



GIRVAN YOUTH TRUST ANNUAL REPORT

2021-22



A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR

The Trustees of Girvan Youth Trust (GYT) would like to begin this report by recognising the dedication and hard work of all the staff members and volunteers. We continue to be in awe of their seemingly never-ending commitment to delivering high-quality youth work, even in the most difficult of circumstances. Our service users, as always, are the driving force behind our projects and initiatives. Their creativity and inspiration are the foundation of Girvan Youth Trust.

Our service users continue to be the focus of our endeavours. This year has seen further growth in engagement, which is a testament to the consistent, reliable nature of our youth work. This growth in engagement has resulted in an expansion of our youth work programme, which now includes an S3/4 group, a Saturday night drop-in, and twice-weekly school lunch drop-ins. Due to these increased services, we have been able to expand the staff team to include a team of casual youth workers.

This year represents Girvan Youth Trust's first full year of being a living wage employer. Our commitment to paying a living wage recognises our dedication to being a responsible local employer focused on creating a positive working environment. Non-monetary staff well-being initiatives have also been trialled this year. Such initiatives include an extra day of annual leave on birthdays and staff team-building events which take place away from the place of work. GYT is increasingly being approached by local businesses to extend support with employability and skills by offering practical support getting our young people into work.

2021 saw the official re-opening of the newly refurbished Z1 Youth Bar. The refurbishment has led to an increased income from lettings, which we aim to build upon in the coming year. Not only has this increase led to a financial gain, but it has also allowed for cross-community group and cross-business collaborative work. Our thrift shop continues to be well-supported by the local community and shop volunteers. Z1 Youth Bar has been increasingly utilised following the refurbishment, this again is a positive outcome upon which we plan to build. The running of the local boating pond has been another success for GYT. Not only have we been able to offer young people the opportunity of training, work experience, and a living wage job, we have also enjoyed a positive financial return and have been able to reinvest in boating pond equipment to offer an improved service the following year. The incomes derived from lettings, the thrift shop, youth bar, and pond all contribute to our goal of self-sustainability.

Looking to next year, we will be focusing on continuing to grow our income streams and work towards lowering our running costs and carbon footprint. GYT plans to increase the profitability of current income generating initiatives, as well as identify new opportunities. Running costs will continue to be scrutinised, and cost-saving methods applied where appropriate. This year, such measures have included the installation of a modern, more efficient heating system. Next year, it will include the installation of solar panels.

The final, as the first, words go to thanking our staff team, volunteers, and service users. Their continued support, enthusiasm, and dedication inspire and influence positive change in young peoples' lives and the wider community.



AIMS, MISSION & CORE 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"

Our Youth Work is delivered in line with our five Core Values;

COMMUNITY

Bringing people together, encouraging positive relationships to be built and networks to be developed with the hope of creating a sense of belonging within something wider.

OPPORTUNITY

Creating chances and choices for young people to achieve, develop and try new things.

FUN

The ability to provide young people with the chance to engage in activities they enjoy with people who they choose to spend time with.

SUPPORT

To provide young people with the space, guidance and advice in order to help their personal progression and development.

TRUST

To provide young people with a sense of safety where they know their interests and opinions are valued, listened to and acted upon.



TEAM GYT

Tanina Stublely (Chairperson)
Laura Douglas (Treasurer)
Julie McManus (Minute Secretary)
Gary Skilling (Legal Secretary)
Pamela Waugh (Trustee)
Alessandro Valdrighi (Trustee)
Jimmy Lindsay (Trustee)

Erin Murdoch (Youth Development Co-ordinator)
Gail McMaster (Z1 Project Co-ordinator)
Lucy O'Donnell (Detached Youth Work Co-ordinator)
Yvonne McGill (Hand in Hand Project Co-ordinator)

Sonia Connell (Job Coach)
Rachael McMillan (Youth Development Worker)
Brian McMaster (Trainee Youth Worker)
Lauren McEwan (Trainee Youth Worker)
Michelle Scobie (Detached Youth Worker)

Heather McCafferty (Youth Worker)
Kerry Erskine (Youth Worker)
Siobhan Crawford (Youth Worker)
Terry McMaster (Youth Worker)
William McEwan (Youth Worker)

Darcy McCulloch (Summer Assistant)
Summer Galloway (Summer Assistant)
Joe Clark (Boating Pond Supervisor)
Jay Aitken (Boating Pond Supervisor)

Girvan Youth Trust Youth Work Team are supported by a voluntary Board of Trustees who oversee the governance of the organisation.

