



ANNUAL REVIEW 2024

EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE
PROVIDING SAFE SPACES
INSPIRING CHANGE
CREATING OPPORTUNITIES
SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

REVIEW OF OUR FISCAL YEAR

1/4/23 – 31/3/24

As we look back on 2023-24, we are deeply thankful for the unwavering support from our community, partners, and funders. Together, we have navigated challenges and celebrated successes, all while remaining true to our mission of fostering young people's development and education through engaging leisure activities. This year has seen significant growth in our youth provisions, including the expansion of our detached youth work and Young Carers services, alongside the strengthening of existing programmes. These efforts have positively impacted the lives of thousands of young people.

Our commitment to creating more opportunities for young people has driven us to innovate and expand our reach, ensuring we continue to meet the evolving needs of the young people and communities we serve. In this report, we highlight our achievements, share stories of resilience and hope, and provide insights into our financial stewardship. We invite you to explore how our work, in collaboration with our partners, has made a lasting impact on young people and their communities.

We remain dedicated to maintaining strong governance and thank our President, Roger Smee MBE, for his ongoing support. This year, we welcomed new trustees who bring a wealth of diverse experience from both community and commercial sectors, strengthening the foundation of governance and ensuring the charity continues to be effectively managed.

Young people are our future, and it takes 'a village to raise them' and a community to support them. We encourage parish and town councils, businesses, volunteers, and community leaders to join us in exploring how we can work together to support more young people and deepen our relationships with both them and the wider community.

Youth work is life-changing—at times, even life-saving. We are excited for you to be part of this journey as we showcase all that Berkshire Youth has to offer.

Sarah Emery, CEO and Sarah Atkinson, Chair of the Board of Trustees.

CASE STUDY

I am Stephen* and I am a young leader at Waterside. I want to explain why Waterside is important to me and other young people. When I started secondary school, I didn't know anyone. Year 7 was lockdown year for me, which was boring as I couldn't do any schoolwork. Then in the December of year 9, I first came to Waterside, and it changed my life.

Kelly said I was quiet at first, but I will never forget the first day when she asked how I was and actually listened to what I said, and ever since, every time I see her, she always asks how I am. As I grew more confident, I did more things at Waterside from BoxWise to kayaking to youth café until I was here most nights of the week.

The youth workers here trust me and respect me, so I respect them and that is different to anywhere else, as for example teachers don't respect young people. The youth workers here put faith in me and for that I am grateful. I do not know what I would do without Ken or Kelly or Natalya or Jessica or David. I would be lost without them. They are always here for me when I need them, are someone to talk to and help me out with my problems.

Life at home isn't the best at the minute and it is beneficial for me the more I am not there. For the past few months, it has been a challenge with the stress of exams and everything else in life stacking up and taking its toll, but it would be a whole lot worse if I didn't have the youth workers here at Waterside to help me.

I don't know what I would do without them, they are really important to me and for that I am forever in their debt and so are many other young people like me.

This building is a place for me to stay out of trouble as I know that if anything happens, I am safe. The youth workers here are amazing, and I owe them so much and will continue to for a very long time.

*Names have been changed to protect young people's identity



VISION & MISSION

The charity's mission is to support young people's development and education through engaging leisure activities. These activities are designed to foster personal growth and enhance socio-emotional skills, helping them mature into well-rounded, responsible members of society and improving their overall quality of life.



EMPOWERING YOUNG PEOPLE

Our youth led strategy empowers young people, enabling them to build their confidence and leadership skills so they can have in a positive impact amongst their peers and in their community.

PROVIDING SAFE SPACES

Our safe spaces provide role-models and trusted adults – a mentor, a champion, someone who is non-judgemental to listen to their voice and give guidance.

INSPIRING CHANGE

Good youth work is a catalyst for change and inspires the motivation to make good choices in and out of school.

SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES

It takes a village to raise a child' and we support our communities to look after their young people and recognise them as valued community members, providing the tools for them grow and in turn have a positive impact in their own community, ultimately helping to combat problems faced in their local area.

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

Socio emotional skills are developed throughout the activities and opportunities we create for young people, in an inclusive diverse environment.

Some of the young people we support at Berkshire Youth have the weight of the world on their young shoulders – whether it's anxiety, problems at home or other issues. We aim to lighten their load by providing a safe space with trusted adults, where conversations happen and positive relationships develop that can have a transformative effect on wellbeing, helping young people to better understand and tackle any barriers they face.

We support clubs and groups to provide safe environments in which young people can explore new ideas, activities and opportunities. We do this by building on local agendas, responding to the needs of young people and local communities, offering support to local partners and direct provision as

