



TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Charity No: SC046776

About Youth

TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

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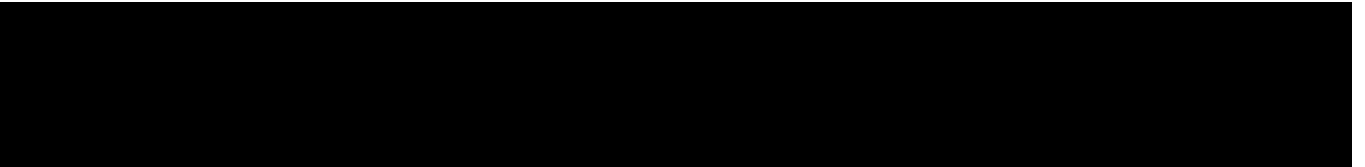
About Youth
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees are please to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2025.

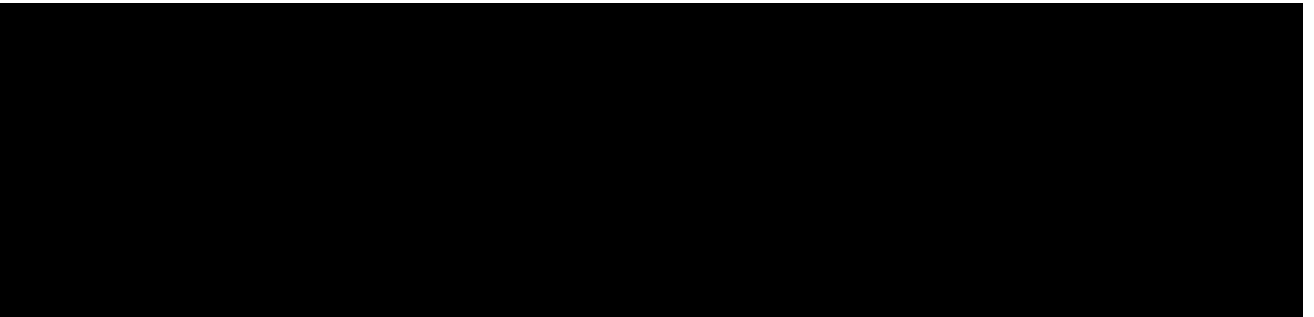
Reference and administrative details

Name: About Youth

Charity number: SC046776



Bankers: Royal Bank of Scotland, 239 St John's Road, Edinburgh, EH12 7XA



Structure Governance and Management

Constitution

About Youth was registered on the 9th August 2016 and is a Single Tier Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) governed by its constitution which was adopted in October 2016 and reviewed and updated in November 2020.

Appointment of Trustees

Under the constitution About Youth requires a minimum of three and a maximum of nine trustees. The board of trustees meets regularly and each quarter.

It is desired that young people (aged 16 – 24) will occupy at least two positions on the board of trustees and that local people from South-West of Edinburgh are adequately represented.

Board members are recruited from interested local people, partner agencies and individual professionals as well as through targeted recruitment based on the specific skills required by the organisation.

New board members are introduced to About Youth through discussion with the Project Executive and current trustees.

The induction process for new board members involves informal training by the existing trustees and attendance at bespoke training. New board members are provided with the organisations constitution, information on their role and responsibilities of charity trustees, prior year financial statements, prior board meeting minutes, strategic plan documents and organisational policies. About Youth routinely seeks out the input of independent external agencies to access training for board members and to ensure that they are aware of the legislation and regulations that impact the work of About Youth.

Management

The board of trustees are responsible for the running of the organisation and employing staff. The day-to-day management of the charity is delegated to the Project Executive who works alongside the trustees, staff, volunteers, and young people to steer the strategic direction of the organisation.

Risk Management

A number of policies are in place within the charity to minimise risk, particularly in respect of the safeguarding of the young people within its care. These policies are part of the day-to-day workings of the organisation and are subject to an ongoing regular review process.

Objectives and Activities

About Youth was established in 2016 to act as a resource for young people by providing them with advice, information and support to help them to develop as individuals, connect with their community and access opportunities which enable them to thrive and prosper.

