



TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Charity No: SC046776

About Youth

TRUSTEES REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

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About Youth
TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

The trustees are pleased to present their report together with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2026.

Reference and administrative details

Name: About Youth

Charity number: SC046776

Registered Office

The Calders Community Flat, G1 Dunsyre House North, Edinburgh, EH11 4JH

Trustees

The trustees serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Steff Bell (Chairperson)
Greg Perkins (Treasurer)
Andrew McCaig
Agata Wozny
Gordon McLean

Structure Governance and Management

Constitution

About Youth is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) and is governed by its constitution which was adopted in October 2016. About Youth was granted charity status by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) on the 9th of August 2016 and reviewed in November 2020.

Appointment of Trustees

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 organisation's constitution, information of the legal 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 external agencies to access training for trustees to ensure that they are aware of the legislation and regulations that impact the work of About Youth.

Management

The board of trustees meets, at a minimum, each quarter and have overall responsibility for overseeing the running of the organisation including the employment of staff.

The board of trustees, together with the Project Executive, comprises the key management personnel for the organisation. Together they develop the strategic direction and governance of About Youth. The day-to-day management is delegated to the Project Executive. The trustees are not remunerated for their time but are entitled to claim expenses when undertaking work on behalf of the charity

Meaningfully involving young people in the management of the organisation as well as shaping its direction and culture is a key priority. We have made progress on this pathway by developing several young-people-led steering groups to ensure that young people have a formal forum for communication. By this means they can actively contribute to our operational management and organisational development and be actively involved in decision-making processes. Staff regularly consult young people on their views and opinions and report feedback back to the board of trustees.

Risk Management

The board of trustees is conscious of the risks to which the charity is exposed and routinely review risk scenarios with reference to the organisation's established risk

register. Systems and procedures have been established to mitigate any financial risks the charity may face. Internal control risks are minimised by purposely implemented authorisation procedures and checks to ensure that all financial transactions are thoroughly documented. Management accounts are produced for the board of trustees on a monthly basis to enable them to monitor and manage any financial risks the charity might face.

Risk assessments are carried out on all project programming and activities engaged in by young people, volunteers and staff. Procedures and policies are in place to ensure that all young people in our care are kept safe from harm and to ensure that staff and volunteers work in compliance with health and safety standards. These procedures are periodically reviewed to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the charity and legal requirements.

The board also routinely reviews and seeks to establish contingencies and forms plans of action around a number of non-financial or project activity risks which may affect the operation of the charity, such as loss of key staff or volunteers, data and information, or issues with the buildings we operate from.

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 particularly the Calders area. It was recognised that these localities require a youth organisation which has a specific focus on supporting 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 young people who engage with our projects do so on a voluntary basis. While many access projects and services independently, often because of hearing about them from peers or via our promotional work, young people are also occasionally recruited into projects and services via referrals from a number of sources including schools, careers, local authority services and other voluntary organisations and community projects.

Charitable Purposes

The organisation's purposes, as described in its governing document, are:

1.1 To advance the citizenship, education and wellbeing of young people by;

1.1.1 Providing youth specific advice, information and support and;

1.1.2 Providing activities to develop skills, capacities and capabilities

1.1.3 By delivering programmes of informal and community education

1.2 To relieve and alleviate the effects of disadvantage for young people in economic/financial hardship by delivering projects and services which provide guidance and support to move people into positive destinations.

