people to support its work.

Any fundraising events carried out on behalf of the charity that we are aware of are supported and monitored by the CEO. Any marketing materials and approaches are scrutinised to ensure compliance with the Fundraising Code of Practice and details of income and expenditure are carefully recorded by the Finance Manager. Income is acknowledged and grateful thanks are sent, typically with a letter.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland."

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to,

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's independent examiners are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the relevant examiners are aware of that information.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 13/12/2023 and signed on its behalf by:

A Tarrant – Chair to Trustees

Anna Tarrant

Lara Tarrant

J Goldstien- Treasurer

Amber Goldstien

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIO

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIO ("the Company")
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 30 April 2023.

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 accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company 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 accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directors given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts 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 accounts to be reached.



11/12/2023

Paul Brown
PA Brown & Company Ltd
16 Abbey Meadows
Morpeh
NE61 2BD

North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIOStatement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 30 April 2023

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Public Donations	8,609		8,609
Charitable activities			
Swire Charitable Trust	23,000		23,000
Newcastle University		1,440	1,440
The Council of the County of Durham – Durham Family Hubs		200,000	200,000
The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	44,000		44,000
The Imagine Foundation	22,000		22,000
NHS Health Improvement Fund c/o County Durham Community Foundation		19,500	19,500
Cycling UK funded by The National Lottery & Sport England		480	480
Connected Voice - VCSE Cost of Living Crisis Fund	4,000		4,000
Warburtons Project Grant		10,000	10,000
The Lankelly Chase Foundation		34,578	34,578
Lloyds Bank Foundation	27,250		27,250
BBC Children in Need		26,886	26,886
The Ballinger Charitable Trust	15,000		15,000
The National Lottery Community Fund		35,000	35,000
The William Leech Charity		3,000	3,000
The 1989 Willan Charitable Trust c/o Community Foundation Tyne & Wear & Northumberland	10,000		10,000
The Tudor Trust	40,000	2,000	42,000
The Joicey Trust		2,000	2,000
County Durham Community Foundation – Donor Support		2,000	2,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	15,000		15,000
Fatherhood Institute		2,000	2,000
Total	208,859	338,884	547,743
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising Funds	18,236	0	18,236
Charitable activities			
Other	81,478	186,689	268,166
Total	99,714	186,689	286,403
NET INCOME	109,145	152,195	261,340
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD (RESTATED)	31,855	134,965	166,820
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD			

<u>141,000</u>	<u>287,160</u>	<u>428,160</u>
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CONTINUING OPERATIONS

All income and expenditure have arisen from continuing activities.

The notes form part of these financial statements

North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIOBalance Sheet
At 30 April 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash at bank		141,000	287,160	428,160
Cash in hand		-	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<hr/> 141,000	<hr/> 287,160	<hr/> 428,160
NET ASSETS		<hr/> 141,000	<hr/> 287,160	<hr/> 428,160
FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds				141,000
Restricted funds				287,160
TOTAL FUNDS				<hr/> 428,160

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the period ended 30 April 2022.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the period ended 30 April 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 12th December 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

A Tarrant – Chair of Trustees



The notes form part of these financial statements

North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIONotes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 30 April 2023**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES****Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation

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

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

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

2. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 30 April 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 30 April 2023.

North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIONotes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 30 April 2023**3. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	(RESTATED) At 30.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30.4.23 £
Unrestricted funds	31,855	109,145	141,000
Restricted funds			
Cycling UK funded by The National Lottery & Sport England	-	480	480
The Imagine Foundation	4,808	(4,808)	-
The Council of the County of Durham – Durham Family Hubs	-	200,000	200,000
Newcastle University	-	516	516
NHS Health Improvement Fund c/o County Durham Community Foundation	-	16,955	16,955
County Durham Community Foundation – Donor Support	-	960	960
Fatherhood Institute	-	2,000	2,000
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust	79,329	(61,743)	17,586
The Tudor Trust	23,249	(23,249)	-
Lankelly Chase (Wellbeing Grant)	393	(393)	-
The Lankelly Chase Foundation	13,011	11,750	24,761
Warburtons Project Grant	-	2,676	2,676
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	2,974	2,974
The Tudor Trust (Wellbeing Grant)	-	1,200	1,200
The Joicey Trust	-	2,000	2,000
The William Leech Charity	-	3,000	3,000
Cycling UK CCC	233	(233)	-
The Ballinger Charitable Trust	6,435	(6,435)	-
BBC Children in Need	7,507	4,545	12,052
TOTAL FUNDS	166,820	261,340	428,160

