



Girvan Youth Trust



YOUTH BAR

Changing Lives

# Annual Report

2019-2020



# About us

## *A word from our chair Tanina Stubbley*

On behalf of the Trustees of Girvan Youth Trust, I am pleased to present this year's annual report.

As with every organisation and indeed household, this year has proven more challenging than most. Prior to the challenge of Covid-19, I was always in awe of the genuine dedication and altruism of our team. However, now in the midst of this current health and, of course social situation, our team have truly shown their amazing capabilities, passion, and tenacity. As always, the young people we support, have proven to be outstanding, caring, creative individuals, who continue to inspire our work.

At the beginning of this year, the Trustees had been working on our Business Plan with a view to working towards increasing our independent revenue generation. The current Covid situation has meant that we have had to pivot our plans and explore new opportunities. Our Project Coordinators have driven their individual project forward and optimised every opportunity available to them. Highlights of this year include; being awarded The Spotlight Award for Innovative Internships for Project Search and, Project Coordinator Erin Murdoch being short-listed for SCVO's Leading Light award. Although we tend to be a proactive organisation, the events of this year have meant that we have been more reactionary. We have expanded our remit to encompass family centred support as well as our traditional youth focused activities.

Our collaborative work with other local charities and community groups, has grown exponentially and allowed us to have an even further reach and impact. We continue to develop and value these relationships and are striving to create a multi-organisational support network for our local young people. Girvan, and the outlying villages, continue to suffer from higher rates of poverty and unemployment. These issues are enduring and there are no quick fixes. However, what we lack in financial prosperity, we make up for in stoicism, community spirit, and a strong vision for the future.

I would like to thank all the staff, volunteers, trustees, funders, and supporters of Girvan Youth Trust. The work we carry out is truly a community effort and we are so grateful to be surrounded with such kind, hard-working individuals.





## *Our Aims, Missions and Values*

At Girvan Youth Trust our primary aim is to engage with the young people in our local area to guide and support them in making positive and healthy choices in life in every aspect of their individual lives.

Our mission statement is: To provide services and activities that develops young people as individuals and members of society

At Girvan Youth Trust we work by a code of seven values, incorporating these values into the work we do on a day to day basis.

These values are: Autonomy, Commitment, Passion, Recognition, Respect, Responsibility and Self-Respect.

We are currently carrying out a consultation around the development of GYT's Core Values and are hoping to re-new these for the new year.

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# Our Team



## Project Coordinators

- Gail McMaster** (Z1 Project Coordinator)
- Erin Murdoch** (Life's a Journey Project Coordinator)
- Yvonne McGill** (Hand in Hand Project Coordinator)
- Lucy O'Donnell** (Streetlights Project Coordinator)

## Youth Workers

- Michelle Scobie** (Streetlights Project)
- Aaron Sloan** (Streetlights Project and support to other projects)
- Rachael McMillan** (Community Links Worker for the Hand in Hand Project)
- Brian McMaster** (Youth Work Trainee and Assistant for the Hand in Hand Project)
- Lauren McEwan** (Youth Work Trainee and Assistant for the Hand in Hand Project)
- Sonia Connell** (Project Search Job Coach)
- Heather McCafferty** (GYT Youth worker)
- William McEwan** (Life's a Journey & Listening Fund youth worker)

As well as our staff team Girvan Youth Trust also have a board of trustees who support and oversee the work that the staff do on a regular basis. Girvan Youth Trust also has a large group of both adult and young volunteers that are key to the everyday delivery of projects within Z1 and out with, this includes the Girvan Youth Trust Thrift shop.





# GYT's Covid 19 Response

Girvan Youth Trust responded to COVID 19 by supporting their young people, but also by supporting families in the wider local community.

We took our Youth Work online and went digital – running Zoom sessions, engaging with young people across our Social Media platforms and even started a weekly #LockdownLife Instagram Live Stream.

