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Annual Report

2022 – 2023



Pilton Youth & Children's Project

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Chair's Report

Reflecting on my first year as Chair of PYCP, I feel incredibly proud to lead an organisation that's so close to my own roots in Pilton. It's a privilege to be part of something that plays such a crucial role in our community. The landscape for charities today presents formidable challenges, with an increased demand for services coinciding with tightening funding conditions. Yet, in the face of these challenges, PYCP, largely through the work of its leadership team, has continued its development towards a more sustainable funding model.

I would like to thank our leadership team, staff, and volunteers, whose dedication and hard work continue to drive the project forward. Equally, our community partners and funders have been fantastic in their support, for which we are immensely thankful.

Additionally, I want to extend a special thank you to the broader Pilton community, and particularly to the children and young people who engage with our services daily. Your involvement is what truly makes PYCP the special place that it is within the community. Together, we are not just responding to immediate needs but are actively enriching the lives of many, creating a robust foundation for their futures.

Mark Wilson, Chair

Managers' Report

As we look back on the last year, it's heartening to realise how much we have grown and developed. Despite the challenges that have persisted post-pandemic and the impact of rising costs, we have not only sustained, but expanded the services we offer. We've seen a significant increase in the numbers of young people engaging with our services, with notable diversity in cultures and ethnic backgrounds. This enriches our work and enhances the experiences and understanding among the young people who are part of PYCP. We also had some exciting service developments. This included the introduction of group work support for children, building on our mental health support for age 12+ and securing ongoing funding for our family project. Forming new strategic partnerships has been key to our success this year, enhancing our resources and enabling us to reach more children and young people.

We have had a fun packed year in open access provision, from making bug hotels in our community garden, to building rockets with Edinburgh Science Festival! We continued to provide a range of play opportunities and the children loved using our new "Vibes Zone" sensory space. Our youth clubs have seen huge numbers, testimony to the positive relationships our team build with young people. This has also allowed us to explore a range of themes with young people including our LGBT Charter work, learning about Black History Month and exploring how we can stay safe online. We have also seen growth in our young volunteers programme, had some amazing youth work trainees join our team, and started to develop our new Youth Committee.

We are really looking forward to seeing what this year has to bring and with continued support from our funders and partners, we are confident in our ability to adapt and grow in response to the needs of our community. 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 our community.

Lesley Ross & Laura McLaren, Project Managers



Introduction

About Us

At the heart of our community since 1997, we provide a wide range of services for children and young people age 5 to 19. Families living in West Pilton and surrounding areas can face multiple disadvantage and we provide support and opportunities to help them thrive. Our busy centre has a large sports hall, an art room, dance studio, kitchen area, soft play room and lots more, and is a safe, welcoming place.

Our core team are supported by sessional youth workers and volunteers, many who have grown up in the community and attended PYCP in their youth. We are governed by a Board of Trustees who bring a diverse range of skills and experience.

Mission

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



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.

Services

We provide a wide range of activities at PYCP which are constantly evolving to meet changing needs in our community. These are divided into three broad service areas:

- Targeted Support
- Open Access Youth and Children's Work
- Volunteering and Progression Routes for Young People



Children's Work



A review of the year..

Primary 1 to 4 Clubs

We had a fun packed year in our primary 1 to 4 “Junior Clubs”, where children met after school every Friday. Children always had a healthy snack, including “Fruit of the Week” and we put our new juicer to good use coming up with lots of interesting flavours! Having our garden space really encouraged children’s interest in growing and all things nature. We even made our own jam from berries growing there. We also worked with Ann, the Community Garden volunteer to make bug hotels and grow and learn about herbs. Children loved using our Vibes Zone, making creations such as sensory bags and lava lamps to take home. We also enjoyed doing science experiments, badge making, clay modelling, making salt dough, dodgeball, basketball and so much more!!

“

I love coming to Friday Club, the workers are kind and I have made lots of friends.

