



Registered Charity No: 1199354

Report of the Trustees and Audited Financial statements for April
2024 to March 2025

For Youth Aspire Connect Organisation

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**Youth Aspire Connect
Report of the Trustees
for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

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Impacts of our work

Number of young people reached 1176

Number of parents/families supported 109

Number of young people successfully mentored 46

Trained 88 young people on digital skills

Delivered 33 hrs of employability support

Took 100 young people to Oxford and Cambridge University

Organised and delivered 52 hrs of dance sessions

Supported 27 young people into position of leadership including the Hull's Young Mayor

Delivered 208 hrs of coding/digital skills trainings

Won a national award- IntoFilmAwards 2024 Time For Action Winners!

Provided work placement for 5 young people

Executed 2 projects to improve young people's mental health and well being

Held 11 engagement meetings to foster community cohesion

Supported 7 young people to gain admission into the University & 3 into apprenticeship positions

We received several awards and recognitions including the invitation to attend His Majesty the King's Royal Garden party.

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Feedback

Youth Aspire Connect has genuinely changed my life. As a young Black person who hasn't even lived in the UK for four years, finding a space where I feel seen, heard, and completely safe has been rare and that's exactly what this campaign gave me. It became the first place where I didn't have to minimise my experiences or second-guess my feelings. Instead, I found a community of young people who understood the realities we face, who supported me, and who pushed me to grow in confidence and leadership – Young person

'As a young girl being involved in the digital skills training has helped me to build up several digital and life skills which I now use in my everyday life. I can now design flyers for my local church and do video editing, which has improved my grades in school– Young person

“The group, for me, isn't just a place where I come and discuss issues, but what it is to me, the way in which it affects me in my day-to-day life. It's where I can talk to people about my experiences and how I have been victimised by racism - but also how I'm not the only one who goes through it, but how it needs to stop and how it needs to change” - Young person

“I've seen such a positive change in my children since joining the Coding Class and the AntiRacism team. The coding sessions have boosted their confidence, problem-solving skills, and creativity, while the Anti-Racism programme has helped them develop empathy, respect, and a strong sense of justice. I'm so grateful for the opportunities and the supportive environment, my children look forward to every session and is growing both academically and personally” – Parents

“Youth Aspire Connect has been a safe haven, a space where I've learned to use my voice with pride, where I've felt protected, valued, and empowered. It has helped me heal from things I didn't know I was carrying and has inspired me to keep pushing for a future where every young person, especially those from marginalised backgrounds feels respected and uplifted. This campaign hasn't just shaped my work; it's shaped me”- Young person

“This group gives me a sense of belonging in the family-like community. It also gives me a wide range of opportunities and networking from all the trips we take. I think it's important because it stands as a voice for people who do not have the confidence to express themselves” - Young person

“The experience has been really empowering - it has helped to address a lot of my issues regarding mental health and being able to talk about it; and it has also helped me address a lot of my non mental health related issues” – young person

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Acknowledgement

We sincerely thank our funders and partners for their invaluable contributions and donations. We are extremely grateful for their generosity. Also, we thank all parents, volunteers, and tutors whose dedication has made this year a success. Your support has allowed us to continue empowering young people and building a stronger, connected community.

Funders and partners



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Introduction

Youth Aspire Connect (YAC) is an award-winning, youth-led charity dedicated to empowering young people from disadvantaged and underrepresented backgrounds to reach their full potential. We believe that every young person, regardless of their circumstances, deserves the opportunity to learn, lead, and thrive.

Established in 2017, YAC was founded in response to the growing challenges faced by young people in the region - including a high number of those not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET), increasing health inequalities, and the urgent need to promote social inclusion and community cohesion. What began as a small grassroots initiative has evolved into a respected and dynamic organisation that is shaping the lives of hundreds of young people and their families each year.

At the heart of YAC's mission is a commitment to equipping and empowering young people with the tools they need to succeed. Through our diverse range of programmes, we provide life and employability skills, mentorship, creative arts and coding classes, and leadership development opportunities. These initiatives not only enhance confidence and self-esteem but also nurture transferable skills that open doors to further education, training, and employment. Our approach is holistic and inclusive — addressing both personal and professional growth. We recognise that true empowerment comes from developing the whole individual: their mindset, their skills, their values, and their sense of belonging. As such, YAC fosters environments where young people feel seen, supported, and valued; where their voices are amplified; and where they are encouraged to take ownership of their growth and aspirations.

Over the years, YAC has established strong partnerships with parents, schools, local authorities, community organisations, and businesses. These collaborations have been instrumental in extending our reach and ensuring that our work aligns with the real needs of our communities. We take pride in being a trusted grassroots organisation, one that remains deeply connected to the lived experiences of the young people we serve. Our work is guided by key values — integrity, inclusion, creativity, collaboration, and impact — which shape everything we do. Whether through our performing arts programmes that build confidence and teamwork, our digital literacy and coding classes that prepare young people for future careers, or our mentoring initiatives that foster leadership and resilience, YAC continues to create pathways for success and transformation.

In the 2024–2025 reporting year, we have continued to grow in both reach and impact. Through our dedicated team, volunteers, and community partners, YAC has provided opportunities for learning, personal growth, and wellbeing. Our programmes have supported the social, emotional, and educational development of children and young people, while also strengthening family engagement and community connections.

As we reflect on this year's achievements, we remain steadfast in our vision: to see every young person inspired, empowered, and equipped to become a positive force within their community and the wider world. Together with our supporters, we are building a generation of confident, creative, and capable young leaders who are ready to make a difference.

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Key Achievements / Highlights

Throughout the year, YAC continued to deliver a range of impactful activities designed to engage young people in meaningful learning and development opportunities:

OUR 6 CORE AREAS



Below is an overview of our achievements and impacts for the period of April 2024 to March 2025, in line with our six core focus areas.

Raising aspirations & widening participation

Trips and Exposure Visits

As part of our commitment to broadening young people's horizons and raising aspirations, we organised two major educational and recreational trips during the year to inspire participants to dream bigger, explore opportunities beyond their immediate environment, and connect learning to real-world experiences.