1.3 To provide 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 these objectives by;

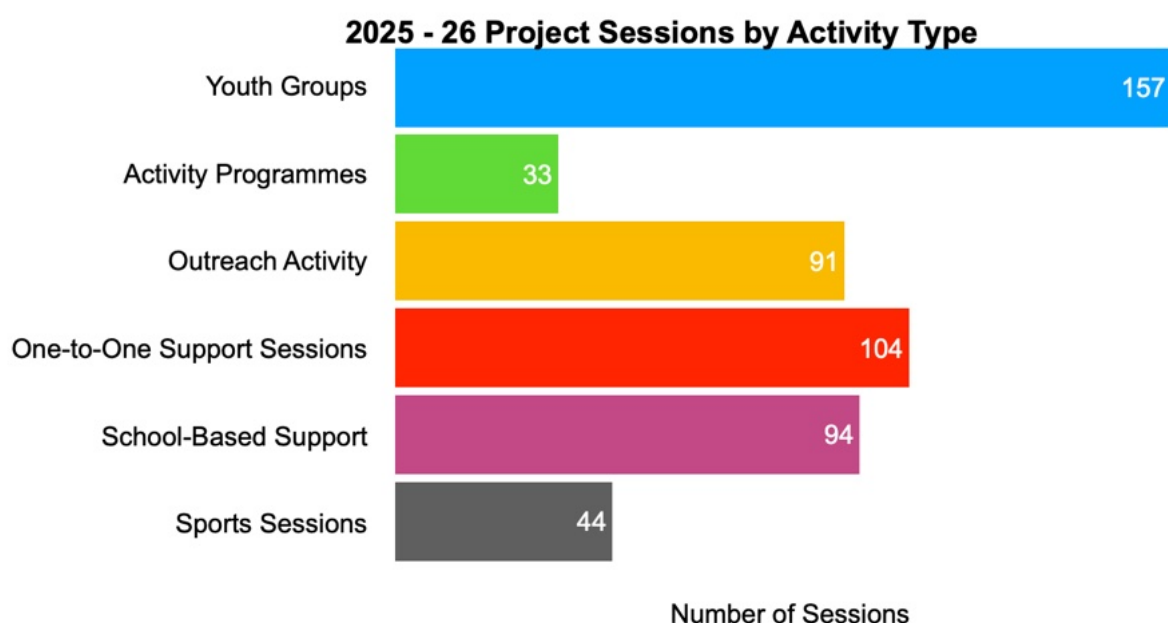
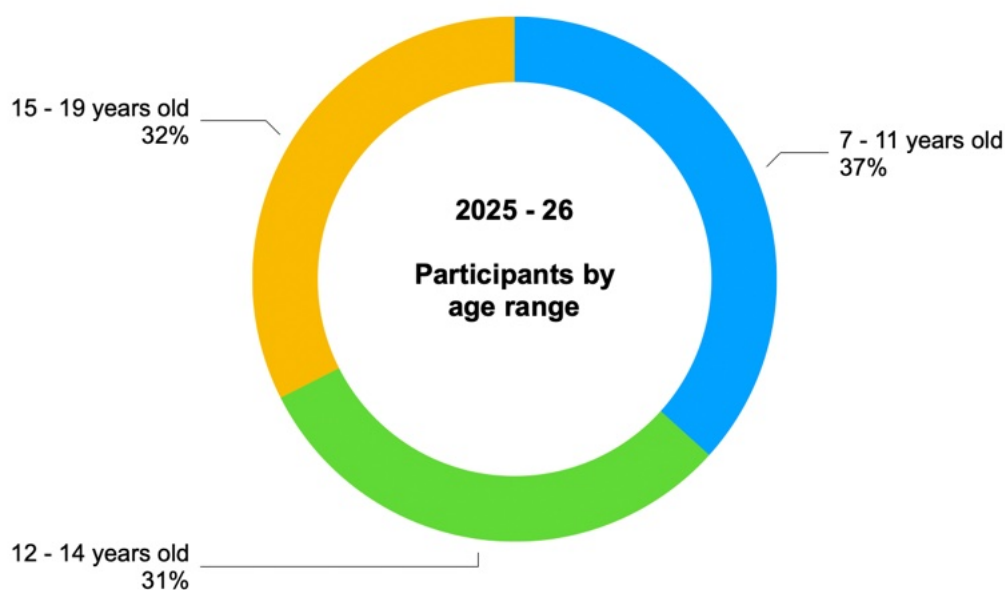
- Providing a broad range of youth work projects, programmes and activities.
- Creating opportunities for young people to participate in new activities, learn and develop new key skills, volunteer and gain vocational qualifications and certificates.
- Being responsive to and regularly consulting and 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.
- 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 2025/26, we 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 **9 different projects**, delivering **523 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

To meet rising demand across all age groups, we expanded our term-time youth work provision at the Calders Community Flat from three to four weekly groups.