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds	208,859	(99,714)	109,145
Restricted funds			
Newcastle University	1,440	(924)	516
The National Lottery Community Fund	35,000	(32,026)	2,974
The Council of the County of Durham – Durham Family Hubs	200,000	-	200,000
The Tudor Trust (Wellbeing Grant)	2,000	(800)	1,200
The William Leech Charity	3,000	-	3,000
The Joicey Trust	2,000	-	2,000
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust	-	(61,743)	(61,743)
Cycling UK funded by The National Lottery & Sport England	480	-	480
Warburtons Project Grant	10,000	(7,324)	2,676
NHS Health Improvement Fund c/o County Durham Community Foundation	19,500	(2,545)	16,955
County Durham Community Foundation – Donor Support	2,000	(1,040)	960
Fatherhood Institute	2,000	-	2,000
The Imagine Foundation	-	(4,808)	(4,808)
Cycling UK CCC	-	(233)	(233)
The Lankelly Chase Foundation (Wellbeing Grant)	-	(393)	(393)
The Lankelly Chase Foundation	34,578	(22,828)	11,750
The Ballinger Charitable Trust	-	(6,435)	(6,435)
The Tudor Trust	-	(23,249)	(23,249)
BBC Children In Need	26,886	(22,341)	4,545
TOTAL FUNDS	547,743	(286,403)	261,340

4. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the period ended 30 April 2023 other than those disclosed in note 2.

North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIODetailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 30 April 2023

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Public Donations	8,609		8,609
Charitable activities			
The Swire Charitable Trust	23,000		23,000
The Council of the County of Durham – Durham Family Hubs		200,000	200,000
Newcastle University		1,440	1,440
The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	44,000		44,000
The Imagine Foundation	22,000		22,000
NHS Health Improvement Fund c/o County Durham Community Foundation		19,500	19,500
Cycling UK – Community Cycle Clubs Together Fund		480	480
Connected Voices- VCSE Cost of Living Crisis Fund	4,000		4,000
Warburtons Project Grant		10,000	10,000
Lankelly Chase		34,578	34,578
Lloyds Bank Foundation	27,250		27,250
BBC Children in Need		26,886	26,886
The Ballinger Charitable Trust	15,000		15,000
The National Lottery Community Fund		35,000	35,000
The William Leech Charity		3,000	3,000
The 1989 Willan Charitable Trust c/o Community Foundation	10,000		10,000
The Tudor Trust	40,000	2,000	42,000
The Joicey Trust		2,000	2,000
County Durham Community Foundation – Donor Support		2,000	2,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	15,000		15,000
Fatherhood Institute		2,000	2,000
Total	208,859	338,884	547,743
EXPENDITURE			
Raising donations and legacies			
Marketing and advertising	1,338	2,675	4,013
Raising Funds	18,236	-	18,236
Support costs			
Wages, ER NI & ER Pension	10,324	126,777	137,101
Computer Equipment	8,310	2,232	10,542
Cycling Equipment	66	3,581	3,647
Staff Training & Welfare	897	2,798	3,695
Group work & Project Expenditure	30,584	26,785	57,369
Postage & stationery	143	127	270
Consultancy fees	11,681	-	11,681
Telephone	-	1,645	1,645
Client & staff travel	70	6,003	6,073
Accountancy/Finance Officer	7,836	5,340	13,176
Insurance	-	1,136	1,136

Subscriptions	534	144	678
Office/Admin Expenses	2,462	1,938	4,400
Repairs & Renewals	233	8	241
Rent	7,000	5,500	12,500
Total resources expended	<u>99,714</u>	<u>186,689</u>	<u>286,403</u>
Net income	<u>109,145</u>	<u>152,195</u>	<u>261,340</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: CE009920 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1172924

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 April 2023
for
North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIO

Brown, March and Bowman Ltd
4 Tyne View
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE15 8DE

North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIOContents of the Financial StatementsFor the Year Ended 30 April 2023

	Page
Report of the Trustees	3 to 14
Independent Examiner's Report	15
Statement of Financial Activities	16 to 17
Balance Sheet	18 to 19
Notes to the Financial Statements	20 to 22
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities	23 to 24

North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIOReport of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 30 April 2023

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report alongside the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 30 April 2023. The trustees have adopted the provision of 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 2019).

