



Annual Report

2021 - 2022

Pilton Youth and Children's Project

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# Chair's Report



Welcome to our 2022 Annual Report.

Over the past few years, PYCP has had to face the Covid 19 pandemic, a changing and unpredictable funding landscape and a worsening financial crisis.

This has meant that we have had to adapt quickly and find new ways of working and new ways to fund services. We have also responded to changing needs in the community, for example developing parent and mental health support.

We are proud of what we've achieved and of the commitment and resilience of our team.

Our board has also changed with some members moving on and new trustees joining. I'm also stepping down as Chair after almost 6 years, but I look forward to seeing what "PY" achieves in the future, I'm sure it will be a great deal.

The board would like to thank the staff and management team and to say also how very thankful we are to children and young people, the community, financial supporters and our many partners.

**Roger Candy, Chair**

# Manager's Report



PYCP has been through the most challenging few years it has ever known, and we are immensely proud of children, young people and our staff team in overcoming many difficulties due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

Our centre is buzzing with life again; sometimes it's hard to believe that we had to close our doors twice in the last few years, for many months at a time. However, PYCP never stopped supporting our community, with our team learning all about digital youth work and the joys of Zoom meetings! We worked together with many community partners to make sure that families had enough food, help with getting online and also emotional support.

Today, our services are thriving after restrictions eased in Spring 2021. We have lots of after school activities

for children, youth clubs in the evening and a growing team of Intensive and Family Support, offering more help to those who need it.

Our volunteer team is growing again, with lots of exciting developments planned and we look forward to hosting more youth work trainees and students in the months ahead. We have developed many new partnerships, with other community agencies, corporate organisations and funders and we are excited about new ways we will work together.

We hope you enjoy reading more about our achievements in this annual report. A huge thank you to our Board, staff team, young people, families and the community.

**Laura McLaren and Lesley Ross, Project Managers**

# About Us

## OUR MISSION:

"PYCP is rooted in the local community and is committed to enabling each young person to realise their unique potential and to take a positive role in society."

## OUR AIMS:

- Promote social inclusion through supporting a positive start in young people's lives, focusing on the promotion of personal growth and development.
- Create engaging, educational experiences that broaden horizons.
- Ensure that our services are responsive to ever changing needs and priorities.

## OUR HISTORY

PYCP was founded in 1997 following a merge between two local organisations. Pilton Adventure Play Association (PAPA) promoted safe play in the community and Pilton Youth Programme (PYP) provided intensive support to young people at risk.

In staying true to our roots, we offer a wide range of open access activities as well as intensive 1:1 and group support, for ages 5 to 18.

Several members of our staff team are from the local community and even attended PYCP in their youth.



## OUR TEAM

We are governed by a voluntary Board of Directors; a diverse team of individuals who bring a range of skills and experience. Our Management team (two Project Managers and a Business Manager) have all worked at PYCP for many years and have in-depth knowledge of the community and all aspects of the organisation. Our "face to face" team consist of a Senior Youth Development Worker, a Youth Development Worker and a Youth and Children's Worker who run all of our open access provision. They are supported by a team of sessional youth work staff. We have a team of four Intensive Support Workers and a Youth Wellbeing Worker who provide targeted 1:1 and group support. Our Volunteer Development worker supports young and adult volunteers and youth work trainees.



## OUR WORK

PYCP is at the heart of the Pilton community. We have our own purpose-built centre including a large sports hall, art room, kitchen and café, dance studio and open youth work space. We work with children and young people aged 5 to 18 meaning that we can be there for them throughout their journey to adulthood. Our services are inter-connecting, and this means we can offer a tailored experience to each young person, where they can be with their friends in open youth clubs, get extra 1:1 support to cope with life's challenges or go on residential trips. We are well known to local families who see our centre as safe and welcoming, giving us a head start in making an impact. Our services include: Children's Clubs and Play, Open Access Youth Work, Intensive Support and Progression Routes for Young People.

# Play

In the last year we have offered a range of play approaches across our children's programme. Making wonderful creations in messy play, learning how to make slime, play dough and gloop, creating new worlds in imaginary play and exploring the outdoors. We also ran the final year of our Children in Need funded "PY Adventurers" project, using outdoor activities to build a safer approach to risk, as well as developing teamwork skills, confidence and resilience. 180 children have benefited from the project since 2019 and although this has now ended, we created a toolkit of activities and built a stock of outdoor equipment so that we can continue to offer educational outdoor activities. The community garden at the rear of our centre has also been a vital resource, where children have enjoyed planting raised beds and learning about mini beasts and bugs. This has been a great way for children to learn about the environment and ways that they can help tackle climate change.