In 2025/26, 241 individual young people accessed these sessions, which provided safe, inclusive environments designed to reduce social isolation and build lasting self-confidence.



Our structured age-banded groups included:

- Juniors (P4–P6): Encouraging active participation, positive play, and new learning opportunities while helping younger children build healthy peer relationships.
- Intermediates (P6–P7 & S1–S2 across two dedicated groups): Delivering targeted support during the critical transition from primary to secondary school, focusing on confidence, practical life skills, and teamwork.
- Seniors (S3+): Fostering youth leadership, peer mentoring, and civic engagement, helping older youth develop essential skills for employment, training, and positive futures.

Beyond structured activities, our groups provided daily access to vital practical resources, including Wi-Fi, IT equipment, and nutritious meals cooked and shared together. Through these shared experiences, participants developed genuine support networks and strong friendships.



Our youth work provision is built on true youth agency. Young people actively shape the service by planning sessions, leading games and activities, and helping make sure that their peers feel welcomed and included. They provide a space where young people's voices are heard, and where they can be meaningfully involved in making decisions.

ACTIVITY PROGRAMMES

During school holidays, our provision adapted to offer a wide range of dynamic activity programmes including outdoor learning, sports, and leisure activities that are designed to keep young people active, safe, and engaged. Beyond providing fun and memorable experiences, these holiday activity sessions play a crucial role in reducing holiday isolation, broadening horizons through trips out of the area, and fostering essential social skills.



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.

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 2025–26, 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 2025–26, 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.

YOUTH VOLUNTEERING



Youth volunteering remained at the heart of our youth work approach this year. Five dedicated young leaders stepped up into volunteer roles, providing vital hands-on support during group delivery while acting as relatable role models for younger peers.

Our volunteers are the next generation of youth workers and community leaders and during 2025/26 two volunteers progressed into paid sessional roles with our organisation.

Financial Review

Total income for the year was £89,430 (2025: £134,925) with the majority coming from grant income of which £71,891 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 and The Scottish Government all of which contribute to the charity being able to carry out much needed services.

The total expenditure for the year was £89,247 (2025: £97,627) with the main items being staff and project costs. By the end of 2025-26 financial year, the charity had a surplus of £183.

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 grant contracts.
- 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 review the level of reserves held at each year-end to ensure the ongoing continuity of the charity. In setting this level, they have considered operational risks, including potential delays in grant funding and the vulnerability of restricted grants to government funding reviews.

The trustees consider it prudent to hold both Designated Funds for specific future commitments and Free Operating Reserves for general working capital.

Designated Funds

At the year-end, £41,726 was held in designated funds for planned future expenditure over the next 12–24 months:

Programme Development Fund (£21,726): Supports project delivery, development, and responsiveness to emerging community needs. During 2025/26, £16,482 was utilised in line with its purpose, and the trustees topped the fund up with £11,500 to cover anticipated operational and development costs in the upcoming financial year.

Building and Premises Fund (£20,000): Mitigates key accommodation risks associated with operating out of The Community Flat, which is shared with external groups. This ring-fenced fund covers 12 months of local rental overheads, property support, and potential relocation or development costs in line with the charity's premises strategy.

Free Operating Reserves

The trustees target a minimum of six months' unrestricted running costs as free operating reserves, calculated at approximately £51,000. At the year-end, actual free reserves held were £44,978 (2024/25: £38,938).

While free reserves have improved, they remain below target. The trustees continue to monitor the organisation's reserve position closely, using grant applications and careful cost management to build towards the required 6-month stability buffer.

Plans for Future Periods

About Youth will continually seek to explore new opportunities for service development and new sources of funding to support its development. Funding already secured for 2026/27 alongside the Programme Development fund will enable us to maintain key elements of our core provision.

