

RENFREWSHIRE  
YOUTH VOICE



# RENFREWSHIRE YOUTH VOICE ANNUAL REPORT

1ST APRIL 2024 – 31ST MARCH 2025

SC047299



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# OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

This year has honestly been amazing for all of us at RYV, and we've achieved so much more than we ever expected. One of the biggest highlights was definitely our first ever Night at the Bungalow. It was such a vibrant, creative event that really brought our community together. Over 140 young people came along, filling the place with energy, positivity, and a real love for music.

We had loads of incredible young performers from across the local area showing off their talents. It was the kind of night where you could properly feel the talent and creativity coming from young people in Renfrewshire, and it left everyone buzzing afterwards.

Another standout moment this year was our 12th Annual Positive About Youth (PAY) Awards. The PAY Awards are really special because they were created by young people, for young people, as a way to recognise the amazing things we do in our communities. It's all about celebrating those who go out of their way to support others, make positive changes, and show leadership and kindness. Being part of an event that uplifts young people and gives them the appreciation they deserve felt incredibly empowering. It reminded all of us how much young people can achieve when we support one another and come together as a community.

Overall, it's been a year full of creativity, celebration and it's only inspired us to aim even higher next year.

**ISLA GRIMES &  
JACK MCLAUGHLIN  
CHAIR & VICE CHAIR**





# A YEAR IN PICTURES

## APRIL 2024 – MARCH 2025

### APRIL



### MAY



### JUNE



### JULY



### AUGUST



### SEPTEMBER



### OCTOBER



### NOVEMBER



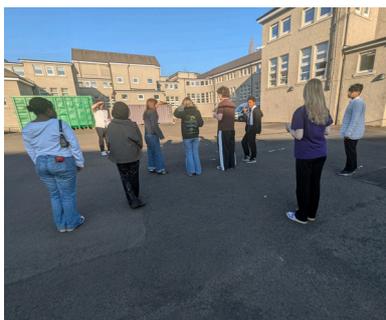
### DECEMBER



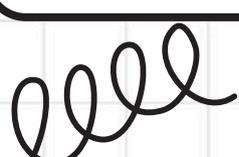
### JANUARY



### FEBRUARY



### MARCH



# CHARITY GOVERNANCE

## GOVERNING DOCUMENT

We are a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation and regulated by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. As such charity law requires that we maintain a governing document and it takes the form of a constitution. This is enhanced by a number of policies that we have developed to accompany our constitution. Some of our policies are accessible on our website alongside our constitution.

## THE BOARD

We are a membership organisation and as such we consult our members and take direction from them regarding charity governance. The leadership of the charity is the responsibility of the board who are elected annually at an annual general meeting. Board members consist of officeholders and trustees. It is the responsibility of our board members to make sure we are meeting our charitable aims and objectives.

## APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEES

Appointment of Trustees is the responsibility of the current sitting board who elect new trustees upon receipt of an application to become a trustee. Once a new trustee is appointed the membership, they are invited to participate in a vote of investiture within a 4 week period of appointment.

Due to the regulatory changes requiring the registration of all charity trustees, we are in the process of our trustee selection system and will be updating our constitution in due course to reflect these changes.

# CHARITY AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

## About us

We are a youth charity run by young people with a dedicated board. We bridge the gap between young people and the decision making process both locally and at the national level.

We have worked with various third sector organisations and partners such as:

- Scottish Youth Parliament
- Young Scot
- Transport Scotland
- Education Scotland
- Renfrewshire Council
- Renfrewshire Youth Services
- Engage Renfrewshire

## Our Aims & Objectives

- To facilitate and organise activities for young people aged 12-25, who either live or regularly use services in Renfrewshire.
- To provide young people with a safe and friendly environment where they can participate in youth voice activities to ensure they have a say in decisions within the local area.
- To equip young people with soft-skills such as teamwork, organisational skills and improving their self-esteem and confidence.
- To alleviate the effects of poverty amongst young people, by promoting a culture of inclusion and tackling any forms of discrimination.
- To work with local organisations, business and the local authority in the best interests of young people.

We cover the entirety of the local authority area and as such we act as an umbrella organisation helping to represent, support and promote smaller youth voice groups/youth groups through our affiliate membership scheme.

## Our History

Since RYV began in 2003, we have served as a youth forum and continue to do so today.

We were originally a space for Renfrewshire's elected Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament to meet with the young folk of Renfrewshire, almost like a surgery.

We have since then grown into the wide-reaching organisation we are today, our mission being to bridge the gap between the young people of Renfrewshire and the decision making processes that impact their lives.