The organisation was developed both as a direct result of accumulated professional experience and in response to a shared desire and observed need in the local community, the South-West of Edinburgh, and in particular the Calders area. It was recognised that these localities require a youth organisation which has a specific focus on supporting local young people to develop their learning, skills and opportunities.

Projects are delivered using a range of youth work methods including;

- Open access 'Universal' youth work
- Targeted project work
- Outreach work, including detached street work activity
- Themed group-work programmes
- One-to-one advice and support
- Drop-in services
- School based youth work

- Sport related youth work

Most of the young people who engage with our projects do so on a voluntary basis, accessing our projects and services independently, often via hearing about them from peers or via our promotional work. Young people are occasionally referred into projects from a number of sources including schools, careers, local authority services and other voluntary organisations and community projects.

Charitable Purposes

The organisation's charitable purposes are, to advance the citizenship, education and wellbeing of young people through;

- Providing youth specific advice, information and support
- Providing activities to develop skills, capacities and capabilities
- Delivering programmes of informal and community education
- Relieving and alleviating the effects of disadvantage for young people in economic/financial hardship through delivering projects and services which provide guidance and support to move people into positive destinations.
- Providing recreational activities supporting young people's learning, well-being and development via the delivery of weekly open access youth services for young people

We achieve this by;

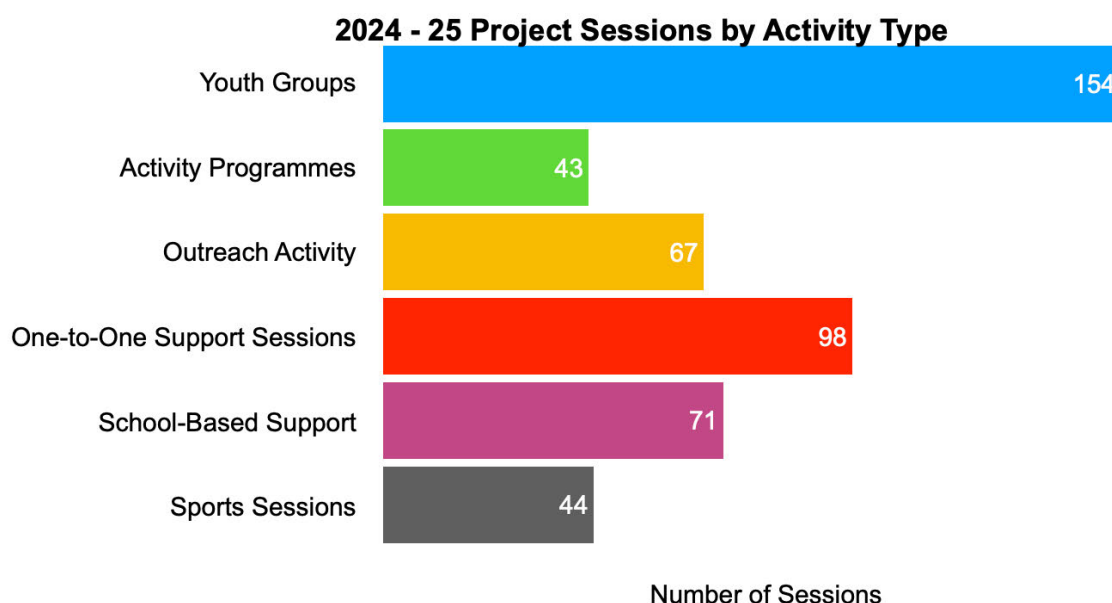
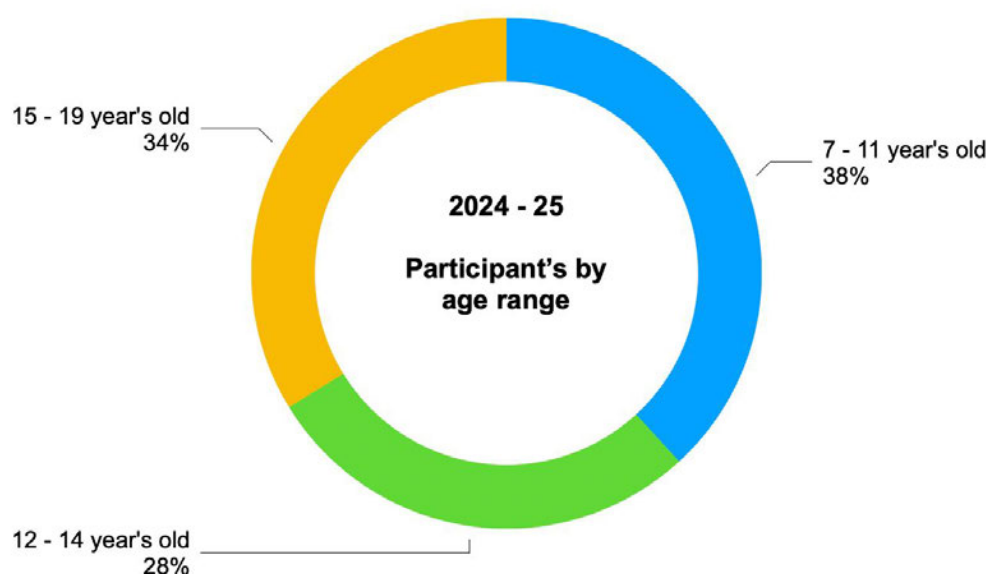
- Being responsive to and regularly consulting and creatively engaging with young people to ensure that our projects address their needs, interests and expectations.
- Actively working to remove any barriers of access for young people; particularly those deemed as hard-to-reach, such as young carers, young people who are care experienced, and young people who are involved in offending and criminality.
- Creating opportunities for young people to participate in new activities, learn and develop new key skills, volunteer and gain vocational qualifications and certificates.
- Working collaboratively in partnership with schools, careers and other youth work services to provide employability advice and practical support to young people who are not in a positive destination in education, employment or training.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

