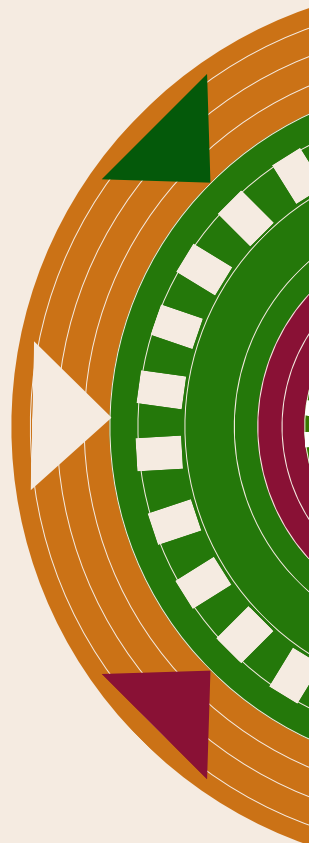
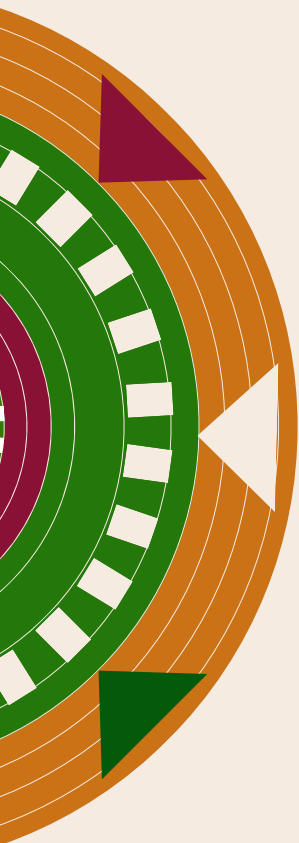


DA'ARO YOUTH PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2024 TO MARCH 2025



LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity Number

1189245

Contact Email

info@daaroyouth.org.uk

Registered Office and Operational Address

Woodlawns Day Centre, 16
Leigham Court Road, London,
SW16 2PJ

Trustees

Dr Yohannes Teklu Bahru (Chair)
Dr Elaine Chase (Secretary)
Aron Zerezghi (Treasurer)
Dr Mikal Woldu
Tigist Kinfu
Adonay Younas Berhe
Yordanos Tesfa Feseha
Amel Hamilton
Futsum Kahsa
Yacob Woldehiwot

Key Management

Sarah Robson (Director)

Independent Examiner

Community Action Sutton,
Granfers Community Centre, 73-
79 Oakhill Road, Sutton, SM1 3AA

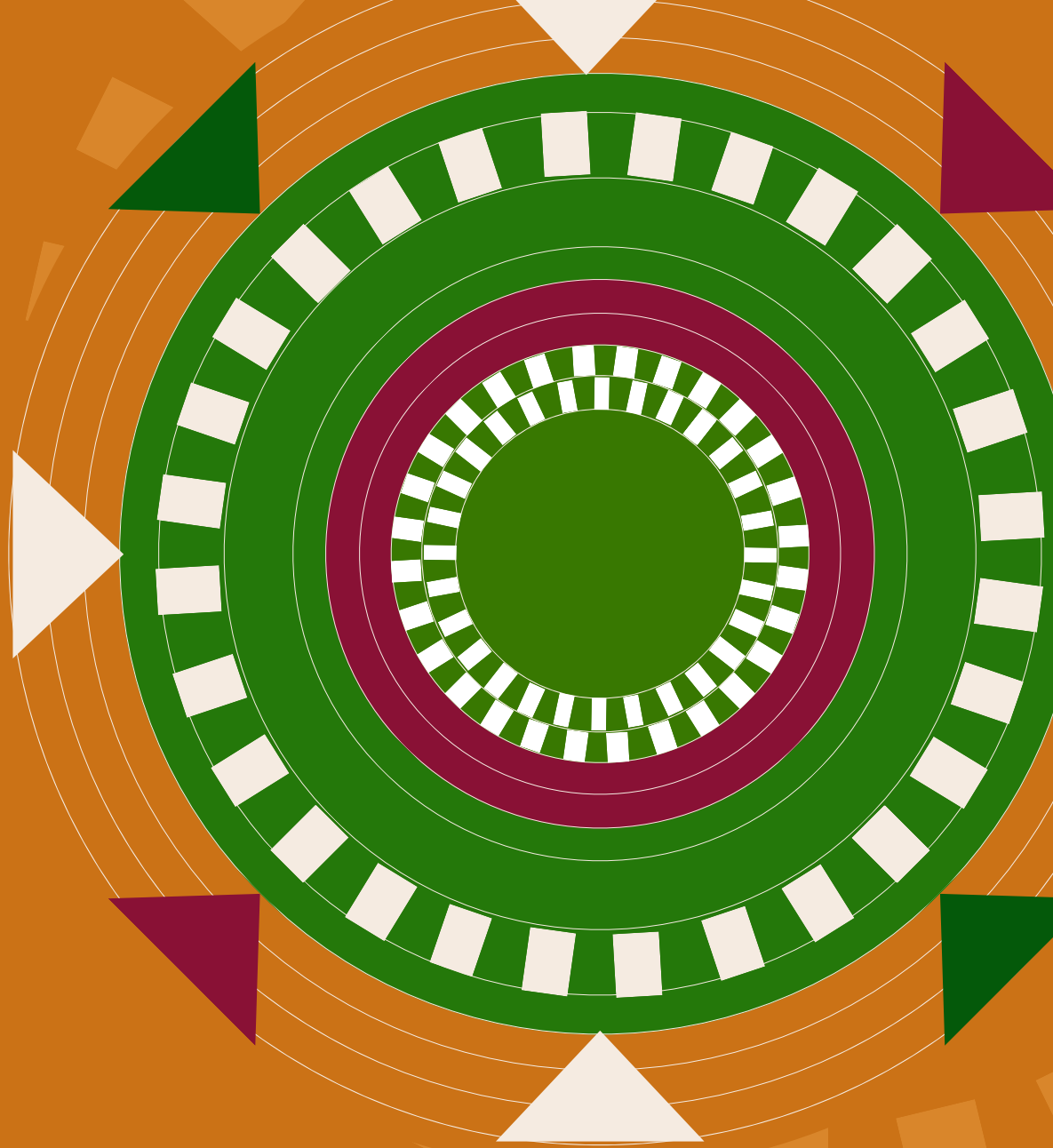
Bankers

CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue,
Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent,
ME19 4JQ



CONTENTS

• Chair's Report	4
• Youth Activities Trips & Clubs	11
• Youth Mentoring Service	22
• Youth Casework Service	37
• Independent Examiners' Report	51
• Financial Overview	54
• Trustees	66
• Thanks to our funders	71



CHAIR'S REPORT



Following the COVID-19 community awareness campaigns in South London, I joined Da'aro Youth Project (DYP) in the summer of 2021 at the invitation of Dehab Woldu. I remain eternally grateful to her for giving me that opportunity. In November 2022, I was formally appointed Chair by the Board of Trustees.

This year's report reflects on our journey — the legacy we've upheld, the lives we've touched, and the future we're building together.

OUR LEGACY AND MISSION

DYP was founded in response to the tragic loss of young lives, particularly among East African communities in London. While Eritreans formed the majority of young people attending the project at the start, the founding members of DYP broadened its scope to include youth from Ethiopia, Sudan, and Somalia. This inclusive spirit remains central to our mission: to support vulnerable young people with compassion, dignity, and cultural understanding.

Our open-door policy ensures that anyone who walks through it receives support — emotionally, psychologically, socially, and educationally. Word of mouth remains our strongest outreach tool, and our community continues to grow organically.

This year, we've strengthened ties with the founding mothers of DYP, especially through Yirgalem and Saba, whose leadership helped launch our Injera Club and reignite grassroots engagement. This bridge between our charity and its base community is vital to our long-term sustainability.

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

In 2023, DYP underwent a major transformation in its leadership structure. We moved from informal nominations to a formal, skill-based selection process for trustees, ensuring that our governance reflects the expertise and diversity needed to serve our mission. This shift has brought fresh energy and professionalism to our board of trustees.

To strengthen our governance further, we introduced four trustee subcommittees. These groups allow trustees to work more closely with staff, offering strategic guidance and hands-on support. This structure has created a vital bridge between operational delivery and board oversight, enhancing collaboration and accountability.

We also undertook a comprehensive policy review. Our safeguarding framework was updated to meet the highest standards, and we produced detailed handbooks for both employees and trustees. These documents have helped clarify roles, responsibilities, and expectations, ensuring consistency and transparency across the organisation.

GROWTH AND CAPACITY

DYP has grown significantly in the past year. Our staff team expanded from just three to ten members, bringing in a wealth of experience, cultural insight, and professional expertise. This growth has allowed us to deepen our services and respond more effectively to the complex needs of our youth.

We've actively encouraged staff development, supporting them to gain new qualifications and build external partnerships. These efforts have led to stronger safeguarding practices, improved legal compliance, and new collaborations with law firms and training providers – all of which enhance our ability to protect and empower vulnerable young people.

ADVOCACY AND POLICY WORK

Our work continues to change lives in profound ways. One of our most moving achievements was reuniting two brothers — one in Kampala, the other in the UK — after years of separation. The process was long and emotionally demanding, but our team never gave up. Our Director, Sarah, personally collected the young man from Heathrow, ensuring he arrived safely and with dignity.

“🤔🤔 I didn't sleep last night woke up at 3 am. The new arrival is H with the orange top. I gave him some of the tops. He was just wearing a T-shirt fit for a child. When I started this case, he was only 15 years old”.

