

Derwentside Detached Youth Project

Supporting young people in the Community since 1981

Annual Report

April 2023 – March 2024



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Registered Charity No. 513336

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FOREWORD

I first came across Derwentside Detached Youth Project through a contact at church when I returned to Consett in 1993. In those days the project was still called Consett Churches Detached Youth Project, having been set up in 1981 by visionaries in the local churches who recognised the problems that the closure of the steel works would cause for the town's young people.

Equally visionary was that they recognised that its mission must be to meet young people where they hung out, not in organised youth clubs. They recognised that many of them, living in homes that had lost employment and without expectations of finding local employment quickly, would be rootless and directionless. That meant that the task would be for trained youth workers to get alongside them and help them to find positive opportunities in life – not to preach at them!

I was immediately impressed with the variety of activities the young people got up to: reaching out to the people of Chernobyl after the nuclear power plant's disaster, exploring the natural world from a base in Kielder, making and editing videos to name just a few things. I was impressed, but never imagined I would ever become involved with it.

Now, just finishing off my 15th set annual accounts for the project, I watch it from the inside and am just as impressed. Young people's daily lives today are very different from those of the 1980s. They live in a much more technological age, but they are fundamentally the same – seeking to make sense of and find a future that makes life look good. And the project still has the same vision, to get alongside those young people, especially young people whose future looks less bright, and help them to find positive opportunities in life.

The young people who come to the project find inspiration in doing things they would never have expected, like going a residential trip on a sailing ship, a theatre or skiing trip, or even just organising and serving a meal to older people. It's not always the extraordinary that lives longest in the memory. Some find their place in the calm of the art therapy group, others their confidence in the LGBTQ+ group, but in whatever they choose, all have a place where they can explore life alongside a trusted adult.

It demands the same professionalism, empathy and resilience in our youth workers as it did in earlier days. They work unsocial hours, often out in bad weather, and take the rough with the smooth whilst always retaining their positive commitment to young people. I couldn't do it, and nor could most of those who read this!

It takes skill and dedication for the Project Manager to attract and cultivate the funding sources that we rely on so heavily, and to keep doing it through the cycle of short-term funding which charities and the "Third Sector" live with. And all that has to be done alongside the ordinary demands of managing the organisation's team and back-room administration single-handedly.

Finally it takes a team of volunteers to guide the project and ensure that it meets its charitable goals. It's an ongoing challenge to renew and refresh the trustee body, a task that gets no easier in an age in which charities regularly report that they are experiencing a decline in volunteering.

I can only say that I take my hat off to the whole team, and all that it achieves.

Owen Temple, Treasurer

Meet the Trustee's



Jeffrey Davison – Chair



Anne Leech– Secretary



Owen Temple – Treasurer



Jane Brown



Catherine Harwood

The Trustees play a vital role in any Project and it is appreciated the work and time they give to our success.

Meet the Team



Jackie Forbes – Project Manager



Diane Wordsworth – Detached Youth Worker



Lynn Walton – Detached Youth Worker



Megan Sinden – support Youth Worker & Community worker Moorside/The Grove



Hannah Lesley - Support Worker

CHAIRS REPORT

It's hard to believe another year has gone by so quickly, I have lost count of how many years I have been involved with the Project, as a Detached Youth Worker, a Trustee and now the Chairperson. It has all been a privilege and a great experience watching so many young people benefit from the support they receive from youth workers.

Back in 1981 when the Project was founded, I believe it was thought to be short term, to ensure the welfare of the young people in the area, who knew it would last this long.

The Project has changed with the times, however our principles remain the same, non-judgmental, reaching out to young people is still the motivation for the team, and the only change has been our name.

In some cases it seems nothing has changed, young people still need to share their fears, anxieties and hopes for the future. As we look forward to the future our hope and vision is to see a non-judgmental and fair minded society where young people are accepted for who they are and for what they contribute. Of course they are all different, not all will be "big achievers" but they all deserve their place in society and all contribute in their own way.