In April 2024, we visited Mansfield College, University of Oxford. On the 31st of July 2024, we also organised another trip to King's College, University of Cambridge where young participants had the opportunity to tour the campus, engage with university students and staff, and gain valuable insights into university life and pathways to higher education.

Across both trips, over 100 young people participated. These experiences not only expanded their academic and career aspirations but also helped build their confidence, teamwork, and social connections. For many, it was their first time visiting such prestigious institutions, and the feedback received highlighted the transformative impact of these exposure visits on their motivation and sense of possibility.

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Trip to Mansfield College Oxford University March 2024

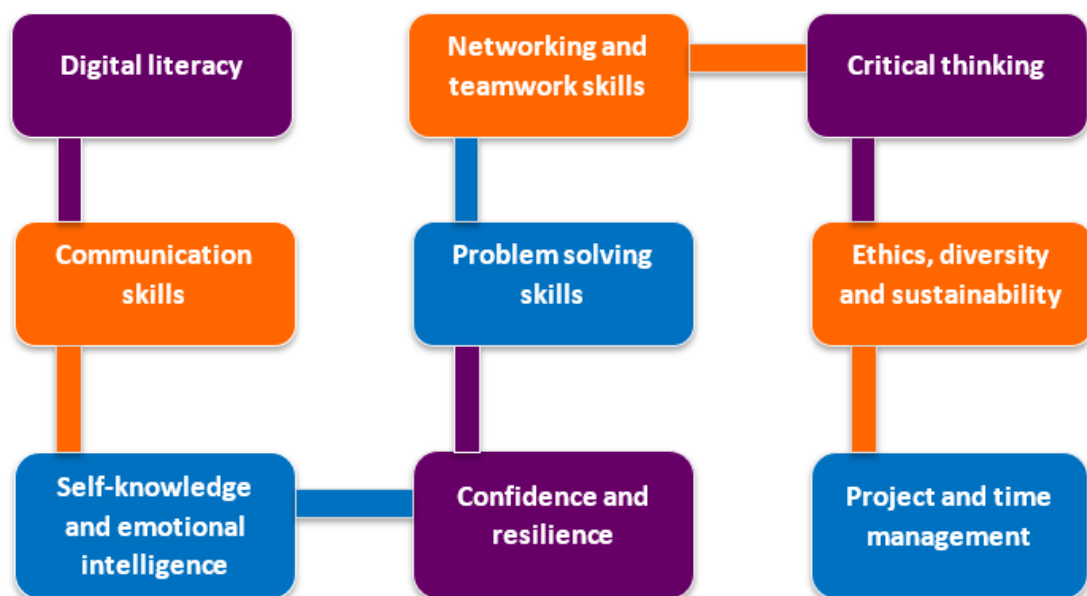


Trip to Kings College, Cambridge University July 2024

Employability & Life Skill Development

We delivered range of life skills training for young people aged 11-16 years and employment support for school leavers aged 17-25 years to equip them for the future workforce.

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Coding & Digital Skills Programme

Our Digital Skills training Programme designed to empower disadvantaged and underrepresented youths aged 10-18 years in digital technology in Hull and East Riding has grown from two classes to four distinct proficiency levels (including a specialised Capstone Project class).

The classes were delivered on a weekly basis every Saturday. The sessions consistently attracted an average of 70 young people per week, demonstrating high levels of interest and sustained participation. So far, we have trained over 100 young people on a range of digital skills including coding. The published report by the UK government (Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport) evidence that the project had a strong impact in improving digital capability, problem-solving



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abilities, creativity, confidence, and access to technology-led opportunities for these communities.



Learner Success Stories:

“As a young girl being involved in the digital skills training has helped me to build up several digital and life skills which I now use in my everyday life. I can now design flyers for my local church and do video editing, which has improved my grades in school” – Young person

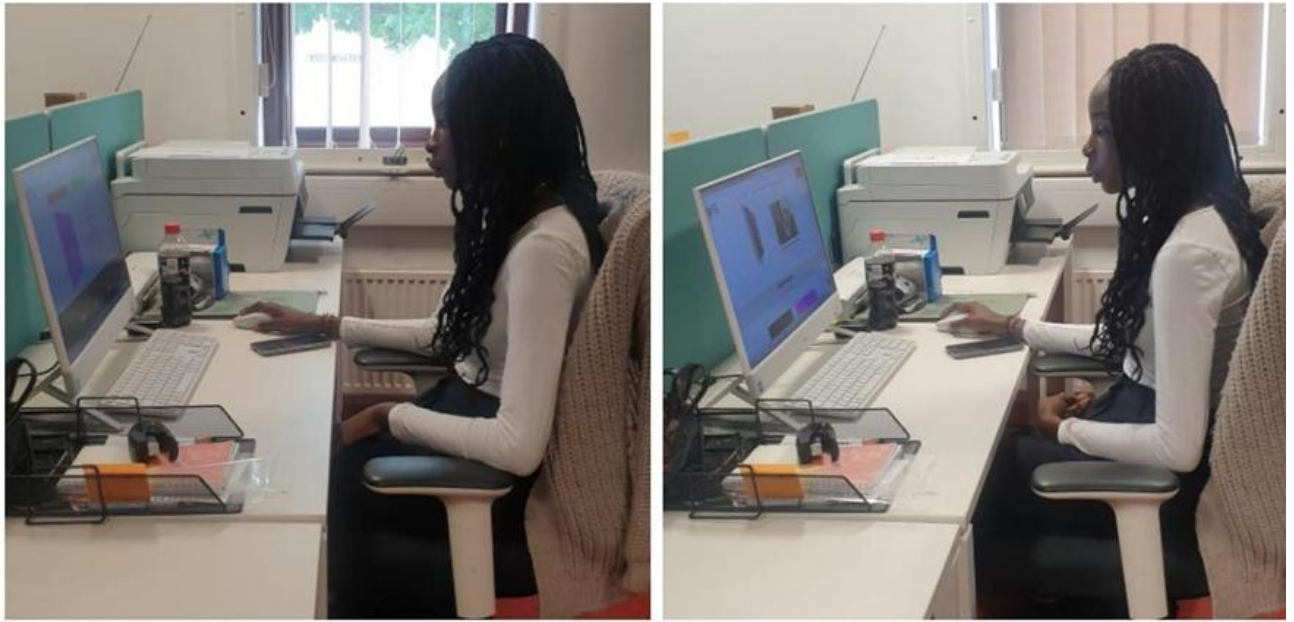
“My daughter was able to create a simple game that was playable just because she attends the coding classes” – Parent

The programme also contributes to long-term aspirations in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and digital careers. By equipping young people with foundational coding skills, logical thinking, and hands-on experience with programming languages, participants gain an early advantage in understanding potential career pathways in technology and related fields. Many learners report increased motivation to explore further studies and professional opportunities in digital and technical disciplines.