# MEET THE

# BOARD



**Isla Grimes**  
Chairperson

This position is responsible for overseeing the general governance and running of Renfrewshire Youth Voice.

**Jack McLaughlin**  
Vice-Chairperson

This position is responsible for assisting the chairperson in overseeing the general governance and running of Renfrewshire Youth Voice.



**Jennifer Gardyne**  
Communications Director

This position oversees the upkeep of RYV's social media presence and website, and other miscellaneous communications roles.

**Reagan Fitzsimmons**  
Secretary

This position covers internal communication and communication between RYV external organisations. Furthermore, the Secretary has the responsibility for maintaining charity records and ensuring adherence to charity law and regulations.



**Robin Moffat**  
Treasurer

This position is responsible for recording and monitoring activity on RYV's financial accounts. Furthermore, the Treasurer is responsible for budget development and for approving charity expenses.

**Niamh Quinn**

Positive About Youth Awards (PAY) Director

The PAY Director is responsible for overseeing the co-ordination, planning and delivery of the awards night. This is the highlight of the year for RYV and gives us a chance to celebrate the achievements of young people and challenge some of the negative stereotypes of young people in the media.



## Our Trustees

Our trustees also sit on the board. These individuals and organisations act in an advisory and supporting role. Using their knowledge and expertise to assist our board. Trustees will also fill vacant board positions in an ex officio capacity.



**Renfrewshire Council  
Youth Services**  
Trustee



**Adrian Mckechnie**  
Trustee



**Daniela Onyewuenyi**  
Trustee

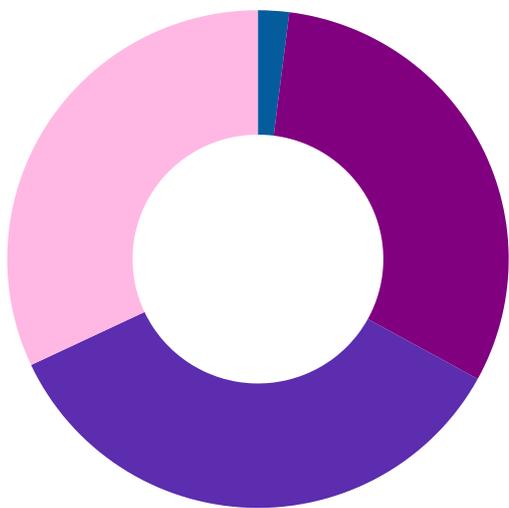


**Alex McCracken**  
Trustee

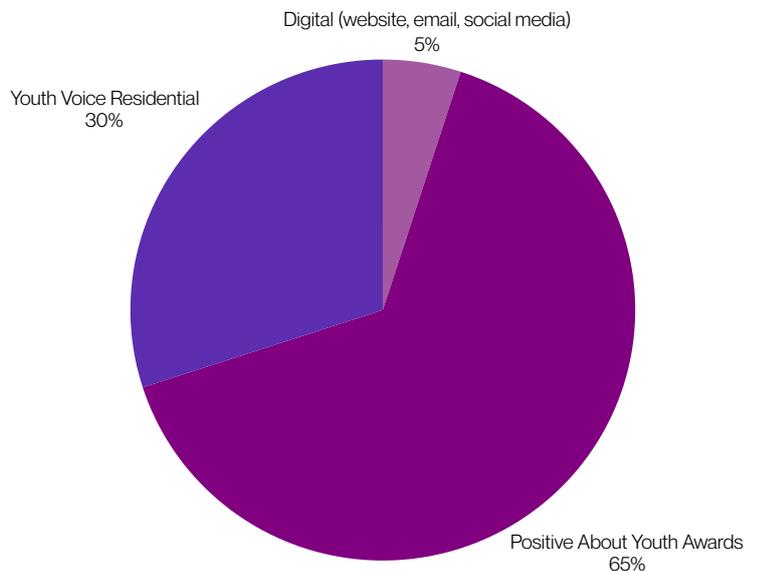
# Funding and Spending



**Funding Gained:**  
In 2024-25 we gained £13,670 in funding:



**Spending:**



Digital Roadshow PAY

- £200 Engage Renfrewshire Sponsorship** 2%
- £3,970 National Lottery Grant** 31%
- £4,000 Celebrating Renfrewshire Positive About Youth Awards** 32%
- £5,500 Celebrating Renfrewshire LGBT Safe Space Group** 35%

**Digital (website, email, social media): £375**

**Positive About Youth Awards and Roadshow: £4637**

**Youth Voice Residential: £2160**

We couldn't do what we do without the generous grants and donations from our funders and donors. Most of our money is spent on providing events and activities for young people, this is a common theme that has come out in consultation work.