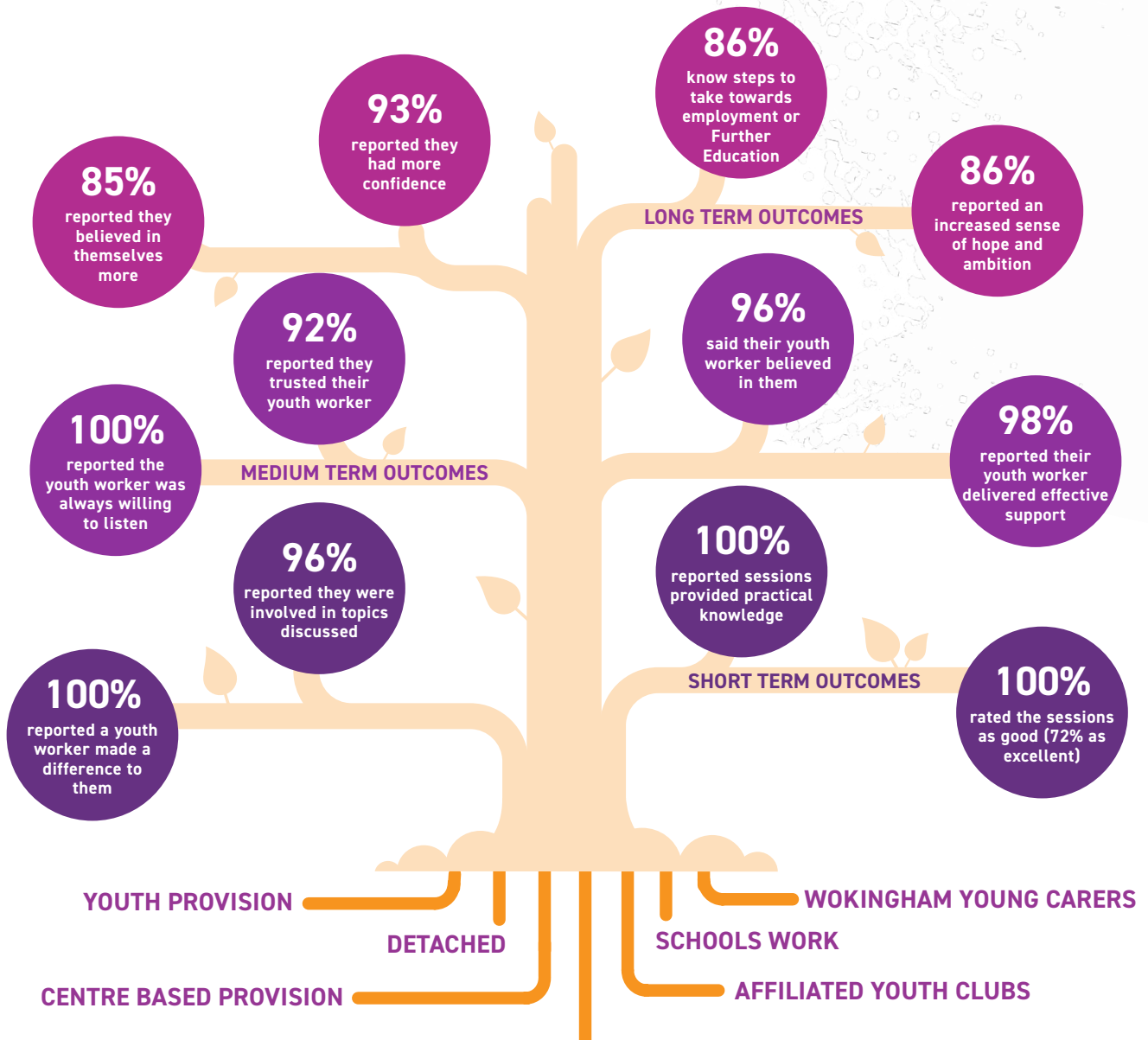
appropriate. We firmly believe that by addressing social issues, promoting personal development and collaborating with various stakeholders, we can empower young people to reach their full potential and be the best version of themselves they can be and therefore, contribute positively to society.

Youth work is preventative by nature, by engaging young people in positive, varied, and challenging activities that encourage personal development, we proactively direct young people away from anti-social behaviour, which is not only personally damaging but also causes greater long-term cost to communities and the public finances.

OUR IMPACT

To change the trajectory of a young person's life is remarkable. This is what our Youth Workers do, day in, day out.

OVER **52,000** ATTENDANCES FOR OUR YOUTH PROVISION ACROSS BERKSHIRE



| FEEDBACK | BEFORE I ENGAGED WITH A YOUTH WORKER I FELT: | NOW I FEEL: | I LOOK TO THE FUTURE AND FEEL: |
|--|---|---|---|
| Student at Willink School, Reading | I couldn't be bothered with school and I had no hope that I could do well | I've been doing better, I think I can do well it's not as bad I've been doing better on tests too | I think I could do well. I don't feel as bad about things anymore |
| Student at John O'Gaunt School, Hungerford | Upset for getting excluded and bad behaviour | I feel great, no more exclusions and good behaviour | I have learnt how to manage my behaviour |
| Student at Trinity School, Newbury | Angry and stressed | Calm, I feel I can talk to my youth worker about anything | Positive and happy |

“ Kelly is kind and very understanding. She helps you get engaged in the things you are supposed to do. She wants you to be involved in stuff and is supportive of you. ”

THE BERKSHIRE YOUTH NETWORK



Berkshire Youth actively supports local youth provision and welcomes membership from groups, projects and organisations who share our vision and value the contribution young people make to society.



OUR SERVICES INCLUDE HELP WITH THE FOLLOWING



A range of training available including Emergency First Aid, Mental Health First Aid, Managing Risk and Leadership, Managing Challenging Behaviour for staff and volunteers.

Setting up, running and developing a youth group or project, with model policies and good practice suggestions, events and activities.



Providing and supporting opportunities and resources for young people to participate and engage in at local, regional and national events.

Access to the Disclosure and Barring Service for affiliated members.



WE CURRENTLY SUPPORT 23 YOUTH CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS ACROSS BERKSHIRE:

Brightwalton Youth Club
 Britwell Youth & Community Project
 East Family Hub
 Eton Wick Youth Club
 Kingsclere Youth Club
 Lambourn Youth Junction
 Next-Gen
 PALS
 Pavilion Youth Club

Sandhurst Youth
 Sarah Education Ltd
 Sonning Common Youth Club
 St Francis De Sales Youth Club
 Thatcham Youth
 The Wayz Youth & Community Centre
 The Zone
 Tilehurst Junior Youth Club

Tilehurst Parish Council Thursday Youth Club
 Twyford District Youth & Community Centre
 Waterside Centre
 Weller Centre
 Winkfield Parish Council
 Community Youth Project Greenham

YOUTH CENTRES

Waterside Centre



At the Waterside Centre our youth club sessions took place on Monday and Tuesday evenings, offering young people a safe and social environment. While the Youth Café occupies the downstairs space, activities extend throughout the building, featuring a variety of programs run by our internal youth team and external groups who hire our space for different activities.