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**Charity Name**

North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIO

Registered Company number

CE009920 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number

1172924

Registered office

c/o BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Arts
South Shore Road
Gateshead
NE8 3BA

Trustees

Prof. Anna Tarrant (Chair) (appointed 07/07/2022)
Tyler Reed (appointed 12/09/2023)
Destiny Greenwood (appointed 12/09/2023)
Colin Workman (appointed 11/07/2023)
Mark Hutchinson (appointed 11/07/2023)
Jordan Pike (appointed 07/07/2022)
Jennifer Goldstein (appointed 09/07/2020)
Sarah Oliver (appointed 09/07/2020)
Emma Alcock (now resigned)
Steven Bramwell (now resigned)
Chloe Cottrell (now resigned)
Chris Humba (now resigned)
Angela Ward (now resigned)

Chief Executive Officer

Kevin Stoodley

Independent examiner

PA Brown & Company Ltd
16 Abbey Meadows
Morpeth
NE61 2BD

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank, P.O Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M60 4EP

INCORPORATION

The charitable company was incorporated on 9 May 2017 and commenced trading on the same date.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Trustee Recruitment

The charity is governed by an elected board of trustees, who meet regularly for quarterly board meetings and an annual public AGM with the CEO of the charity. At these meetings, the opportunity arises for new trustees to be nominated, carefully considered by the board, and approved. All trustees are required to hold a valid enhanced DBS certificate which is reviewed every 3 years.

OBJECTIVES, ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

NEYDL is a unique youth support service that is dedicated to helping young men and young fathers to play an active and meaningful role in the lives of their children, within families and wider society.

Mission and Vision

- Our vision is for young dads to be valued and supported in their role as parents.
- Our mission is to enable young dads to play a safe, active and meaningful role in their children's lives, by supporting and connecting young dads and influencing wider practice.

CHAIR'S REPORT

By Professor Anna Tarrant

It is an absolute honour to introduce the North East Young Dads and Lads' 2023 Annual Report in my brand-new capacity as the Chair of Trustees. As a starter for ten, please permit me to provide a brief overview of how I came to take on this role. I first became acquainted with the charity in 2017 and then again in 2020 in my capacity as a researcher, initially at the University of Leeds and now the University of Lincoln. I have been researching the lives of men in low-income families for a long time now, including a strand of work with young fathers and have always been interested in capturing the pioneering work of services that are involved in supporting fathers and families to flourish. My research team (Following Young Fathers Further) and I approached the charity in 2020 having seen CEO Kev talk about the pioneering work of the North East Young Dads and Lads on the BBC and it was clear that our interests and agendas for supporting young fathers in innovative ways aligned. In a research capacity, we worked to support some of NEYDL's young dads to conduct peer research as part of the Diverse Dads study. We co-wrote two research reports and a peer reviewed journal article with the dads as the Diverse Dads Collaborative and demonstrated the capacity of young dads to challenge negative stereotypes about themselves and others by contributing new knowledge and by changing the narrative. I later joined the Board of Trustees in 2022, bringing my research experience into the conversations of the board.

When Steven Bramwell announced he was stepping down as Chair of Trustees, I made the decision to take the step up; to support Kev and the NEYDL team with their ambitions for this thriving charity, to work with the Board of Trustees to support Kev and his strategic vision, and to sustain the ethos and ambitions of the charity. And what big shoes I must fill! According to my research a good chair of trustees is altruistic, has a good sense of humour, empowers others, and is friendly and humble. I'd like to think I epitomise all of those things (sense of humour included!) but certainly our outgoing Chair Steven is all these things in spades. It is therefore my aim to bring these qualities and a comparable level of passion, drive, and enthusiasm to the role as Steven did.

As the items in this year's report demonstrate, the anticipated trajectory of growth and innovation that was described in the 2022 report, has been realised and some! It has certainly been another fantastic and progressive year as promised! The charity continues to attract significant grant funding and is supporting an ever-expanding portfolio of young fathers, not just across the North East and Tyne and Wear region, but also nationally and even internationally. The community beekeeping, and Wheelie Good Dads projects have gone from strength to strength and via the DigiDAD platform, the charity is reaching new and increasingly distant destinations, from the depths of Wales to the far flung reaches of Peru. Testament to the increasing visibility and recognition of the charity and its work on DigiDAD, the charity was shortlisted in the category of Charity of the Year in the prestigious Children and Young People Now Awards 2022 and a

further 2 categories in 2023 (Advice and Guidance and Youth Work categories). This is a huge honour and testament to the rising visibility and impact of the charity, and its work with and for young fathers.

As the year 2023 unfolds, I wish to say a huge thank you to the young dads, to the Board, to the consultants, the funders, and the ever-expanding staff team at NEYDL for everything that you do. Thanks also to Kev, for your tireless commitment to the dads and to the charity as it develops and as it grows in its reach and influence. I look forward to working with you all in the year ahead.

Best wishes.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Anna Tarrant'.

Professor Anna Tarrant (Chair of Trustees since 11th July 2023 and Vice Chair/Secretary from 7th July 2022 to 11th July 2023)

CEO's Report

By Kevin Stoodley

A very warm welcome to this, our sixth Annual Report, covering the charity's endeavours and achievements over a 12-month period from May 2022 to April 2023.