Employability Support

As part of Youth Aspire Connect’s commitment to preparing young people for future success, we, provided direct employability support and work experience opportunity to young people throughout the year. These include job search, CV review, interview preparation, work experience opportunity. This opportunity helped young people build confidence, develop essential skills, and access meaningful career pathways.

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Deborah from Newland School for Girls Hull on a work placement at YAC

These placements significantly boosted their confidence, broadened their understanding of workplace expectations, and inspired ambition for their futures. We hosted students from St. Mary's College and Newland School for Girls, offering structured and supportive placements. These experiences equipped students with improved communication skills, teamwork, problem-solving abilities, and clearer insight into future career aspirations.

Through the employability initiatives, Youth Aspire Connect has continued to empower young people with the tools, skills, and confidence they need to thrive. These efforts ensure that every young person we work with feels supported, capable, and ready to pursue the opportunities ahead of them — building a stronger foundation for long-term success.

Sewing and Creative Skills Workshops

In partnership with Bora Shabaa, Youth Aspire Connect supports its young people to take part in series of Sewing and Creative Skills Workshops aimed at equipping young people, particularly young girls, with practical skills that enhance employability, creativity, and career prospects. We extend our gratitude to Severine Kipili and the entire team at Bora Shabaa for providing this valuable opportunity.

The workshops offered hands-on learning experiences, enabling participants to develop practical sewing skills such as fabric cutting, stitching, and design techniques. Through these activities, learners were able to explore their creativity while gaining essential

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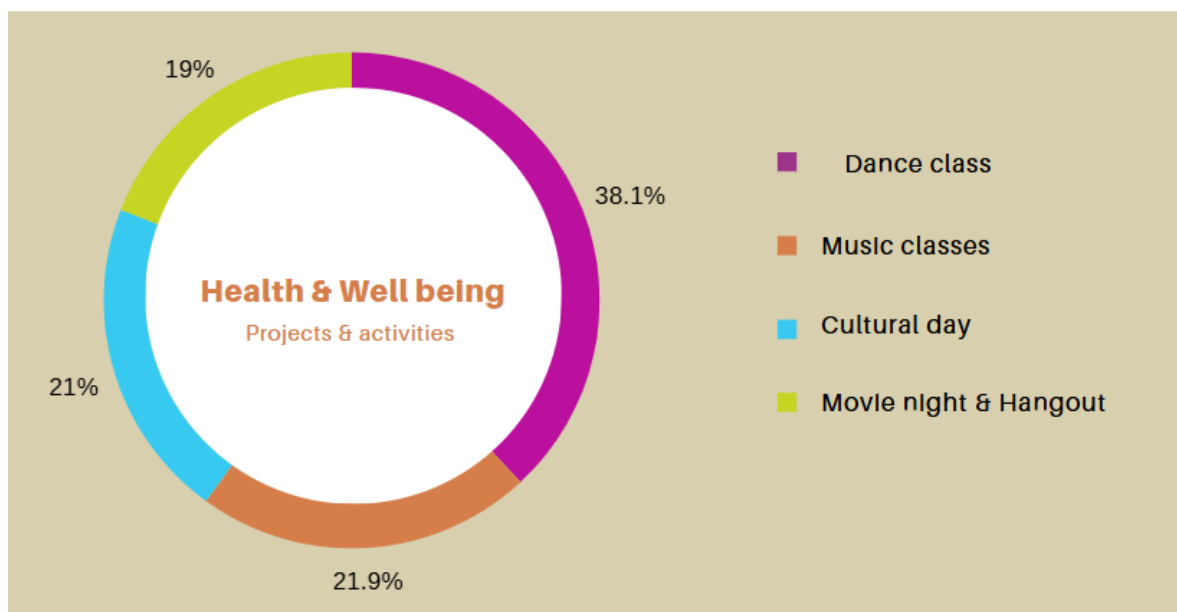
problem-solving, focus, and patience, all of which are transferable skills for both personal and professional development.



Beyond technical skills, the workshops provided a supportive environment where young people could build confidence, express themselves creatively, and collaborate with peers, fostering teamwork and resilience. These sessions reflect Youth Aspire Connect's commitment to empowering young people with meaningful life skills that can open doors to future opportunities in creative industries, fashion, and other professional pathways.

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Health & Well Being.



YAC Dance class called Zionites Dance Group

The Zionites Dance Group is a dynamic performing arts initiative consisting of young dancers aged 11–14 years. The group continues to thrive, fostering teamwork, creativity, discipline, and confidence among participants through regular rehearsals and structured training.

Over the year, the senior dancers performed at community events and church programmes, proudly showcasing their cultural expression, artistic talent, and stage presence. Their dedication culminated in a successful end-of-year showcase in December 2024, celebrating their progress and achievements.

On 20th September 2024, we introduced the Junior Dance Group for children aged 7–10 years, opening recruitment for younger girls interested in dance. The junior group currently consists of 12 young dancers, creating a two-tier structure with both the senior and junior Zionites groups, providing clear progression pathways and mentoring opportunities.

In February 2025, the senior group participated in the Voice Youth Festival at the Hull New Theatre, further showcasing their creativity and performance skills. Their consistent excellence and community engagement led to an invitation to perform at the Alhambra Theatre in Bradford that would take place later in the year, demonstrating increasing recognition of their talent and commitment.

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Here are what the young girls said...