We also provided our young people with monthly care packs from April until August, by introducing a IT equipment loan scheme and providing support packs to identified families in the local area



## Facts & Figures

- GYT distributed 1,018 themed Monthly Care Packs to our young people
- Our Online Youth Work sessions totalled 295 delivery hours
- As Lockdown Restrictions eased we delivered 30 Detached Youth Work sessions
- We facilitated 175 Online Youth Work sessions via platforms such as Zoom, Instagram and Facebook
- Supported over 150 different local families by providing them with a Family Support Pack



# Life's a Journey

The Life's a Journey (LAJ) programme has been developed to work with local young people aged 12-25 years, linking together experiential learning, personal development and volunteering opportunities both within Z1 Youth Bar and Girvan Youth Trust and also in the wider community. The project continues to be developed by GYT's Youth Development Co-ordinator and delivered with the support of a team of dedicated and experienced sessional staff.

The Life's a Journey programme creates opportunities for youth work staff, teachers and partnership agencies such as CLD, Employability & Skills Team and Skills Development Scotland (SDS) as well as other local voluntary and community organisations to work together to enhance life learning opportunities for local young people. We work with and support individuals and groups under 3 programme headings, with the long term aims of the project being to increase confidence, resilience, self-worth and readiness for work.

The Covid-19 Pandemic has been extremely challenging in respects of an increased need and demand for our youth support services and the Life's a Journey team, along with the wider Girvan Youth Trust team have worked hard to adapt our approach to ensure that we are still delivering essential youth work programmes and much needed support where possible.

## Volunteering

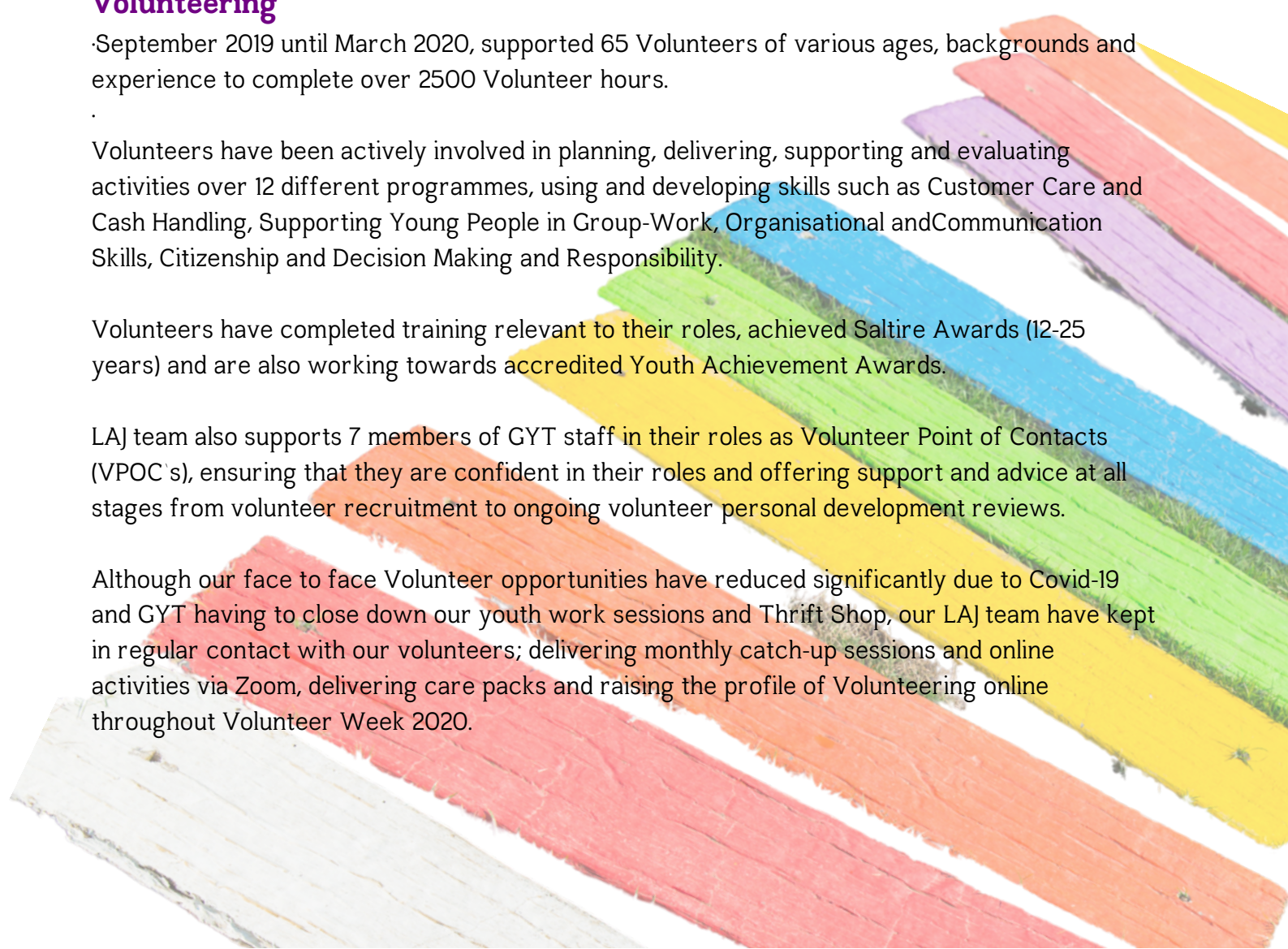
September 2019 until March 2020, supported 65 Volunteers of various ages, backgrounds and experience to complete over 2500 Volunteer hours.

