

# **Wendover Youth Centre Limited Report of the Trustees for the Year Ended 31 August 2025**

The Trustees who are also Directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 August 2025. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

## **Summary**

2024/2025 continues to be a challenging time for Wendover Youth Centre with a lot of staff and Trustee changes adding to the period of uncertainty. Our aim is to serve the young people of the community and surrounding area by ensuring all activities, both existing and future, are relevant to their needs. We will achieve this by engaging with the young people enabling them to become more involved in the running/design of those activities and for them to take ownership of them.

We continue to run our weekly Friday Night Youth Club with our team of sessional workers and volunteers.

## **Activities**

During 2024/5 WYC has partaken in:

### **Wendover Christmas lights switch on**

A fantastic opportunity for our young people to give back to the community by supporting Santa's grotto.

### **Yardfest**

Our Trustees ran a tombola stall at the summer Yardfest in the Witchell to raise money for the Centre.

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### **Wendover Summer Picnic**

The Friday Night team ran a stall at the Wendover Summer Picnic, at the Witchell, with the aim of engaging new members and volunteers.

### **HAF Summer Programme**

We participated in the Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF) during the summer holidays for those young people whose families are in receipt of HAF funding. In conjunction with Aylesbury Youth Group we ran an evening at WYC with football on the 3G, a t-shirt dye making activity and a healthy meal provided which they helped to prepare. We also ran external trips to Rogue Leisure and to Go Ape with a picnic.

### **John Colet courses**

We provided 10 courses to students in each academic year covering a range of mental health needs.

Shanie will be working with the Student Engagement Officer from John Colet Academy to co-deliver wellbeing sessions to a group of Year 7 boys to support their transition into secondary school. These sessions will consist of an activity to promote positive wellbeing alongside discussions on topics such as developing and maintaining friendships and peer pressure.

### **Rothschild sponsorship**

The Rothschild foundation has provided funding for sessions that are centred around promoting positive student wellbeing. These sessions are planned closely with the John Colet School's Student Engagement Officer and are centred around a need identified by each cohort's head of year. For example, the key themes within our Year 7 groups have been the transition to secondary school, looking specifically at developing and maintaining new friendships, organisation and time-tabling and navigating the challenging feelings that come with this. During the sessions, we spend time in group discussion about a particular topic, sharing challenges and providing support, then move onto a game or craft activity. The funding for these sessions has gone into providing staffing and resources for this. Next half term, we are looking at trialing this session as a whole day activity - rather than weekly one hour sessions - with a focus on building resilience in Year 8 pupils. This is because we feel this format would be beneficial to provide the students with the tools to develop their social, emotional

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and mental health needs and then safely and with guidance put those skills into practice in a "real-life" scenario, such as an obstacle course or public speaking.

### **Loop**

The combined WYC and Loop project commenced in March 2025, currently staffed by one of our youth workers and consists of a weekly series of arts, wellbeing and gardening classes.

Loop is a community led solution to a growing local issue for young people aged 11-16. They provide a much needed very low demand and safe space for families to come to when young people are finding it hard to access other learning or social spaces, usually due to SEMH needs. The club was started by parents with lived experience who were frustrated by the lack of local provision and wanted a community based, gentle stepping stone to help rebuild their children's confidence. The classes were initially led by one of our trustees Tessa Edwards who is a trained teacher and has personal experience of a child with specific needs. She planned low demand art based classes for the young people. We were very grateful to the Lionel Abel Smith trust for an initial grant to run the pilot scheme and help pay for materials and equipment for the classes.

Since January 2025, Loop has had involvement with over 20 families and for many it's been the first time their young person has stepped into a social group situation since struggling at school. Many have gone on to then start at alternative provisions or have a phased return to school, or have been able to make more of their learning and social opportunities in their home schooling journey. It has given them the confidence, space and safety to navigate this. Parents/ carers are fully part of Loop, attending with their young people and being hugely supportive and understanding of each other.

### **Football enterprise**

WYC are working closely with the John Colet School and the local Community Boards to set up a 'football enterprise' project with a group of Year 8 and Year 9 boys.

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The aim of this project is to work with students to establish a weeknight open football session at Wendover Youth Club. Students will work with SN to consider the obstacles to this, creatively problem-solve them and create a presentation to share with Wendover Youth Centre Trustees and the John Colet School.

We are working alongside Community Boards as their Wendover / Halton Ward priority to is *actively work with WYC to engage young people in what matters to them whilst fostering a sense of community and leadership*

With this, Community Boards are able to provide oversight and expertise through volunteers coming into sessions to lead talks on project management and delivery and presentation skills, for example.

### **Garden project**

WYC are working in conjunction with Buds that Blossom nursery to develop the Youth Centre garden. We received funding to replace some of the waterlogged grass areas, with a 3G surface that can be used all year round, and dividing fences to create different zones within the garden. The garden is now multi-use and can be used by different age groups at the same time. We are in the process of creating a wildlife, picnic and 'chill out' garden with a story circle - this garden will also give children the opportunity to grow vegetables and fruit. We recently received a donation of trees and hedging from the Woodland Trust that were planted with assistance from the young people attending our Loop sessions.

### **Key partners**

The World continues to be an exceptionally challenging place for young people. The Covid-19 pandemic and lockdowns have had a continuing impact, with increasing numbers of young people who have not returned to formal education. In addition, young people see and experience economic challenges on top of the ongoing environmental crisis, whilst we all see displaced Ukrainian families living in our community, attending local schools, and participating in local activities, including those organised by WYC. Overall, we see an increasing need and focus on the important area of providing safe spaces and much of our work now focuses on the mental health and wellbeing of our users. This focus has been particularly evident in our continuing work with our partners.