In 2024/25, we successfully continued to offer a wide range of exciting youth work opportunities. Working closely with young people and our partners, we co-created new projects and programmes shaped by young people's needs, interests, and ideas. To meet growing demand, we expanded both our youth groups and our schools-based youth work.

Over the year, we ran **12 different projects**, delivering **477 sessions** packed with activities and opportunities.

In total, **296 young people got involved**, taking part an incredible **6,455 times** across our programmes.



YOUTH GROUPS

This year we kept things buzzing at the Calders Community Flat with four youth groups running during school terms!

We welcomed:

Juniors (P4–P6) – full of energy and curiosity

Intermediates (two groups: P6–P7 and S1–S2) – ready to step up and take on new challenges

Seniors (S3+) – our oldest crew, bringing leadership and fresh ideas

In the past, we usually ran three groups a week – but with so many young people keen to get involved, we increased our groups from three to four to meet the growing demand of young people keen to get involved.

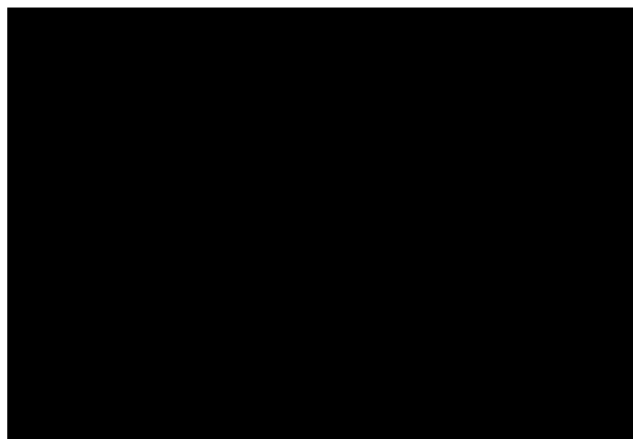
237 young people accessed our weekly youth groups in 2024/25 which provided safe, supportive spaces designed to reduce isolation and build confidence. They not only connected with their peers through games and activities but also gained access to vital resources like Wi-Fi and IT equipment, shared meals they prepared together, and developed lasting friendships and support networks.