The strength of the Project has grown stronger each year, facing new challenges, changing the approach to the way we work. The work takes time and commitment, we can't walk away from problems as they arise, and there is no quick fix!

The Project has faced so many obstacles over the years, each year bringing its own particular issues. Poverty with today's economic climate has left so many young people, and their families, wondering what the future holds for them.

Funding has always been an issue to small charities like ours, however we have overcome this obstacle, not always easy, but our longevity says a lot about us and the support our grant giving bodies give us, some for many years, highlights the trust in our commitment.

The Project is still here, with a dedicated team, thriving and surviving everything that comes their way, simply for the wellbeing of the young people we engage. I am certain it will still be around for many years to come.

Jeff Davison – Chair of Trustee

PROJECT MANAGERS REPORT

My many years working within the Project brings me great joy, no two years are the same. Each year we face new challenges, not only financially but also emotionally. We see so many issues facing young people and their families, this has not changed since the beginning.

We have a solid team of dedicated youth workers who all go that extra mile to support young people and their families in the area.

Over the past year we have worked in new areas, at the request of residents we set up a drop in for young people in Leadgate, run by Diane & Megan. They are also responsible for the much attended drop in at Burnhope, a very rural area where there is no other youth provision and transport is so sparse for them to go into the towns. Diane & Megan are also responsible for the re-launch of the LGBTQ+ drop in. A group which has always been well supported, however as is the nature of the young people we engage with they move on to other things, i.e. college, work etc., and find they do not have the time to attend. We now have a new regular group attending each week. This is invaluable as there is no other facility of this nature in the area.

This year we were fortunate to receive funding to provide a Community Worker in the Moorside/Grove area. This was at the request of local residents and Councillors. Since the closure of the Phoenix centre which provided so many community activities in the Moorside area there has been nothing at all. The local residents were left feeling isolated and forgotten, they felt they were not belonging to any Community. The area comes with many issues with a high level of deprivation. The community have really welcomed our input and are relating to Megan, who is also continuing with her support youth work. She has been able to support many groups and initiated new ones.

Lynn and Hannah, our other team are equally busy with their Art Therapy Group for young people, the weekly Roots & Wings café, the much attended drop in at Moorside and their wellbeing group which is held in the Tesco Community Room.

Young people come to us either through referrals from other agencies or our engagement through detached work.

There are many highlights over the years, some of which will be in the workers reports. Sometimes I am fortunate to be able to go along and meet the young people either at the drop ins or during an offsite activity, giving me the opportunity to hear what they have to say and how the youth workers have made a difference in their lives.

My highlight is just seeing the difference our work makes to the young people and families in the area and the positive feedback we receive.

Of course funding is a major priority for myself and we are thankful for every penny we receive. Our longevity speaks volumes, so many small charities have disappeared over recent years, however with hard work and determination I am confident Derwentside Detached Project will be here for many years to come.

Jackie Forbes – Project Manager



ABOUT OUR PROJECT

Our Project was founded back in 1981 following the closure of the main employers in the area, The Steel Works and local coalmines. Unemployment brought with it many problems, families breaking up, depression, alcoholism, mental health, petty crime and anti-social behaviour. The main concern of the founders was for the young people in the area and their futures.

Today there has been very little change in circumstances, although new employers have come into the area, very few have stayed and there has been none on the same scale as the Steel Works. Although we are situated in Consett town centre, we are surrounded by many rural villages, most of which have no youth provision, or very little. The young people have a feeling of been "left behind" due to the lack of opportunities available to them. Our Detached Youth Workers target these young people considered "at risk" hanging around streets, parks, bus shelters etc. Our aim is to engage them in alternative leisure activities, usually initiated and planned by young people themselves.

Experience has taught us that boredom plays a major part in them becoming involved in anti-social behaviour, petty crime, dabbling in drugs and/or alcohol. By talking to them, and more importantly listening to them we can address issues and problems facing young people engaged.