15,000+

attendances over past year

9,500+

attendances from Youth Café

6,000+

attendances from external group sessions

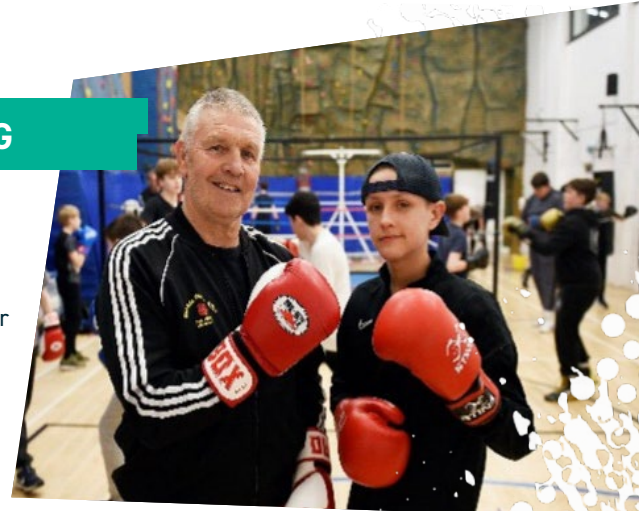
CLIMBING



Our partnership with Cloud 9 Pursuits Ltd continued and saw the return of school climbing sessions run by their qualified instructors, with St Barts and Trinity Schools returning to the Waterside. Additionally, our External Climbing Group sessions welcomed Glendale Church Youth Club and St Francis Church Youth Club, highlighting the key role our youth workers play in building connections across different communities. In January 2024, our climbing wall was adapted to be fully accessible for individuals with mobility challenges, enabling even disabled young people in wheelchairs to participate in climbing activities at the centre.

BOXING

Thames Valley Amateur Boxing Club is our primary partner at the Waterside Centre, offering a range of boxing sessions for young people and the wider community. BoxWise, a non-contact program, introduces young people to boxing while building their confidence, fitness, and basic skills. Each session concludes with a healthy meal and a discussion on their learning. The Women & Girls Boxing sessions have also thrived, providing a fun, social, and intergenerational fitness experience for both adults and young people, supported by Thames Valley ABC coaches and youth workers.

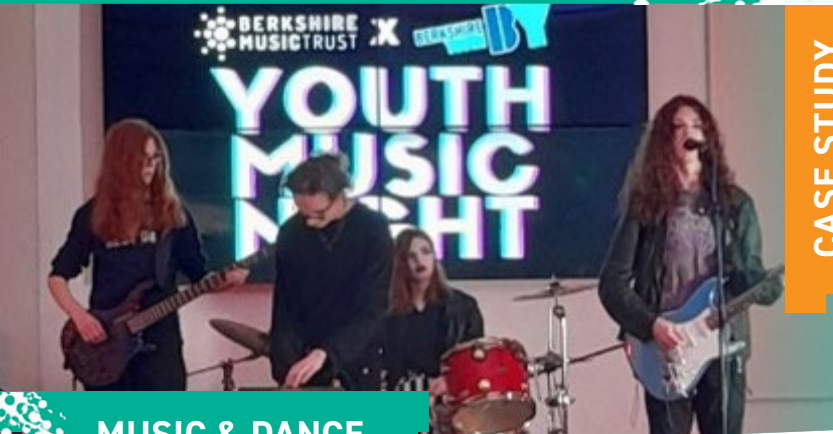


ZEN OF HAPPINESS

Youth yoga sessions to support young people at the start of their week to practice mindfulness, breathwork and yoga in a safe and comfortable environment.

YOUTH CENTRES

Waterside Centre



CASE STUDY

I'm 17 years old and a Young Leader at the Waterside Centre. Young Leaders at the Waterside are young people who represent youth work, youth programmes and Berkshire Youth as a whole through volunteering, both at the Centre and in the community. I first came to Waterside on 14 January 2022 and that summer I became a Young Leader.

Before I came to Waterside I was very anxious and had no self-confidence at all. I'd been that way for a long time, even as a child. But when I started secondary school it became even worse especially with COVID happening through a lot of it. After COVID my anxiety was a lot worse, and this meant I struggled to be around people. The first time I came to Waterside, I came to try out climbing – because at that point I had stopped doing anything outside of school, but deep down I knew that I wanted to do something new, and it sounded cool. I remember that first session in so much detail. I was terrified. Kelly will often remind me, of how I didn't speak to her that first session because I was still incredibly shy and anxious. This carried on for a while, but the youth workers were nice to me. Their encouragement made me feel safer and more welcome. In particular, I remember when Kelly encouraged me to get more involved in the Centre and told me about an opportunity for volunteering. She was so persuasive, and made it sound really fun. This was the community Domino event. And I loved it so much that I asked about other opportunities volunteering and I agreed to become a Young Leader. This was also the start of the summer that changed my life. I participated in the youth activities in the afternoon for myself but in the morning I also helped out with the Kids Club and I gained so much confidence in myself. This was because I was thrown in the deep end, doing things like being a buddy to younger children, led activities, and entrusted at times with the set of youth work keys. The belief that the youth workers had in me and my ability to be a Young Leader helped me to actually believe in myself.

Since then I have spent a lot of time here at Waterside and with the youth workers, and I continued to grow as a person, gaining more and more confidence and trust in myself. I have completely changed as a result of being a part of Berkshire Youth and this amazing place. I dread to think of where I'd be if I hadn't come here. I am now a student at Sparsholt College, doing outdoor adventure education and I'm really enjoying it. I would never have done this if I had not come here and taken part in paddling and climbing, which is crazy. Usually climbing and paddling activities are really expensive. However here, the cost was affordable for me to do it every week instead of just as a one off. Doing these activities so often, helped me to find my confidence. It also helped me to discover my passions, and has helped me to figure out my future career options. I'm interested in pursuing youth work further because I know how important it is and how it makes such a huge difference to young people. Especially those who like me, needed it more that I knew at the time.