Youth volunteering remained at the heart of our youth groups this year, with 6 young people stepping up to support delivery while also shaping a brand-new volunteer strategy and training programme for the organisation.

Our youth groups thrived on this spirit of leadership—young people took charge by planning activities and making sure everyone felt included; ensuring young people don't just take part in our groups—they help shape them, with real influence and agency at every step.

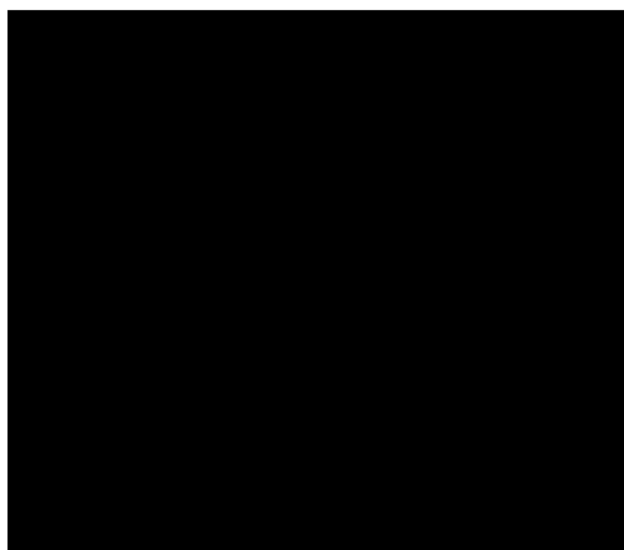
ACTIVITY PROGRAMMES

During the school holidays, our offer transformed into a series of exciting activity programmes that young people tell us they truly value and look forward to. These programmes give them the chance to try new experiences, learn fresh skills, and explore new places. Listening to their feedback, we expanded the number of residential breaks this year—creating even more opportunities for adventure, growth, and lasting memories

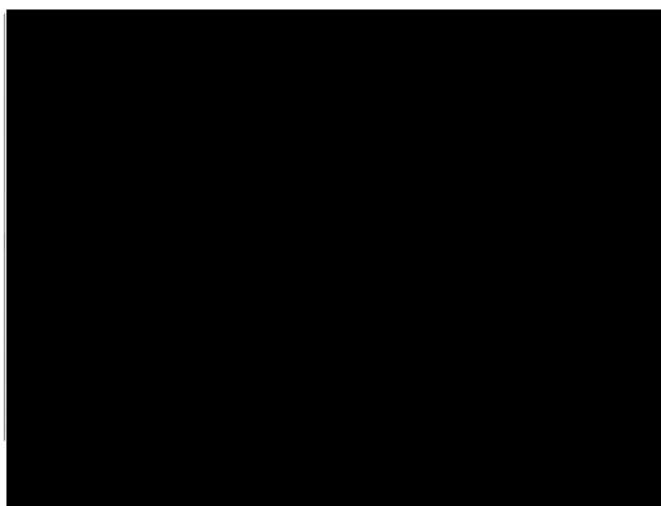


Our holiday activity programmes—delivered completely free of charge—ran throughout Easter, summer, autumn, and winter breaks. Young people got stuck into everything from swimming, bowling, and laser tag to exploring country parks and relaxing on the beach. Every trip also included free meals and refreshments, making sure everyone could enjoy the experience without barriers.

This year we enhanced our school holiday offer with our *Free Fridays* programme. Designed with and for young people, the initiative gave small groups the chance to enjoy leisure and outdoor learning activities during term time. From researching and booking activities to shaping the programme around their own needs and interests, young people played a leading role in every step—ensuring Free Fridays were fun, relevant, and truly theirs.