Alongside our detached work we run many residentials, outdoor activities, and issue based workshops often working in partnership with other agencies in the area. The workshops include many relevant topics, i.e. sexual health, healthy eating, drug and/or alcohol misuse, teenage pregnancy, emotional and mental wellbeing, and life skills. Our workers are here to listen to the needs of the young people and address them accordingly. Workshops are targeted at topics raised by the young people.

Emphasis is placed on improving quality of life, raising self-esteem, learning new skills, physical and emotional wellbeing. Our workers listen to their needs in relation to social, health and education, facilitating them in attaining their goals and become active members of their communities. We are learning more young people are suffering from anxieties and mental issues, this came to light during the recent pandemic, they seemed to take on the stress that the whole family were dealing with. We can offer guidance and support, sometimes referring them to specialist agencies.

Our role is not to "get kids off the streets" but to work alongside the young people, guiding them through adolescence and helping them to make the successful transition to adulthood with the confidence to achieve their personal goals. It is important to allow young people to also enjoy

their young lives and have fun, engaging with others, experiencing new challenges and letting them know they are never alone; that there is always somebody to listen to them.

Not every young person we work with becomes “high flyers”, our ultimate outcome is for them to grow confident, happy, achieving their full potential and their own personal goals.

Positive youth work is as crucial today as it was back in 1981 with as many young people needing our support as ever. With the continued support of our funders, volunteers and staff we will maintain our high level of service in the area.



Youth Worker Reports

Youth Work is vital for nurturing the potential of young people providing them with the guidance, support and opportunities they need to flourish, through helping young people to develop skills, explore their identities and engage with their communities, youth work plays a vital role in shaping the future of society. I love my job because it allows me to witness the impact of empowering young people, seeing them grow in confidence, resilience and capability and knowing that I am contributing to creating a brighter and more inclusive future for generations to come.

ACTIVITIES

Throughout the year we hold various activities, trips and residentials. See a selection of images from in the following below, these being from the last 12 months.



Leadgate Trip to InflateSpace



Burnhope at Winter Wonderland

LGBTQ+ Drop In

Our LGBTQ+ Youth Drop In is going really well. We provide a safe space for young people to connect, share experiences and access resources. The success of the drop in is a testament to the importance of fostering acceptance and empowerment; however we are aware of the challenges faced by young LGBTQ+ including discrimination, bullying and rejection by family and peers. Even attending our drop ins takes immense courage for many because of the fear of judgement., but despite this their determination to seek support is inspiring. We are committed to improving our services to ensure that every LGBTQ+ young person feels valued, respected and able to embrace their authentic selves without fear or shame.



Senior Citizens Christmas Afternoon Tea



Trip to Hollywood Bowl



Edinburgh Residential



Frightwater Valley Trip

Burnhope Youth Drop In

The success of Burnhope Youth Drop In situated in a semi-rural area with no other amenities for young people is a testament to its invaluable role in the community. Despite the challenges of operating in a semi-rural setting the drop in has thrived, offering a safe and inclusive space where young people can explore their interests, create friendships and access guidance and support.

Leadgate Youth Drop In

Leadgate Drop In is a crucial lifeline in the community. Serving as a place where young people can find positive outlets for their time and energy. By offering engaging activities, workshops, mentorship and a supportive environment it serves as a deterrent to the risk and temptation of alcohol and substance abuse which is a major concern for local residents in the village. The drop In's presence not only safeguards the wellbeing of our young people but also creates a sense of belonging and purpose.

"Be the Scriptwriters of your destiny and feature yourselves as stars that showed the way towards a brighter future"

Quotation by (Nelson Mandela)

Diane Wordsworth – Youth Worker

Megan Sinden – Support Youth Worker

The Grove & Moorside

Embracing my new role as a community worker in Moorside has been a rewarding experience. While it differs from my previous positions, I have adapted quickly and discovered a deep passion for this work. Both my youth work and community work bring me great joy, and I am grateful to be one of the fortunate few who genuinely look forward to starting each workday with enthusiasm.