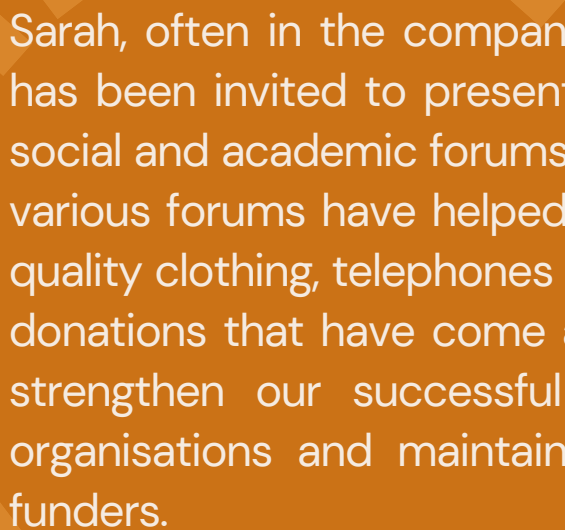
That was a message I received from Sarah upon collecting H from Heathrow airport on his arrival. Across previous annual reports and social media posts, we have shown family reunions facilitated by Benny Hunter, who continues to help and support us in many ways.

We also supported a bereaved mother from Asmara to attend her son's inquest in Coventry, a case that drew national media attention. Despite the logistical and emotional challenges, DYP coordinated travel and support for the entire family (some from Europe) to attend the hearing, demonstrating our commitment to standing by our community in moments of deep grief.

Our ongoing advocacy work earned us a prestigious award of 'Pro Bono and Social Responsibility Initiative of the Year' by Advocate, recognising the impact of our work on national policy and awareness.

DYP's work has attracted attention from leading academic and social institutions, including Oxbridge, SOAS, and Mind. Researchers and postgraduate students regularly engage with us to understand the lived experiences of East African youth in the UK. This recognition has helped elevate our profile and validate our approach greatly.

Our trustees, including Professor Elaine Chaise and Dr Mikal Woldu, have played a key role in supporting these academic collaborations. Meanwhile, barrister and broadcaster Hashi Mohamed has been a tireless advocate for DYP, helping us raise funds and share our story with wider audiences. These relationships have opened doors to new networks, donations, and funding opportunities.



Sarah, often in the company of Youth Service Manager Zeena, has been invited to present our story and our work at several social and academic forums and round table discussions. These various forums have helped us to form vital network links. High quality clothing, telephones and laptops are among some of the donations that have come as a result. It has also helped us to strengthen our successful funding applications from larger organisations and maintain trust from our regular long-term funders.

DYP YOUTH CLUBS AND SERVICES

In the latter part of our annual report, we have highlighted the activities and initiatives across our services. Our three youth clubs — Injera on Tuesdays, Salam on Thursdays, and Saturn on Saturdays — have grown in scope and depth.

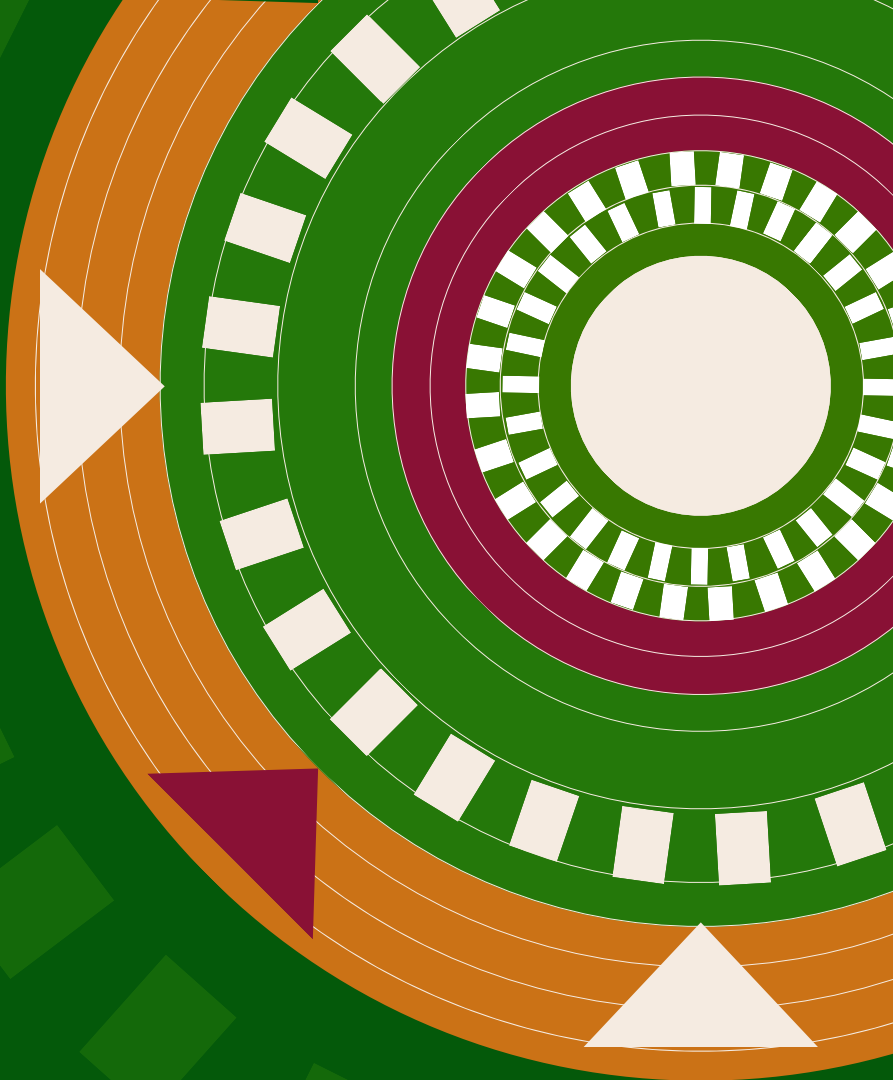
Each club now offers enhanced services tailored to the evolving needs of our youth. The clubs have introduced mentoring, providing young people with guidance and role models they can relate to. Salam Club now includes a barber shop, offering not only practical skills and high-quality equipment but also a sense of pride and belonging. The Saturday Club has added cooking sessions, helping participants develop essential life skills in a warm, communal setting.

Beyond these new additions, we've strengthened our case management approach, ensuring that each young person receives support that is both personalised and holistic. Crucially, our clubs remain open during school and national holidays — a time when many other organisations close their doors. This continuity of care is vital, and our open-door policy ensures that support is always available, without barriers or bureaucracy. It is this accessibility that makes DYP truly unique.

None of our achievements would have been possible without the dedication and devotion of our volunteers. Time and again they have sacrificed their resources, their time and talent to support our youth in many ways. No word is strong enough to express my gratitude to them.

Equally, I would like to thank our staff who have in many ways served far beyond their call of duty. It is a great honour and a privilege to witness the devotion and dedication of Sarah; the organisational developments are living witness statements to her work. My warmest thanks go to the many organisations and individual donors who continue to trust us with their money and provide us with ongoing support.

Finally, I am eternally grateful to my fellow trustees who tirelessly offer their time and expertise freely. They have been instrumental in shaping the organisation DYP is today — organisationally fit and financially secure.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES, TRIPS & CLUBS

At Da'aro Youth Project, we are committed not only to providing essential casework services for young people but also to creating a community and space where they can socialize, relax, and reach their full potential.

Every week, we host three youth clubs, each with a unique purpose. All our clubs offer a space for 14 to 25-year-olds from Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia and South Sudan to socialize, play, relax, participate in workshops, classes, and activities, and enjoy a hot meal.

We strive to provide respite from the isolation that many young unaccompanied asylum seekers and refugees face in the UK. Although each club is tailored towards different needs, we remain flexible and adaptable to the ever-changing circumstances of young people, ensuring we maintain a youth-led approach in all that we do.



SALAM CLUB

Salam Club is our youth club dedicated to serving young people who are new to the country. The name Salam—which means peace and is used as a greeting in many languages, was put forward by one of our youth club attendees during an ideation workshop.

The club offers a welcoming and relaxing environment where young people can connect with friends from similar backgrounds, speak their native language, and settle into the country while also accessing key casework, ESOL, and mentoring services.

This year we have held 51 Salam Club sessions, serving 920 hot meals and ESOL classes activities and arts workshops at every session.

Salam Club takes a holistic approach to well-being, ensuring that a crafting space is available at every session. This space provides an opportunity for young people to engage in relaxing activities, foster their creativity, and have meaningful conversations with each other and our staff and volunteers.



HIGHLIGHTS

from our Salam Club include:

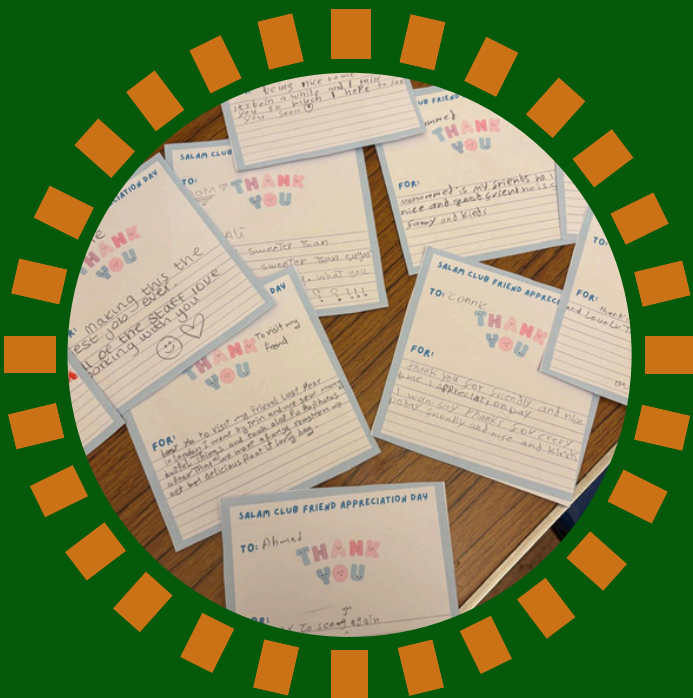


4 youth-led weaving workshops, where young people shared traditional weaving techniques and were supported by Da'aro Youth Project staff in facilitating weaving sessions for youth club attendees.

