

## Welcome to the Youth Scotland Impact Report 2023-24 Scroll down for an exciting look at the amazing work we achieved as a network in 2023-24

Check out Youth Scotland's 2023-24 with our Impact in 90 Seconds:

<https://youtu.be/UbR6Cxb48d4>

The year 2023–2024 has brought both challenges and opportunities in the realm of education reform. The Minister for Higher and Further Education commissioned an independent review of Community Learning and Development (CLD), emphasising the vital roles of Youth Work, Adult Learning, and Community Development. It highlights the need for trained Youth Workers and addresses recruitment challenges in line with Youth Scotland's findings on workforce development.

As inflation and a cost-of-living crisis impact the voluntary sector, Youth Scotland is developing a sustainable income strategy and providing support through funding workshops. The Scottish Government has acknowledged the importance of Fair Funding, however, the short-term nature of funding cycles continues to pose significant challenges, with many organisations facing delays that threaten service delivery.

Despite these obstacles, Youth Scotland is expanding its membership and responding to increasing demand for services. Our new Strategy 2024–2029, Growing Sustainable Community-Based Youth Work, aims to ensure a sustainable future for our organisation.

All of this remains possible thanks to our fantastic membership, partners and funders.

Mike Strang, Chief Executive

## Pillar 1: Supporting Our Member Youth Groups

- 104,749 young people were supported across our services and programmes
- 11,310 total youth workers, of whom 6,791 are volunteers
- 2,231 total youth groups, from 606 member organisations

### Supporting Our Member Youth Groups - Impact in 2023-24

We have seen another increase in our membership with an additional 249 youth groups in membership 2023-24. These new groups, alongside existing members, can now access the suite of advice, guidance, support, resources, training and funding opportunities offered as part of the Youth Scotland membership offer.

'Youth Scotland have been a great support to our organisation from the start...we can pick up the phone and have a conversation with anybody and they're always on the other end of the phone for you to run something past.'—  
Carolyn Mackie, Haldane Youth Services

- We continue to have reach across all 32 Local Authority areas in Scotland, with 2,231 member youth groups (1,982 in 2022-23) providing universal youth work opportunities as well as more targeted approaches. Of that total, rural youth groups represent 28% of the membership and urban represent 72% of the membership. In addition, 67% of Youth Scotland members operate in SIMD 1-5 post codes
- 104,790 young people (97,018 in 2022-23)
- 11,310 youth workers (10,775 in 2022-23) of whom 6,791 are volunteers

These outcomes are also achieved through the support of membership services we provide centrally to our membership and with the support of our Area Association network of six infrastructure bodies that offer local services to our shared membership in Edinburgh and the Lothians, Fife, Highlands, Isles of Lewis & Harris, Orkney Islands and Scottish Borders. Additionally, our Youth Scotland Area Development Workers supported member groups in Dumfries and Galloway, North Ayrshire, East Ayrshire and South Ayrshire.

Watch "Everything" a case study on members, Sticky Fingers

So, you've no idea the impact that people like Francine can have on kids. So, for people thinking about funding a club like this, it's for the future for children, although you see it just now and it brings happiness, education, social skills. But if these kids didn't have that, what have they got in the community? - Julie, Parent at Sticky Fingers Club

Watch the video:

<https://youtu.be/9MHXKRZe7w4>

## Pillar 2: Training Volunteers and Youth Workers

- 3,231 youth workers engaged in training
- Ready for Youth Work (906 participants), Trusted Adult (753 participants), PDA in Youth Work (54 participants)

### Training Volunteers and Youth Workers Impact in 2023-24

Youth worker training has continued to thrive as 3,231 youth workers developed their abilities and skills in order to support young people's emerging needs. Our training programme offered accredited and non-accredited training opportunities in Youth Awards (728 participants), Ready for Youth Work (906 participants), Trusted Adult (753 participants), PDA in Youth Work (54 participants), Leading in Youth Work (11 participants), and other key training

programmes, including trauma-informed practice and specialist mental health training.