MUSIC & DANCE

In February 2024, we hosted a Youth Music Night, where young people performed as solo artists, DJs, and bands for the public. VoxFresh, offer weekly voice coaching and singing sessions for children and young people. West Berkshire Dance Company, known as Westies, hosts contemporary dance classes during term time.

VOLUNTEERS

Our Young Leaders have once again demonstrated their commitment to volunteering. In December 2023, they supported Christmas activities and holiday programs, helping peers and taking on leadership roles like setting up youth café resources. In February 2024, they helped prepare for the Waterside Series, a four-event paddle race with 400 participants, by setting up the venue and distributing food, representing Berkshire Youth. Their efforts have been recognized with local community volunteering awards, and our Youth Workers are proud of all they have achieved. In February, Young Leader, Milla was recognised at the West Berkshire Community Champions Awards. We also have 8 active volunteers and they each respectively support different areas of the Centre.



SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAMMES

The School Summer Holiday brings the biggest activity projects to Waterside Centre. Kids Club, for children aged 5 to 11, offered multi-sports, arts & crafts, and games. Supported by the West Berks HAF programme, it aimed to help families with children on free school meals. In August, we ran 16 morning sessions, with an option for children to enjoy breakfast. The program saw 471 attendances throughout the summer. Youth Club, for secondary school students, also supported by West Berks HAF, delivered 16 evening sessions in August, including dinner. Activities featured paddlesports, multi-sports, boxing, karaoke, arts & crafts, and group challenges, attracting 682 attendances over the summer. Another school holiday highlight was in the October Half Term Reading FC Community Trust ran a football leadership training session.

YOUTH CENTRES

Waterside Centre COMMUNITY FOCUS



COMMUNITY LARDER



60
Members



Feeding

180+
people

(average household of 3)

The Waterside Centre is not only a Youth Centre but also a Community Hub, and the weekly Community Larder is a much-needed provision, enabling members of the community access to food that would have otherwise, gone into landfill. This initiative helps feed families in the midst of the current cost of living crises. Our members and Volunteers have found the benefit of this provision immeasurable; not only in the form of the food they have access to; but it has provided a hub where our members can meet, chat and gain access to local services that they may not be privy to, in a welcoming environment. Non-members and visitors to the Waterside Centre can also benefit as any surplus stock is displayed in the Centre on 'a help yourself' basis.

MORE THAN JUST A CAFÉ

In October 2023 we opened a community café in the Waterside Centre, where every penny spent goes back into funding youth provision in the community. Alongside our regular staff and volunteers we also employ some of our young leaders who have progressed through our programmes and give them first-hand experience in the work place, developing skills such as, team work, dealing with customers, handling money and even baking their first cakes!



OUR PARTNERS

Vox Fresh partnered with Berkshire Youth to deliver 'Courtyard Sessions' every Saturday through August 2023, where young people could build their confidence and performance skills to the cafe audience.

20 young people took part in Art Journalling and Careers in the Arts sessions through our partnership with the Corn Exchange.

Monthly accessible climbing began in January 2024 in association with Swings & Smiles and PALS so children with disabilities could challenge themselves and enjoy our full height climbing wall.

In February 2024, The Watermill Theatre donated 40 tickets for Sherlock Holmes & the Poison Woods. Young people from our local network clubs joined those from Waterside for the opportunity to watch a professional performance in a beautiful theatre.

During February half term, Berkshire youth collaborated with Falkland Care Home to undertake some Intergenerational work. The young people lead activities and games for the elderly residents.



WATERSIDE CENTRE COMMUNITY GROUPS AND PARTNERS

The Centre hosts various community groups, including the Refugee Support Group and Cancer Care Support Group, both providing vital support to local families and individuals. Other programs include Boogie Mites, offering weekly music sessions for babies and toddlers with their parents, and Roller Kings, providing roller skating lessons and discos led by our youth team. Additional activities feature Dog Training, MNR Coaching for toddler sports, Adult Yoga, and Project Band.

YOUTH CENTRES

Waterside Centre COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



CORONATION COMMUNITY EVENT

To celebrate the Coronation of King Charles, the Waterside Centre hosted a wonderful community celebration with something for all ages, including face painting, biscuit decorating, multi sports and a community art piece. We also invited partners Swings & Smiles, who hosted a sensory room plus we had a visit from the Mayor of Newbury who surprised young people by joining in a game of football.

NEWBURY 10K

Brought back by Newbury Athletic Club for the first time since Covid-19, the event took place around Newbury with Berkshire Youth being recognised as the nominated charity of the event. Young Leaders, staff and partners ran on behalf of Berkshire Youth.

CHAMPIONS OF YOUTH WORK CONFERENCE

Berkshire Youth's annual youth conference took place at Waterside Centre in May 2023, bringing together youth work representatives, professionals and organisations from across the county. Leigh Middleton, CEO of the National Youth Agency was the keynote speaker.

INTERCLUB PADDLING EVENT

In July 2023, the Waterside team and young leaders played host of the first interclub Paddling activity event with other youth clubs from the Berkshire Youth network. Young people from Waterside Centre were joined by participants from The Wayz (Bracknell), Twyford Youth Club, Tilehurst Youth Club, and The Weller Centre (Caversham). With over 60 young people attending the event the team chose to host the venue in Wokingham, where the instructors from Cloud 9 Pursuits are based. Attendees got the chance to experience dragon boating, paddleboarding, kayaking and raft building throughout the day and came together for lunch.



COMMUNITY CLEAR UP DAYS

Over the year Berkshire Youth have attended Community Clear Up days in West Berkshire. Supporting residents in Manor Park and Greenham to tidy their local area, providing information on youth opportunities and delivering activities for the younger residents such as Archery and Painting.