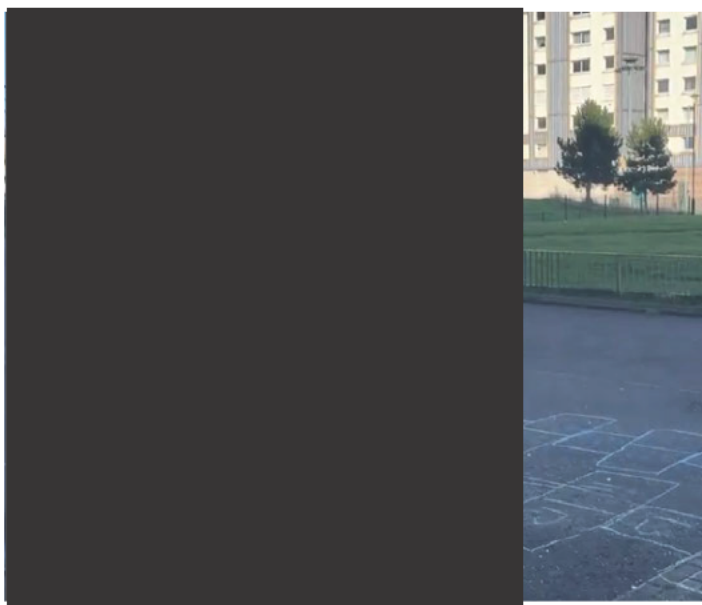
FOOTBALL GROUP



We continued to provide a weekly football group every Thursday evening, and throughout the school holidays, at the astroturf of the local high school offering young people the opportunity to come together for an organised game of football, including fun games and competitions. The project helps facilitate much needed access to a local community asset, as well as creating pathways into other projects, programmes, and support.

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

A wide range of outreach activities were delivered throughout 2024–25, designed to connect with young people in their own environments and respond to their needs in meaningful ways. Regular street work sessions were carried out in local streets, parks, and other community spaces, providing valuable opportunities to engage positively with young people where they naturally spend their time. These sessions served not only as a way of building trust and relationships but also as an effective platform for raising awareness of available services and gaining insight into young people's needs and ideas for future programming.

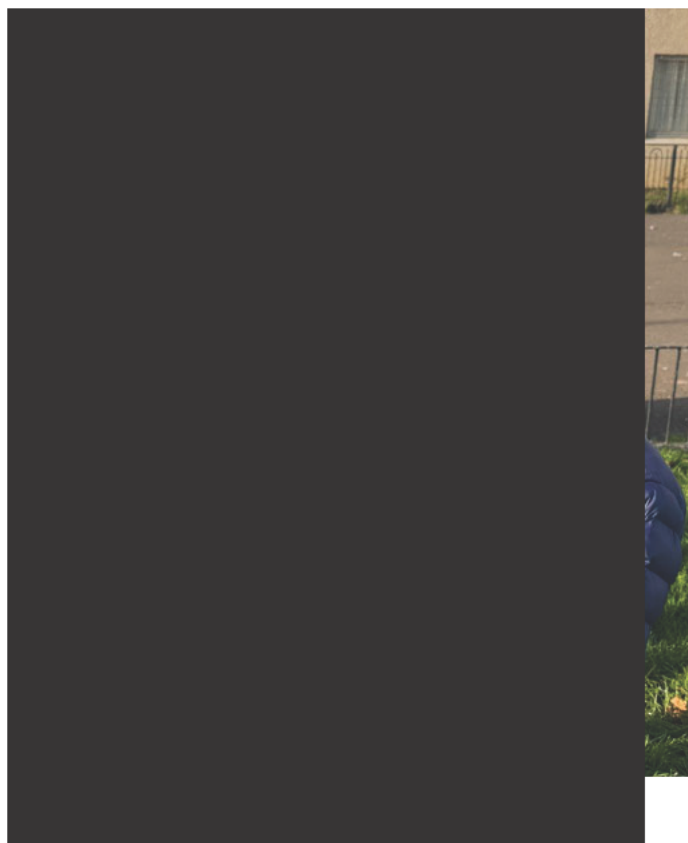


ONE-TO-ONE SUPPORT

One-to-one support was provided throughout the year. Most young people who accessed one-to-one support did so in addition to engaging with our other provision, however some were referred directly by local partners in education, social work and other organisations. Via one-to-one support, young people accessed advice and support to overcome issues in their lives and help to progress into positive destinations in employment, further education and training.