Like the best laid plans of mice and men, every year I endeavour to release a short and snappy Annual Report as soon as the charity's year ends, only to lose myself in the wealth of rich, varied and wonderful stories, quotes and imagery shared by our incredible staff, trustees, volunteers and project partners, resulting in a burning desire to showcase this work in all its glory, even if it does mean adding yet another page or four to the final report. In the words of Roy Scheider (Chief Brody) during his first encounter with the oversized and rubberised Great White Shark in the movie *Jaws*, 'you're gonna need a bigger boat!' Or in our case a bigger printer!

I know I say this every year but 2023 really has been our best year ever, reaching and supporting more young dads, expectant fathers and non-birthing people (any young person who identifies as a father figure including kinship carers) than ever before, across a geographic area which now extends from Tyne and Wear to Tees Valley, and that's without mentioning the tens of thousands of people who access our online films, animations, podcasts and course content made by young dads for young dads and showcased on DigiDAD.

Whilst there are many things about NEYDL's work in 2023 deserving of high praise as detailed in this wonderful report, I believe our defining achievement this year has been to support, empower and enable young dads to progress from the position of service beneficiaries into one or more of the many volunteering opportunities we offer, from peer researchers to community cycling group leaders, community beekeepers and bee-entrepreneurs to DigiDAD content co-creators and expert advisors, AmbassaDADS to trustees. For young dads Rob, Nathan, Will and Jordan, this journey has ultimately led to their employment at NEYDL, taking on new, vital, and valued roles as Peer Enablers and Cycling Group Leaders who other young dads naturally gravitate towards, trust, and look up to as positive male role models as the following feedback from 2 young dads perfectly demonstrates:

'The service (NEYDL) and Rob himself (NEYDL staff member) have been amazing and I am so grateful for the support I have received. You have helped me adapt and become the Father I want to be.'

'I feel involved and more confident around people who's in the group. I'm much happier and I start loving it, cause whenever Doug or Will (NEYDL staff members) say oh we're doing a group session this date, then I get excited about it cause I always want to hang out with them. Because they're, like, really nice people...and if I need help, they come and talk to me. If I need help on something then they just step on the pedal and then talk to us and help me, like, you know, calm the stress, or get much confidence. I really look up to Will in the group because I appreciate what he, like he helped me through since I came into the group. I feel appreciative for him.'

Rest assured, as a strength/asset-based community development service, we are fully committed to supporting ever more young dads to grow in confidence, skills, knowledge and expertise as both parents and valued members of society, and I look forward to a day not too far away when a former service beneficiary of NEYDL is sitting in my seat (and doing a far better job of it I don't doubt).

Although it's been a good year for NEYDL, it has been incredibly challenging and desperate for many of the young families we support, who often live in the most deprived North East neighbourhoods and are thus most starkly affected by the cost-of-living crisis, poor housing, homelessness, limited job and career prospects. In addition, young men continue to report high levels of social isolation and loneliness and poor mental health (including suicidal thoughts, depression, social anxiety, loss and bereavement). We will continue to do everything within our powers and capacity to draw attention to the challenges and inequalities facing this long-neglected community whilst providing meaningful support to young dads whenever and wherever it's needed, in close collaboration with our service partners which next year will include Sunderland, Gateshead, County Durham and Middlesbrough Family Hubs.

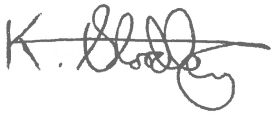
The incredible work and achievements celebrated in this report would not have been possible without the generosity, support and encouragement shown by our amazing funders, sponsors and organisational partners, and the determination, skills and expertise shown by of our super talented current staff team - the brilliant Doug, Will, Jordan, Robert, Andy, Colin, Nathan, Tom, Amy and Nikki, our departing staff members Jonah York and Dylan Brown, our volunteers, trustees, project consultants and of course young dads and their families. It is because of you that we look forward to another highly productive and successful seventh year supporting young dads.

Before I sign off, can I please take a moment to thank our departing Chair Steven Bramwell, who recently stepped down after 6 years in office, having expertly steered the charity from its infancy as a little known and part-time Gateshead based service to the Peruvian powerhouse it has become (see article entitled DIGIDAD: From Peterlee to Peru). We couldn't have got here without you Steven! A very warm welcome is also due to our incoming Chair Professor Anna Tarrant – we are in safe hands!

I will end this Introduction with an unexpected message we recently received from the parent of a young dad supported by NEYDL which moved me deeply:

'You have done more than you'll ever know for my son and grandson.'

Best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Stoodley', with a horizontal line drawn through the middle of the signature.