“The dance session was really good, and amazing, it has helped me to build confidence in my dancing skills, make new friends and work in a team and I wish it continues” (13-year-old girl).

“The dance has been an amazing experience for me. It was a part of my life that didn’t exist until these sessions. Dance has always been an envy for me, and YAC dance sessions made it possible for me to learn in a judgment-free environment. I want it to continue” (15-year-old girl).

Both senior and junior dancers continue to develop confidence, pride, and resilience, while also enhancing the visibility of Youth Aspire Connect, strengthening local partnerships, and inspiring other young people to explore performing arts.



Highlight from Senior Zionites performances

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Highlights from one of Our Junior Dance sessions

YAC Cultural Day – Celebrating Heritage and Community

We successfully hosted a Cultural Day event at Pearson Park, Hull, bringing together young people from diverse backgrounds to celebrate their heritage, learn from one another, and reconnect as a community. This event was organised as a direct response to the Hull riots, with the aim of fostering healing, unity, and positive engagement among children, young people, and families.

Despite the unrest and violence that occurred in Hull on 3rd August, children and young people attended the event with joy and pride, dressed in their beautiful traditional attires. It was a heartwarming display of culture and resilience. The event offered a safe and enabling environment, allowing young people—especially those from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) backgrounds—to re-engage socially and begin regaining a sense of normalcy after the recent disturbances.

This Cultural Day marked the first public event we delivered following the riots, making it a significant moment for community reassurance. It was a truly wonderful day filled with culture, connection, and celebration—highlighting the strength, resilience, and richness of our diverse community. Events like this reflect Youth Aspire Connect’s ongoing commitment to bringing communities together and creating spaces where young people feel seen, valued, and empowered.

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Movie Night - fostering a sense of belonging and togetherness

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting the mental health, emotional well-being, and social development of young people, we organised a Movie Night on 1st November 2025. We had 89 young people in attendance.

The event aimed to create a safe, inclusive, and relaxed environment where young people could unwind, connect with peers, and take a healthy break from academic and personal pressures. By fostering a sense of belonging and togetherness, the Movie Night contributed to improving participants' emotional resilience, social confidence, and overall well-being.

Such activities form an essential part of our Health and Well-being Programme, which promotes balance between personal growth and mental wellness.



A cross section of our young people during the movie night.

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Christmas Party for Young People

On Saturday, 21st December 2024, we hosted a Christmas party for our young people, providing an opportunity to celebrate the festive season together in a fun and inclusive environment. The event brought together participants from across Hull and East Riding for a day filled with festivities, games, music, and creative activities, fostering a sense of community and celebration.

The party offered young people a chance to socialise, relax, and enjoy the holiday spirit. The event created memorable experiences and strengthen relationships, promote well-being, and build a sense of belonging within our community. The Christmas party was a joyful conclusion to a year of learning, growth, and achievement, leaving participants with happy memories and renewed energy for the year ahead.



A cross section of our young people during the party.

Mentorship

Youth Aspire Connect supports young people through both formal and informal peer mentorship. During our Formal Peer Mentorship, young people are paired with trained peer mentors or senior young leaders who help them set personal or academic goals. We are currently mentoring over 63 young people.

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Leadership & Social Action

Youth Leadership and Advocacy

Over the past year, Youth Aspire Connect has continued to provide leadership opportunities for young people, equipping them with essential skills for the future.

Over 23 young people from YAC are representing Hull and the East Riding region in different capacities at the national and international settings. Some of them have advanced into formal leadership and advocacy roles beyond the organisation. For example,

- Emperor-David Ikechukwu is a Member of UK Youth Parliament (MYPs)
- Precious Machinga Member of UK Youth Parliament (MYPs)
- Williams Ogiemwonyi who is also a member of Hull Youth Council and Generation Hull and a member of the National Association of Performing Arts (NAPA), where he continues to build creative and leadership skills.
- Michelle Adebajo - serving actively on the Hull Youth Council, contributing to local youth policy discussions.
- Deborah Arikibe - Youth representatives within the United Nations Association Youth Platform (UNAYP UK) currently serving as Advocacy Managers and UN Youth Ambassadors, representing UK youth perspectives in global forums.

Through these platforms, our young leaders have collectively contributed to policy consultations, community-based advocacy campaigns, and multiple international dialogues focusing on mental health, education, social inclusion, and sustainable development.



Emperor-David Ikechukwu and Precious Machinga at the Youth Parliament in London.

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Youth Aspire Connect Mentee Elected Hull's New Young Mayor

Eunice Jogunosinmi, aged 14, from Youth Aspire Connect was elected as the Hull's New Young Mayor.



Eunice Jogunosinmi, Hull's New Young Mayor.

Cllr Linda Tock, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services and Young People at Hull City Council, praised the high standard of all candidates:

"Each year, I am astounded at the passion and knowledge that our young people have for our city. All six candidates put forward tremendous manifestos, and I have no doubt it was a tough decision for those voting."

We congratulated Eunice and her deputy Isabel on their achievements and look forward to supporting them in their roles to achieve their ambitions for the city.

Anti-Racism In-School Campaign

Our anti-racism campaign work took another shape following the 2024 summer riot which had a devastating impact on the mental health and well-being of our young people, which some of them are still grappling with unfortunately. Below were some of the things our young people said.

"The events that have occurred made me feel sad and disappointed but more than anything, I feel very unsafe in the city I have called home for 10 years. I saw violence and chaos and genuinely thought to myself that this is not a city I would raise my child in, I began to think of it as a place that would be temporary because who wants to stay where they are not welcome? Who wants to be scared to leave their home"? ~AB

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“For me as a young person, Hull on August 3, 2024, was a really disturbing event. I was deeply depressed after learning that, despite initial reports suggesting a peaceful protest, the situation quickly deteriorated and led to violence and looting. In this day and age, I am afraid to reside in the city as a young person because I feel unsafe there. Currently, I suspect everyone, therefore I move with the utmost awareness and security. I am unable to go site seeing or simply take a leisurely stroll through the city because the fallout of the incident has significantly affected my current plans”. ~Daniella

“I am not feeling safe because we are not allowed to move freely like before, and if we want to get something in town or anywhere the riot has occurred, we can't because we either get chased, beating or killed or even though we have to suffer any of that we can't have peace of mind to walk or drive freely”. ~Anas

Since the riots, we have seen increase in our services and external stakeholders' engagement including schools. Some of our young people were interviewed by the BBC about their experiences of the riots and what can be done to prevent similar event repeating itself.