'For our staff, the training is great for their professional and sometimes personal development, for an organisation, it is peace of mind knowing that we have youth workers who have completed relevant training that aligns with our policies and procedures and can ensure a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment for children and young people to learn, play and thrive.' —Participant, Autism Awareness, Child Protection Awareness, Child Protection Officer

Our partnership programme with Place2Be continued to offer a Mental Health Foundation Training programme and ongoing CPD to over 1,120 youth workers, allowing them to increase their knowledge of children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing.

'Everybody's learning from everybody'

We sat down with member group Routes (Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol & Drugs) to talk about the skills and connections their team has built through training opportunities with Youth Scotland.

'A lot of what we do with Youth Scotland is we access all the amazing training. For me, every time a new staff member starts, I'm like 'Go on Youth Scotland and see what training is available.' - Pam Burns, SFAAD

Read the case study:

<https://www.youthscotland.org.uk/story/scottish-families-affected-by-alcohol-drugs>

## Pillar 3: Youth Leadership and National Programmes

- 3,049 young people engaged in leadership and participation programmes
- 71 young people completed Hatch and 35 young people were offered a permanent job after their work placement

### Youth Leadership and National Programmes - Impact 2023/24

Our range of programmes support young people to: develop their confidence and resilience; improve their communication skills; manage relationships; work better in a team; consider risks and make reasoned decisions; and broaden their perspectives through new experiences and thinking. Our iLead pathway forms the framework of many of our programmes, and takes young people through three stages: Engage, Empower and Advance, developing their everyday leadership skills and supporting them to take action and contribute to their communities.

'I enjoyed getting to meet new people and boosting my confidence. I feel like I've grown a lot since the first meeting...I was quiet and didn't contribute at the start and

while I'm still working on it, I feel more confident now talking in front of others and contributing my thoughts and ideas.'

—Reach 2024 Young Advisor

Additionally, young people gained confidence, leadership skills and more in the following programmes:

- Inspire 2022 continued to support young people to pitch for funding and run a social action event that would benefit their local community
- Young Grantmakers involved young people directly in supporting funders such as Corra Foundation and Creative Scotland in the decision-making process
- The Reach Advisory Group – through which young people co-designed and delivered an annual event in March 2024 to celebrate our Generation CashBack programme
- Young people on our Hatch employability programme with KFC gained employability skills, work experience and job interviews
- Young People on our Career Sense Employability project have undertaken skills training and will move on to paid work placements with RBS
- Young Islanders have participated in face to face meetings with MSP's, have fed into national consultations on the Youth Work Strategy, Education, Transport and Youth work Research Priorities, and also led community challenges including community

consultations, inter-island participation opportunities and thematic sessions

### A pathway to leadership at Haldane Youth Services

We caught up with member group Haldane Youth Services to talk about how the iLead Programme has helped upskill their Young Volunteers.

'We also have a fantastic young volunteer programme. So those young people have come through the service themselves... they're always here, constantly wanting to give back.' - Carolyn Mackie, Haldane Youth Services

Read the case study:

<https://www.youthscotland.org.uk/story/haldane-youth-services-case-study>

### Generation CashBack helps grow youth leadership opportunities

'I even learned more about myself, like personal development, more skills... and friends I met. It really gave me a boost, it made me feel great about myself, to know I was feeling heard.' – youth worker, Hyper Cyber

Read our Generation CashBack case studies:

<https://www.youthscotland.org.uk/programme/generation-cashback/>

## Pillar 4: Accredited Youth Awards

- 8,292 total youth awards accredited
- 240 Awards Groups supported locally by 153 Award Delivery Hubs, an increase of 38%

### Accredited Youth Awards - Impact 2023-24

We have seen successful growth of the Awards in 2023-24 with completion figures showing a rise on the 2022-23 figures (8,297 across Hi5, DYA and YAA in 2023/24 compared to 7,171 in 2022-23), an increase of 16%.

We have piloted a new Awards Force platform which offers an easy and user-friendly space to submit awards and evidence, the ability to log in, view and standardise submissions, along with a feedback function. This will provide a more professional option for managing our awards processes and significantly improved customer engagement. In 2023-24 we achieved:

'I like how it gives the young people that come to our club the kind of sense of achievement for just taking part in lots of activities. Cause when they do the booklets obviously they kind of talk about the skills they've learned, if they've boosted their confidence, and all these things...They kind of sit down and realize just how much they've taken on from taking part in our activities.' —Youth worker

30% of all Youth Scotland Awards in 2023-24 were delivered in the most deprived areas of Scotland (SIMD 1&2),

demonstrating how our awards are contributing to closing the poverty-related attainment gap.