We are also lucky to be supported by a team of both adult and youth volunteers who support in the delivery of our Youth Work, Community Projects and Non Youth Work Projects.

THE LAST 12 MONTHS....



As part of the organisation's Strategic Business Plan, we identified that we needed to re-brand in order to create a clear identity between Girvan Youth Trust (the organisation) and Z1 Youth Bar (our youth centre).

We worked closely with the Youth Work Team and Branding Hub, Ayr throughout the process and have created the FIRST Girvan Youth Trust logo and also added some new signage to the outside of Z1 Youth Bar.

In June 2022, our Youth Work Team attended Youthlink Scotland's National Youth Work Awards as nominated finalists in TWO categories – Community Based Youth Work and Recognising Skills & Achievements.

Even though we were unlucky on the night, it was an honour to be nominated and for our youth work to be recognised at a national level.



Throughout this past year GYT have had a greater focus on wellbeing, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic highlighted that there was a more significant need for wellbeing based opportunities for staff and young people alike.

When working with young people it was clear that there was an increased need for support around self-care, mental health and wellbeing activities. Therefore, the Self Care Sessions group was created to allow young people led small group work sessions to encourage young people to peer support each other in areas of life based around self-care and wellbeing.



The first group saw 4 young people working together to support each other in sessions based around self-care techniques, the circle of control, emotions and exam stress. The 6 month programme saw the young people meet once a week to discuss how their week has went and gave them a safe space to talk and discuss solutions to challenges together.

When staff returned to the office after the pandemic it was clear that staff wellbeing needed to be taken into consideration, this included workloads, time off and team building activities. After working from home for a considerable amount of time staff highlighted that they would like more opportunities to be together. A staff wellbeing programme was created to allow staff to come together in an informal way without the pressures of being with young people and having to work. After a consultation with staff a range of activities was discussed and the programme has seen the staff team step away from the desk and engage in fun. The programme includes some challenging activities such as walking the coastal route from Girvan to Turnberry and slower based activities like a stroll and a roll.

CORE YOUTH WORK PROJECTS

STREETLIGHTS

StreetLights is Girvan Youth Trust's Detached Youth Work Project.

Over the last twelve months, StreetLights has increased their delivery to include short term, intervention work delivered in partnership with Girvan Academy. This piece of work compliments our street based engagement as it allows the project youth workers to work more in depth with young people, they engage with, to do some more intensive work around anti-social behaviour, their community and the justice system.

StreetLights has also become known as one of the 'go to' Detached Youth Work Project for advice, guidance and support to other organisations hoping to replicate similar.

At the beginning of 2022, we supported The Carrick Centre in Maybole to set up a similar initiative within their area.

This now sees a common approach delivered across the Carrick area which benefits local young people who commute between the two towns of the Carrick Locality – something that was previously missing.

The consistency in Detached Youth Work delivery has also been positively commented on by young people and partner organisations.



HAND IN HAND

Hand in Hand is working to drive forward social change within our recognised deprived community in regards to greater inclusion and equality for young people with ASN. The implementation of the “Hand in Hand” buddy initiative has been a natural progression in GYT's policy of youth empowerment and total inclusion for all local young people.

Hand in Hand is also the parent of DFN Project Search South Ayrshire.

DFN Project SEARCH helps young adults with learning disabilities and/or those on the autistic spectrum who can benefit from intensive, personalised support in preparing for and finding work with 100% of the 2021 interns moving into a Positive Destination upon completion.