Young People from YAC interview by the BBC about the Hull Riots

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Research & Evidence Generation.

Apart from inspiring, empowering and mentoring young people, we carry out applied health research to solve practical problems in the community we serve. During the year, we were involved in two research projects:

The NORM Wellbeing Ideas Fund Project

Our NORM wellbeing Ideas Fund project was extended for another one year to enable us to consolidate the giant strides we have recorded during the first phase of the project including the development of our “The Chatter Box”:

Family Conversation Starters is a toolkit co-designed with young people and parents/community leaders to destigmatise and normalise mental health discussions within families. Launched in November 2024 and piloted among 40 BME families. The feedback from parents showed the tool is effective in breaking down barriers to parent-child conversation

The Chatter box: Family Conversation Starters



British Science Association Ideas Fund Showcase

Also, on the 5th of March 2025, we attended the Ideas Fund Showcase hosted by the British Science Association and funded by the Wellcome Trust at the Canham Turner Building, University of Hull. The event brought together over 150 people from various community organisations, researchers, and project partners were in attendance. A great platform for us to share our work and network with other organisations, exchange insights, and explore potential collaborations.

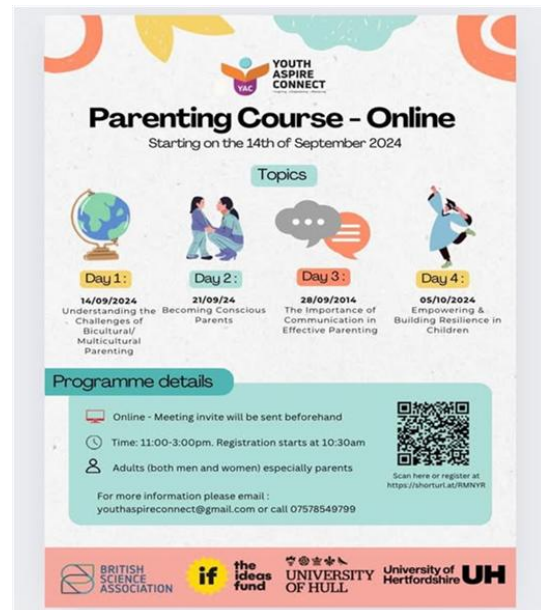
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YAC Team at the British Science Association Ideas Fund Showcase event

Online Parenting Course

As part of our Ideas Fund project, we delivered a 4-day online culturally appropriate parenting course aimed at improving parent-child relationships and normalising mental health conversations among young people from African, Caribbean, and mixed heritage backgrounds. The course was developed in response to concerns raised by parents about their struggle and complexities of raising children in a multicultural society. The 4-day course, developed by Dr. Amina Adan, provided parents with practical knowledge, skills to navigate these challenges. About 40 parents registered for the course.



Also, in partnership with a multimedia company - My Pockets, we develop resources such as booklets, stickers, badges, and postcards. These tools aim to break down barriers and encourage open conversations about feelings and emotions within families.

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Impact of Racism on Young People mental health and Wellbeing

We were commissioned by the Humber and North Yorkshire Health care partnership to develop a thought-provoking animated film for training Healthcare professionals on the impact of racism on the mental health of young people of colour. Through the Ideas Fund (IF) project, we were commissioned by the Humber and North Yorkshire Health and Care partnership to produce this animation

See Me Too Film Launch – 19th February 2025

On 19th February 2025, Youth Aspire Connect successfully launched the *See Me Too* film at The Milner York. The purpose of this powerful film is to challenge professionals working with children and young people—including educators, social workers, and youth practitioners—to deliver more inclusive and equitable care. The project amplifies the voices and lived experiences of young people from diverse backgrounds, highlighting the importance of representation, belonging, and fairness within systems that support children’s development. This event was well graced by senior health professionals across Northeast England including Andrew Nichols-Clarke, the Quality Improvement Lead at NHS England. Over 300 young people and Health professionals attended the event.



See Me Too film launch event at The Milner York.

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Collaboration and Community Engagement.

Breaking Barriers – 18th March 2025

On 18th March 2025, Youth Aspire Connect facilitated the Breaking Barriers event, creating a platform for open conversations between young people and Humberside Police. The session aimed to foster understanding, build trust, and provide young people with the opportunity to voice their concerns, share experiences, and ask questions about safety, policing, and community issues.

During the event, participants engaged in honest and constructive dialogue, discussing challenges they face in their communities, concerns about safety, and ways in which law enforcement can better support young people. The Humberside Police team actively listened, responded thoughtfully, and committed to taking young people's perspectives into account when shaping community initiatives.

Feedback from attendees highlighted the importance of open, respectful dialogue in breaking down barriers, rebuilding trust, and promoting collaboration between young people and local authorities.

Big Malarkey Festival 2024 – 22nd & 23rd June

On 22nd and 23rd June 2024, Youth Aspire Connect was delighted to be invited to the Big Malarkey Festival by Claire Thompson from the Hull Libraries team. Our young people had an amazing time sharing their experiences and work at Youth Aspire Connect, engaging and connecting with the wider local community.

A highlight of our participation was showcasing our recently released film, *Just Ignore It*, which has been widely discussed and highly sought after. The film sparked meaningful conversations with festival attendees, demonstrating the creativity, voice, and impact of our young people.

The event provided a fantastic platform for young people to showcase their creativity, leadership, and community involvement, while also learning from other organisations and festival activities. We are immensely grateful to everyone who supported the organisation and delivery of such a brilliant event, which fostered collaboration, inspiration, and fun for all involved.