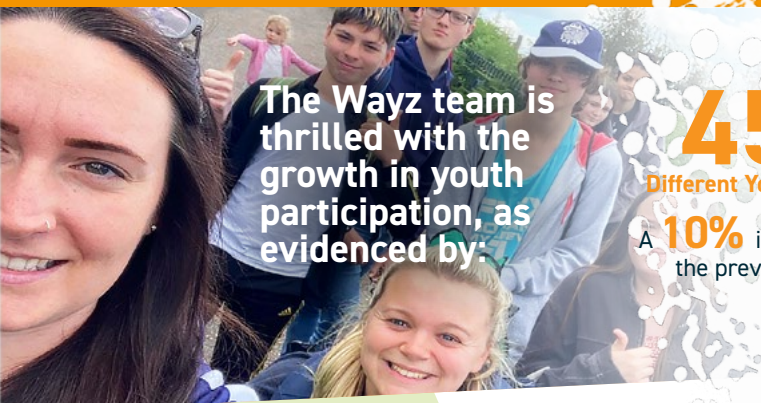
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

November 2023 saw the Newbury Christmas Lights Switch On and the Waterside Centre was the venue for meet and greets with characters from Disney's Frozen organised by Newbury BID. Elsa, Anna and Olaf brought joy to children before to kick off the festivities.

ADVENT WINDOW

At Christmas, the Waterside Centre joined other organisations and businesses as part of the Newbury Community Advent Calendar. Young People planned, created and presented our 'Advent Window'.

YOUTH CENTRES



The Wayz team is thrilled with the growth in youth participation, as evidenced by:

454

Different Young People:

A **10%** increase from the previous year.

4025

Different Engagements:

A **90%** increase from the previous year.

102

Referrals Outside Agencies:

A **117%** increase from the previous year.

The youth team at The Wayz ensure the young people are integral to the planning of programmes ensuring it provides the opportunities they need. The youth led provision includes:

Seniors Youth Club Member

“Attending the Wayz has helped my mental health and dealing with issues. It has improved my social skills and helped me get a job. I have recently got a Full-Time job in a kitchen which is great.”

Day Camp Member

“Being at the Wayz is the best part of my week.”

Parent Feedback

“The breakfast and lunch clubs were such a saving grace when money is tight.”



KEY HIGHLIGHTS:

In February our community football event saw approximately 90 members of the community get involved and compete against each other in mini matches. Matthew Barber, Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner also visited to see the group in action and find out a little bit more about what The Wayz was offering to young people.

The Summer 2023 Programme included Day Camps, 13-17 Year Old Programme, Detached work, Braccan Walk and a Camping Residential. The Summer 23 Fun Day took place on Sunday 21st July. Members of the local community came together and had a great time supporting The Wayz – we offered a BBQ, Information Stand, Tombola, Raffle, Stalls, Fun Fair Rides, Animals and Inflatables. Staff also held a 1 minute clap to recognise the passing of our long-term member and volunteer, Nik.

Through our partnership with Bracknell Town Council and Crowthorne Parish Council we have a number of projects and initiatives developing. Weekly Detached youth work is ongoing and Crowthorne also welcomed us to their Summer of Fun event offering Spray Paint Graffiti Art for those aged 10+.

CASE STUDY

A young person was referred by Bracknell Forest Council, Education & Welfare to The Wayz for 1:1 support from a youth worker due to high social anxiety caused by the impact of COVID, which had led to them not attending school. The sessions aimed to improve their mental health and build self-confidence. Being home tutored, the young person participated in TAC meetings with their parent, youth worker, school, tutors, and education professionals to ensure they received the necessary GCSE support.

Initially, the young person struggled to leave the family home. Early sessions were held at home, to build trust through favourite activities like baking and cooking. As sessions progressed, the focus shifted to exam preparation, future planning, and daily routines. Conversations around decision-making helped the young person overcome challenges, improving their mental health and well-being. They successfully passed their Maths, English, and Finance GCSEs, allowing them to enrol in college. They exercised daily, attended a job interview, and participated in youth club trips, showing remarkable growth in confidence, self-image, and independence—a significant transformation from when they struggled to leave the house and began their journey with our youth worker.

YOUTH CENTRES



Funding from Great Western Railway enabled the Love Music Hate Violence project to continue, which aims to raise awareness of the dangers of knife and gang crime through positive music. Young people at Britwell wrote and produced their own music in our recording studio. Their talent was highlighted at three different stations, Burnham, Langley, and Slough these showcases ran during the busy evening rush hour from 4pm-7.30pm. This gave the young people a chance to gain confidence and new transferable skills, it taught them and the wider community about the dangers of knife/gang crime which is prevalent in the area.

The National Lottery Funding which started in July 2023 for five years has been instrumental for the Britwell Youth & Community Project in providing children and young people with opportunities to explore music, music production and the creative arts, sport, arts & craft fostering both personal and educational growth.

The funding provided has allowed us to open evenings and eight weeks during the school holidays, enabling countless children and young people to engage in positive, enriching activities that stimulate their creativity and imagination.



Saturday 11th November 2023 saw the return of our outdoor Music Event Love Music Hate Violence with performing Dancers, Rappers, Poets, Singers and Writers with fifty plus community members attending. This was the first after the COVID pandemic.

Boxing sessions run every Thursday funded by One Slough these provide a new activity that encourage young people to keep physically active, boost their confidence/self-esteem, teach discipline and give them the opportunity to try out something they normally would not be able to because of financial costs.

Britwell provides a safe and supportive environment where children and young people can explore their talents, we offer them a constructive alternative to negative influences.

Through participation in our projects, children and young people aged 8 plus, build a sense of belonging and community, reducing the allure of gangs and other harmful social groups.

SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL YOUTH PROVISION

Brightwalton Youth Club – We supported the re-opening of this youth club in April 2023, in partnership with Brightwalton Parish Council, it has been fantastic to see so much support in the local community for those leading this development.

Tilehurst Youth Club – Over the past two years, Berkshire Youth has helped Tilehurst Parish Council establish a youth club for 11-14-year-olds, with growing success. In January, the club expanded with longer sessions, and "Sports in the Park" ran during Easter, May Half Term, and Summer 2023. Since September 2023, a weekly football session with Reading Football Club Community Trust at Cotswold Leisure Centre grew to twice weekly by November. The youth club also participated in an ice skating trip in December. Plans for September 2024 include opening a club for 14-17-year-olds to extend youth provision.

Theale Parish Council – youth worker Ken and Kelly joined Berkshire Youth Ambassador Tom Holmes in attending the opening of new park facilities and MUGA in Theale in April 2023. Young people took part in basketball and football.



SCHOOLS WORK

An increasing part of our support portfolio is our work in Secondary Schools throughout Berkshire.



303

Individuals Supported



2056

Mentoring Sessions

For young people disengaging with their education youth workers engage 1:1 and talk to young people about their wider concerns. This project focuses on young people who are at risk of exclusion from school. Our sessions take place either within the school or the community whichever is confirmed as the most appropriate environment to support the young person's personal, social and educational needs.

WHAT THE STAFF SAY:

100% agree they have seen a difference in their students

92% agree students have a more positive behaviour/attitude

83% agree students are more settled in school

WHAT THE STUDENTS SAY:

81% say they have developed positive behaviour strategies because of the sessions

94% agree that the support from a youth worker is different to that of their teacher

91% said the youth worker delivered effective support

WHAT'S THE IMPACT?

Responses from Secondary School staff has been incredibly positive, stating that young people have a more positive behaviour/attitude, better attendance, reduced exclusions and are overall more settled in school. 100% agree that the support from youth workers makes a difference to their students.

When asked what would have happened if we hadn't been supporting young people, schools tell us they would have seen:

- Increased detentions/internal isolation Increased fixed period exclusions
- Deterioration in engagement in school
- Deterioration in attitude to learning.
- Less settled in school life

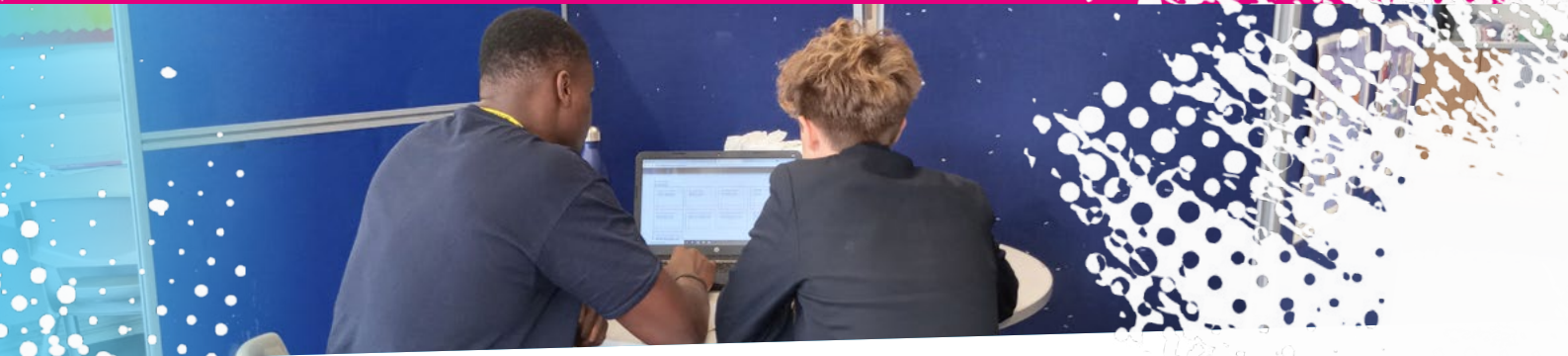
“The youth worker provision is essential in that it provides some of our most vulnerable and, at times, disengaged students with support that is very different from the other kinds of support available in school. The impact of this support is significant. I have no doubt that the support from Berkshire Youth has really helped students to achieve success within school, when otherwise they might have ended up outside mainstream education.”

Phil Wilson, Deputy Headteacher, The Downs School

“Youth worker, Mia is committed to the students she works with and they in turn enjoy the time spent with her. Mia is encouraging, open and honest, non judgmental and extremely empathetic to each individual student and their circumstances. Mia has the natural ability to have fun with the students but also to take charge when needed. The students she has supported have shown an increase in attendance, accessing lessons and their behaviour, she is a great asset to our school interventions.”

Cheryl Bird, Pastoral Lead, Sandhurst School

SCHOOLS WORK



THE PIVOT PROGRAMME

In February 2024, the youth team's vision for an out-of-school program at the Waterside Centre became a reality with the launch of the Pivot Programme pilot. Developed with a preventative approach, Pivot aims to help young people engage, learn, apply, reflect, and succeed in their education. Its primary goal is to encourage students to reflect on their achievements, fostering greater motivation for improved engagement in school. The initial pilot took place at Trinity School, involving six students and staff from the school's pastoral team.

Engage | Learn | Apply
PIVOT
Reflect | Achieve



CASE STUDY

A student was referred to the Berkshire Youth Mentoring project due to repeated poor behaviour. Records indicated that the previous academic year he had accumulated many negative behaviour points and very few positive points for a variety of issues, namely bullying, disruption and defiance in lessons. It was evident that if this behaviour continued, he would be on a trajectory for exclusion. Our Youth Worker worked with the school and student to understand what was not going well from each other's point of view. This formed the basis of the conversation in the 1:1 sessions; solutions and ideas were worked on and goals were set to develop his own skills and capabilities. Setting specific goals around his class charts and behaviour points allowed him to think before acting in lessons and to reflect on things, if there was a negative outcome. As a result of the sessions, his achievement points doubled and his negative behaviour points decreased. The student said, 'These sessions are really helping me!' Overall, he felt more confident, less irritated and recognised huge self-improvement in many areas including: problem solving, relationships, resilience, managing his feelings and communication.