Kevin Stoodley (Founder and CEO)

OUR IMPACT

(Covering the period from 1st May 2022 to 30th April 2023)

Reason for referral	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Young father / expectant dad	105	68	63	46	61	46
Non birthing people	10	4	2	1	1	2
Total:	115	72	65	47	62	48
Engagement by young men						
New referral	48	25	33	25	53	48
Ongoing support	67	47	32	22	9	6
Total:	115	72	65	47	62	54
Locality						
Sunderland	34	23	26	22	19	7
Gateshead	20	26	32	20	31	44
South Tyneside	9	6	6	2	5	0
Newcastle upon Tyne	57	7	1	3	7	3
North Tyneside	14	3	0	0	0	0
Durham	15	6	0	0	0	0
Northumberland	0	1	0	0	0	0
Middlesbrough	18	0	0	0	0	0
Total:	115	72	65	47	62	54
Young Men Living in Areas of Highest Deprivation (Based on IMD2019)						
10% most deprived areas	115	71	Not previously recorded			
Other	0	1	Not previously recorded			
Total	115	72				
Age at entry point						
Under 16	16	4	8	4	5	7
16-18	28	18	8	28	21	21
19-25	71	50	49	15	31	24
Not given	0	0	0	0	5	2
Total:	115	72	65	47	62	54
Referral pathway						
Youth work charities	10	8	11	11	16	23
Social services	23	21	18	11	7	7
Early Help Teams	10	3	0	1	1	2
Family Nurse Partnership	18	18	16	17	17	7
Self-Referrals	5	6	5	4	14	5
School & Education	8	1	2	1	2	4
Housing	6	8	4	2	4	0
Health	25	6	0	0	0	0
Criminal Justice	0	1	0	0	0	0
Other	10	0	9	0	1	6
Total:	115	72	65	47	62	54
Individual help received.						
Child Protection proceedings	30	24	23	12	27	24
Child/Team around the family	10	1	1	3	7	1
Family law proceedings	5	5	5	0	8	7
NEET status	30	17	14	13	27	14
Career progression	15	11	5	4	8	Not recorded.
Housing, homelessness & benefits	25	16	9	4	8	9
Completing essential paperwork	30	16	13	5	19	Not recorded
Poverty & debt management	55	9	17	10	12	Not recorded.
Domestic abuse	15	21	12	7	21	12
Offending behaviour	25	6	16	3	10	4
Mental & emotional wellbeing	45	23	30	26	31	11
Substance misuse & addiction	15	7	8	6	12	6
Sexual health	18	5	3	5	2	0
Other physical health conditions	10	6	4	4	6	2
Learning difficulties	10	3	8	5	8	Not recorded
Social isolation and loneliness	101	72	60	47	51	5
Parenting skills	50	35	34	20	46	19
Relationship skills	40	23	27	24	25	5
Bereavement & loss	15	8	4	6	8	2
Volunteering*	105	74	3	8	25	9
School exclusion	8	6	5	3	2	4

Total:	657	388	301	215	363	134
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*This figure represents the total number of young men who volunteered at NEYDL over a 12-month period

Individual contact time (hrs)

Dads and Toddlers groups	32	12	0	106	44
1:1 support (face to face)	850	408	440	350	306
1:1 support (telephone & social media)	572	234	450	140	92
Joint meetings with other professionals	350	460	250	190	119
Peer supported group work	480	202	850	959	912
Training delivered to professionals	150	51	40	56	101
Research activities	400	451	254	134	420
Campaigning, media, and film-work	350	257	428	142	238
Community beekeeping	268	196	131	250	98
Peer mentoring & volunteering	2,625	1,491	280	230	216
Other activities	50	17	20	36	0
Total:	6,127	3,779	3,143	2,593	2,546

Average individual contact time (hrs)	53	52.5	48	55	41
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Key outcomes

Child Protection Plans downgraded or completed	22	18	9	5	8
Child-In-Need plans downgraded or completed	9	10	3	3	4
Progressed into full time work or study	18	9	10	5	8
Accessed specialist medical help and support	45	15	2	5	5
Total:	94	52	24	18	25

Social Media Metrics

YouTube Channel – launched 6th April 2021

Views:	30,598	12,400
Watch time (hours):	1,049	903
Organic subscribers:	106	80
Impressions:	97,700	41,600

Gender demographics:

Male:	56.5%	58.2%
Female:	43.5%	41.8%

Age demographics

18-24:	30.9%	33%
25-34:	44.3%	40%
35-44:	19.1%	19.4%
44+:	5.7%	7.6%

Twitter

Followers:	1,152	887
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Facebook

Followers:	806	624
Likes:	684	549
Average reach per post:	8,000	209

DigiDAD E-learning Platform

Registered users:	110	43
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SUPPORTING YOUNG DADS: A CASE STUDY

By Doug Laidlaw & Steven (A young Dad)

Steven was referred to the service at 16. At the time he was in a relationship with the future mother of his child (age 15). Both Steven and his partner had previously been cared for by the local authority and were living together. The referral for support for Steven came from the Pre-Birth Intervention Team who identified support around parenting skills and reduction in social isolation. Steven and his partner were not in education, employment or training at the time.