A sewing workshop, where young people learned how to make a tote bag.



A friendship appreciation workshop, where young people wrote letters of appreciation to their friends and loved ones and designed their own friendship bracelets.



INJERA CLUB

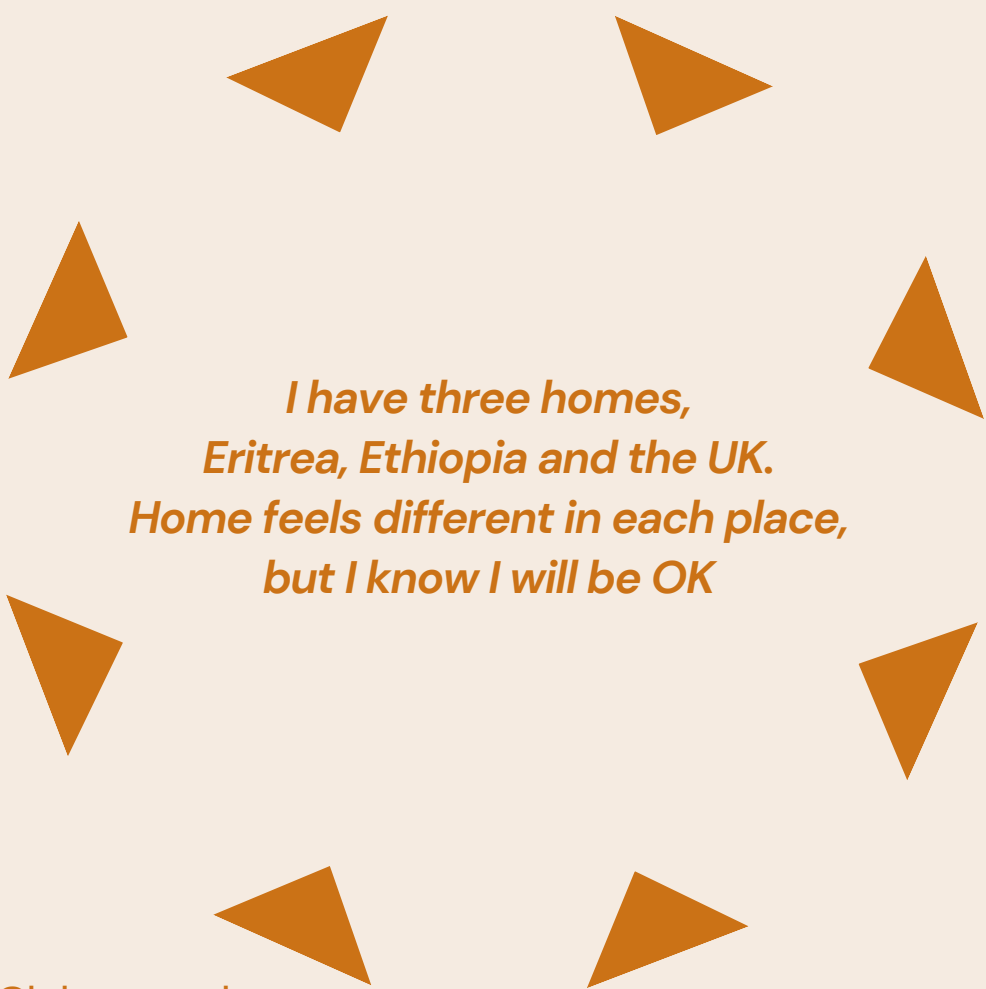
Injera Club is a space for Da'aro Youth Project's longer standing clients. It is designed to foster friendships and support positive development both within and beyond Da'aro Youth Project services. This year we have hosted 47 Injera Club sessions, serving 2327 hot meals.

At Injera Club, young people have the opportunity to express their culture through shared language, dance, music, and food. Whether through traditional songs, eating together, or celebrating cultural days, the club provides a space for young people to connect with their roots while building strong relationships within their community.



Young people can access casework and mentoring at Injera Club. We are also committed to fostering creativity and self-expression. Our resident music teacher provides an open studio space where young people can learn to play instruments, produce music, DJ, and record their own songs.

We also ensure that a weekly creative activity is available for our members. These have included bracelet-making, weaving workshops, landscape sketching, and festive card-making and decorations for Easter, Christmas, New Year, and Ramadan, offering young people the chance to connect with their cultures. Our creative highlight of the year at Injera Club was our poetry workshop during Refugee Week on 18/06/24, where young people wrote poems on the theme of Home.



*I have three homes,
Eritrea, Ethiopia and the UK.
Home feels different in each place,
but I know I will be OK*

A poem from an Injera Club attendee

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS AT YOUTH CLUBS

Da'aro Youth Project has collaborated with local organisations to expand the scope of our services. This year, we were fortunate to continue our partnership with Fulham Football Club, who deliver the Refugee Kicks program aimed at creating inclusive and positive spaces in football. Injera Club hosts a weekly football training session with Fulham FC coaches, and many of our young people have gone on to compete. Our proudest moment of the year was the Da'aro Youth Team winning the Paul Smithers Kicks Senior Cup in May.

POP-UP ARCADE

Pop-Up Arcade has become a staple service at youth clubs. The Pop-Up Arcade Project initiative has provided Da'aro Youth Project with monthly gaming parties, allowing young people to enjoy a variety of video games with their friends. As always, we are dedicated to making Injera Club a space of joy!



SATURDAY INTEGRATION CLUB

We have expanded our services this year with the successful addition of our Saturday Integration Club, named Saturn Club after a competition with young people to find a name for the club. Da'aro Youth Project has partnered with a local organisation, Knights Youth Centre, to provide a weekly, youth-led club for both organisations, offering a unique opportunity for both groups of young people to socialize, play, and learn together.

Our Saturday Youth Club is run by Da'aro Youth Project and Knights Youth Centre staff, with additional support from Young Champions selected from the Da'aro Youth Project and Knights Youth Centre cohorts.

Our Young Champions have been instrumental in founding the club. Over 10 young people have contributed to the Saturday Integration Club as Young Champions. Some notable achievements include a champion-led collaging workshop, champion-led weekly games and sports sessions, and a Champions' day trip to Wey Island, where they learned how to canoe and kayak on the River Wey.

Young people attending our Saturday Youth Club have also benefited from monthly cooking classes facilitated by a chef, during classes aimed at fostering budgeting, shopping, and cooking skills.

NOTABLE TRIPS AND ACTIVITIES

THE HORNIMAN MUSEUM (CROSSING BORDERS FESTIVAL)

During this event in collaboration with refugee organisations, young people actively participated in a circus skills workshop. This workshop, led by a young person, allowed them to engage with festival attendees and share their skills in a meaningful and interactive way.

BOLD TENDENCIES WORKSHOPS

2 workshops were conducted during the summer season with Bold Tendencies, focusing on sculpture making, nature drawing, and skyline drawing. Additionally, a gallery visit helped young people familiarize themselves with free and accessible local arts events at Bold Tendencies.



FASHION AND CREATIVE EXPRESSION WITH THREAD AHEAD

We have worked closely with Thread Ahead this year, 5 trips to the Thread Ahead Clothing Bank were organised, providing young people with access to coats and clothing.

A Fashion Content day trip was also organised for fashion and photography enthusiasts to select outfits, take pictures, create content, and take their chosen outfits home, to develop their portfolios and experience within the fashion industry.

Thread ahead also hosted 2 DJ Workshops this year, where young people were taught how to mix music by a professional DJ, offering hands-on experience in which young people were able to take their mixes home.