“My behaviour is improving a lot”
Student, Kennet School

“Gives you a space to talk to someone”
Student, Trinity School

DETACHED



2206
Engagements with
Young People

276
Sessions
Delivered

100% of young people

stated they would recommend our youth programmes and activities to their friends, feel more welcome in their community and less likely to get in trouble.

With serious crime, county lines and youth violence continuing to be an issue, facing young people in Berkshire, our school mentoring and detached youth work has continued to grow. This project focuses on young people who are at risk of becoming involved in these activities or who are at risk of exclusion from school, therefore increasing their potential risk. Our detached work is where youth workers proactively go into communities and meet with young people wherever they are such as parks and playgrounds.

Where we operate detached Youth Work in the community, we have seen a decrease in Anti-Social behaviour (ASB), decrease in reported crime involving young people and a rise in young people engaging in positive activities. Our Detached Programme is funded by Newbury Town Council and the Safer Streets grant.

This year, we have collaborated with local funders to expand our detached youth work initiatives. Both Tilehurst Parish and Newbury Town Council have invested in enhancing their youth programs to include detached youth work. Additionally, we have partnered with West Berkshire Council, Wokingham Borough Council and Bracknell Forest Council to secure funding through the government's Safer Streets initiative and the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner of Thames Valley. These partnerships have been crucial in strengthening our outreach and support for young people in the community.

SOCIAL VALUE OF YOUTH WORK:

- Clear association between an **increase in crime rates and reduced funding** for the youth sector.
- Every **£** the government invests in youth work generates up to **£6.40** in benefits to the taxpayer.
- **£3 billion** - Estimated total indirect value of the youth work sector:

£0.5 billion
from decreased crime

£1.7 billion
from improved health

£0.8 billion
from increased employment
and education

Source: UK Youth & Frontier Economics, 2022



WOKINGHAM YOUNG CARERS

In April 2023 we established the Wokingham Carers Partnership with Age UK Berkshire & Promise Inclusion; funded by Wokingham Borough Council to support carers across the borough





For Berkshire Youth this was a year of growth and development. The service redesigned the referral system, allowing families, professionals, and organisations to refer more collaboratively through our whole-family approach.



79
Referrals


106
Young Carers Supported

The key is providing a holistic approach to support, encompassing three essential services in a child and family centred model: respite, family support and school support. This **three-prong approach** enables us to look at the young carers needs in the 'whole family' and put services in place to safeguard and improve the life of the young carers by providing support to the family as a whole, which has proven to have a lasting impact.


School Support


Family Support


Young Carer


Respite

The year consisted of training to professionals, awareness raising and community engagement including building relationships with our key stakeholders. All young carers had the opportunity to attend our weekly term time respite sessions, which increased to two sessions a week from September 2023. Young Carers experienced additional trips throughout the school holidays including Theme Park Visits,

Ice Skating, Paddle Sports, Bowling, Adventure Golf, Laser Quest and Red Kangaroo. This was all thanks to our funders Wokingham Borough Council, Sobell Foundation, 7 Stars Foundation, The Shanley Foundation, Souter Charity Trust and The Astor Foundation. During the year the service restructured enabling the recruitment of an Education, Training Lead and an Activities Coordinator bringing the team together as a trio. These roles enable us to reach and work with Schools across the borough and also to increase our school holiday provision.

Tasha Harvey - Education and Training Lead
Wokingham Young Carers

Parents and carers feedback

“ I now support several students in schools with 1:1 support, this has a vital impact on young carers being able to speak to a safe adult and gain guidance into the services we have on offer for them. ”

“ Young carers is a fantastic organisation. My daughter has made friends who are supportive and understanding. The staff are fantastic and the weekly group has gone from strength to strength. Thank you for offering our young people a safe and fun space where they can be themselves and be understood. ”

“ You are all wonderful. Thanks for supporting our young people and offering them these fantastic opportunities. ”

DUKE OF EDINBURGH



Over the last 12 months our amazing DofE participants have completed 1053 volunteering hours across their Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. The young people have been involved in a variety of volunteering opportunities across local communities within Berkshire. This has resulted in a social value of £5559.00. Berkshire Youth would like to thank the young people and celebrate their contribution to their communities.



Thank you

to
The Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants
from
Berkshire Youth
who spent
1053 Hours
volunteering between
1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024.
We are immensely proud of the dedication, effort and achievement
of young people making an impact in their community.
The social value of these hours is
£5559



June 2024

We run a virtual award program for The Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. This provides a young person the flexibility to engage to suit their lifestyle, resources and time. It also provides the opportunity for young people to participate in the scheme if their school has reached capacity.

THANK YOU



Thank you to Clive Williams OBE for his remarkable service on the Board of Trustees at Berkshire Youth for over 42 years. Clive's vast knowledge as a local historian and author fueled his leadership in outstanding fundraising initiatives, including the "Beating the Bounds of Berkshire" route, complete with detailed narratives and maps. Clive was a passionate advocate for volunteers, the founder of Basildon Youth Club, and chairman of Pangbourne Adventure Dolphin. He also served as Secretary to the Berkshire Youth Board of Trustees. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Clive for his many years of dedication to the young people of Berkshire.

We would like to express our immense gratitude to our former Patron, Mr. James Puxley, for his dedicated service. Mr. Puxley stepped down from his role as Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire in October 2023, and we remain deeply appreciative of his invaluable support during his tenure.



IN MEMORIAM



It was with heavy hearts that we announced Ray Tapken passed away on the 22nd January at the age of 82.