The past year has been filled with remarkable achievements within community work. Since its launch in October, the community meals programme has thrived, attracting around 20-30 attendees weekly, along with providing takeaway and delivery options for those unable to join in person.

Additionally, I have organised a variety of events and programmes that have been very well received by the community. These include:

- Community litter picks
- Coffee mornings
- Fun days
- Short-term programmes ran by outside organisations
- A school holiday breakfast club for families

In my role, I have also supported various groups in the church hall, including the baby and toddler group, the adult arts and crafts group, and the drama club. I have provided guidance and assistance, particularly in securing funding and advising on how to maximise their financial potential. I hope these groups continue to thrive, and I will always be available to help whenever needed.

One of the greatest successes in my community work over the past 12 months has been the Christmas party held at St. John's Church Hall. With over 80 children in attendance, it was wonderful to see the hall bustling with vendors and community members. The event was a tremendous success, and I look forward to organising it again this year.

Reflecting on the past year, I am proud of the progress and positive impact made in the Moorside community. At the start, it was challenging to engage with the community, but gradually, strong connections have been built and it's heartening to hear positive feedback from residents. I am excited to continue this journey and look forward to the coming year.

I would like to say a huge thank you to County Durham Foundation; The Ballinger Trust; Derwent Valley AAP; Councillor Dominic Heaney and all the volunteers without all this input the work could not have gone ahead and become a successful project.



Megan Sinden – Community Worker; The Grove & Moorside.

We have had a very busy but productive year working with young people aged 10 to 18 years of age across the groups we facilitate.

Moorside St John's Hall:

In addition to the weekly drop in we provided holiday activities and 2 fun days supported by Holiday Hunger.

Our first fun day was during the Easter Holidays with an attendance of 35.

We provided art and craft activities, and a face painter young people were provided with free food. The event was a huge success. During the summer we went on a woodland walk down to Allensford Picnic site, ten young people enjoyed time with the workers as well as the picnic we provided.

Christmas time we ran an Intergenerational project, Young people and older members of the community made Christmas Wreaths, giving everyone the opportunity to mix with other members of their community. The finished wreaths very impressive thanks to our floral instructors. The activity enabled the young people to take part in a different kind of activity as well as learning new skills.

Since January we have had a steady number of young people attending the weekly drop in which is growing week by week.



One successful wreath with one very proud young person.

Roots and Wings:

Has grown in numbers over the last year with an average attendance of 35 young people. During the summer young people went on a boat trip to the small Islands near Holy Island. At Christmas time the older ones attended the pantomime at Consett Empire while the younger ones had a trip to Raby Castle and explored the enchanted wood as well as seeing the deer in the grounds. January we had new members joining us.

Therapeutic Art Group

Young people appreciate this group as most of those attending are autistic, or have issues which prevent them from socialising in large groups.

We provide activities for art and craft, sometimes the young people suggest or take ownership of how the session will run. We have some fabulous art work which the young people have completed. Those who attend appreciate the safe space and the workers who are there to listen to them. We have had referrals from One Point social services. The group is kept small to enable the young people to receive the support they need as well as giving them time to talk to the workers.



Tesco Community Room:

We have an average of 8 young people attending this group which is mainly for emotional support and well-being. It is an ideal setting for providing workshops. Our last group work session looked at the health risks of vaping. Young people have had discussions around a variety of different topics examples, bullying, and problems at school, sexual health and much more. The topics are initiated by issues that are relevant to the group. When it is felt that a young person in the group is confident enough to leave the group they are encouraged to move on to other projects leaving space for a another young person who needs the support.

Lynn Walton Youth Worker & Hannah Lesley - Support Worker

SOME COMMENTS FROM THE YOUNG PEOPLE

The youth club is a very good and it has fun stuff to do like trips and has lots and activities to do and there is a hall where you can play football that's why I think the youth club is great and exciting!!