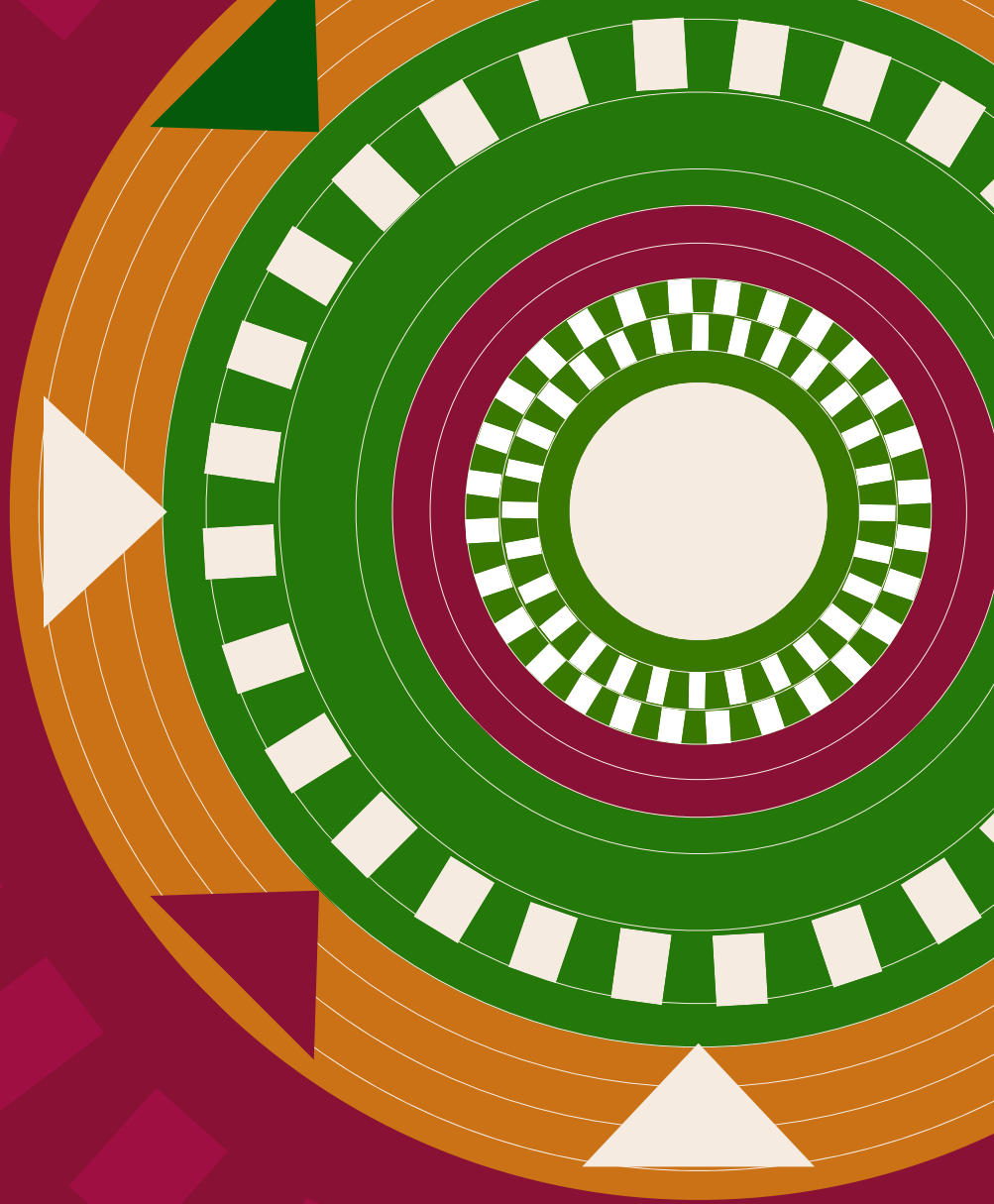
EDUCATIONAL EXCURSIONS

This year Da'aro Youth Project facilitated 4 Wey Island Trips in partnership with Clapham Consortium. This included 2 residential and 2 day trips. These outings featured kayaking, canoeing, nature walks, bike rides, and team-building activities, offering a balance of adventure and personal development.

OUTDOOR AND ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES

A visit to the Science Museum in December provided an educational experience focused on biology, engineering, and space exploration, enhancing young people's knowledge in these fields through interactive exhibits.





YOUTH MENTORING SERVICE

Our Youth Mentoring service was established in May 2024, with the appointment of our Youth Mentoring Lead. The mentoring service offers 1-1 support for young people, helping with a diverse range of needs that can enhance their daily life. Over the past year this has included college enrollment, support to learn English, registering for gym memberships, supporting young people to engage in more social activities and develop their hobbies, CV writing, job applications, budgeting and life skills and more.

Since the service began, 23 young people have benefitted from long term 1-1 support, with many more receiving short term ad-hoc support at our youth clubs.

LAMBETH REFERRALS

Our mentoring service is funded by Lambeth Council. Since the service was established, we have supported looked after children and care leavers under the care of Lambeth Council, through a referral system.

These young people have had full access to Da'aro Youth Project services, with the 1-1 support of our Youth Mentoring Lead. Of the young people that we have supported, all have accessed youth clubs, all have attended at least one trip tailored to their interests and all have been supported through our digital inclusion provisions.

REFERRALS TO PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

Our mentoring service has allowed us to build connections with various organisations within London, and a number of organisations nationwide. Through our mentoring service we are able to refer young people to services that can specifically support their interest and hobbies.

Through referrals made within the mentoring service, Da'aro young people have been supported to access opportunities and support with:

- Engaging in hobbies, such as drama, sport, fashion and photography
- Education
- Digital inclusion
- Clothing and hygiene item distributions



CASE STUDY - H

Our Youth Mentoring Lead provided mentoring support to a young person, H, from Sudan, who had recently arrived into the UK. H explained that he wanted to improve his English, and also wanted to engage in more social activities for the summer holidays. H was invited to attend Da'aro ESOL classes at Salam Club. H was also invited to our Integration Project, in which he would be able to converse with young people who have grown up in the UK, and practice conversational English. Since then, H has become a regular attendee at both of these clubs and has significantly improved his level of English.

To ensure that H had an activity packed summer while college was closed, H was invited on one of Da'aro Youth Projects summer residentials to Wey Island. For 3 days, H engaged in a number of activities and was able to develop new friendships which have long continued into our current youth clubs. H was also referred to Springboard Youth Academy's summer programme, offering an educational programme and activities. H attended this on a regular basis and was awarded the 'star student' award for his commitments!



DIGITAL INCLUSION

A popular provision within our mentoring service is offering digital inclusion support to our young people.

Due to financial and language barriers, refugees and asylum seekers often face being digitally excluded, in a society that heavily relies on technology that moves at a fast pace. Through this service, we are working to break down these barriers.

We have been able to do this by providing smartphones, laptops and SIM cards to our young people. This has been achievable through the support of partner and referral organisations, and successful funding applications to receive such items.

Each item supports a different need. Smartphones support young people to stay connected with social networks in their new country, as well as keeping in touch with family outside of the UK. The SIM cards we provide offer data that allows young people to effectively use their phone, particularly helping them to navigate moving around London, to explore and access their support networks.

Laptops are provided for those accessing education, online classes or work.

When a device or SIM card is provided, our Youth Mentoring Lead or a volunteer mentor ensures the young person is confident in how to use the item, with a support session offered.

Since our mentoring service began, we have provided:

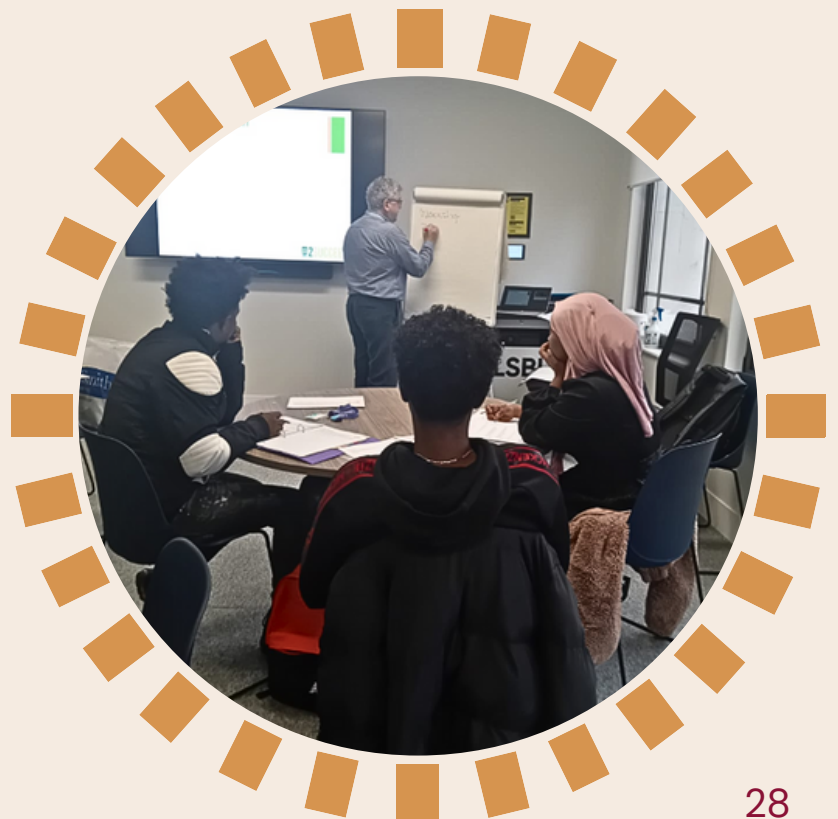
- **6 young people with a smartphone**
- **82 SIM cards**
- **15 young people with laptops**



YOUTH WORK TRAINEES

Through our mentoring service, 4 young people have had the opportunity to undertake a youth work qualification – Level 1 Certificate in Exploring Youth Work Practice, provided by Need2Succeed. On a weekly basis, the young people attend a lesson to learn the theoretical practice behind youth work, submitting coursework.

Alongside this, each week the trainees attend a placement at a Knights Youth Centre youth club, supporting the staff to run the club. This includes attending planning sessions, setting up the clubs, cooking and serving dinner, facilitating sport and art activities and closing down the clubs. The trainees receive gift vouchers for their commitments at their placement, and are supported to prepare for the working world.



CASE STUDY - Z

Z was referred to our mentoring service through our Lambeth partnership. Z had many needs and was struggling particularly with her mental health. Her main goal was to improve her mental health and engage in positive activities. After rapport was built, our Youth Mentoring Lead put Z forward for the youth work training opportunity.

Z was placed at Knight's Youth Centre's Girls club – a female only youth club. Over the past few months, we have seen a noticeable difference in Z, with a new found confidence and focus on self-improvement. Z told us she is really focused on her future.