SCHOOL-BASED YOUTH WORK

In 2024–25, we expanded our schools-based youth work, strengthening support for children and young people at key stages of their education. At primary level, we continued to provide one full day of dedicated support each week in our local Primary School. This focused on pupils struggling with social, emotional, or behavioural challenges, offering one-to-one and group sessions to build confidence, improve relationships, and support learning. At secondary level, our provision increased, with targeted support around mental health, attendance, and key transitions. We also placed greater emphasis on helping young people develop life skills and improve employability through mentoring, practical activities, and personal development work. By embedding youth work in both primary and secondary schools, we provided a continuum of support that addressed immediate challenges while also preparing young people for longer-term success.



Financial Review

Total income for the year was £134,925 (2024: £101,347) with the majority coming from grant income of which £82,117 was restricted. The charity would like to thank all its funders for their contributions, including UK Youth, The City of Edinburgh Council, The Corra Foundation, The Scottish Government, The Gannochy Trust, The Tesco Community Foundation, and The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations. All of which contribute to the charity being able to carry out much needed services.

The total expenditure for the year was £97,627 (2024: £103,788) with the main items being the project costs and staff salaries. The charity had a surplus of £37,298.

The board has developed a planned and measured approach to fundraising which is further outlined in the organisation's Strategic Plan document.

Financial priorities identified in our Strategic plan include;

- Plans to secure long term funding to support core operational costs and project management.
- Less reliance on short term or small pieces of funding with a view toward pursuing funding opportunities for longer term grants.
- Identifying funding that supports and provides opportunities in line with our organisational priorities and young people's needs.
- Developing positive partnership relationships with other voluntary sector organisations that create opportunities for pursuing joint funding applications.
- Long term strategic planning to look at a sustainable base for the organisation's operation.

We continue to develop a prudent funding strategy focussed on making applications to a variety of different grants and funders, with a view to ensuring that we are not reliant on one funding source and enabling us to sustainably deliver a wide range of different youth work projects and activities. Trustees and staff monitor the charity's finances on a regular basis to ensure that they consistently reflect the organisation's overarching financial strategy. Key to this is that the organisation develops in a manner that is sustainable and able to stay true to its original vision and values without having priorities adversely driven or determined by funding.

Reserves Policy

In line with their governance and financial strategy, the trustees have reviewed the reserves that are held at the end of this and future financial years to ensure continuity of the charity. The Trustees believe that a minimum of six months expenditure should be set aside and considered reserves. Based on the expenditure in this financial year this amount to £48,813.

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The Trustees also consider it prudent to have funds set aside in two separate designated funds. The first designated fund, which was established in 2024, is aligned to programme development which will be used towards the development of projects which are important to the strategic development of the charity. This fund presently totals £26,708. The second designation, is a fund in relation to Building and Premises to cover accommodation-related risks and future planning, including rent, support for current premises, or new property proposals. £20,000 was set aside for this in this financial year. Designated funds are monitored by trustees throughout the year.

The reserves at the year-end, which are calculated from the Unrestricted Funds less monies held within the outlined designated funds, are £38,938 which is less than target, however the trustees continue to monitor as required.

Plans for Future Periods

Youth Volunteering - Further development of our volunteer training and recruitment strategy is a key focus for 2025-26 and our particular focus is on nurturing the next generation of youth workers out of young people living in the communities in which we operate.

Review of premises - Since January 2018, the organisation has been based out of premises located in a community flat where most of our youth work activity also takes place. The building is however limited in its capacity and already used by a variety of different community groups which limits usage and development of projects.

Governance review - The trustees began an undertaking a strategic review of the organisation to assess its overall effectiveness and ensure it continues to meet its objectives. This review will evaluate the charity's operations, impact, and governance practices against the principles outlined in **The Scottish Governance Code for the Third Sector**. The aim is to identify areas for improvement, strengthen organisational performance, and ensure ongoing compliance with best practice governance standards.