Volunteers have been actively involved in planning, delivering, supporting and evaluating activities over 12 different programmes, using and developing skills such as Customer Care and Cash Handling, Supporting Young People in Group-Work, Organisational and Communication Skills, Citizenship and Decision Making and Responsibility.

Volunteers have completed training relevant to their roles, achieved Saltire Awards (12-25 years) and are also working towards accredited Youth Achievement Awards.

LAJ team also supports 7 members of GYT staff in their roles as Volunteer Point of Contacts (VPOC's), ensuring that they are confident in their roles and offering support and advice at all stages from volunteer recruitment to ongoing volunteer personal development reviews.

Although our face to face Volunteer opportunities have reduced significantly due to Covid-19 and GYT having to close down our youth work sessions and Thrift Shop, our LAJ team have kept in regular contact with our volunteers; delivering monthly catch-up sessions and online activities via Zoom, delivering care packs and raising the profile of Volunteering online throughout Volunteer Week 2020.





# Life's a Journey Cont

## Working with Schools

In 2020, the LAJ team have worked in partnership with local primary and secondary schools and youth work partners, to coordinate and deliver a number of initiatives including Citizenship programmes; with the aims of raising awareness of volunteering and instilling young people's sense of ownership and pride in their local community. Work Readiness programmes to support secondary pupils to identify their talents, skills and qualities and recognise how these could be transferable when applying for jobs, courses and placements in the future. Transition programmes for P7 pupils moving up to Secondary School were held via Zoom this year with four S2 pupils supporting the youth work teams to plan and deliver the online sessions.

## Mentoring/Solo Work

The LAJ team continue to support young people on a 1-1 basis in areas of practical life skills such as Theory Test Practice, Building Maintenance, Customer Care and Literacy & Numeracy. Young people are able to access such support through self-referral or referrals through Schools, Employability & Skills and other local agencies.

Circumstances surrounding Covid-19 has meant that GYT's Mentoring Programme has been delayed in launching however, over this past 12 months there have been great developments in regards to establishing a strong working relationship with the Scottish Mentoring Network (SMN).







# *Hand in Hand & Project Search*

Hand in Hand is an inclusion project for young people with Additional Support Needs (ASN) - providing social & recreational opportunities for the young people along with Peer Buddies, through a fun and diverse developmental programme of activities. The nature and diversity of these activities being aimed at providing fun opportunities to stimulate and develop young peoples' communication and social networking skills within their peer group. The project also offers respite to the families and carers of the young people that participate. At present the project supports over 50 young people.