”

400 different activities in 2022/23

9000 spaces filled in children’s clubs

200 children attended 80% of the year

Play at PY

At PYCP, we believe that play is vital for healthy child development. We provided lots of opportunities for our younger children to play, getting messy making slime and gloop, or building with LEGO. We have lots of imaginary play resources and we loved to see the adventures children created. We also continued to promote reading, continuing our partnership with Little Free Libraries and having Story Sessions in P1-4 Clubs.



Primary 5 to 7 Club

This is an ever popular club, with attendance reaching 70+ at times in the last year. Young people enjoyed coming after school to let off steam with their friends and chose from a range of activities including arts and crafts, cooking and sports. We offered a healthy snack each week with lots of fruit and vegetables. Our art room was full of creativity, where groups did origami, made bath bombs, decorated canvas bags, made loom bands and made candles. We also got involved in some great projects that you can read more about on page 10. Young people also loved playing sports together, such as basketball and football. We had lots of brilliant discussions over the year, around themes such as cyber safety, managing friendships and exploring worries about the transition to high school.

“

The garden is the best bit, it’s good to get outside and learn about nature.

”



Youth Work



A review of the year..

Girls Group

This is a weekly group where young women age 12+ can meet in a safe space to do fun activities, build skills and get peer and staff support. Activities we enjoyed during the year were baking, glitter tattoos, cross stitch, playing Uno, making mirrors, making shrinkies and making creations with hama beads. The group was a great platform for exploring a range of topics and issues, and we did activities around LGBTQ+ awareness such as making pronoun badges, celebrating LGBT History Month, quizzes and more. We also celebrated International Women's Day, discussing women we admire and why. We also took part in some research with Children in Scotland about alcohol advertising and the impact it has on young people.

“

Is it just me, or do you feel like a massive weight has been lifted? (after a discussion about friendships).

”

600 different activities in 2022/23

11,000 spaces filled in youth clubs

250 young people attended 80% of the year

Harm Reduction Work

We did a range of themed work across our youth work programme, including sessions on Sexual Health and Relationships. Our youth workers also engaged in lots of discussion with young people about alcohol use, ways to improve their wellbeing and coping with bullying.



Wednesday and Friday Hubs

These youth clubs offer young people a choice of activities and space to be with friends and have support from youth workers. As always, food was a really important part of the Hubs and a hot snack or meal was always on offer, plus opportunities to get involved in cooking activities. Our Gaming Zone was also really popular and we used this as a way of chatting to young people about online safety. The young people who attended in the last year were from a range of ethnic backgrounds and we made sure that we created discussions and activities so that young people could learn from each other about their cultures, including celebrating Black History Month. Activities young people enjoyed this year were football, basketball, juice pong, bingo, mosaic and coaster making.

“

It's good you can come to PY and get fed 'cos lots of us have no money.

”



Volunteering & Progression Routes



A review of the year..

“

Being a volunteer helps me feel good about myself.

”

“Learn2Lead” Volunteers

We provided 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 had an individually tailored plan, with our Volunteer Development worker supporting them along the way. This year, young volunteers helped with local projects such as the community garden. Other areas that we developed were young people led consultation and evaluation in our open access programme. Four young volunteers also completed accreditation this year.

1575 trainee placement hours completed

1000+ Teen Boutique items sold

200+ opportunities given to young volunteers

Trainee Youth Workers

As a part of the North Edinburgh Youth Work Academy (NEYWA), working with youth work partners, we provided five youth work trainee placements. These 10 week placements offered young people from the community the chance to learn all aspects of youth work and also undergo training. One of our projects that trainees got involved in was "Teen Boutique", a pop up shop that has been running for the past five years in PYCP. It is an opportunity for local young people and their families to buy upcycled/preloved clothing at affordable prices and also learn more about the environment, waste and landfill challenges.



Youth Committee

This was a major focus of development this year, where we researched how other youth organisations provide a structure where young people take a lead role in representing the views of other young people. By the end of 2023 we were ready to set up our own Committee.

“

I have learned loads about being a youth worker, I know it's the job for me.

”



Targeted Support



A review of the year..