"Even when my placement finishes, I think I would like to continue volunteering at the girls club. I'm thinking about being a youth worker in the future. I never thought about this before starting the training, but now I feel like that's what I want. I want a job where I help people, it makes me feel good."

I always help one girl at Girls clubs. She is young and the staff told me she doesn't talk with anyone, only me. I'm so happy I can be there for her"



CASE STUDY - D

D joined our mentoring service looking for more activities and opportunities to be involved with, aligning with his hobbies and interests. D was put forward for youth work training shortly after this and he has never looked back since! Consistently attending both his lessons and placement with enthusiasm and commitment, D has impressed his mentor, teacher and placement lead.

Over a 6 month period, D saved the vouchers he received for his placement. With the support of his mentor, D was able to purchase a brand new phone! D's mentor supported him to set up the phone and learn how to safely use it and look after it.

CHAMPIONS



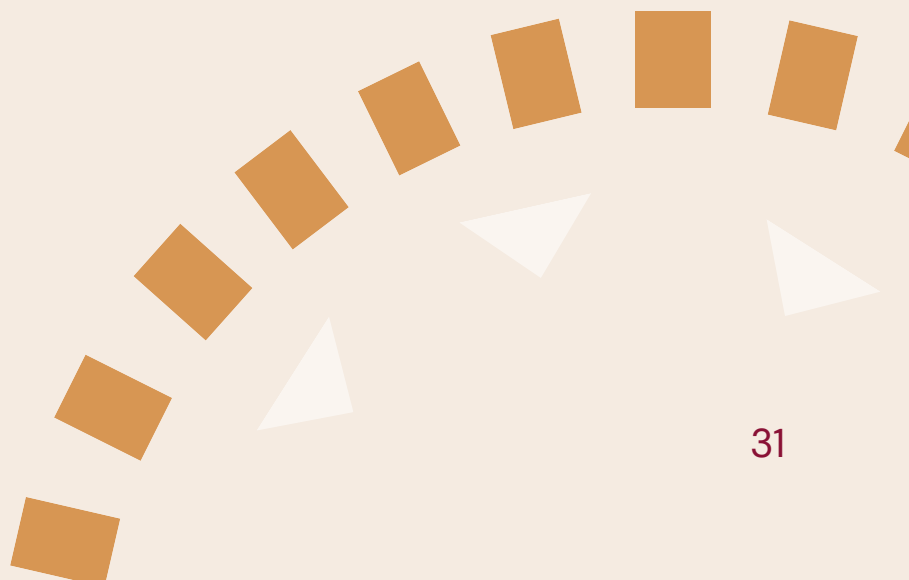
WORK EXPERIENCE



SECURED JOBS

Of the 8 young champions that have supported the running of our integration project over the past year, 2 have completed their times as champions after securing paid work.

Our young champion programme has helped young people to learn about the working world and gain youth work experience, to support them move into paid work. Through our mentoring service, we are able to offer champion positions to young people who express an interest in gaining work experience.



FULHAM JOBS FAIR

4 young people attended Fulham jobs fair in 2024, offering opportunities to work with Fulham FC through hospitality or security opportunities.

Young people attended talks on the opportunities available, discussions regarding the recruitment processes and wages. Our young people were also treated to a tour of the Fulham FC stadium.

Following the fair, young people were supported by Da'aro staff to complete job applications. 2 young people were able to secure interviews and 1 young person has secured a job with the hospitality team.



ESOL CLASSES AND LIBRARY SERVICES

We have ESOL classes every Salam Club, where young people can improve their confidence in spoken and written English in a supportive, encouraging and lively environment. This is often accompanied by educational games, and tailoring lessons to adapt to everyday scenarios and interactions.

Available at Salam Club, we have established a library service with a range of books available, catering to different levels of English. Young people are able to take one book home, after signing the book out.

Young people can return the book once finished, and take out another book. The aim of our library service is to encourage reading among our young people and also build responsibility, as they are expected to return their book.

The library service has been supported by our amazing volunteers, who have provided the books.



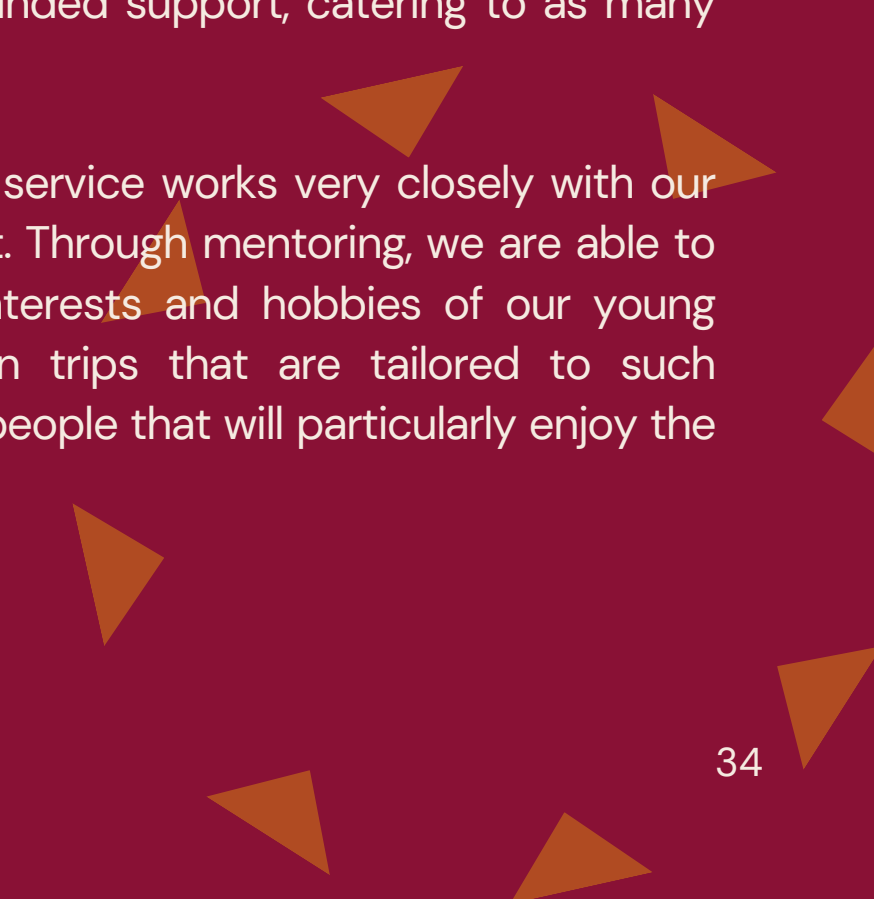
A decorative dashed arc in a dark teal color, composed of small squares, curves from the top left towards the center of the page.

LINKING MENTORING AND ACTIVITIES/CASEWORK

As we offer a holistic service at Da'aro Youth Project, our mentoring service sits comfortably between our casework support and activities department.

While young people receive support from our casework team, the young person may be referred into our mentoring service, for needs that sit outside of casework. This referral system also works for those within the mentoring service who may present needs that can be supported via casework. The two departments work closely on cases, ensuring each young person is receiving well-rounded support, catering to as many needs as possible.

Additionally, the mentoring service works very closely with our youth activities department. Through mentoring, we are able to learn about the specific interests and hobbies of our young people, and therefore plan trips that are tailored to such interests, and invite young people that will particularly enjoy the activities.

Several orange triangles of various sizes are scattered in the bottom right corner of the page, pointing in different directions.

For example, Da'aro Youth Project was invited to bring 10 young people along to Thread Ahead's annual content day in February 2025. Young people were able to choose a brand new outfit of clothes and shoes to take home, as well as trying on lots of branded clothing, having professional photos taken and having the opportunity to speak with a professional stylist. This was an incredible day, thoroughly enjoyed by all of our young people. The 10 young people that attended had all previously expressed an interest in either fashion, photography or both! With this in mind, we knew that these young people would be able to enjoy this activity and further inspire their interests.

Additionally, in 2024, we had the opportunity to attend a photography and storytelling workshop at King's College London. Young people spent the day learning about how to take good quality photographs, how to use photos to tell a story and then we went around the campus taking photos on polaroid cameras!

Our young people loved having the opportunity to take photos on a camera and explore a university campus – a few young people said this sparked their interest in attending university! As our mentoring and activities departments work so closely, this trip was organised with young people in mind who have an interest in photography, providing further opportunity for the young people to learn.



COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS

In 2025, we have set up a 'community volunteer' programme, in which previous service users, or refugees and asylum seekers who sit beyond our 14 – 25 years age range are able to volunteer at our youth clubs.

Community volunteers are supported directly through our mentoring service, receiving a tailored induction and training. Community volunteers are able to receive a reference following their time volunteering, with the aim of this service preparing and supporting them to move into paid work in the near future.

Community volunteers are incredibly helpful in the running of our youth clubs, as they have a strong understanding of the needs of our clients, often speaking the same languages and have experience as attendees of youth clubs, so help to make our clubs the best they can be!



YOUTH CASEWORK SERVICE

OVERVIEW

Since April 2024, Da'aro's youth casework team has grown and evolved substantially. We have continued our work in building warm, trusting and caring relationships with young people who seek our support and have achieved outstanding outcomes working alongside them.

In June 2024, our second youth caseworker joined the DYP casework team, enabling us to further broaden the scope and impact of our support. We are currently in the process of expanding our casework team in order to maximise capacity, to maintain our holistic youth casework service while simultaneously working towards becoming a registered legal advice provider.