Watch the Awards case study on members, Fuse Youth Café

'For me, what I think about is there's so many ways for a young person to get one of their awards and one of the levels that that's what's really good about Youth Scotland awards, you know, and it's part of that everyday experience and youth organisations, it's a way of capturing evidence and showing them what they've actually got out of attending youth clubs. - Ashley, Fuse Youth Café

Watch the video: <https://youtu.be/kEFHHnXAgbk>

## Youth Participation

At Big Ideas Weekend, we set teams of young people a challenge: work together, using basic crafts supplies, to design the ideal youth group. They all succeeded and came up with great ideas. More importantly, they told us what they thought youth work and youth groups should be...

Watch the video: <https://youtu.be/jt15jjxrrz4>

## With gratitude and thanks

We acknowledge the support of Scottish Government and funders as key partners in supporting young people and the community-based youth work sector in Scotland.

We would also like to say a huge thank you to all our funders and supporters of Youth Scotland projects and programmes including:

- Contribution to our core funding from the Children, Young People and Families Early Intervention Fund from Scottish Government and managed by the Corra Foundation.
- Contribution to our core funding from The Robertson Trust.
- Generation CashBack, funded by Scottish Government Cashback for Communities and managed by Inspiring Scotland.
- Continuation of our training and capacity building support for youth workers, funded through the Scottish Government's CLD Team, Garfield Weston Foundation and Children in Need/McDonald's Partnership and the National Voluntary Youth Work Organisations Support Fund (managed by YouthLink Scotland).
- The Young Islanders Network, funded by the Scottish Government's Islands' Team.
- The Stand Up to Sectarianism programme, funded by Scottish Government's Equalities Division.

- Funding from the Scottish Government CLD Team in support of our co-ordination role in the Awards Network.
- The Y2Be youth work and mental health programme funded by the STV Children's Appeal.
- The Growing Better Youth Work in Dumfries and Galloway programme funded by The Holywood Trust and Dumfries and Galloway council.
- The National Impact Network, funded by YMCA George Williams College.
- Careersense Employability programme, funded by Royal Bank Scotland and managed by We are Futures.
- Young Grantmakers programme for UNCRC Innovation Fund and The Way Forward for Families Partnership Fund, funded by the Corra Foundation.
- Step into the Arts Young Grantmakers programme and grant scheme management, funded by Creative Scotland.
- All programmes managed in partnership with UK Youth. Including Inspire 2022 supported by Spirit 2012, Hatch supported by KFC,
- Youth Scotland Rural Action Fund, funded by The Gannochy Trust.
- Youth Scotland Safe Spaces Fund, funded by The RS Macdonald Charitable Trust.
- What's Your Big Idea?! Youth microgrant scheme through support from the Audrey Milan Fund.

- Learning for Sustainability resource development, funded by the SCQF Partnership.
- The Trustees would also wish to thank the Meikle Foundation for their donations in support of our work.

### Our Area Association partners

As always, we would like to make a special thank you to our Area Associations across Scotland, who we work in partnership with as part of the Youth Scotland Network:

LAYC in Edinburgh and the Lothians - see their latest Impact Report: <https://layc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Impact-Report-202324.pdf>

Youth 1st in Fife - see their latest Annual Review: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ba87a9d9d41493afb9e55f4/t/66e7f3bbd5a2e5638b9bfffef/1726477333125/Annual+Review+2024+PRINT.pdf>

YouthBorders - see their website: <https://youthborders.org.uk/>

Youth Highland - see their website: <https://youthhighland.org.uk/>

Lewis and Harris Youth Clubs Association - see their profile: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Lewis-and-Harris-Youth-Clubs-Association/100064388994223/>

Orkney Association of Youth Groups - see their website: <https://www.orkneycommunities.co.uk/OAYC/>

And finally, to all our members, volunteers and young people, with whom we achieve such amazing change and positive outcomes for young people across Scotland, thank you especially.

Read more about our work, how to get involved and how to join on website: <http://www.youthscotland.org.uk/>