The Activities and services Hand in Hand provide includes; 2 x Friday evening clubs (juniors and seniors) within Z1 where the young people have the opportunity to participate in club activities, workshops etc or just relax with their friends. We also deliver regular small group work for young people who are identified as requiring extra support when participating in activities. The project also provides one to one support for some of the most vulnerable and isolated young people within the community.

Throughout lockdown the Hand in Hand Project staff have been working from home and have had to look at and adapt to alternative ways of working with and engaging the beneficiaries of the Project.

The Project staff have been pro-active in communicating and still engaging with more than 30 of the young people and parents who access our services using different methods including a variety of social media platforms to keep connected with the young people. Group chats and one to ones have been set up to coincide with the times that the young people would normally have been attending Hand in Hand to help keep some sort of routine/structure which is very important for many of our young people, however the young people are aware that the staff are available throughout the day for anyone that needs extra support.

In August and again in October - we ran a cycling and go-carting activity - our first outdoor and face to face activity since lockdown. 31 of the young people we support participated over 4 groups and the feedback was extremely positive.

We have just recently began to provide centre based one to one and small group work opportunities for our vulnerable young people again.



# Hand in Hand & Project Search Cont

DFN Project SEARCH helps young adults (17–30yrs) with learning disabilities and/or those on the autistic spectrum who can benefit from intensive, personalised support in preparing for and finding work. It provides 3 ten week work placement opportunities for interns with learning disabilities and/or on the autistic spectrum in their final year of education and want their next step to be employment.

In 2017, GYT launched Project SEARCH working in partnership with Ayrshire College and Culzean Castle to deliver Project SEARCH within the host site at Culzean Castle. Each intern is supported with classroom tuition, job coaching, work placement opportunities and employment support.

The interns gain invaluable transferable skills from these work placements which they carry forward with them into employment with 8 out of the 10 2019 graduates having successfully gained employment.

It was announced at the end of July at the Project SEARCH 2020 Global Spotlight Awards in Baltimore that our site at Culzean Castle was the winners of one of only 4 awards given. This was for the Spotlight on Innovative Internships'. There are over 600 Project SEARCH Sites around the world and Culzean was the only UK site to win an award. An amazing accolade for all the partners who have worked together to make the Project at Culzean the success it is today.





# StreetLights

StreetLights is a Detached Youth Work Project delivered by Girvan YouthTrust.

StreetLights was established in February 2019 to engage and provide support, information and advice to local disadvantaged young people who are/may not be accessing or participating in other youth work services/agencies or attending school or at risk of committing minor crime and becoming involved in anti-social behaviour/illegal drug use and underage drinking.

To date, the StreetLights team have delivered over 800 hours of Detached Youth Work sessions, engaged with over 400 local young people and an additional 60 young people who live out with Girvan and South Carrick.

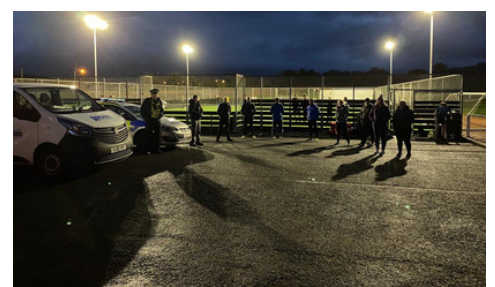
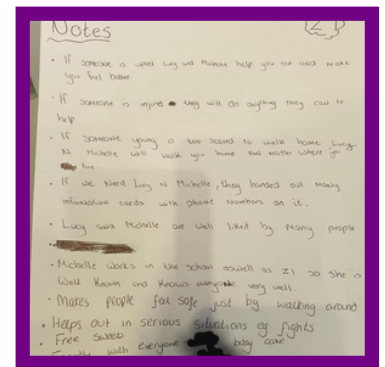
Since inception, the team have worked on building, developing and sustaining positive relationships with local young people, local businesses and organisations and the local Police Team.