## CHILDREN'S WORK AND PLAY



"I love coming to the Friday Club, I see my friends and I get to do fun stuff. The workers care about me and help me a lot".

"My daughter loves the Adventurers. She can't stop talking about the fun activities she did. She is much more confident to try new things".



### Junior Clubs

Friday afternoons are full of fun and laughter with our "Junior Clubs", where children aged 5 to 8 take part in group games, arts and crafts, cooking and using our soft play room. We offered a packed programme including themed sessions such as learning about road safety, being kind to others and healthy eating. We always had a nutritious snack on offer too. It has been great to see our Juniors again after the disruption of the pandemic and also meet their younger siblings as they moved into primary 1.

200+

Children attended open clubs throughout the year

350+

Activities were delivered across the term time programme

143

different activities were offered to children in holiday programmes

3142+

Spaces were taken by children in holiday programmes

### Primary 5 to 7 Club

Much of the provision for this age group focused on the Adventurers Project in the last year, especially since outdoor activities were less risky for Covid 19 transmission. Due to popular demand, our regular P5-7 club has now returned and we are seeing high numbers of children every week.

An exciting project for this age group was designing and building two, "Little Free Libraries" with the help of Alison McLuckie and Mark Stares, both doctors, who have been involved in setting up other libraries across the city. The idea is that families can take away books for free, promoting literacy skills and a love of reading.

The group decided to build a Harry Potter themed library and also one with an air balloon design. The libraries were officially opened in summer 2021 by Bruce Adamson, the Children and Young People's Commissioner for Scotland. It has been lovely to see children take books away and return every week for more.

## Girl's Group

Our Girl's Group takes place on Tuesday evenings and provides a single sex space for those who identify within this to get some food, chat to workers and take part in activities. Over the past year the group has done various activities including mannequin decorating, making friendship bracelets, quizzes, pot painting, football and much more. The group also made a range of delicious food, developing cooking skills. We participated in two projects with outside agencies; a "Craftivism" project which incorporated activism and crafting. The young people really enjoyed this as it gave them a safe space to discuss things they are passionate about and create art showcasing these topics. The young people particularly cared about the environment and safety for LGBT+ people. The second project this group were involved in was with "A Place In Childhood". This was all about gaining the young people's views of the area they live in, what they like and don't, what they would like to see and what things they felt needed to change.

## OPEN ACCESS YOUTH WORK



"If the youth clubs weren't on, I don't know what I'd do, just hang about the street probably".

"I come along to the Drop in even when my friends aren't there because the staff make me feel welcome and there's always something to do".



## Friday Hub

Like our Wednesday Drop In, this offers a safe space to meet with friends and get support from youth workers. Young people enjoyed activities such as badminton, football, arts and crafts, and bingo. A cooking activity was offered every week, part of a harm reduction approach if young people were to drink alcohol later that evening. This was alongside advice and support from youth workers to help young people make safe choices.

180

Young people attended open youth clubs throughout the year

3500+

Spaces were offered in youth clubs throughout the year

200+

Different youth work activities were provided

80+

Themed sessions and workshops were delivered

## Wednesday Drop In

A long standing feature of our core youth work programme, this is a very popular club. This offers young people a choice of fun and educational activities, building skills and confidence. Trusted relationships between young people and staff is key, so that young people feel safe and able to express themselves and get support in times of need. Partnership working is crucial in reaching the best outcomes for young people and we worked with a range of agencies in the last year.

Bonfire night has recently been a time of heightened anti-social behaviour in our community and so in November 21 we offered diversionary activities which were trips to Megabowl and Lasertag for local young people. This was part of a joint approach where other each youth organisation offered a programme of activities around this period. We also ran sessions in-house to raise awareness of dangers of fire and fireworks; we used our fire pit to cook, bought some sparklers and created firework safety posters.

Other highlights were working with NHS Lothian's Sexual Health team to deliver community based sessions for young people using the sexual health outreach bus, situated beside Pennywell All Care centre. During these sessions PYCP staff carried out street work throughout North Edinburgh, accompanying young people to the outreach bus. Caitlin and Amanda from the sexual health team also delivered a session in our drop in offering advice and support. We also did a workshop with Laura from Fast Forward, taking a harm reduction approach by offering up to date information about drugs and associated risks. The young people really enjoyed themed sessions and we plan to have more in the near future.