1:1 Support

Our open access programme has a range of benefits for young people, but some need more intensive, tailored support. The aim of our 1:1 support service 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 50 young people, aged 9 to 18, helping them reach outcomes such as improved mental health, increased school attendance, more positive family relationships, safer choices and increased social networks.

“

I feel more positive about life after getting 1:1 support, I can deal with things better.

”

50 young people had at least 10 weeks of 1:1 support

1530+ 1:1 and group sessions delivered

110 young people reached positive outcomes from 1:1 or group support

“Roots & Branches” Group work

We also continued with our “Roots and Branches” nurture group for young people age 12+, designed to increase social networks, develop confidence and to support each other with common issues. Young people enjoyed sharing a meal each week and did lots of fun activities. We were sad to say goodbye to Brian our lead worker who developed this programme and who made such an impact on the young people who have taken part.



Primary Group Work

Having observed many children who were struggling to engage in learning, we developed a group work programme called “Best Me”. The idea was that we would build resilience, self esteem and team work skills, through fun and educational group activities. Having piloted this with one group, we then developed the programme further, using the new National Youth Work Outcomes and Skills Framework. This incorporates Children’s Rights and aims to build confidence, resilience, coping skills and increase support networks. Over the ten weeks we focused on having positive role models, managing emotions and reducing risk taking behaviour. We are currently delivering this programme to Ferryhill Primary School.

“

I am better at taking turns now and have learned how to be kind to my friends.

”



Targeted Support



BWell Together

Funded through the Community Mental Health Fund, we formed a partnership with Circle, Granton Youth, Intercultural Youth Scotland, Muirhouse Youth Development Group, Stepping Stones North Edinburgh and Wester Hailes Youth Agency. This is known as “BWell Together” and each organisation provides a specialism. Our worker supported young people aged 12+ with their mental health. Many of the young people referred were so anxious that they were not attending school and many were socially isolated. Anxiety and low mood were common reasons for referral. We provided regular 1:1 sessions and helped young people develop coping strategies and supported them into social activities which improved wellbeing.

“

I have seen a big difference in J since he started working with you, he's been at school more and I haven't had to keep getting on at him to go as much as before. It's been good getting him involved in youth clubs too he seems a lot happier.

”

“Habits of Happiness”

As well as our support team completing a range of training including “Understanding the Teenage Brain” and “Trauma Informed Practice”, our Family worker began her journey this year to become a “Habits of Happiness”, facilitator. Working with “The Habits of Happiness Coaching”, who are Edinburgh based, she completed 8 weeks of coaching so that she could coach young people in this wellbeing programme, and then moved onto facilitator training so that she can train colleagues to deliver the coaching programme.



38 young people had wellbeing support

500+ BWell support sessions delivered

25 children and their parents were supported

Family Support Project

We delivered the third year of this project, funded by The RS Macdonald Charitable Trust and Sir Tom Farmer Foundation. The service provides holistic support to children aged 5 to 8, their parents and siblings. We developed an action plan with each family and offered support sessions, family activities and help to navigate school related issues. We also provided a range of practical support to parents, helping with employability, housing issues and access to food vouchers. This resulted in a range of positive outcomes for families, including improved engagement in school, calmer parenting and improved wellbeing. We have just been awarded a further three year's funding to continue with this project which is brilliant news!

“

I notice him being calmer at home too and actually telling me how he's feeling which is a big difference from where we were at a few months ago.

”



Projects



Just some of the projects we took part in...

Edinburgh Science Festival

We continued with our partnership work with Edinburgh Science Festival, where their team came down to PYCP to deliver fantastic sessions including rocket building! We also visited some activities as part of the Science Festival in Easter '23 at the National Museum.



“

Making a rocket was really good, I hope we get to do that again!

”

Contextual Safeguarding

In early 2023 we did some work with the Contextual Safeguarding team, a partnership between City of Edinburgh Council and Action for Children. They visited our youth clubs to do a mapping exercise with young people about how safe they feel in their community. The team then did some training for our staff, learning about the risks and harms that young people can experience outside their home. We also learned how to identify young people who are victims of criminal exploitation.