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Our founder Dr Franklin speaking at the Big Malarkey Festival 2024

Navigating Identity and Peer Pressure Workshop

In partnership with **Borasheba** and **Oasis Hub Hull**, we hosted an insightful Navigating Identity and Peer Pressure workshop for our young people. The session provided a safe and supportive space for participants to explore their sense of self, understand the pressures they may face from peers, and develop strategies to make confident and positive choices.

We hosted an engaging Arts and Crafts session facilitated by Ruth Drake and Lyn Hubbard from Creative Voice, Hull City Council. The session provided our young people with a creative space to explore their artistic talents, express themselves, and work collaboratively on a variety of craft activities.

The session not only offered a fun and stimulating experience but also contributed to building confidence, enhancing fine motor skills, and encouraging self-expression among participants. Feedback from the young people highlighted how much they enjoyed the session and how it inspired them to explore their creativity further.

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Arts and Crafts session facilitated Ruth Drake and Lyn Hubbard from Hull City Council.

International Women's Day

Our young people proudly took part in an International Women's Day event organised by Bora Shabaa. The day provided an opportunity to celebrate women's achievements, raise awareness of gender equality, and engage in meaningful discussions and activities



Youth Engagement Meeting with Humberside Police

Following the recent riot on 3rd August 2024 in Hull, young people across the city—including members of the Hull Youth Parliament, Hull Youth Council, Hull Young People's Voice, and Generation Hull—expressed feelings of confusion, trauma, and concern about their safety. In response, the Youth Aspire Connect team arranged a meeting later in August 2024 with the Humberside Police to provide a safe platform for young people of colour to voice their fears, ask questions, and seek reassurance.

During the session, participants shared how the recent events have affected them, their ongoing concerns about returning to school, and their perspectives on what authorities should do to ensure their safety. The Humberside Police team, led by Caroline Andrews and Mark Lovell, engaged professionally with the young people, actively listened to their concerns, provided thoughtful responses, and committed to raising key issues with relevant authorities to enable decisive action.

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Some of our young people with Caroline Andrews and Mark Lovell from Humberside Police

Community Clean-Up and Fundraising Activity.

On Friday, 29th August 2024, our young people took to the streets for a community litter-picking activity as part of an initiative to promote environmental responsibility and raise funds to support the continuation of their dance classes. This inspiring effort was led by our young girls who wanted to take action and contribute towards paying their dance instructor and hiring a venue so they could resume their Friday dance sessions. These classes had previously been paused due to the end of funding, which had also limited their opportunities to engage in group recreational activities.

The litter-picking event not only helped raise awareness about the importance of keeping our community clean but also showcased the young people's resilience, teamwork, and determination to sustain something they love. Through this initiative, the girls demonstrated a strong sense of ownership, responsibility, and leadership, turning a challenge into an opportunity to give back to their community while working towards restoring their dance sessions—a vital space for self-expression, social bonding, and emotional well-being

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for the Year Ended 31 March 2025**



Community Clean up and Fundraising activity

Humber All Nations Alliance 2024 Fashion Show – October 19, 2024

On October 19, 2024, our young people had an amazing time at the Humber All Nations Alliance 2024 fashion show. They were full of excitement and pride as they celebrated their cultural heritage, showcasing the beauty and diversity of their backgrounds. The event offered them a wonderful opportunity to express themselves creatively, connect with their roots, and be inspired by other young people embracing their identities. It was truly a memorable day of culture, fashion, and community spirit.



Humberside Police Lifestyle 2024 Awards – November

In November 2024, our young girls proudly took their Afrobeats dance to Hull City Hall, performing at the Humberside Police Lifestyle 2024 Awards. The Lifestyle programme is

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a youth engagement initiative run by Humberside Police, where young people aged 10–18 years form teams and spend their summer holidays completing projects that benefit their local communities. Their performance at the awards not only showcased their skills and dedication but also highlighted the importance of youth-led initiatives in building confidence, teamwork, and a sense of civic responsibility.



Hull and East Riding Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Event

On 19th November 2024, our young people enthusiastically attended the Hull and East Riding Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Event in York. The event provided a valuable opportunity for young people to engage directly in shaping the future of mental health services, ensuring that their perspectives, experiences, and needs are central to service design and delivery.

Our young people were particularly motivated by the chance to voice their opinions, collaborate with peers, and influence decision-makers. The event exemplified the importance of youth-led input in shaping effective, inclusive, and responsive mental health services.

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Awards and recognition

IntoFilmAwards 2024 Time For Action Winners!

Our young people aged (11–18) in Youth Aspire Connect who won the Time For Action category (sponsored by Swatch). Presented by actor Kingsley Ben-Adir, the Time For Action category invited young people to create a film that raises awareness of issues important to them and explores the changes they would like to make in the world—whether big or small, personal or society-wide.

Upon collecting their award, one young representative from Youth Aspire Connect delivered a remarkable speech on stage:

"We are here not just as ourselves today, but as advocates against racism. We believe that if racism was a question, our voices would be the answer."

Peter Snelling from My Pockets shared:

"The young people are part of an anti-racist campaign group. They wanted to make something that gave a positive message, empowered people to challenge racism, and bring people together. We want teachers, schools, pupils, and students to watch the film and make it part of conversations about racism."

Just Ignore It has already made a significant impact:

- Featured as the lead story on BBC Look North
- Incorporated into Hull University Teacher Training programs
- Showcased at Black History Month events across the UK

In addition to their brilliant short film, the group has also written an Anti-Racism Policy for schools, which they hope will be adopted across Hull, Yorkshire, and beyond, helping to make lasting change in educational settings.

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Deborah Arikibe – One of Our Youth Ambassadors received “The Time to Volunteer Award

She is also a Youth representatives within the United Nations Association Youth Platform (UNAYP UK) currently serving as Advocacy Managers and UN Youth Ambassadors, representing UK youth perspectives in global forums.

Structure, Governance, and Management

YAC is overseen by a Board of Trustees responsible for strategic oversight and accountability. The operational team, supported by volunteers and tutors, manages daily activities. We maintain robust safeguarding, health and safety, and equality policies to ensure a safe and inclusive environment.