Our casework team has taken part in several training programmes to ensure that we approach casework through a person-centred and all-encompassing lens and to enable us to be as well informed as we can be when working with young people who have complex needs and experiences.

Our team has also undertaken training relating to the immigration and asylum system in the UK and the delivery of trauma informed youth services in the context of continually growing systemic hostility towards Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) and young people.

CASEWORK MODEL

Over the past year, we have refined our administrative practises so that we are able to effectively maintain the relevant and necessary information concerning each of our young people, their level of need, the level of risk they may be exposed to and the complexity of their circumstances, enabling us to maximise our impact and to maintain effective records.

We have also developed spaces for reflective practice and each caseworker is now able to work alongside a clinical supervisor, should they so choose, to discuss some of the challenges that arise as a result of working with people who have experienced severe and ongoing trauma.

Crucially, the Casework team has worked hard to develop positive and lasting relationships with other professionals and organisations in the sector, including solicitors and legal representatives, other charities working on similar issues and third sector providers who are able to extend direct and/or indirect support to our young people

Our youth casework team has continued to work in partnerships with several law firms and other organisations, to ensure we are able to fortify our support to young people. Our Casework Manager has worked closely with the Refugee Council on processes designed to broaden the support available to age disputed young people, who often find themselves without any real recourse to social and pastoral support as soon as they are assessed as adults.

Moreover, we have continued to explore and build partnerships with local organisations working on analogous issues, such as the Advocacy Academy (TAA). TAA is working alongside our team to deliver workshops intended to further the impact of our community building activities and to extend solidarity and comradery through TAA's recently founded Liberation Centre. Similarly, our youth caseworkers have developed an informal partnership with DePaul, a London based charity extending vital support to young people facing homelessness. This partnership has enabled us to ensure that our young people are able to access vital emergency support as efficiently as possible.

We have worked closely with a volunteer Barrister, through our partnership with Bar in the Community, to design a legal information pack for young people who have recently arrived in the UK. This is now complete and will form a vital part of the induction processes for new staff and will be amended and adapted to be shared with young people in a more accessible way. This should enable staff and young people to become more familiar with the basic legal requirements that public sector providers and services are legally mandated to abide by, so that young people can be empowered to challenge the failure to meet their needs where this occurs. In addition, we hope to be able to utilise this legal resource to form the basis of a set of know-your-rights workshops in multiple languages, to be delivered at our weekly youth clubs.

Our Casework team continues to provide vital assistance to young people at varying stages of the resettlement process. Young people in need of practical and pastoral support can still access casework services via our weekly youth clubs.

Our focus over the past year has been refining our youth casework services so that displaced young people seeking protection in the UK are able to access all provisions they are entitled to. Something that makes Da'aro's Casework team stand out is the fact that we have no limit in terms of time on how long we will support any young person, we are willing to continue working with a young person for as long as is needed, enabling young people to feel that they can really depend on us and our support until they feel more stable and secure.

We continue to advocate on behalf of young people to ensure social care and public sector services are providing them with adequate and effective support. In addition, our casework service works closely with young people to ensure they have access to legal assistance, secure and stable housing, physical and mental health sustainment provisions, where they are unable to secure these necessities through the local authority. We also work closely with our Youth Mentoring Lead to ensure all young people have access to education, training and employment opportunities. In addition, we work closely with our Youth Activities Lead to ensure any young people who would like to engage in wellbeing, mindfulness and/or arts and crafts activities are able to do so.

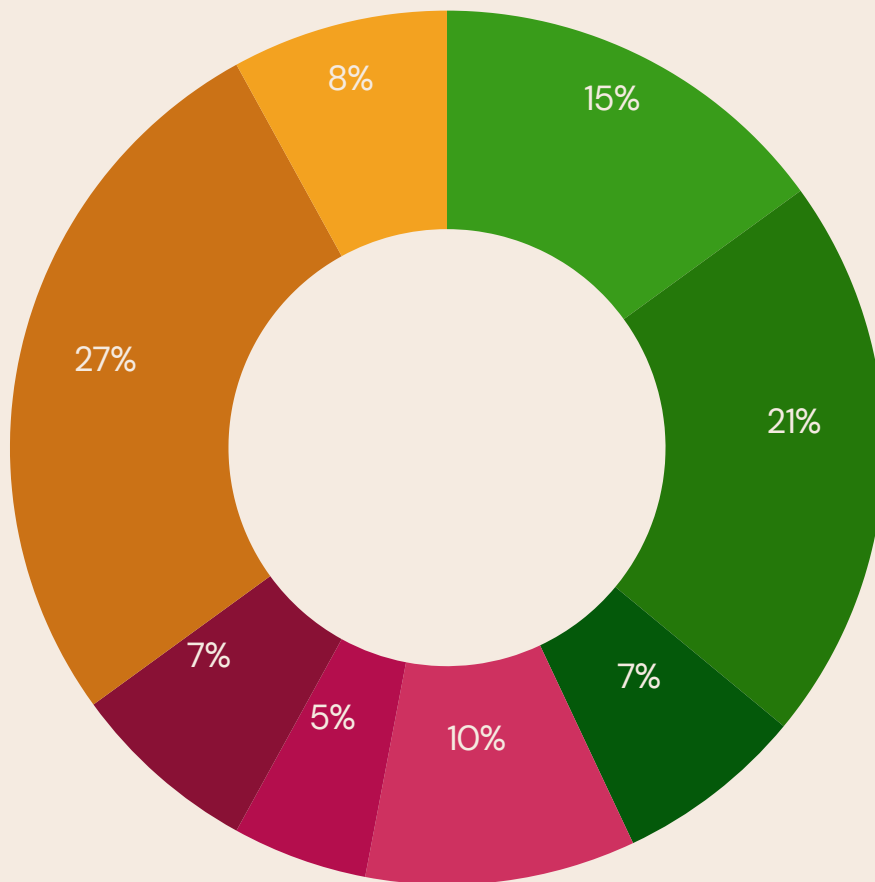
OVERVIEW OF PRESENT CASEWORK

At the start of April 2024 DYP had 59 open cases. Since April 2024, we have worked with a total of 73 young people – although some were originally young people accessing mentoring, who were referred to us by our Mentoring Lead, who we work closely with to ensure all young people are accessing the appropriate and necessary support.

Our youth caseworkers and casework manager support young people with a multitude of complex and often intersecting issues, such as:

- Immigration and asylum
- Housing and homelessness
- Age disputes
- Physical and mental health sustainment
- Family reunification
- Seeking education and employment opportunities
- Social care disputes

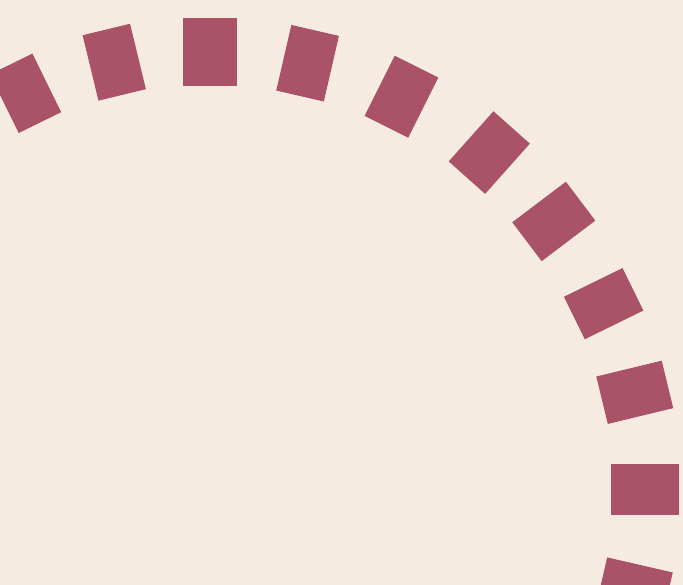
CASEWORK DELIVERY 2024/25



The casework team maintains diligence and care in relation to safeguarding which is a vital element of our work and is built into every aspect of the casework process, from the moment we meet young people until we explore closing their cases, once we have done all that we possibly could do to assist them. A breakdown of the key issues we have worked with young people on over the past year is shown above.

Over the past year, we have seen a dramatic increase in age assessments and as a result, the number of young people requiring emergency support with their housing and/or facing sudden homelessness has also dramatically increased. At the same time, we continue to see a decline in the number of legal representatives who are able to take on challenges to unlawful age assessments.

We have therefore focused a large amount of our efforts and energy on developing partnerships with legal representatives, charities working with UASC who are facing homelessness and other charities looking to challenge the inherent injustice and trauma resulting from the blanket use of age assessments against children.



CHALLENGES

The key challenge we face in carrying out casework continues to be the difficulty in securing access to appropriate legal representation.

In particular, this year, we have seen the number of legal representatives able to take on family reunion claims dramatically decrease. Similarly, we are finding it incredibly difficult to refer young people to immigration advisors for legal assistance pertaining to immigration and asylum claims.

This means that a huge number of our young people are forced to wait lengthy periods under difficult circumstances before they can speak to a solicitor who may be able to take on their claims.

Moreover, the legal process itself is increasingly lengthy and we are seeing many young people spend more than a year awaiting the outcome of a legal claim, which can often be disruptive to their access to all vital services, including education, employment, housing, financial assistance and mental health support.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



Legal Assistance

We assisted 18 young people to seek legal advice in relation to a wide range of issues including negative age disputes, community support and asylum and immigration claims.