This youth club very fun
there is lots of
fun things to do like
play pool football and
football. Over all very
good.

The youth club has got loads of fun things to do like football and stuff. It is also free and you get snacks and drinks. You also go on trips.

The youth club drop in has lots of free food.

DUSE KING



- HELPS WITH MY EMOTIONAL STATE
- HELPS ME TO SOCIALIZE
- MAKES ME FEEL SAFE
- INCLUSIVE
- NO JUDGMENT

Amelia Thompson ☺

- Calm involvement
- Relaxing
- Nice people
- No judgement

Lily - Nice staff, been coming for a while, fun trips.

Kate - Have been coming for a few months, very nice staff and have been on some trips.

Lydia - I have been coming for a long time and the staff have always been very nice. Very fun trips. Always have great banter.

Joria - Been coming for seven years, ~~at~~ always fun place to go too and get on well with the staff and always fun trips.

• It calms me

Lacey Hepple.

• Gets me out the house

• It gets more to talk

Club do be funne and
cool . . .

I also get to see my
friends so Yippee

Serb

This club is really
nice and lets
me socialise with
other people
and see my
friends and
have a fun thing
to look forward
to after school

- Alfie

Community Transport

Our Project is very fortunate to have a 16 seater minibus with disabled access which is part of the Community Transport scheme. It is not for general hire we are not competing with local businesses. The minibus is available for community groups in the area also for individuals who cannot access public transport through disability or poverty. It is also a massive boost to our own work as we have the availability of the bus for residential and offsite activities.

Again it brings small problems as we no longer have volunteer drivers, mainly due to age and retirement so hirers do need to find their own drivers.



A group of young people (YP) accessing the minibus for a residential.

DDYP Accounts 2023 – 2024

Derwentside Detached Youth Project Accounts 2024

	2024			2023
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
Receipts				
Grants	£ 50,467.00	£ 64,302.26	£ 114,769.26	£ 77,853.30
Donations: Churches & Individuals	£ 196.24	£ 989.61	£ 1,185.85	£ 60.00
Fund Raising	£ 305.00		£ 305.00	£ -
Gift Aid Reclaim	£ 167.95		£ 167.95	£ -
Interest	£ 1,860.22		£ 1,860.22	£ 372.65
Other income		£ 9.97	£ 9.97	£ 432.47
Bus Hires	£ 2,318.50		£ 2,318.50	£ 2,223.00
Total receipts	£ 55,314.91	£ 65,301.84	£ 120,616.75	£ 80,941.42
Payments				
Salaries NI & Pension	£ 47,130.27	£ 27,793.34	£ 74,923.61	£ 55,869.45
Staff Expenses	£ 99.74	£ 73.65	£ 173.39	£ 199.80
Staff Training	£ 84.00		£ 84.00	£ 252.20
Activities	£ 552.88	£ 17,336.70	£ 17,889.58	£ 8,922.85
Activities Equipment & other costs	£ 82.66	£ 4,162.76	£ 4,245.42	£ 1,769.50
Counselling			£ -	£ 400.00
Postage Print & Stationery	£ 524.88	£ 219.07	£ 743.95	£ 321.08
Telephone	£ 2,658.76		£ 2,658.76	£ 2,480.40
Insurance	£ 568.71		£ 568.71	£ 524.77
Office Equipment & other costs	£ 335.52	£ 460.00	£ 795.52	£ 152.16
Rent & rates	£ 2,765.00		£ 2,765.00	£ 3,015.00
Volunteer & Committee Expenses	£ 142.00		£ 142.00	£ 74.70
Trustee & Staff development			£ -	£ 30.00
Bus Costs	£ 2,927.33		£ 2,927.33	£ 2,400.13
Bank Charges	£ 115.00		£ 115.00	£ 149.00
IT & Social Media inc consultancy	£ 331.23	£ 69.99	£ 401.22	£ 866.25
Unspent grant money returned			£ -	£ -
Miscellaneous		£ 20.00	£ 20.00	£ -
Total Payments	£ 58,317.98	£ 50,135.51	£ 108,453.49	£ 77,427.29
NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS	-£ 3,003.07	£ 15,166.33	£ 12,163.26	£ 3,514.13
Total Funds brought forward	£ 73,064.04	£ 23,683.26	£ 96,747.30	£ 76,966.68
Sub total	£ 70,060.97	£ 38,849.59	£ 108,910.56	£ 80,480.81
Transfers and adjustments	-£ 4,798.34	£ 4,798.34	£ -	
CCDYP FUNDS AT YEAR END	£ 65,262.63	£ 43,647.93	£ 108,910.56	£ 80,480.81