# FACENorth - Focusing on Alternatives to Crime Edinburgh North

Following the easing of restrictions, the FACENorth service had a busy summer in 2021, continuing to provide 1:1, crisis and family support and help with employment and training. Other activities that were delivered were "Track days" where they supported young people at risk or involved in criminal activity, to maintain a local bike track and other community "clean ups" and gardening projects. The team also offered cycling and walking trips and "Activity Days" at the bike track where young people enjoyed sports, table tennis, pool, and having food. This programme then continued throughout the year. Another main focus of FACENorth's programme was residential experiences for young people. These were really effective in encouraging new interests, diverting from problematic behaviour and making lasting memories and trusted relationships. Groups went to places such as Aviemore and the Isle of Mull. This included diversionary residentials around the Bonfire Night period.

## TARGETED YOUTH WORK



"It was great getting food from the SCRAN Van, loads of good stuff."

"The Stress Less activities were good, I got lots of ideas on looking after myself."



## Midnight and Beyond

The FACENorth team also continued to deliver "Midnight and Beyond" sessions where they took young people on night time trips out of the community to explore nature and act as a diversion from anti-social behaviour.

**80 +**  
Young people received support making positive choices away from criminal activity

**200 +**  
Spaces were offered to young people in outreach youth work

**20 +**  
Outreach youth work sessions were delivered

**60 +**  
Project activities were delivered

## Thrive Mental Health Project

In the summer of 21 we ran a 6 week project for a group of young people in partnership with Thrive Edinburgh and the Mental Health Foundation. This was known as the "Summer of Fun" and the programme consisted of activities from the Stress Less toolkit, trips to interesting places and other fun activities, all designed to improve wellbeing. We also had a visit from SCRAN Academy's SCRAN Van every week, providing great hot meals to young people in the group and others coming to PYCP.



## Outreach work with Port of Leith Housing Association

Another exciting outreach project was with Port of Leith Housing Association's Granton Developments. The aim was to offer activities to young people aged 7+ following some issues of vandalism and anti-social behaviour, supporting more positive choices. Our youth work team used the community flat there as a base and young people were able to drop in to play games, have a chat and have some food. This helped build relationships and then youth workers were able to give advice and also encourage young people to be proud of their community and enjoy where they live. A number of positive outcomes were reached, including improved relationships between young people and residents, a reduction in vandalism and damage to properties, increased uptake in local youth agencies/ services and improved relationships between POLHA staff and Tenants

## 1:1 Support

Our open access programme has a range of benefits for young people, but some need more intensive support. We have a long history of providing individual support to young people who can refer themselves, or are identified by their schools or other professionals. The aim is to help them work through difficulties and support them to reach achievable goals. Our team work with other agencies such as social work, housing, youth justice and health services to ensure that young people and families have all the support they need. This year we worked with 51 young people, helping them reach outcomes such as improved mental health, increased school attendance, more positive family relationships, safer choices and increased social networks. A new addition to this service is our new Youth Wellbeing Worker, who supports young people on a 1:1 basis to improve their mental health and wellbeing. This is part of a local collaborative of 5 agencies called BWell Together, working together to improve wellbeing for ages 5 to 24 and their families.

## INTENSIVE SUPPORT



"Having someone to talk to when I need advice has really improved my mental health and my behaviour at home as I feel calmer in my parenting role."

"I feel more confident now I have someone to talk to about how I am feeling."



## Family Support

A "whole family" approach is really important in reaching sustainable outcomes for young people. We continued with our Family Project for young children and their families, where our Family Worker provided tailored support with difficulties at school, financial worries, sleep problems, parenting skills and managing stress. This helped families move to a more positive place and increased wellbeing.

51

Young people received 1:1 support for at least 12 weeks

42

Parents received support

30

Young people benefited from group support

1397

1:1 and group sessions were delivered

## Group Work Support

Is a really effective way of supporting young people, as they share experiences with their peers and feel less isolated. By working together on activities, they build communication and team working skills and also new friendships. Despite the disruption of the pandemic, our Roots and Branches nurture group for young people aged 12+ is going strong, meeting every Wednesday afternoon after school. We have up to 15 young people attend every week, where they share worries, support each other, try activities such as art and cooking and get advice from staff. The last two years have had a serious impact on the mental health of many young people and combined with tailored 1:1 support, this group has been a lifeline for them.

We have also provided a "Best Me" group this year for children in primary 3, with a range of fun activities designed to build confidence and social skills. Our other group work programme which is still ongoing is a support group for new first year pupils at Craigroyston High School who are finding the transition difficult.



# Trainee Youth Work

As part of the North Edinburgh Youth Work Academy (NEYWA), we hosted five trainee youth work placements. These are an opportunity for young people from the community to work as trainees in local youth agencies. They spend 10 weeks at each agency learning new skills and taking part in training and accredited learning. This builds their confidence and self-esteem, and often they decide that a career in youth work is for them. This is a great example of partnership working where we are building the next generation of youth and children's workers who will become role models to other young people. One of our projects that trainees got involved in was "Teen Boutique", a pop up shop that has been running for the past 4 years in PYCP. It is an opportunity for local young people and their families to buy upcycled/ preloved clothing at great prices and also learn more about the environment, waste and landfill challenges.