Housing Support

We successfully supported 15 young people to work towards securing stable and secure housing



Family Reunification

We secured solicitors for 3 young people seeking to initiate family reunification claims

CASE STUDIES

** Please note both case studies have been anonymised in the interest of safeguarding young people who each consented to a brief summary of their cases being shared as part of this report.*

CASE STUDY - O

We met O in July 2024 when he approached DYP's casework team during one of our Injera Club casework drop-ins. He explained that he was age disputed and placed in Home Office accommodation. O explained that he was having a really difficult time and was struggling living with people who were much older than him, and often rough sleeping to avoid staying in the hotel. Further to this, O's initial asylum claim had been refused, and it was at appeal stage.

We offered to support O with the following issues:

- **Age dispute;**
- **Immigration and asylum case;**
- **Mental health sustainment; and**
- **Housing and homelessness**

Through our initial conversation with O, we observed that he was likely being exploited and noted the urgent need for action to be taken to ensure that he was being appropriately safeguarded. We made the appropriate referrals to local authority adult social care and sourced an age dispute solicitor to look into challenging O's age assessment outcome. We also contacted O's hotel to ensure that necessary welfare checks were taking place regularly. We also began liaising with O's immigration solicitor to receive updates on his case as he was at the appeal stage at this point.

Further down the line, we also sourced O a community solicitor to assist him with issues regarding his accommodation. While O's mood has been very up and down due to the difficult situation he has been placed in, over time we have seen an improvement in his mental health as he now knows he has the support of an organisation that understands the challenges he has gone through.

O is now much more comfortable in liaising with professionals, and knows who the professionals in his network are. He understands the processes that have impacted him much better now, which is a huge achievement as O had very little awareness of his professional network, legal claims and options when he first came to us. We have managed to build a trusting relationship with him, where he feels comfortable in approaching us if he has any issues. We have also built a strong professional network for O, with three solicitors working on different aspects of his case, all showing a great level of care into the work they carry out for O.

This case has not yet been resolved and remains very complex, but it is one we are very proud of our work on, just to be able to be a safe space for young people who are frequently neglected, is a privilege for our team and we hope that over time, this young person can continue to grow and that his situation will continue to improve.

CASE STUDY - Y

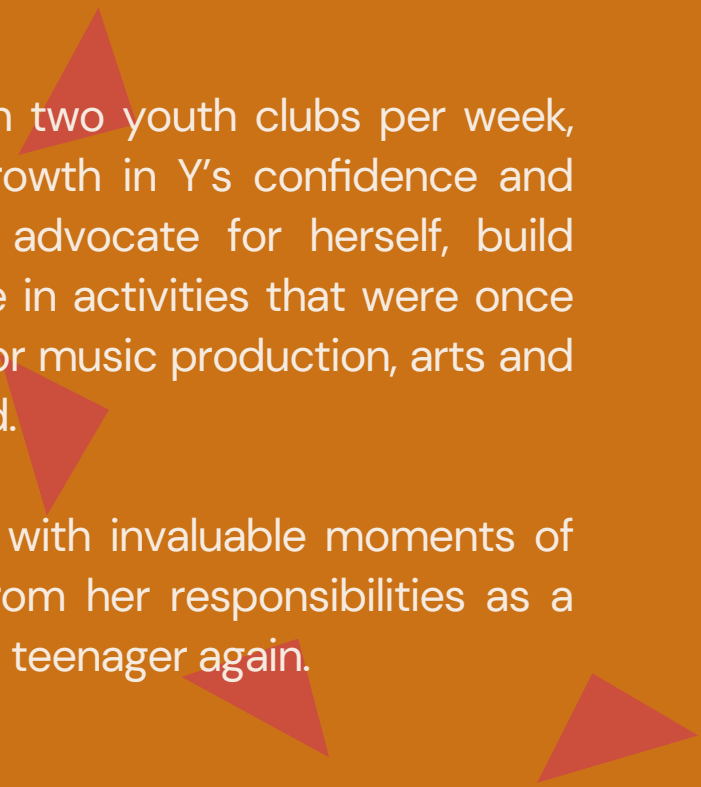
Y is a young mother who came to the UK to join her relatives who were already here. From the outset, she faced significant challenges, including disputes with social services, struggles with her mental health, and profound social isolation.

Over the years, DYP played a key role in ensuring she received the appropriate support from social care through our advocacy and continued presence in professionals' meetings with Y and her network.

We have successfully facilitated access to essential services that provided her with stability, we have supported Y to recognise, name and address her feelings of isolation and anxiety and consequently, have been able to work with her to build a strong support network that allows Y to gain confidence and develop meaningful connections with other people of her age group.

Upon her arrival, Y was apprehensive about joining social spaces and hesitant to engage with new people. To address this, we collaborated closely with her social workers to devise a strategy that would encourage her participation in our youth clubs.

With the consistent support of her foster carer, social workers, and DYP caseworkers, she gradually began attending one of our youth clubs. Although she initially found the environment overwhelming and felt reserved in social settings, her confidence steadily grew as she continued to attend.



Through consistent participation in two youth clubs per week, we have witnessed remarkable growth in Y's confidence and social skills. She has learned to advocate for herself, build friendships with peers, and engage in activities that were once unfamiliar to her. Her enthusiasm for music production, arts and crafts, and socialising has flourished.

Our youth clubs have provided Y with invaluable moments of respite, a chance to step away from her responsibilities as a young mother and simply exist as a teenager again.



INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

I report on the accounts for the charity for the year ended 31st March 2025.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an Independent Examination is needed

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the Charities Commission under section 145(5) (b); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of independent examiner's report

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements have not been met;

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act, or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Name: Dunstanette Kuti FCCA

Position: Community Accountant, Community Action Sutton, Granfers
Community Centre, 73-79 Oakhill Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM1 3AA

Signature:

Date: 23/10/2025



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
		2025	2025	2025	2024
		£	£	£	£
Income:					
Charitable Activities	2	122,510	366,975	489,485	398,821
Investments	3	6,391	–	6,391	4,312
Total Income		128,901	366,975	495,876	403,133
Expenditure:					
Charitable Activities	4	2,125	448,907	451,032	188,242
Total Expenditure		2,125	448,907	451,032	188,242
Net Income / (expenditure)		126,776	(81,932)	44,844	214,891
Transfer between funds		–	–	–	–
Net movement in funds		126,776	(81,932)	44,844	214,891
Total Funds brought forward		126,118	147,665	273,783	58,892
Total Funds carried forward		252,894	65,733	318,627	273,783

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the year. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

	Note	2025	2024
		£	£
Fixed Assets			
Office Equipment		-	-
Current assets			
Debtors and receivables	8	-	1,749
Cash at bank and in hand		365,216	318,730
Total current assets		365,216	320,479
Current liabilities			
Deferred income	9	44,578	40,410
Amounts falling due within one year	10	2,011	6,286
Total current liabilities		46,589	46,696
Net current assets		318,627	273,783
Net assets		318,627	273,783
Funds			
Restricted Funds		65,733	147,665
Unrestricted Funds		252,894	126,118
Total Funds	11	318,627	273,783

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 24/10/2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



Chair | Dr Yohannes Bahru



Treasurer | Aron Zerezghi

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

a) Accounting Conventions

The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

b) Fund Accounting

Restricted Funds are those received which have been earmarked for a special purpose by the donor.

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity.

c) Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income.

Voluntary income is received by way of grants and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the Charity, are recognised when the Charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant.

Activities for generating funds consist of room hire and are accounted for on a receivable basis. Surplus funds are invested in a bank deposit account to earn interest. Interest received is included when receivable. Interest is credited to the unrestricted fund to offset overheads.

Incoming resources from the charitable activities consists of grants, which are related to performance and are accounted for as the Charity earns the right to consideration by its performance. Other sources of Incoming resources from the charitable activities consist of fees and Cafe takings accounted for on a receivable basis.

d) Resources Expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Cost of generating funds comprises the costs associated with attracting future Income.

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Charity and include the Independent Examination fees and costs linked to the strategic management of the Charity.

Costs are allocated to charitable activities and the Community Centre on the basis of usage. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly, other overheads are apportioned on an appropriate basis see note.

e) Charitable activities

Costs of charitable activities include grants made during the year.

f) Incoming resources

Incoming resources are included gross on a receivable basis. There are no deferred incoming resources.

g) Investment income

Investment income is included in the statement of financial activities on an accrual basis.

h) Accounting basis

The accounts have been prepared on an accrual basis.

2. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Grants received	82,050	366,975	449,025	349,554
Donations	40,460	-	40,460	49,267
	122,510	366,975	489,485	398,821

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds:				
Choose Love	-	110,000	110,000	91,666
City Bridge Foundation	-	41,033	41,033	14,720
Community Lottery Fund	-	58,733	58,733	84,114
Groundwork London Mayor	-	6,000	6,000	54,000
Lambeth DfE	-	103,865	103,865	51,932
The Phoenix Fund	-	47,345	47,345	1,749
Unrestricted funds:				
Capital group	12,000	-	12,000	-
Blue Thread	30,500	-	30,500	29,423
AB Charitable Trust	20,383	-	20,383	3,617
DragonsDen Money4You	-	-	-	10,000
Lloyds Bank Foundation	19,167	-	19,167	8,333
Total grants received	82,050	366,975	449,025	349,554

3. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deposit account interest	6,391	4,312

4. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Freelance Workers	-	14,447	14,447	3,523
Salaries incl. HMRC	-	245,384	245,384	116,211
ER's NIC	-	19,993	19,993	5,724
ER's Pensions	-	8,568	8,568	2,457
Payroll Expense	-	438	438	578
Staff Recruitment	1,062	350	1,412	2,100
Staff Travel and Expense	732	1,880	2,612	2,269
Staff Training and Supervision	888	10,198	11,086	1,444
Volunteer Costs	18	246	264	469
Insurances	52	312	364	261
Materials and Equipment	112	1,264	1,376	4,006
Youth Activities	(444)	30,377	29,933	491
Injera Club Food and Delivery	-	24,059	24,059	20,146
KYC Rent	-	6,400	6,400	6,420
Office Rent	-	8,100	8,100	6,732
Fundraising	2,532	2,261	4,793	3,463
IT Equipment	30	4,607	4,637	1,481
Stationery, Postage and Printing	11	19	30	38
Telephone	50	2,762	2,812	1,696
Miscellaneous Costs	1,694	1,061	2,755	450
Young Person Direct Support	575	14,579	15,154	3,151
Bookkeeping And Accounts	-	3,605	3,605	2,095
Refreshments	1,198	322	1,520	470
Professional fees	37,913	2,366	40,279	1,557
Independent Examiner's fees	1,010	-	1,010	1,010
Expenses recharge	(45,309)	45,309	-	-
Total expenditure	2,125	448,907	451,032	188,242

5. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Legal and professional fees [see note]	40,279	1,557
Independent Examiner's fees	1,010	1,010
	41,289	2,567

Note: The increase in legal and professional fees reflects investments in strengthening the charity's governance, and updating key policies and compliance frameworks.