- Staff: 4
- Tutors/trainer: 3
- Occasional workers: 3
- Dance instructor: 1
- Volunteers: 25

All staff and volunteers adhere to YAC’s safeguarding policy and undergo necessary background checks and training

Public Benefit Statement

All Youth Aspire Connect (YAC) activities are designed to provide public benefit by promoting access to learning and development opportunities for young people, regardless of background, race, or financial circumstances. YAC exists to advance education, foster social inclusion, and enhance the overall wellbeing of young people—particularly those from underrepresented or disadvantaged backgrounds—across Hull and beyond.

Through our six core areas, we ensure that every programme delivers meaningful and measurable public benefit. All activities are designed in line with the Charity Commission’s guidance, aiming to remove barriers, expand opportunities, and create environments where young people can thrive, contribute, and become positive agents of change within their communities.

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Looking Ahead (April 2025 – March 2026)


In the coming year, Youth Aspire Connect is committed to building on the successes of the past year and expanding the reach and impact of its programmes. Our key priorities for the coming year include:

- **Expanding Digital Skills Training:** Our target is to train 100 young people in digital skills. We are steadily progressing towards this goal, with an increasing number of participants already enrolled and benefiting from the programme.
- **Expanding our Leadership & Mentorship Programme:** This initiative will equip young people with essential life and career skills, fostering confidence, responsibility, and personal growth.
- **Introducing the Family Conversation Toolkit – *Chatterbox*:** Designed to strengthen communication within families and normalise conversations around mental health and well-being.
- **Enhancing Parental Engagement:** Through structured quarterly meetings, interactive workshops, and regular feedback systems, we aim to build stronger parent–child and parent–organisation relationships.
- **Deepening Partnerships:** We will continue to collaborate closely with educational institutions, local authorities, and community organisations to amplify our collective impact.
- **Improving Monitoring and Evaluation:** Continuous refinement of our data collection and evaluation processes will help us better measure outcomes and demonstrate tangible impact.
- **Developing Strategic Funding Partnerships:** We will focus on building sustainable funding relationships to ensure long-term growth and lasting community impact.

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Dr Franklin	Onukwugha
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Trustee	
Date	12/08/2025	

Charity number: 1199354

YOUTH ASPIRE CONNECT

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025

Prepared By:
Crompton & Co Ltd
Chartered Accountants

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025**

TRUSTEES

Dr Franklin Onukwugha
Mr Fracis Ahiakpa
Engr Mojisola Sobanwa
Mrs Doreen Obeng
Deborah Arikibe

REGISTERED OFFICE

Oasis Hub Hull
310 Newland Avenue
Hull
HU5 2NB

CHARITY NUMBER

1199354

ACCOUNTANTS

Crompton & Co Ltd
Chartered Accountants

**ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025**

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025

TRUSTEES' REPORT

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activity of the charity in the year ended 31/03/25 under review was:-

The advancement of life of young people through the provision of educational opportunities, employment support, and career mentorship. We champion the study of STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) to inspire the next generation of young people. Alongside this, we pursue any charitable initiatives that advance education, as permitted under the laws of England and Wales, ensuring every young person has the tools, confidence, and guidance to build a successful future.

To advance the provision of educational, employment and career support for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. We achieve this by supporting young people to aspire to achieve their aspirations by providing employability and digital skills training to build their confidence and interpersonal skills to help them transition to paid employment. We run weekly 1-2-1 or group career and mentorship sessions to offer advice, and guidance to young people especially those who are at highest risk of becoming involved with serious violence. We make yearly trips to the University of Oxford and University of Cambridge to inspire young people to strive for excellence whereby reducing absence or exclusion from schools and anti-social behaviour.

We empower and train young people to become leaders and engage in social actions. We are the leading an award-winning anti-racism in school campaign to address the barriers that limit young people of colour from achieving their career aspirations. We organise regular activities (e.g., residential trips, multi-sports, arts, and crafts, including dance & music classes) to keep young people engaged and safe from becoming involved in violence.

We run health and well-being sessions to help young people develop skills to support and boost their Mental Health and Well-being.

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The charity is a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO)

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Summary of achievements is provided in a separate document.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

PRINCIPAL SOURCES OF FUNDS

We were able to attract grants and from the following funders:

British Science Association (Ideas Fund)
Humber NHS Foundation (HNY)
Two Ridings Community Foundations
Humber All Nations Alliance (HANA) - DCMS (Know Your Neighbourhood Fund)"
The Sydney Smith Trust
Humber Community Advice Services (UKSPF)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025

TRUSTEES' REPORT

National Lottery Community Fund
Hull City Council
The Global Fund (Pheonix Way)

We truly thank all our contributors and funders for this massive support to help us deliver transforming activities to young people in Hull and East Riding.

Mr Francis Ahiakpa (Chair of Trustees)
Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF YOUTH ASPIRE CONNECT

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31/03/2025 .

RESPECTIVE RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES AND EXAMINER

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £25,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination being a member of ICAEW..

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to an audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

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

BASIS OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS STATEMENT

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. 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 EXAMINERS STATEMENT

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities
- have not been met; or

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

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025**

.....
Date: 30/01/2026

Crompton & Co Ltd
Chartered Accountants

**ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS
OF YOUTH ASPIRE CONNECT, FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025**

In order to assist you to fulfill your duties under the Companies Act 2006, we have prepared for your approval the accounts of YOUTH ASPIRE CONNECT for the year ended 31/03/2025 as set out on pages - to (1) from the company's accounting records and from information and explanations you have given us.

As a practising member of the ICAEW, we are subject to its ethical and other professional requirements which are detailed on their website.

This report is made solely to the Board of Directors of YOUTH ASPIRE CONNECT, as a body, in accordance with the terms of our engagement letter dated . Our work has been undertaken solely to prepare for your approval the accounts of YOUTH ASPIRE CONNECT and state those matters that we have agreed to state to the Board of Directors of YOUTH ASPIRE CONNECT, as a body, in this report, in accordance with the requirements of the ICAEW as detailed on their website. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than YOUTH ASPIRE CONNECT and its Board of Directors as a body for our work or for this report.