## PROGRESSION ROUTES



"I love volunteering, it gives me something to do with my time and I'm learning lots of new skills".



"I've really enjoyed my placement, I got to do lots of different things. I think I want to do more youth work."

## Student Support

PYCP is an ideal basis for student placements due to the breadth of our services. We work with students from colleges and universities, studying youth and community work and social work. This year we have supported a 3rd and 4th year student from Dundee University and hope that now that we have returned to face to face services, we will work with more students.

**1575**

Placement hours were given to youth work trainees

**700+**

Teen Boutique items were bought by local families

**140**

Days of student placements were provided

**180+**

Volunteer opportunities were delivered

## Young Volunteers

Since we work with young people from the age of 5 up to 18, we are privileged to be part of their journey towards adulthood. We provide opportunities for young people to build employability and life skills, through supported placements in our open access children's and youth work programmes. Young people have an individually tailored plan, with our Volunteer Development worker supporting them along the way. We have six young volunteers at the moment. Young volunteers also help with local projects such as helping with the community garden.

Other areas that we have been developing are young people led consultation and evaluation in our open access programme and setting up a young person's committee that will represent the views of young people coming to PYCP and connect with our Board of Directors.

# Highlights

The biggest highlight of the year was being able to work face to face again after the lockdowns of the pandemic. It was amazing to be with young people and colleagues again and see our centre come to life again!



We launched our new logo!



Young people enjoyed a huge range of activities in holiday programmes. Summer 2021 was a combination of face to face and online activities. We did a Biodiversity Trip with the National Museum which was great fun and we learned all about plant and animal life. We also went on trips to Deep Sea World, Foxlake, Innoflate and East Links Farm.

A group of young people took part in the Youth Work Games, organised by Muirhouse Youth Development Group, where we took part in outdoor games, painting, canoeing and archery.

In October 2021 we did outdoor Parkour, trips to Gravity Park and Halloween themed activities.

In summer 21 we made over 3000 "PY Picnics", ensuring that young people had nutritious food every day in the school holidays. We also provided lunches in October, February and Easter holidays, about 15000 meals altogether!



This year we purchased "Silent Disco" Equipment and young people (and staff) have had lots of fun. We have also been able to lend the equipment to community partners. Young people have loved this experience and it has really boosted confidence and wellbeing.

Youth workers Harry, Chloe and Danni took a group of children to Ardvullin House in the Highlands in May 22, through our partnership with Hopscotch Holidays. It was great for the children to have a holiday after the restrictions of lockdowns, and they had great fun doing rock climbing and horse riding.



We celebrated our 25th Birthday this year, with a community event attended by over 400 people! It was brilliant to see so many turn out and enjoy a barbecue, cakes, bouncy castle, prize bingo and a photo exhibition.



PYCP took part in an independent appraisal of our work led by the Poverty and Inequality Research Unit at Glasgow Caledonian University. Members of staff and families shared their experiences of our services including our holiday food provision. It was concluded that PYCP are a vital community resource.



# Development Work

## Projects

We have undertaken a range of projects within our services in the last year, including designing play spaces with the National Galleries, helping in the Community Garden, learning about Biodiversity with the National Museums and healthy eating with the Science Festival.

A significant project has been working towards our LGBT Youth Scotland LGBT Charter mark. As well as training for the staff team and board we have done lots of awareness raising with young people, celebrating Pride month, making an LGBT+ Icon display, making hanging rainbows in P5-7, rainbow baking and badge making and our S1+ Drop In had a Pride Silent Disco.



## Practice

In April 2019, the First Minister committed to incorporating the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into the law in Scotland. At PYCP we are committed to promoting awareness of Children's Rights and ensuring that a Children's Rights approach underpins all that we do. So far our team have participated in two part Children's Rights Training with Children in Scotland, developed an action plan and taken part in consultation and campaigns as part of our membership of Together: the Scottish Alliance for Children's Rights.



## Team Development

After a challenging few years of lockdowns and long periods of remote working, the PYCP team have enjoyed being back together working with young people in the centre. We have had a number of team development sessions this year, exploring Children's Rights, working towards our LGBT Charter Bronze Award and looking at new ways to evaluate our work.

Our team have participated in group and individual training in themes such as Child Protection, Food Hygiene, First Aid Training, UNCRC/ Children's Rights, Helping Children to Recover from the Pandemic, Attachment, Trauma and the Teenage Brain.