This helps us to recognise and celebrate the achievements and successes of young people across Renfrewshire, work with the community and spread the word that we are here to represent the views of young people.

We have been grateful to receive funding, donations or donations in kind to continue to do the work we do.

# OUR HIGHLIGHTS:

Throughout the year we have been able to engage with a number of young people through various events and consultation work:

## Events and Activities:



**Positive About Youth Awards  
26 Nominations.**

This culminated in 7 categories of awards, with 9 winners and 10 runners up.



150 young people and families attended Positive About Youth Awards.



We ran Youth Voice Residential in partnership with Youth Services to local youth voice Groups.



We came together as a team to increase skills and take on new challenges.



We took part in Youth Scotland's Bored Meetings? Training.



We launched our Band Night event which garnered 140 attendees.



We increased their partnerships with local youth voice groups and East Renfrewshire Youth Voice.



We planned the Youth Assembly on current local issues with other local youth voice groups and Youth Services.

## Social Media Engagement:



35 Social media posts across Facebook and Instagram



350 likes on Facebook and Instagram.



# Members of the Scottish Youth Parliament (MSYP) Update



## WHAT IS IT?

The Scottish Youth Parliament represents Scotland's young people, advocating for their participation in shaping the nation. Locally, MSYPs are supported by Youth Services, which provide training, personal development, and empowerment, promoting democratic literacy through a youth work ethos.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- MSYP's have been able to tie into RYV on events and activities like the Residential, Band Night and Youth Assembly.
- MSYP's attended National Sittings in Stirling and Aberdeen on workshops that allowed them to gain key skills for roles and build partnerships.
- MSYP's undertake training and support to carry out local and national work.
- MSYP's consult with young people about local issues based on motions that are put forward.
- Isla Grimes MSYP puts forward motion on LGBT+ Education at Stirling Sitting.
- Daniela Onyewuenyi becomes Trustee at Scottish Youth Parliaments and Renfrewshire Youth Voice.



## WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR RYV?

MSYPs connect RYV to the Scottish Youth Parliament and decision-makers, helping improve outcomes for young people. Integrated into RYV or Erskine Youth Council, they work on consultations, campaigns, and events. Renfrewshire has 5 MSYPs, each representing a geographical area to engage with local constituents.

# POSITIVE ABOUT YOUTH AWARDS (PAY)

Recently, we had the 12th Annual Positive About Youth Awards (PAY), this amazing event is a way to show our appreciation to young people that have done a great amount of good deeds in their community by having a positive impact.

This has been done by young people volunteering their time, especially those who go unrecognised for the work they are doing. This event is to show how much young people actually do across Renfrewshire. It was amazing and refreshing to see dedicated young people all together in one place to celebrate their achievements.

This year, the event was held at the Normandy Hotel, and over 150 people turned up to show their gratitude and support on the incredible young talent in our community. The atmosphere was full of excitement, with proud families, friends, and community members all gathered together to honour these awesome individuals.

There were 26 nominations in total, all submitted through a network of partnership organisations. After a lot of careful review, the nominations were sorted into six award categories. nine winners were chosen, along with 10 runners-up, and everyone who was nominated showed outstanding dedication, passion, and determination. Whether you won or were a runner-up, it was clear that young people are making huge contributions to our community.

The Positive About Youth Awards were created to push back against the negative stereotypes of young people often shown in the media. The event gave us all a platform to highlight the great work we do and remind everyone that we're not just the leaders of tomorrow – we're also making a difference today. The ceremony was a brilliant reminder that young people's hard work and achievements should always be celebrated and recognised.





# PAY 2024



# Renfrewshire Youth Voice Bored Meetings? Training Evaluation

## What is it?

Bored Meetings? Not here! This was an interactive programme we got stuck into, where we take part in loads of practical activities. It's all about helping us build confidence, take the lead, and learn the skills we need to be part of a youth forum or board. It's hands-on, empowering, and gives us the tools to make our voices heard where it matters.

## Why did we do it?

We felt it was important to undertake this training to improve how we run as a group, particularly in understanding our roles, how to take part in decision-making and how to manage any tasks or issues that arise.



## From our training:

Agree that we're encouraged to ask questions in meetings, the language is easy to understand, and we know when we're there to speak up for others and get the support we need to do that properly.

Agree that it's clear how and when decisions are made, we're kept in the loop about what's been decided, everyone impacted finds out what's going on, and our involvement is checked regularly to make sure our opinions actually count.