6. NET INCOMING/(OUTGOING) RESOURCES

Net resources are stated after charging/(crediting):

	2025	2024
	£	£
Independent Examiner's Fees	1,010	1,010

7. STAFF COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries	245,384	116,211
ER's NIC	19,993	5,724
ER's Pensions	8,568	2,457
	273,945	124,392

The average number of employees during the year was as follows:

2025	2024
8	4

The number of employees whose emoluments fell within the following bands was:

	2025	2024
£60,001 – £70,000	Nil	Nil

8. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	–	–
Accrued Income	–	1,749
	–	1,749

9. DEFERRED INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
Restricted Grants:		
Choose Love	25,000	–
City Bridge	–	7,360
Community Lottery Fund	19,578	–
Unrestricted Grants:		
AB Charitable Trust	–	16,383
Lloyds Bank Foundation	–	16,667
	44,578	40,410

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Taxation and social security	(1,664)	2,479
Pensions payable	(740)	827
Payroll Control	–	(125)
Accruals	4,415	3,105
	2,011	6,285

11. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 31.3.24	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds	At 31.3.25
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds					
General fund	126,118	128,901	(2,125)	–	252,894
Restricted funds					
Balance B/fwd	27,463	–	–	–	27,463
Choose Love	30,004	110,000	(140,004)	–	–
City Bridge Foundation	6,429	41,033	(46,436)	–	1,026
Community Lottery Fund	36,738	58,733	(95,094)	–	376
Groundwork London Mayor	23,585	6,000	(1,722)	–	27,863
Lambeth DfE	22,682	103,865	(126,188)	–	358
The Phoenix Fund	764	47,345	(39,462)	–	8,647
Total restricted funds	147,665	366,975	(448,907)	–	65,733
TOTAL FUNDS	273,783	495,876	(451,032)	–	318,627



TRUSTEES

GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Da'aro Youth Project Board of Trustees

Full name of trustee	Position
Dr Yohannes Teklu Bahru	Chair of Trustees
Dr Elaine Chase	Secretary
Aron Zerezghi	Treasurer
Dr Mikal Woldu	Trustee
Tigist Kinfu	Trustee
Adonay Younas Berhe	Trustee
Yordanos Tesfa Feseha	Trustee
Amel Hamilton	Trustee
Futsum Kahsa	Trustee
Yacob Woldehiwot	Trustee

Da'aro Youth Project is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). Our governing document is a 'constitution of a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with voting members other than its charity trustees'. There must be at least three charity trustees. If the number falls below this minimum, the remaining trustee or trustees may act only to call a meeting of the charity trustees, or appoint a new charity trustee. The maximum number of charity trustees is 12. The charity trustees may not appoint any charity trustee if as a result the number of charity trustees would exceed the maximum. The majority of trustees must be people who claim Eritrean heritage.

At every annual general meeting of the members of the CIO, one-third of the charity trustees shall retire from office. If the number of charity trustees is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest to one-third shall retire from office, but if there is only one charity trustee, he or she shall retire.

The charity trustees to retire by rotation shall be those who have been longest in office since their last appointment or reappointment. If any trustees were last appointed or reappointed on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot; the vacancies arising may be filled by the decision of the members at the annual general meeting.

The members or the charity trustees may at any time decide to appoint a new charity trustee, whether in place of a charity trustee who has retired or been removed, or as an additional charity trustee, provided that the limit on the number of charity trustees would not as a result be exceeded; a person so appointed by the charity trustees shall retire at the conclusion of the next annual general meeting after the date of his or her appointment, and shall not be counted for the purpose of determining which of the charity trustees is to retire by rotation at that meeting.

All of our activities are undertaken to further our charitable purposes for the benefit of the public. The Trustees have had regard to Charity Commission guidance on public benefit in section 4 of the Charities Act 2006.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

This report looks at what the Charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period. The Trustees report the success of each key activity and the benefits the Charity has brought to those groups of people it was set up to help. The review also helps the Trustees ensure the Charity's aims, objectives and activities remain focused on its stated charitable purpose.

The Trustees have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Charity's aims and objectives and in planning its future activities, which is reviewed at least annually. In particular, the Trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set.

In considering our key objectives, the Trustees have taken into account the following factors: The profile, numbers and needs of asylum-seeking and refugee young people from the Horn of Africa who are at risk in the local area.

The provision of accessible, specialist services available to the people we work with within our local area and the gaps in provision.

External factors such as changes in national and local government policies and procedures. Feedback from all our stakeholders.

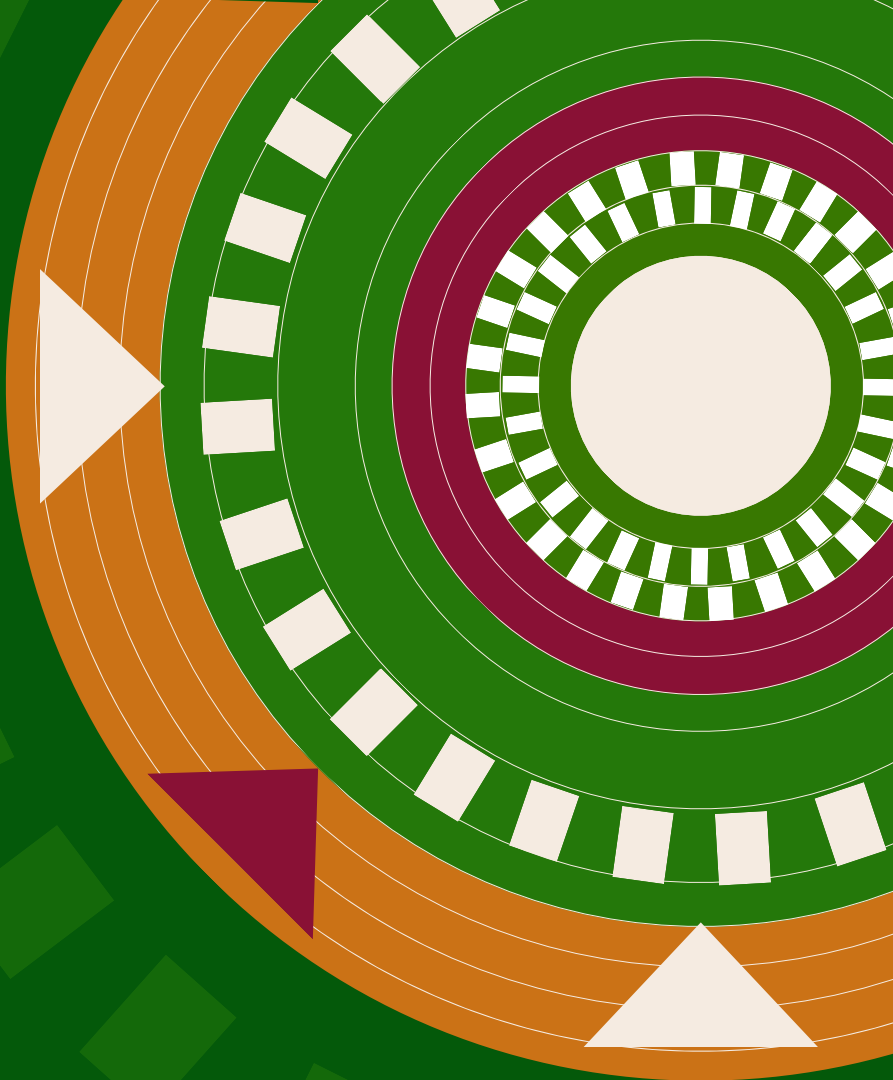
DECLARATIONS

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees.

Dr Yohannes Bahru:  Date: 24/10/2025

Dr Elaine Chase:  Date: 24/10/2025



**THANK YOU TO
OUR FUNDERS**

As we reflect on the achievements and challenges of the past year, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our funders whose generous support makes our work possible. Your commitment enables us to continue providing essential services, advocating for systemic change, and supporting young unaccompanied asylum seekers and refugees through their most difficult times. Thank you for standing with us and for investing in the future of these young people. Together, we are making a meaningful difference.



MAYOR OF LONDON



**CHOOSE
LOVE**





Da'aro Youth Project

Woodlawns Day Centre
16 Leigham Court Road
London SW16 2PJ

Info@daaroyouth.org.uk
www.daaroyouth.org.uk
Charity no. 1189245



EST. 2008