Doug (NEYDL staff member) met with Steven to discuss the service at the family home. Steven asked if his partner could also attend part of this meeting to understand what support he could get. After discussing support and showcasing DigiDAD, Steven was keen to access this resource. Steven registered on the DigiDAD platform at our first meeting.

Steven and Doug agreed a work plan and met weekly. Steven completed the DigiDAD programme. Feedback from Steven included:

‘The videos were fun and made me feel more confident that I can do all the things new dads need to do.’ Steven reported that his partner had also been watching the videos.

As Steven grew in confidence, he started engaging in NEYDL’s peer supported group work offer including football, cycling, bowling, Escape Room visits and go-karting. In response, he has formed close friendships with other young dads from NEYDL and joined their video gaming group.

As the pregnancy progressed, Steven called Doug and informed him that his partner had gone into labour prematurely and was rushed into hospital. Doug offered emotional support to Steven via telephone.

Following the birth, Steven contacted Doug to inform him that the baby had to go into hospital in Middlesbrough. Steven didn't know how he could make the 30-mile journey from home to visit his child. Doug supported Steven to make these visits and stayed with Steven during the initial visits to offer emotional support.

After baby was transferred to the RVI Children’s Hospital, Doug continued to provide visitation support for a further 6 weeks. With Doug’s support Steven grew more comfortable and confident in caring for his baby within the hospital setting and one day announced:

‘Doug I've got this!’

Steven also started to ask the hospital staff questions concerning both his baby's care and what support his partner and the baby would need when they came home.

Doug and the Pre-Birth Team worked with the family to develop a support plan for when baby came home.

Steven continues to be supported by NEYDL and dad, mam and baby are doing well.

Unsolicited feedback from Steven included:

‘You were the only one I could ask for help, and you were always there for me.’

Feedback from our service beneficiaries:

'Yous are amazing. I'll forever be grateful and will support the charity forever.'

(Young Dad)

'They (NEYDL) were in our corner every single step of the way.'

(Young Dad)

'Hey (NEYDL staff member), hope all is well...I wanted to say a massive thank you! When I was living up north, honestly if it wasn't for you, I know genuinely I would have committed suicide...You was the only person who never judge me...You truly are an amazing person! An amazing dad and I never grew up with a dad myself, but you are what dads should inspire to be!'

(Young Dad)

'Honestly, without the support from the guys here (NEYDL) I don't want to know where I probably would've ended up.'

(Young Dad)

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Over the next year, the charity will continue to work to our strategic objectives as defined below.

- Provide individual support to young dads to address their issues and achieve personal outcomes.
- Enable young Dads to engage in activities (i) where they can share experience and support with other young dads and (ii) where they can spend time with mother and child.
- Provide opportunities to improve knowledge, skills, confidence and self-esteem through training and information resources.
- Influence policy and practice to be more inclusive and supportive of young Dads.
- Ensure NEYDL has the resources required to achieve the above objectives, maintaining high quality, authenticity, and effectiveness.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

At the year end, the board of trustees considered the charity to be in a healthy financial position with approximately six months of operating costs being held within unrestricted reserves. At the 30th April 2023, the board of trustees identified no uncertainties relating to the charity ability to continue as a going concern. The board of trustees' review and update their financial controls on a regular basis.

Principal funds

The charities principal source of funds is made up of voluntary grants from trusts and foundations and statutory grants and service commissioning.

In the year ended 30th April 2023, North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIO continued to work on projects, which during the current year were funded largely by the following foundations and organisations with our deepest gratitude and heartfelt thanks:

The Ballinger Charitable Trust
 Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust
 BBC Children in Need
 Connected Voice – VCSE Cost of Living Crisis Fund
 County Durham Community Foundation – Donor Support
 Cycling UK funded by The National Lottery & Sports England
 The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation
 Fatherhood Institute
 Garfield Weston Foundation
 The Imagine Foundation
 The Lankelly Chase Foundation
 Lloyds Bank Foundation
 Newcastle University
 NHS Health Improvement Fund c/o County Durham Community Foundation
 Swire Charitable Trust
 The National Lottery Community Fund
 The William Leech Charity
 The 1989 Willan Charitable Trust c/o Community Foundation Tyne & Wear & Northumberland
 The Tudor Trust
 The Joicey Trust
 Warburtons Project Grant
 The Council of The County of Durham – Durham Family Hubs

The North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIO will carry forward £287,160 of restricted funds and £141,000 of unrestricted funds to be spent in the 2023-2024 financial year.