This report was approved by the trustees on the 21 of November 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

Signature(s)

Full name(s)

Position (e.g. Chair)

Date

Chairperson

21/11/2025

Treasurer

21/11/2025

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of About Youth

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2025, which are set out on pages 11 to 15.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 ("the 2005 Act") and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) ("the 2006 Regulations"). The trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation (10)(1)(d) of the 2006 Regulations does not apply.

It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section (44)(1)(c) of the 2005 Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

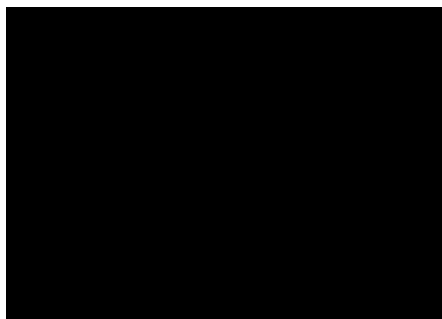
Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Regulations. 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 seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matter came 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 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Regulations, and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Regulationshave 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.



24th November 2025

About Youth
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
Receipts		£	£	£	£
Donations		5,558	-	5,558	9,923
Grants	4	47,250	82,117	129,367	91,424
Total Receipts		52,808	82,117	134,925	101,347
Payments					
Charitable Activities	5	18,820	76,891	95,711	100,156
Purchase of Equipment		-	1,556	1,556	3,272
Governance Costs		-	360	360	360
		18,820	78,807	97,627	103,788
Net Income/Expenditure		33,988	3,310	37,298	(2,441)
Surplus/(Deficit) for year		33,988	3,310	37,298	(2,441)

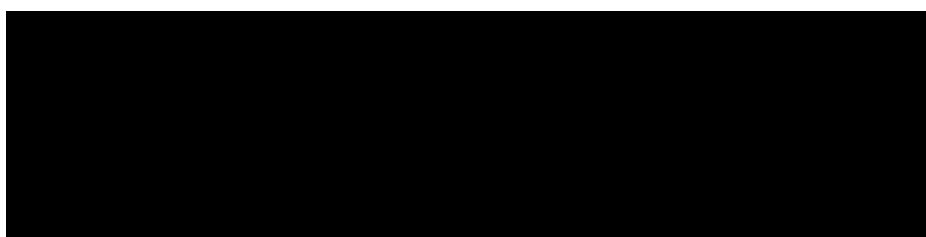
The Notes on Pages 13 to 15 form an integral part of these accounts

About Youth
STATEMENT OF BALANCES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
Funds Reconciliation		£	£	£	£
Balance as at 01 April 2024		51,659	4,732	56,391	58,832
Surplus/(Deficit) for year		33,988	3,310	37,298	(2,441)
Balance as at 31 March 2025		85,647	8,042	93,689	56,391
Bank & Cash Balances					
Cash at Bank		85,647	8,042	93,689	56,391
Cash in Hand		-	-	-	-
		85,647	8,042	93,689	56,391
Other Assets					
Various Equipment	See Note 8	-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	-
Liabilities					
Independent Examination Fee		-	-	-	360
		-	-	-	-
		-	-	-	360

The Notes on Pages 13 to 15 form an integral part of these accounts

These accounts were approved by the trustees on the 21 of November 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



Chair

Treasurer

About Youth
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. Basis of Preparation

These accounts have been prepared on the receipts & payments basis in accordance with:

- (a) The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005
- (b) The Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended)

There have been no changes to the basis of preparation or to the previous year's accounts.

2. Fund Accounting

(a) Unrestricted funds are those that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity.

(b) Designated funds are unrestricted funds that the trustees have set aside for purposes. The designation is administrative only and does not restrict the trustees' ability to apply the funds.

(c) Restricted funds are those that may only be used for specific purposes. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor, or when funds are raised for specific purposes.

(d) The purposes of the funds are shown page 15.

3. Taxation

(a) The charity is not liable to corporation tax or capital gains tax on its charitable activities.

(b) The charity is not registered for VAT, thus all costs are shown inclusive of VAT charged.