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## **Schools**

It is fantastic to see an ever-strengthening partnership with the John Colet Academy. The work with John Colet is evolving into a great model of what can be achieved through collaboration.

## **Premier Education**

The relationship with the Centre continues to develop with well-established before and after school activities and holiday clubs. Premier Education are key delivery partners for our work with young people. In addition, Premier makes a significant financial contribution to the sustainability of the Centre.

## **Buckinghamshire Council SEN team**

We provide space for Bucks SEN tutors to use to provide education for Young People with special needs, who are not attending mainstream school sites.

## **Drama groups**

We host four sessions per week across a range of ages, in collaboration with Drama Hub.

## **Charitable activities**

With our Partners we have continued to deliver youth work and services for the young people of Wendover. We have evolved our portfolio to offer new activities and, in the process, have learned many new skills.

We continue to work in partnership with the local community on community projects

## **Staff and volunteers**

Permanent staff are complemented by session workers and volunteers. The Centre benefits from a committed group of volunteers and is always seeking to expand this volunteer base,

## **Community support**

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WYC is very appreciative of the support and encouragement it receives from the community. For our part we continue to forge closer links with the schools, other voluntary organisations, Wendover Parish Council (WPC), the Lionel Abel-Smith Trust (LAST) and St. Mary's Church as it seeks to be an integral part of the community which we serve.

### **FINANCIAL POSITION AND FUNDRAISING**

The Trustees wish to increase the funds we receive. The Centre runs both a Friends' and Membership scheme, as well as charging for activities and receiving rental income by renting the Centre to others. Nevertheless, we are still dependent on grants. The receipt of a 3-year grant from Lionel Abel Smith Trust and the continued support of Wendover Parish Council has been instrumental in a lot of our achievements.

In summary we raise income by pursuing the following strategy:

Commercial partnerships similar, to the one that exists with Premier Education- they deliver good work with young people and we share in the profits of this activity

Hiring the Centre to local users - this activity makes a significant contribution to the Centre's income. The Centre space is let during the week and currently there are only a few slots available

In partnership with the John Colet to provide out-reach youth services within the school for which we charge.

By asking users to become members and non-users to be Friends - these schemes provide an invaluable local connection as well as regular, managed income (some of which can be gift-aided)

By charging young people to attend events.

In addition, we seek grant funding for one-off projects (new equipment, facilities etc.) and to under-write our current costs. Like other charities, we are experiencing a significant reduction in grants and funds available.

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When combined with our need to expand our team to provide the services we wish to deliver, and rising costs, this places considerable medium-term strain on the WYC finances.

The Centre's premises are leased from Buckinghamshire Council which maintains an oversight role with respect to the Centre.

### **Reserves policy**

Our policy is to have the reserves to cover three months' worth of outgoings. The Board reviews this regularly. Given the 'lumpy' nature of our income a degree of flexibility is required if we are to continue to operate. During 2018/19, the Centre received an anonymous gift of approximately £25,000 to support the long-term development of the Centre. This money was provided to expand our work and invest in the delivery of our long-term Vision. During 2022/23 the Trustees released the remainder of these funds to support the additional resources required. Having invested from the Designated Fund in the Centre's staff and activities, it is now very clear that we will have to raise money elsewhere if we wish to continue to provide the current levels of service provision.

## **FUTURE PLANS FOR 2025/6**

### **Children in Need project**

We have received funding from Children in Need to run a three-year neurodivergent programme. The first stage is:

### **Hangout Evening Café**

A safe, unstructured, and welcoming space for neurodivergent young people, particularly those without formal diagnoses. The aim is to help participants build self-regulation skills, confidence, and a sense of accomplishment through activities such as board games, sensory experiences, and creative projects. We launched the Cafe in December.

### **St Mary's C of E Youth and Families worker**

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St Mary's Church, Wendover, have employed a full-time Youth and Families worker, Jack Curham, on a three-year programme. Part of this programme is to do Outreach work within the community and to work with one of our youth workers.

### **Workshops**

As part of our new model we are actively looking to seek partners to run a weekly workshop of different activities for example a 3D design workshop, cooking and craft.

## **STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

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## **Governing document**

The charity is constituted as a company limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006. The governing document is the Articles of Association.

## **Recruitment and appointment of new trustees Wendover Youth Centre (the 'Youth Centre')**

Trustees have been selected on the basis of

- their backgrounds particularly as it relates to prior experience with registered companies and/or charities
- track record in areas relevant to the development of a community facility; or
- their commitment to the welfare of young people which the Youth Centre is supporting.

## **At the AGM in 2025**

Jack Curham and Shannon Davis were appointed as Trustees.

Tess Edwards has been Acting as Chair of Trustees for most of the year.

## **Organisational structure**

Shanie Noakes continues in her Centre Manager role, coordinating the work of the various sessional workers, consultants and volunteers who support the Centre. This reflects the increasing difficulty that small Centres like Wendover are finding with recruiting and retaining full-time Youth Workers.

## **REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS**

Registered Company number 07797348 (England and Wales)

Registered Charity number 1145355

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Registered office Wendover Youth Centre Wharf Road Wendover  
Buckinghamshire HP22 6HF

**Trustees**

- T J Edwards
- S Davis
- C Hunt
- K Lavine
- A Pandit
- J Curham
- P Hammett (resigned 31 August 2024)
- Rev'd N Rose (resigned 19 May 2025)

**Secretary**

M Frost

**Treasurer**

P Kapoor

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies. Approved by order of the board of trustees on 28 April 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

..... Trustee signature