As Director of Berkshire Association of Boys and Girls Clubs, now Berkshire Youth, from 1973 to 1999, Ray was a great supporter of the network of voluntary and part-time youth clubs across the county of Berkshire.

Ray was a great believer in investing in youth leadership and the huge role a community plays in providing a network of support for young people to thrive. He will be sadly missed by so many of the community and his colleagues but his legacy continues to inspire us all at Berkshire Youth.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Berkshire Youth supported young people throughout the county by delivering a range of projects and activities. The total expenditure was **£1,025,399** to year end March 2024.

Berkshire Youth has established partnerships with several new organisations, notably: The National Lottery Community Fund, Wokingham Borough Council, Beatrice Laing Trust, the 7 Stars Foundation, The Hargreaves Foundation, Thames Valley Police and The Sobell Foundation. This has enabled Berkshire Youth to diversify its sources of income, which has made the organisation more financially secure.

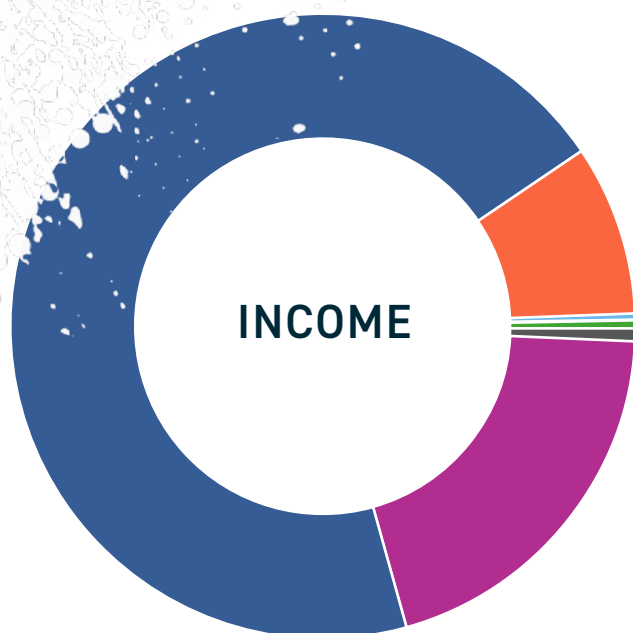
Reserves policy

The Trustees have established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be between 3 and 6 months of the resources expended, which equates to between £120,000 and £240,000 in general funds. At this level, the Trustees feel that they would be able to

continue the current activities of the charity in the event of a significant drop in funding. If this happens, it would obviously then be necessary to consider how the funding would be replaced or activities changed. Currently free reserves amount to **£259,910**. Our reserves at the year-end comprise:

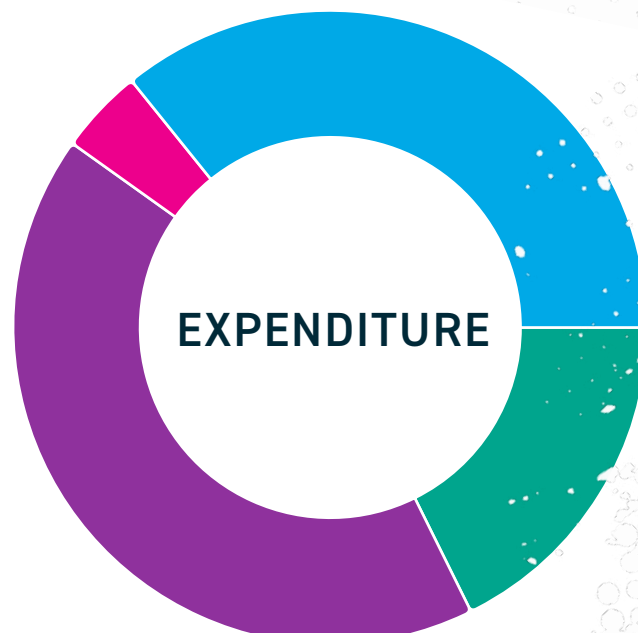
| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Restricted funds for projects | £218,338 |
| Funds invested in fixed assets | £13,430 |
| Designated funds | £37,197 |
| Free reserves | £259,910 |
| Total | £528,875 |

This financial year, our income exceeded our expenditure by **£10,895**.



The total Income was **£1,036,294** with the main focus summarised as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| DONATIONS AND LEGACIES | £1,908 |
| GRANTS & TRUSTS | £93,990 |
| SLAS | £715,466 |
| CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES | £204,808 |
| OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES | £7,043 |
| INVESTMENTS | £13,079 |



The total expenditure was **£1,025,399** with the main focus summarised as follows:

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| STAFFING | £366,997 |
| GOVERNANCE | £44,530 |
| PROJECT COSTS | £432,586 |
| SUPPORT AND OVERHEADS* | £181,286 |

*These are costs incurred to ensure the effective delivery of all charitable activities.

GET INVOLVED

We are appealing to local organisations to help us to maintain support for the young people most in need in Berkshire.

GOOD FOR BUSINESS

As well as helping us support young people and deliver critical services for young people, helping the communities where you operate, and your employees live, is good for business.

Customers today not only expect great products and services, but they also want to work with great companies that support their local communities and give back. In a market where staffing and talent is becoming even more competitive, everyone has a role to play in developing, and nurturing tomorrow's talent –and potentially your workforce of the future.

BENEFITS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

- Demonstrate real action towards delivering social value and impact.
- Engage your employees in team fundraising and volunteering.
- Link to a local charity supporting local young people.
- Reach potential new audiences and build your reputation as a socially responsible business.
- Showcase to customers your commitment to social value by helping local young people.

GET IN TOUCH

Become a Corporate Sponsor or make us your Charity of the Year and encourage your employees to fundraise together or individually. Whether it is a bake sale or a bike ride, we would be delighted if you would adopt us for a year (or longer!) to raise awareness of the importance of youth services and the role we play.

Thank you.

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