4. Grants Received

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
UK Youth - Thriving Minds Fund	24,750	-	24,750	22,500
UK Youth - Cost of Living Fund	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
UK Youth - Legacy & Learning Fund	11,000	-	11,000	-
Tesco Community Fund	-	1,000	1,000	-
CEC - Physical Activity Fund	-	-	-	2,000
CEC - Easter Holiday Fund	-	-	-	802
CEC - Summer Holiday Fund	-	810	810	780
The Corra Foundation - Henry Duncan Grant	6,500	-	6,500	6,500
Youth Scotland - Cashback for Communities	-	-	-	1,000
Scottish Gov. - Investing in Communities	-	33,510	33,510	34,454
LAYC - Summer Holiday Activity Fund	-	-	-	2,080
The Gannochy Trust	-	10,980	10,980	10,980
Alpkit Foundation	-	-	-	500
SCVO - Community Learning & Dev. Device Fund	-	-	-	4,828
CEC - Connected Communities	-	35,817	35,817	-
	47,250	82,117	129,367	91,424

About Youth
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

5. Cost of Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Staff Salaries	10,800	64,228	75,028	82,434
Project Costs	7,149	10,420	17,568	14,443
Staff Training	-	-	-	-
Office Costs	324	-	324	50
Telephone	547	792	1,339	1,235
Marketing	-	-	-	-
Professional Fees	-	1,452	1,452	1,995
	18,820	76,891	95,711	100,156

6. Movement in funds

	As at			As at	
	31/03/2024	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	31/03/2025
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>					
General Fund	33,381	52,808	(542)	(46,708)	38,939
Designated Fund - Programme Dev.	18,278	-	(18,278)	26,708	26,708
Designated Fund - Building & Premises	-	-	-	20,000	20,000
	51,659	52,808	(18,820)	-	85,647
<u>Restricted Funds</u>					
CEC - Physical Activity Fund	1,000	-	(143)	-	857
CEC - Easter Holiday Fund	340	-	(340)	-	-
CEC - Summer Holiday Fund	-	810	(810)	-	-
The Gannochy Trust	336	10,980	(11,316)	-	-
Youth Scotland - CashBack for Comm.	1,000	-	(1,000)	-	-
Scottish Gov.- Investing in Communities	-	33,510	(33,428)	-	82
CEC - Connected Communities	-	35,817	(30,214)	-	5,603
Alpkit Foundation	500	-	-	-	500
Tesco Community Fund	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
SCVO - Learning & Dev. Device Fund	1,556	-	(1,556)	-	-
	4,732	82,117	(78,807)	-	8,042
Total Funds	56,391	134,925	(79,349)	(46,708)	93,689

About Youth
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

7. Purpose of Funds

General fund - Unrestricted funds that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity.

Designated Fund – Programme Development - Unrestricted funds designated by the trustees for programme delivery including staffing costs, activity costs, and essential resources and equipment.

Designated Fund – Building & Premises Fund - Unrestricted funds designated by the trustees for future planning related to accommodation, including potential rental costs, financial support for the organisation's existing premises, or future property development proposals or initiatives.

Edinburgh City Council (CEC) - Physical Activity Fund - Funds received for the delivery of sports related activities.

Edinburgh City Council (CEC) - Easter and Summer Holiday Activity Funds - Funds received for the delivery of holiday activity programmes.

The Gannochy Trust - Funds received for providing support to young people who are unemployed, or at risk of unemployment upon leaving education.

Youth Scotland – CashBack for Communities – Funds received for providing young people with overnight residential experiences.

The Scottish Government – Investing in Communities – Funds received for youth groups, provision of food and refreshments, group work programmes and volunteer development.

Edinburgh City Council (CEC) - Connected Communities– Funds received for core youth work programme.

Alpkitt Foundation - Funds received for activity programme.

Tesco Community Fund -Funds received for activity programme.

SCVO - Community Learning & Development Device Fund – Funds received for the purchasing of IT equipment.

8. Assets

Over the years About Youth has accumulated various pieces of equipment and other assets which are described within the charity's asset register and regular reviewed. There is no market value available for these however the trustees have insured them for a value of £3,000.