Partnership working, with other voluntary organisations and local authority services, continues to be at the heart of About Youth's organisational values. We firmly believe that working together collaboratively with others, sharing resources and expertise, results in enhanced services and increased outcomes for young people.

In 2025/26 several projects were strengthened via partnership links with a number of voluntary and statutory organisations, many of whom provided additional input, staffing and resources and offered venues and spaces for free because they believe in what we do and want to support us in our work.

In 2025/26, we continued our commitment to investing in volunteer opportunities for local young people. Looking ahead to 2026/27, our priority is to strengthen our recruitment and training strategies. Specifically, we aim to nurture the next generation of youth workings with our local communities and create clear career pathways from volunteer roles to paid staff positions.

Strategic Plan

About Youth is guided by a strategic plan which has been developed by the board of trustees with input from staff, young people and partner organisations.

Our key strategic priorities are;

Young People

- To increase the nature, scope, diversity and volume of youth advice, support and information services in Edinburgh, with a particular focus on the Calders and Wester Hailes communities in the South-West of the city.
- To provide services and support which promote and encourage young people to develop their leadership skills, notions of social responsibility and to become active and involved citizens.
- To develop new and innovative projects and services that directly respond to the needs and interests of young people.

Community

- To engage with young people and the local community to ensure that their ideas and views inform our organisational focus and decision making at all levels.
- To support young people's involvement in community planning and place-making initiatives.
- To be involve participants in council locality planning and to advocate and provide a voice for young people in the community.

Organisational

- To regularly update and consult our strategic plan to ensure that fundraising efforts and activities are consistently carried out in line with the organisation's strategic aims, goals and priorities.
- To continue to develop strong links and partnerships with other organisations.
- To continue to develop a policy framework that aspires towards best practice in the youth work sector.
- To increase the capacity of the organisation's core staff to enhance the quality of existing provision and enable development of new projects and programmes

Profile and Promotion

- To increase our profile in the South-West of Edinburgh and throughout the city.

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- To increase our profile with other voluntary sector organisations.
- To increase our profile with current and future funders.

The organisation's strategic plan is due to undergo a significant review in 2026/27 and we have taken several recent measures, including further developing and investing in our trustees, staff and volunteer base, which serve to strengthen the organisation and ensure that it continues to thrive.

This report was approved by the trustees on 23rd September 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Signature(s)	<i>S. Bell</i>	<i>G. Perkins</i>
Full name(s)	Stephanie Bell	Greg Perkins
Position (e.g. Chair)	Chairperson	Treasurer
Date	23/09/2026	23/09/2026

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of About Youth

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2026, which are set out on pages 14 to 18.

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.

Anne Knox

16 Comely Bank Avenue
Edinburgh
EH4 1EL

24th of September 2026

About Youth
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2026	Total 2025
Receipts		£	£	£	£
Donations		489	-	489	8
Service Provision		5,550	-	5,550	5,550
Grants	5	11,500	71,891	83,391	129,367
Total Receipts		17,539	71,891	89,430	134,925
Payments					
Charitable Activities	6	16,482	72,765	89,247	95,711
Purchase of Equipment		-	-	-	1,556
Governance Costs		-	-	-	360
		16,482	72,765	89,247	97,627
Surplus/(Deficit) for year		1,057	(874)	183	37,298

The Notes on Pages 16 to 18 form an integral part of these accounts

About Youth
STATEMENT OF BALANCES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2026	Total 2025
		£	£	£	£
Funds Reconciliation					
Balance as at 01 April 2025		85,647	8,042	93,689	56,391
Surplus/(Deficit) for year		1,057	(874)	183	37,298
Balance as at 31 March 2026	7	86,704	7,168	93,873	93,689

Bank & Cash Balances

Cash at Bank		86,704	7,168	93,873	93,689
Cash in Hand		-	-	-	-
		86,704	7,168	93,873	93,689

Other Assets

Various Equipment	See Note 9	-	-	-	-
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The Notes on Pages 16 to 18 form an integral part of these accounts. The charity has no liabilities after the year end.