Statement of Assets & Liabilities

Derwentside Detached Youth Project

Statement of Assets and Liabilities - Year Ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Previous year
Funds Reconciliation	£ 65,262.63	43647.93	£ 108,910.56	80480.81
Cash at Bank and in hand 31.3.23	£ 73,064.04	£ 23,683.26	£ 96,747.30	
Surplus/(deficit) this year end	-£ 3,003.07	£ 15,166.33	£ 12,163.26	
Transfers	-£ 4,798.34	£ 4,798.34		
Cash at bank and in hand 31.3.24	£ 65,262.63	£ 43,647.93	£ 108,910.56	
Bank and Cash Balances				
CAF Current Account	£ 26,755.22		£ 26,755.22	£ 18,090.07
CAF Gold Account	£ 35,179.77	£ 43,647.93	£ 78,827.70	£ 78,012.70
CAF Cashcard Account	£ 2,851.15		£ 2,851.15	£ 588.86
Tax & NI overpaid/-underpaid			£ -	
Petty Cash	£ 476.49		£ 476.49	£ 55.67
			£ 108,910.56	£ 96,747.30
Other Assets (Unrestricted Fund)				
Photocopier (estimated value)			£ 500.00	£ 500.00
Computers (estimated value)			£ 200.00	£ 200.00
Office Furniture (estimated)			£ 700.00	£ 700.00
			£ 7,512.00	£ 10,016.00
Other Assets (Restricted fund)				
Minibus (Written down 25% current year)			£ 7,512.00	£ 10,016.00
Liabilities			NIL	NIL

Independent Examiners Report

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF DERWENTSIDE DETACHED YOUTH PROJECT

This report is on the account of Derwentside Detached Youth Project (Charity Number 513336) for the year ended 31st March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report:

As the Charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act') as amended.

I report in respect of my examination of the project's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Act and, in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which give me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act; or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Independent Examiner's 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 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Act 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.

Signed: K. Williamson
Kenneth Williamson
28 Wharnley Way, Castleside
Consett, DH8 9QN

Dated 3/6/24

Qualifications: ACCA

Approved at a General Meeting of Derwentside Detached Youth Project on _____

Signed: J. Dawson

Dated 16/7/24

Signed: G. Simple

Dated 16/7/24

Acknowledgements

The support we have received over the years has been immense, allowing us to continue to provide a valuable and much needed service in the community. From everyone here at our Project we say a big thank you to all who have given their support. Without this our work would be impossible.

- **The Ballinger Trust**
- **The Tudor Trust**
- **The National Lottery**
- **Derwent Valley AAP**
- **The Hadrian Trust**
- **Sir Tom Cowie**
- **County Durham Foundation & all their grant giving bodies**
- **The Rothley Trust**
- **The Barbour Trust**
- **Sir Tom Cowie Charitable Trust**
- **The Durham High Sheriffs Awards**

Also a big “thank you” goes to our volunteers who are essential to the smooth running of any project. They give their time and commitment their support is immeasurable and very much appreciated.



The Rothley Trust



SIR TOM COWIE CHARITABLE TRUST