The team have also facilitated discussions with young people around alcohol and drug misuse, the role of the Police, positive mental health and the law, both online and face to face.

As part of our response to the COVID 19 Global Pandemic, the team also expanded their capacity by introducing Aaron as a permanent member of the StreetLights team alongside Lucy and Michelle.

**"Makes people feel safe knowing Lucy & Michelle are walking round"**  
(Young Person, Aged 15)

**"We really do appreciate the hard work the girls do every single weekend. They are polite, considerate and helpful, I haven't seen them mistreat or ignore one request, question or query put towards them and the kids absolutely love interacting with them"**  
(Local Business Manager)





# Community Projects

## Girvan Youth Trust Thrift Shop

Girvan Youth Trust first opened their Thrift Shop in November 2015. It was initially set up as a Pop Up shop, to raise some much needed funds for our local youth work over the Christmas period, however due to the continued generosity of our local community through donations and custom, it has grown from strength to strength and is still operating now, 5 years later.

GYT's Thrift Shop started 2020 with a mix of 13 male and female volunteers of various ages, skills and experiences. Open 4 days a week, the shop offers volunteers opportunities in the way of work experience, training and the chance to socialise, meet new people and build confidence.

In addition to assisting and serving customers, the volunteers work tirelessly ensuring display areas and clothing rails are clean, tidy and well stocked, they sort through our many donations, ensuring items are sized, priced and cleaned and ready to be put out for display and they greet customers with a friendly and welcoming smile.

As with all local businesses, the Covid-19 Pandemic has had a massive impact on the Thrift Shop and on the Volunteers who run it and having to close the doors back in March 2020 was difficult for all involved. Of course, it meant a loss of much needed income to GYT and our local youth work as the Thrift Shop has developed into a vital Social Enterprise within our project. Equally the impact was felt by the volunteers, who for most were at a loss without their weekly routine of being in the shop and the opportunity to socialise with fellow volunteers and customers alike.

Towards the end of 2019, GYT took on the lease of an additional building for the purpose of using it as a store for excess donations and also as a workshop base for young people and volunteers to upcycle household items and furniture. However, just as momentum was building with our vision, the pandemic struck and everything had to be put on hold. As the months passed, with overheads accumulating, donations piled high, and nowhere to sell them or make an income with the shop being closed, GYT staff had to make the difficult decision to end the lease. Once restrictions were relaxed, the team organised a Yard Sale, selling off all large pieces of furniture and boxes full of toys, books and bric-a-brac.

The Shop reopened in November to the delight of all volunteers and customers and although GYT have had to introduce reduced temporary opening days and hours and also put lots of new additional operating procedures in place, we are confident that the shop continues to provide a safe space to both volunteer and shop.





# Community Projects

## Music on the Prom

GYT have run Music on the Prom for the last 5 years and during this time we have up to 300 people attending, not just from South Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway, Glasgow and also from South Lanark. We also Stream our live music acts on our social media, we have a dedicated Facebook page (Music On The Prom Girvan). We have been told by people that coming to music on the prom during the summer months allows them to meet new and old friends, and by streaming live people who can't come down to the prom still feel part of the community.

The elderly people who are in care homes look forward to coming down to the beach on their minibuses and listening to the music or even dancing along with their carers and friends. Music is one of the things that help people with dementia to remember their youth and as we play 50's, 60's and 70's music this is the perfect day out for them and by attending the event it lifts their spirits and this leads to them feeling positive and confident enough to dance with others on the prom.

This year due to Covid 19 we couldn't be out on the prom, The group of volunteers who help run MOTP decided to stream Live on MOTP Facebook, this would allow people to be involved and to hear the performers in the comfort and safety of their own homes. The performers performed and streamed live from their own homes and at a very reduced rate.