These accounts were approved by the trustees on the 23rd of September 2026 and signed on their behalf by:

S. Bell

Stephanie Bell

Chair

G. Perkins

Greg Perkins

Treasurer

About Youth
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

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)

To align with the 2025/26 presentation, £5,550 previously reported under Donations in the 2024/25 accounts has been reclassified as Service Provision.

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 18.

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. Trustee Expenses and Remuneration

No remuneration was paid to trustees or any persons connected with them during the year (2025: £Nil).

No expenses were reimbursed to the trustees during the year (2025: £Nil).

5. Grants Received

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2026	Total 2025
	£	£	£	£
UK Youth - Thriving Minds Fund	-	-	-	24,750
UK Youth - Cost of Living Fund	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
UK Youth - Legacy & Learning Fund	-	-	-	11,000
Tesco Community Fund	-	-	-	1,000
Edinburgh Council - Physical Activity Fund	-	-	-	-
Edinburgh Council - Easter Holiday Fund	-	320	320	-
Edinburgh Council - Summer Holiday Fund	-	480	480	810
The Corra Foundation - Henry Duncan Grant	6,500	-	6,500	6,500
Scottish Gov. - Investing in Communities	-	35,274	35,274	33,510
The Gannochy Trust	-	-	-	10,980
Alpkit Foundation	-	-	-	-
Edinburgh Council - Connected Communities	-	35,817	35,817	35,817
	11,500	71,891	83,391	129,367

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

6. Cost of Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2026	Total 2025
	£	£	£	£
Staff Salaries	9,730	62,742	72,472	75,028
Project Costs	4,348	7,808	12,156	17,568
Staff Training	-	1,500	1,500	-
Office Costs	518	-	518	324
Telephone	1,151	-	1,151	1,339
Marketing	-	-	-	-
Professional Fees	735	-	735	1,452
Other	-	714	714	-
	16,482	72,765	89,247	95,711

7. Movement in funds

	As at 31/03/2025	Receipts	Payments	Transfers	As at 31/03/2026
	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Unrestricted Funds</u>					
General Fund	38,939	17,539	-	(11,500)	44,978
Designated Fund - Programme Dev.	26,708	-	(16,482)	11,500	21,726
Designated Fund - Building & Premises	20,000	-	-	-	20,000
	85,647	17,539	(16,482)	-	86,704
<u>Restricted Funds</u>					
CEC - Physical Activity Fund	857	-	(400)	-	457
CEC - Easter Holiday Fund	-	320	(320)	-	-
CEC - Summer Holiday Fund	-	480	(480)	-	-
Scottish Gov.- Inv. in Communities	82	35,274	(34,804)	-	552
CEC - Connected Communities	5,603	35,817	(35,761)	-	5,660
Alpkit Foundation	500	-	-	-	500
Tesco Community Fund	1,000	-	(1,000)	-	-
	8,042	71,891	(72,765)	-	7,168
 Total Funds	 93,689	 89,430	 (89,247)	 (11,500)	 93,873

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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

8. Purpose of Funds

General fund - Unrestricted funds held for general operating expenditure and used at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the objects of the charity

Designated Fund – Programme Development - Unrestricted funds set aside by the trustees to support ongoing programme delivery, development, and responsiveness to emerging community needs over the next 12–24 months.

Designated Fund – Building & Premises Fund - Unrestricted funds designated by the trustees to cover potential rental overheads, premises development, and property-related risks associated with operating from shared community facilities.

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 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

Alpkit Foundation – Funds received for activity programme

Tesco Community Fund – Funds received for activity programme

UK Youth – Cost of Living Fund – Unrestricted funding for project delivery and development

The Corra Foundation – Henry Duncan Grant - Unrestricted funding for project delivery and development

9. 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 are regular reviewed. There is no market value available for these however the trustees have insured them for a value of £4,680.