150+ project sessions delivered

70 young people participated in research projects with partners

200+ children and young people participated in project activities



Sea Change with the National Museum of Scotland

At the end of 2022 we started working with the National Museum planning an exciting project focussing on climate change and sea pollution. The aim was to participate in creating a piece of artwork with Maori-Scottish Artist George Nuku that would be displayed in the National Museum. Each week the young people worked with artist Hannah Ayre learning new art techniques using materials found on local beaches and other natural items. One week they took a trip down to the National Museum Collection Centre to get behind the scenes and see art and precious artifacts. The next step of the project was to create the installation in summer 2023 and we look forward to telling all about this in the next annual report!

What's next?

In April 23 we started working on a year long project with Imagineate, the national organisation in Scotland, that develops, celebrates and presents theatre and dance for children and young people.

“

I've never done anything like this before... ever!

”

Holiday Programmes



A review of the year..

School holiday programmes

We provided packed holiday programmes in every school holiday except Christmas (when staff had a proper rest)! The holiday programmes included a variety of building based activities as well as trips to places of interest.

Some of the activities we did last year were: Fun Clubs for primaries 1 to 7, Circus Skills sessions, Movie Clubs, Roller Skating, Dalkeith Country Park, Beecraigs Park, Ryze Trampoline Centre.



The Safari Park was amazing, I have always wanted to go! Thank you PY!



75+ activities provided in summer 22

4000+ free lunches given out each day in school holidays

2000+ spaces taken up on trips and activities in school holidays

PY Lunches and more..

Having recognised the impact on families of not having access to school dinners in holiday time, we set up our own holiday meal programme back in 2014. Since then, we have delivered thousands of lunches to local families, including throughout Covid 19 lockdowns. We also provided additional assistance to those families most in need, through access to vouchers to buy provisions and helped Cash for Kids distribute Winter Grants. We also worked with Cash for Kids again at Christmas, applying for gifts for children and young people which helped many families especially with the pressures of the Cost of Living Crisis.



Hopscotch Holiday

We were very fortunate to have the opportunity again of a holiday for 12 children to Ardvullin, a holiday centre near Fort William, through Hopscotch Children's Charity. Hopscotch provides breaks for young people all over Scotland and most years we get a chance to take a group of 12 young people. This was an amazing experience where the children went horse riding, rock-climbing, on a beach trip and cycling.



I loved learning circus skills it was something new and really fun



Developments



Fundraising

We refreshed our Strategic Plan in 2022 and developed a series of new fundraising objectives. This included increasing our unrestricted income which allowed us to pay for essential building and staff costs that were more difficult to fund in project applications. This security meant we could focus on developing our programmes and finding new ways to grow and develop. We also decided to grow our relationships with corporate funders and formed some brilliant partnerships that not only brought financial support but a range of other benefits such as decorating our centre, helping with the Community Garden, providing resources for our new “Vibes Zone” sensory space and donations of Easter Eggs, Christmas presents and much more! We were also successful in securing funding for projects including family support and group work programmes for children.

£127,248 raised in unrestricted income

£349,801 raised in restricted income for projects and services

15 new partnerships developed

Strategic Partnerships

As well as working with a range of delivery partners, we formed a range of strategic partnerships. Our Project Manager was part of the group responsible for developing the new Edinburgh Children and Youth Work Strategy. We also became a representative on the Locality Operational Group, a collaborative body that bring together professionals from various sectors to address the needs of children, young people, parents, and carers. We also continued to work closely with other community youth work organisations as part of North Edinburgh Youth Work Consortium.

Climate Change

In 2022, we formed the beginnings of our Five Year Net Zero Plan, which includes a proposal to look at energy savings and greener building modifications. Part of our Environmental strategy is to continue to develop projects with young people and families. The Community Garden behind our centre is a great platform for this and we partnered with Link Up, North Edinburgh Grower’s Network and Edible Estates in outdoor projects. We also had 30 volunteers from corporate organisations volunteering in the garden.