This year MOTP was made possible by a grant from Health and Social Care Partnership. Here are some quotes from this year:

**Lionne - "Can't have MOTP so this is the next best thing, another entertaining Sunday afternoon"**

**Margaret - "He was super could have listened to him all afternoon"**

**Christine - "Brilliant thanks for keeping me going"**





# The Listening Fund

The aim of the work Girvan Youth Trust (GYT) carry out under Listening Fund Scotland is to support, encourage and offer young people the opportunities to be involved in decision making at all levels.

The initial aim of the project was to create a Shadow Youth Board and to support the development of a Girvan and South Carrick YouthBank. In the first 6 months, as our work developed, we broadened our view of 'Listening' as a concept and developed the purpose it serves within our project. This has created various opportunities for new examples of partnership work and creation of new youth work programmes.

Under the Listening Fund, our team have also taken a leadership role when planning and carrying out consultations related to Girvan Youth Trust. A consultation that we are currently developing and supporting the wider GYT staff team with is around the 'Expectations and Realities of Clubs/Groups when Z1 Youth Bar reopens'. We are also using our skills and experience to carry out regular consultations around GYT's Online Youth Work Programme & COVID 19 Response.

The Listening Fund Project primarily supports the Young Grant Makers with the Girvan & South Carrick YouthBank, develop and establish a Youth Voice Group within Z1 Youth Bar and carry out regular consultations relating to local youth work.

Through our work carried out under the Listening Fund, we have created opportunities to plan and develop additional pieces of work such as working alongside CLD to develop and establish an S2 Club, work with partner agencies on facilitating sessions around the National Youth Work Strategy and creating opportunities for young people to be involved at all levels of decision making.

We formed a 'Z1 Users Group' in August 2020 which is made up of young people who expressed an interest in helping us to develop our youth work. To date, we are currently working with the group on re-designing, re-decorating and upgrading Z1 Youth Bar.

Girvan & South Carrick YouthBank have distributed grants totalling over £1,000 to support local young people and have recently launched their final fund of 2020.

We kept up our engagement throughout Lockdown which resulted in a proposal for an S3/4 Group being created and presented to GYT for consideration and acceptance.

It was unique and the staff always listened to our ideas and tried to make them reality. S2 Club Member

A wonderful opportunity to hear the viewpoints from local young people, engaging and great event!  
Community Partner at Youth Strategy Event felt able to voice my opinions. Young Person in S4





# Looking to the Future



2020 has been a tough and challenging year for Girvan Youth Trust with the COVID 19 Global Pandemic impacting everyone's everyday lives and the way we deliver our youth work. We are looking forward to 2021 with positivity and hope that it will be a better year.

As a collective, we have set out some hopes and ambitions for the next 12 months of Girvan Youth Trust.



Life's A Journey are currently planning our annual Volunteer Celebration and although it may look and feel very different to previous years, both the LAJ and GYT teams greatly value the importance of recognising and celebrating the achievements of our committed and dedicated volunteers.

Over the next few months, it is hoped that our LAJ team can revisit and finish off some of the work that was started before the Pandemic struck as well as introduce some new issue based sessions around Health & Wellbeing and also Wider Achievement.



We are looking to complete the refurbishments and upgrades to Z1 Youth Bar. This includes re-decorating, creating an I.T. Bar and upgrading our non-alcoholic bar.

Plan and develop new youth work programmes which will compliment our current programme. Ideas from young people already have included a Saturday evening drop in, an S3/4 Group and some kind of Young People's Community Meal.

Re-open GYT's Thrift Shop in line with Government Guidance.



Expand the capacity of StreetLights Detached Youth Work Project to include the project's ability to deliver small pieces of targeted youth work in both the community and in schools.

Continue to work with our newly formed Users Group to look more closely at Z1 Youth Bar and our local youth work delivery. We'd also like to get more young people involved in this group too.

# Our Acknowledgement & Thanks

To our Funders, Volunteers, Supporters and Young People, we cannot thank you enough.



funded through