## Partnerships

Working with other organisations ensures that we can reach the best outcomes for children, young people and families. We grew some amazing partnerships in the last year including becoming a member of the Respond and Recovery (R2) Group, working with 30+ other organisations with a shared vision for a resilient and sustainable community. We also ran a wellbeing based project with Thrive Edinburgh, a group work programme for children living in Port of Leith Housing Association flats in Granton, working with other youth agencies to develop a new Youth Work Strategy for Edinburgh, becoming part of the new BWell Together collaborative and lots more!



# Financial Report 21-22

## Incoming Resources:

Project Grants	£	523,214
Donations		2808
Investment Income	£	99
Total	£	526,121

## Resources Expended:

Governance Costs	£	6,401
Charitable Costs	£	474,163
Total	£	480,564

## Thanks to our funders, supporters and partners..

Agnes Hunter Trust  
Airbnb  
Children in Need  
City of Edinburgh Council  
Community Mental Health Fund  
First Sentier  
I.G.Y. Foundation  
KPE4 Charitable Trust  
The National Lottery Community Fund  
Radio Forth Cash for Kids  
Pure Offices  
The Robertson Trust  
The RS MacDonald Charitable Trust  
Police Scotland  
Shoosmiths  
Sir Tom Farmer Foundation  
Walter Scott  
West Granton Housing Association  
Youthlink

Alison McLuckie and Mark Stares  
Bookbug  
Broughton High School  
Circle  
Craigroyston Community High School  
Craigroyston Primary School  
Ferryhill Primary School  
FetLor Youth Club  
Forthview Primary School  
Fresh Start  
Granton Youth  
Intercultural Youth Scotland  
LGBT Youth Scotland  
Lothian Association of Youth Clubs  
Mental Health Foundation  
Muirhouse Youth Development Group  
The National Galleries  
The National Museums Scotland  
NHS Lothian - Healthy Respect  
North Edinburgh Arts  
Pirniehall Primary School  
Port of Leith Housing Association  
The Science Festival  
Spartans Community Football Academy  
Stepping Stones North Edinburgh  
Thrive Edinburgh  
Wester Hailes Youth Agency



# Our Staff Team

## Management Team:

Lesley Ross - Project Manager Youth Work, Employability and Volunteering  
Laura McLaren - Project Manager Children's Work and Intensive Support  
Debbie McMillan - Business Manager

## Youth and Children's Work team

Adele Irvine - Senior Youth Development Worker  
Adrianna Marcantonio - Youth Development Worker  
Aga Jankowska - Adventure Development Worker  
Harry Munro - Youth and Children's Worker

## Intensive Support Team

Brian Grestorex - Intensive Support Worker  
Chloe Thomson - Intensive Support Worker  
Jill Hume - Intensive Support Development Worker  
Kasia Boro - Youth Wellbeing Worker  
Rachel Joyce - Intensive Support Worker

## Alternatives to Crime (FACENorth)

Katie Grover - Alternatives to Crime Worker  
James Riordan - Alternatives to Crime Worker  
Michael Block - Alternatives to Crime Trainee Worker

## Support Staff

Catherine Dodds - Cleaner

## Sessional Workers

Bonny Third  
Caroline Baird  
Caryn Lumsden  
Chloe Thomson  
Danni Spencer  
Fiona McGillivray  
Luisa Columbo  
Morag Lamond

## Youth Work trainees

Aaron Chambers  
Ben Maginnis  
Cara Conway  
Jodi Andrew  
Katelyn Reid

## Volunteers

Maria Stirling

## Board of Trustees

Roger Candy - Chair  
Lauren Purdie - Acting Treasurer  
David Philips  
Jacqueline Michie (appointed 24 August 2021)  
Mark Wilson  
Morag MacPherson  
Stephanie Gray (appointed 21 Feb 22)

Arabella Kornahrens (resigned 22 June 2021)

John Nicholson (resigned 27 July 2021)

Megan Binns (resigned 8 November 2021)



## Special thanks to...

Sadly, the last year saw the end of two long term projects and staff moving on to new opportunities. Our three year Adventure Play project came to a close in Summer '22 and we said goodbye to Aga Jankowska, our Adventure Development Worker. Aga brought her breadth of play based experience and was a fantastic help in starting our play journey.

In Spring 22, the FACENorth project also ended at PYCP, after several years supporting young people involved in or at risk of being involved in criminal activity. Katie Grover, James Riordan, and Mikey Block showed great passion, resilience and commitment in their work and we thank them for this.



Pilton Youth & Children's Project

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