Practice development and training

This year the team were not only busy delivering services, but we invested in a range of training and practice development. This included working towards our LGBT Silver Charter Award, where staff did training and planned themed activities for young people. We also became members of Together: The Scottish Alliance for Children’s Rights and completed two levels of Children’s Rights training, including developing an action plan of how we will further embed rights based youth work practice.



Finances

Incoming Resources

Project Grants	£ 230,453
Donations	£ 244,782
Investment Income	£ 1,814
Total	£ 477,049

Resources Expended

Governance Costs	£ 7,540
Charitable Costs	£ 411,030
Total	£ 418,570

Thanks to our Funders



Baillie Gifford
Cash for Kids
Centrica - Scottish Gas
Children in Need
City of Edinburgh Council
First Sentier
I.G.Y. Foundation
KPE4
Merchant Bank
Port of Leith Housing Association
The RS Macdonald Charitable Trust

The Scottish Government -
(Community Mental Health Fund)
Scottish Police Fund
Shoosmiths (Charity of the Year)
Sir Robert McAlpine
Sir Tom Farmer Foundation
Tudor Trust
Walter Scott and Partners Ltd
West Granton Housing Association

Thanks to..

Donations from

Marks & Spencer
Pennies from Heaven
Pure Offices
PY Pals
Teen Burn's Ball
Unite



Community Challenges

Centrica - Scottish Gas
DIS Copenhagen University
Shoosmiths

Other supporters and partners

Action for Children
Broughton and Craigoyston High Schools
Children in Scotland
The City Arts Centre
Circle
Craigoyston, Ferryhill, Forthview, Granton,
St. Davids and Pirniehall Primary Schools
Edible Estates
Edinburgh Science Festival
Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council
Fat Brestovci
FetLor
Fresh Start
George Nuku
Granton Youth
Habits of Happiness Coaching
Hannah Ayres
Intercultural Youth Scotland
Link Up
Little Free Libraries



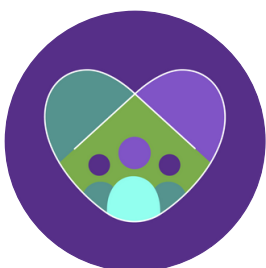
Lothian Association of Youth Clubs
Muirhouse Youth Development Group
The National Museum of Scotland
North Edinburgh Arts
North Edinburgh Growers Network
Pilton Community Garden Volunteers
Police Scotland
Scottish Book Trust
Spartans Community Football Academy
Youth Work team
Stepping Stones North Edinburgh
Wester Hailes Youth Agency
Wonderbox
YouthLink Scotland

for your
support

Thanks to our Team



and thanks to
all our youth
work trainees
and young
volunteers!



Board of Trustees

Roger Candy (Chair)
David Phillips
Mark Wilson (Chair from January '23)
Lauren Purdie
Jacqueline Michie
Morag Macpherson
Allison Bertsch
Lucy Frazer
Stephanie Gray

Core Staff Team

Adele Irvine (Senior Youth Development Worker)
Adrianna Marcantonio (Youth Development Worker)
Agnieszka Jankowska (Adventure Play Worker)
Brian Greatorex (Intensive Support Worker)
Catherine Dodds (Cleaner)
Chloe Thomson (Intensive Support Worker)
Debbie McMillan (Business Manager)
Eva Stanley (Youth Wellbeing Worker)
Gillian Hulbert-McVay (Volunteer Development Worker)
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Jill Hume (Family Worker)
Katarzyna Boro (Youth Wellbeing Worker)
Laura McLaren (Project Manager)
Lesley Ross (Project Manager)
Rachel Joyce (Intensive Support Worker)

Sessional Staff and Volunteers

Ben Maginnis (Sessional Youth Worker)
Bonny Third (Sessional Youth Worker)
Caroline Baird (Sessional Youth Worker)
Caryn Lumsden (Sessional Youth Worker)
Danielle Spencer (Sessional Youth Worker)
Fiona McGillivray (Sessional Youth Worker)
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