Financial reserves policy

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that the North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIO can meet its contractual obligations and finance the planned future growth of the organisation. The level of free reserves (excluding restricted funds)

is reviewed annually by the Trustees. The Trustees consider that the most appropriate level of reserves on 30th April 2023 would be £143,202 which is equivalent to approximately six months basis operating costs.

The general reserves on 30th April 2023 amounted to £141,000, which is considered as free reserves.

Fundraising Policy

The North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIO engages fundraising consultants from time to time to support the charities CEO to develop strategic plans of activities relevant to voluntary and statutory grant fundraising and service commissioning opportunities. The charity does not purchase external lists of potential individual donors or undertake Direct Mail appeals to such lists.

The charity adheres to the Fundraising Code of Practice issued by the Fundraising Regulator and does not approach or pressure vulnerable people to support its work.

Any fundraising events carried out on behalf of the charity that we are aware of are supported and monitored by the CEO. Any marketing materials and approaches are scrutinised to ensure compliance with the Fundraising Code of Practice and details of income and expenditure are carefully recorded by the Finance Manager. Income is acknowledged and grateful thanks are sent, typically with a letter.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for preparing the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland."

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to,

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- observe the methods and principles in the Charity SORP.
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's independent examiners are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the relevant examiners are aware of that information.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 13/12/2023 and signed on its behalf by:

A Tarrant – Chair to Trustees

Anna Tarrant

Lara Tarrant

J Goldstien- Treasurer

James Goldstien

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of
North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIO

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIO ("the Company")
I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 30 April 2023.

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 accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company 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 accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directors given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act: or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts 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 accounts to be reached.



11/12/2023

Paul Brown
PA Brown & Company Ltd
16 Abbey Meadows
Morpeh
NE61 2BD

North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIOStatement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 30 April 2023

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Public Donations	8,609		8,609
Charitable activities			
Swire Charitable Trust	23,000		23,000
Newcastle University		1,440	1,440
The Council of the County of Durham – Durham Family Hubs		200,000	200,000
The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	44,000		44,000
The Imagine Foundation	22,000		22,000
NHS Health Improvement Fund c/o County Durham Community Foundation		19,500	19,500
Cycling UK funded by The National Lottery & Sport England		480	480
Connected Voice - VCSE Cost of Living Crisis Fund	4,000		4,000
Warburtons Project Grant		10,000	10,000
The Lankelly Chase Foundation		34,578	34,578
Lloyds Bank Foundation	27,250		27,250
BBC Children in Need		26,886	26,886
The Ballinger Charitable Trust	15,000		15,000
The National Lottery Community Fund		35,000	35,000
The William Leech Charity		3,000	3,000
The 1989 Willan Charitable Trust c/o Community Foundation Tyne & Wear & Northumberland	10,000		10,000
The Tudor Trust	40,000	2,000	42,000
The Joicey Trust		2,000	2,000
County Durham Community Foundation – Donor Support		2,000	2,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	15,000		15,000
Fatherhood Institute		2,000	2,000
Total	208,859	338,884	547,743
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising Funds	18,236	0	18,236
Charitable activities			
Other	81,478	186,689	268,166
Total	99,714	186,689	286,403
NET INCOME	109,145	152,195	261,340
TOTAL FUNDS BROUGHT FORWARD (RESTATED)	31,855	134,965	166,820
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD			

<u>141,000</u>	<u>287,160</u>	<u>428,160</u>
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CONTINUING OPERATIONS

All income and expenditure have arisen from continuing activities.

The notes form part of these financial statements

North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIOBalance Sheet
At 30 April 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
CURRENT ASSETS				
Cash at bank		141,000	287,160	428,160
Cash in hand		-	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<hr/> 141,000	<hr/> 287,160	<hr/> 428,160
NET ASSETS		<hr/> 141,000	<hr/> 287,160	<hr/> 428,160
FUNDS				
Unrestricted funds				141,000
Restricted funds				287,160
TOTAL FUNDS				<hr/> 428,160

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the period ended 30 April 2022.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the period ended 30 April 2021 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charitable company.

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 12th December 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:

A Tarrant – Chair of Trustees



The notes form part of these financial statements

North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIONotes to the Financial Statements
for the Year Ended 30 April 2023**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES****Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Income

All income is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities once the charity has entitlement to the funds, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Taxation

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

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

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

2. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 30 April 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 30 April 2023.