It is your duty to ensure that YOUTH ASPIRE CONNECT has kept adequate accounting records and to prepare statutory accounts that give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities, financial position and profitability of YOUTH ASPIRE CONNECT. You consider that YOUTH ASPIRE CONNECT is exempt from the statutory audit requirement for the year.

We have not been instructed to carry out an audit or a review of the accounts of YOUTH ASPIRE CONNECT. For this reason, we have not verified the accuracy or completeness of the accounting records or information and explanations you have given to us and we do not, therefore, express any opinion on the statutory accounts.

Crumpton & Co Ltd
Chartered Accountants

30/01/2026

YOUTH ASPIRE CONNECT

**Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31/03/2025**

			2025	<i>2024</i>
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total	<i>Total</i>
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Income from generated funds				
Donations and legacies	79,483	212,196	291,679	77,400
Income from Investments	336	-	336	-
Total Income and endowments	79,819	212,196	292,015	77,400
Expenses				
Costs of generating funds				
Expenditure on Charitable activities	74,678	71,083	145,761	75,712
Total Expenses	74,678	71,083	145,761	75,712
Net gains on investments				
Net Income	5,141	141,113	146,254	1,688
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assests				
Net movement in funds:				
Net income for the year	5,141	141,113	146,254	1,688
Total funds brought forward	-	23,807	23,807	22,119
Net funds carried forward	5,141	164,920	170,061	23,807

This statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities

YOUTH ASPIRE CONNECT

BALANCE SHEET AT 31/03/2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	3	22,163	2,948
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank and in hand		148,496	21,239
		148,496	21,239
CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year	4	598	380
NET CURRENT ASSETS		147,898	20,859
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		170,061	23,807
CAPITAL AND RESERVES			
Unrestricted funds	6		
General fund		68,789	580
Designated funds		(63,648)	-
Restricted funds	7	164,920	23,227
		170,061	23,807

For the year ending 31/03/2025 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

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

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

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

Approved by the board of trustees on 30/01/2026 and signed on their behalf by

.....
 Mr Francis Ahiakpa (Chair of Trustees)
 Trustee

**NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31/03/2025**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1a. Basis Of Accounting

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with FRS102 - The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland and the Companies Act 2006 and the requirements of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

1b. Change In Accounting Policy

In preparing the financial statements for the current year, the company has adopted the following Financial Reporting Standards:

-Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective January 2015).

The adoption of new accounting standards has not resulted in any adjustments to the results of the company in either this year or the previous year.

1c. Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are included on the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is legally entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy.

1d. Resources Expended

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.

1e. Allocation And Apportionment Of Costs

All costs relate to the single activity of the charitable company and are recognised accordingly.

1f. 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.

Designated funds are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted general funds for the specific future purposes or projects.

YOUTH ASPIRE CONNECT

1g. Depreciation

Depreciation has been provided at the following rates in order to write off the assets over their estimated useful lives.

Equipment	%
-----------	---

2. EMPLOYEES

	2025 No.	2024 No.
Average number of employees	-	-

3. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 01/04/2024	3,685	3,685
Additions	24,095	24,095
At 31/03/2025	<u>27,780</u>	<u>27,780</u>
Depreciation		
At 01/04/2024	737	737
For the year	4,880	4,880
At 31/03/2025	<u>5,617</u>	<u>5,617</u>
Net Book Amounts		
At 31/03/2025	<u>22,163</u>	<u>22,163</u>
At 31/03/2024	<u>2,948</u>	<u>2,948</u>

4. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Other creditors	598	380
	<u>598</u>	<u>380</u>

5. LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. Each member gives a guarantee to contribute a sum not exceeding £, to the company should it be wound up. At 31/03/2025 there were members.

6. UNRESTRICTED FUNDS

	Brought forward	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Carried forward
	£	£	£	£	£
General fund	-	79,819	(11,030)	-	68,789
	-	-	(63,648)	-	(63,648)
	-	79,819	(74,678)	-	5,141

7. RESTRICTED FUNDS

Brought forward	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Carried forward
£	£	£	£	£
23,807	212,196	(71,083)	-	164,920
23,807	212,196	(71,083)	-	164,920

YOUTH ASPIRE CONNECT

Incoming Resources for the year ended 31/03/2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Incoming resources from generated funds		
Grants		
Hull Community - Bransholme Trust	-	500
Two Ridings Community fund (Small Grants)	16,790	14,757
Oxford University/Principal Fellowship (Mansfield College)	500	500
British Science Association (BSA)	92,064	42,273
KCOM Group Ltd	-	210
Humber All Nations Alliance (HANA) Hull	5,000	5,000
Sir James Reckitt Trust	-	5,000
My Pockets	-	1,200
Hull City Council	21,150	7,000
Humber NHS Foundation	8,838	-
Hull Dance	2,640	-
The Sidney Smith Trust	4,983	-
Humber Community Advice Service	43,758	-
The Global Fund	74,500	-
The National Lottery Community Fund	19,984	-
	290,207	76,440
Donations		
Private Donations	-	960
Hull Community Church	947	-
	947	960
	<u>291,679</u>	<u>77,400</u>
Investment income		
Interest Received	336	-
	336	-
	<u>336</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>292,015</u>	<u>77,400</u>

YOUTH ASPIRE CONNECT

Expenses for the year ended 31/03/2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Expenses		
Costs of generating funds		
Charitable Activities		
Projects	63,648	-
Video Production costs	4,711	5,600
Rent & Venue Hire	11,519	7,828
Sub Contracted Services	15,760	31,460
Case Workers	13,928	9,534
Youth Activities Costs	9,160	11,456
Funding Officer Fees	1,139	-
Refreshments	2,323	1,035
Guest Speaker Fees	250	250
Training	7,283	2,380
IT Resources	773	-
Monitoring & Evaluations	400	-
Travel expenses	2,199	3,136
Accountancy fees	598	380
Professional fees	-	604
Stationery & office supplies	5,178	1,053
Promotion & Publicity	1,950	259
Telephone, Mobile & Internet	62	-
Depreciation of equipment	4,880	737
	<u>145,761</u>	<u>75,712</u>
	<u>145,761</u>	<u>75,712</u>