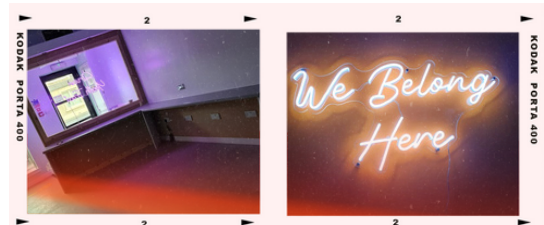
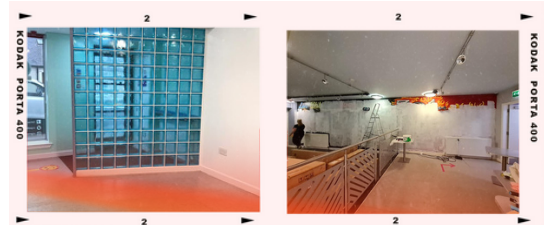
LIFE'S A JOURNEY

The 'Life's a Journey' 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. Over the last twelve months, the project has seen progression in their Working with Schools Programme to include adhoc Emerging Issues sessions, the implementation of the national MVP Programme and wider Wellbeing Programmes.



Z1 YOUTH BAR

As we recovered from the COVID-19 Pandemic, we took the time to ensure our youth centre and our youth work programmes were meeting the needs and wants of local young people. As a result of this consultation, we've carried out a £25,000 refurbishment to Z1 Youth Bar and well as introducing new Youth Work Programmes such as Saturday Night Drop Ins, S3/4 Club and a Self Care Group in order to meet the needs, wants and aspirations of local young people. As part of increasing our youth work offering, it also meant we had to expand our staff team by recruiting a team of Casual Youth Workers in order to build delivery capacity.



We have undertaken a full conversion of the middle floor in Z1 Youth Bar to convert a previously underutilised Art Studio and former Broom Cupboard and have transformed them into a homely one to One Room (known as The Nook) and an area (known as The Snug) which simulates a home living environment to deliver small group work and basic life skills session and includes a fully kitted out kitchen including washing machine.

These, more usable and accessible spaces within the building, will allow for us to deliver more tailor made and support sessions to older young people preparing for independent living.

We are also taking steps to become more energy efficient and "greener" in our everyday usage and as such as awaiting the installation of solar panels as well as having renewed our building wide heating system.

Our next ambition in relation to our dedicated youth centre is to re-model our toilet area to ensure a more inclusive environment, comfortable for all young people.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS



MUSIC ON THE PROM

This year Music on the Prom has run from 5th June till 21st August although we have added another date on the 18th of September. MOTP has been well attended throughout the summer and we have had to go inside on 2 occasions because of the weather. Our local businesses and families have come forward and sponsored all the live acts over the 12 weeks, we continue to put our donation buckets out every week and our 'Prommers' have been very generous. MOTP is organised and delivered by a team of volunteers from Girvan Youth Trust.



GIRVAN BOATING POND



We have also continued our operation of Girvan Boating Pond, in partnership with South Ayrshire Council, to see another successful season.

This has seen us employ a total 35 young people over two seasons with 100% of those going on to a Positive Destination. We are in the process of creating a model where the Boating Pond becomes more self sustainable whilst generating unrestricted income for the organisation whilst enhancing the local tourism offering.

THRIFT SHOP

Girvan Youth Trust have their own Thrift Shop, run by a team of volunteers, which allows us to generate some unrestricted income for the charity. Following on from the COVID-19 pandemic, the last twelve months have given us the opportunity to revitalise and refresh our Thrift Shop as well as recruit additional volunteers which allows us to increase our opening days.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT & THANKS

As always, it is important to acknowledge and thank those who have supported us over the last twelve months; our volunteers, our funders and our young people.

Without the collaboration and support from them all the success and continuation of our diverse youth work programme would not have been possible.

We have faced a challenging twelve months as we have recovered from COVID-19 and seen an increase in demand for our current services, but also having to expand these services