North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIONotes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the Year Ended 30 April 2023**3. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	(RESTATED) At 30.4.22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 30.4.23 £
Unrestricted funds	31,855	109,145	141,000
Restricted funds			
Cycling UK funded by The National Lottery & Sport England	-	480	480
The Imagine Foundation	4,808	(4,808)	-
The Council of the County of Durham – Durham Family Hubs	-	200,000	200,000
Newcastle University	-	516	516
NHS Health Improvement Fund c/o County Durham Community Foundation	-	16,955	16,955
County Durham Community Foundation – Donor Support	-	960	960
Fatherhood Institute	-	2,000	2,000
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust	79,329	(61,743)	17,586
The Tudor Trust	23,249	(23,249)	-
Lankelly Chase (Wellbeing Grant)	393	(393)	-
The Lankelly Chase Foundation	13,011	11,750	24,761
Warburtons Project Grant	-	2,676	2,676
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	2,974	2,974
The Tudor Trust (Wellbeing Grant)	-	1,200	1,200
The Joicey Trust	-	2,000	2,000
The William Leech Charity	-	3,000	3,000
Cycling UK CCC	233	(233)	-
The Ballinger Charitable Trust	6,435	(6,435)	-
BBC Children in Need	7,507	4,545	12,052
TOTAL FUNDS	166,820	261,340	428,160

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds	208,859	(99,714)	109,145
Restricted funds			
Newcastle University	1,440	(924)	516
The National Lottery Community Fund	35,000	(32,026)	2,974
The Council of the County of Durham – Durham Family Hubs	200,000	-	200,000
The Tudor Trust (Wellbeing Grant)	2,000	(800)	1,200
The William Leech Charity	3,000	-	3,000
The Joicey Trust	2,000	-	2,000
Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust	-	(61,743)	(61,743)
Cycling UK funded by The National Lottery & Sport England	480	-	480
Warburtons Project Grant	10,000	(7,324)	2,676
NHS Health Improvement Fund c/o County Durham Community Foundation	19,500	(2,545)	16,955
County Durham Community Foundation – Donor Support	2,000	(1,040)	960
Fatherhood Institute	2,000	-	2,000
The Imagine Foundation	-	(4,808)	(4,808)
Cycling UK CCC	-	(233)	(233)
The Lankelly Chase Foundation (Wellbeing Grant)	-	(393)	(393)
The Lankelly Chase Foundation	34,578	(22,828)	11,750
The Ballinger Charitable Trust	-	(6,435)	(6,435)
The Tudor Trust	-	(23,249)	(23,249)
BBC Children In Need	26,886	(22,341)	4,545
TOTAL FUNDS	547,743	(286,403)	261,340

4. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There were no related party transactions for the period ended 30 April 2023 other than those disclosed in note 2.

North East Young Dads and Lads Project CIODetailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the Year Ended 30 April 2023

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Public Donations	8,609		8,609
Charitable activities			
The Swire Charitable Trust	23,000		23,000
The Council of the County of Durham – Durham Family Hubs		200,000	200,000
Newcastle University		1,440	1,440
The Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	44,000		44,000
The Imagine Foundation	22,000		22,000
NHS Health Improvement Fund c/o County Durham Community Foundation		19,500	19,500
Cycling UK – Community Cycle Clubs Together Fund		480	480
Connected Voices- VCSE Cost of Living Crisis Fund	4,000		4,000
Warburtons Project Grant		10,000	10,000
Lankelly Chase		34,578	34,578
Lloyds Bank Foundation	27,250		27,250
BBC Children in Need		26,886	26,886
The Ballinger Charitable Trust	15,000		15,000
The National Lottery Community Fund		35,000	35,000
The William Leech Charity		3,000	3,000
The 1989 Willan Charitable Trust c/o Community Foundation	10,000		10,000
The Tudor Trust	40,000	2,000	42,000
The Joicey Trust		2,000	2,000
County Durham Community Foundation – Donor Support		2,000	2,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	15,000		15,000
Fatherhood Institute		2,000	2,000
Total	208,859	338,884	547,743
EXPENDITURE			
Raising donations and legacies			
Marketing and advertising	1,338	2,675	4,013
Raising Funds	18,236	-	18,236
Support costs			
Wages, ER NI & ER Pension	10,324	126,777	137,101
Computer Equipment	8,310	2,232	10,542
Cycling Equipment	66	3,581	3,647
Staff Training & Welfare	897	2,798	3,695
Group work & Project Expenditure	30,584	26,785	57,369
Postage & stationery	143	127	270
Consultancy fees	11,681	-	11,681
Telephone	-	1,645	1,645
Client & staff travel	70	6,003	6,073
Accountancy/Finance Officer	7,836	5,340	13,176
Insurance	-	1,136	1,136

Subscriptions	534	144	678
Office/Admin Expenses	2,462	1,938	4,400
Repairs & Renewals	233	8	241
Rent	7,000	5,500	12,500
Total resources expended	<u>99,714</u>	<u>186,689</u>	<u>286,403</u>
Net income	<u>109,145</u>	<u>152,195</u>	<u>261,340</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.