Agree that we can add our own agenda items, we're involved in a way that feels genuine and important, and the meetings are held in a relaxed and friendly environment.



## We feel:

- More confident about the purpose of meetings.
- Better equipped to manage conflict within the group.
- Empowered to speak within the group.
- Are more aware of how decisions are made during meetings.
- Are able to take up different roles as part of the group.
- Know the structure of our meetings.



## Our space:

- Meetings are productive and respectful.
- Our meetings are a safe space where we can speak our minds.
- We can listen to everyone's ideas and put them into action if needed.

## Quotes:

"I feel more capable to run and lead on meetings"

"I feel we understand our roles better, this will help us fulfil them"

"I feel more comfortable speaking up in meetings"

# What Our Members Say

"It's a supportive and inclusive environment. and a space that's easy to share your opinion and feel heard"

"RYV is a place to be yourself. An environment that welcomes everyone and encourages you to develop and grow"

"RYV helped me to become more confident in voicing my opinion and gave me a safe place to be myself"

"Being part of RYV has enabled me to be a champion for young people's voices at a local level"

"RYV has helped me to find my voice as a young person. It's a great place to grow and to expand your horizons through volunteering"

"RYV is a safe space for me to grow more capable in a leadership role and allows me to socialise with people often"

"RYV is a place that gives young people a voice about things they are passionate about"

"RYV is a safe place that brings power and voice to young people"



# CASE STUDY: NIGHT AT THE BUNGALOW

Free music event hosted by Renfrewshire Youth Voice, in partnership with The Bungalow.



## BACKGROUND

As part of our work, we had noticed a gap in the amount of free activities which young people could attend in the local area. We thought that hosting a band night would be a popular event – as it would allow young people to experience the local talent in a safe and welcoming environment.

We sought out “The Bungalow” as it is a social enterprise as well as an established music venue in the local area which we believed it would be ideal for our event!

After confirming the venue we began our search for performers – we ended up with a great mix of both bands and solo performers with a colourful variety of genres on display.

## WHAT HAPPENED

This event was great for us to work as a team and really take the lead in organising a free event that any young person in Renfrewshire could attend, we had 7 performers who had the chance to shine on the night.

We were blown away with the popularity of the event as 140 young people attended, the overall atmosphere was relaxed and enjoyable. We think attendees had a great time, this would be encouraging if we ran this event again.

The staff at the bungalow were amazing in helping us to pull the event together, by giving us the venue and staff costs in kind. This helped us to get the most out of our budget and ensure the event was as as inclusive and welcoming as possible.

The popularity of this event has shown the appetite amongst local young people who would like more events like this to happen, this is something we would welcome and be happy to host again and are already looking at plans for next year. This kind of event also helps us to get a wider reach of young people and spread the word about the work we are doing, as well as seeing if anyone would be interested to join RYV.



## THE CHALLENGES

For us the challenges were focused on:

- Spreading the workload amongst all members.
- Making sure the schedule of bands were on time and equal.
- Adding more tables and chairs to accommodate more people.
- Sharing the event on wider channels and promotion of bands.
- Building and enriching our partnership with The Bungalow.

## NEXT STEPS

We are looking to host this event again in the summer of 2025 and we are hoping to make it bigger and better this year, using the skills we have learned from this year.



# Partnership working with Renfrewshire Council Youth Team

Renfrewshire Youth Voice (RYV) was established in 2003 in response to the absence of formal structures enabling young people to express their views across the Renfrewshire area. The organisation was created to ensure that young people have a meaningful voice in local decision-making.

Since its inception, RYV has developed significantly. In 2025, the charity continues to hold charitable status and has successfully delivered key initiatives, including the Renfrewshire Positive About Youth Awards, which have been held annually for the past 12 years. These events celebrate the achievements and contributions of young people within the community.

**The Renfrewshire Council Youth Team has remained committed to supporting RYV by providing guidance and capacity-building for its board, which is comprised of young people. We are proud of the charity's progress and the positive impact it has made locally. We look forward to contributing to its continued development and future projects.**

**As a trustee, we will maintain our commitment to good governance and collaborative working with all board members. We will continue to identify opportunities to strengthen the charity's governance and ensure its sustainability."**

**John Kennedy, Renfrewshire Council, Youth Team Service Delivery Lead.**



# GET INVOLVED, JOINING AND SPONSORSHIP

## **Young Person:**

Looking to get involved with RYV? If you're between 12-25, come join us at Youth Services Base – West Primary School, Newton Street, Paisley, PA1 2RL, every Thursday from 5:30-7:30pm. It's a great chance to take the lead on local issues, plan exciting events, and develop new skills. We'd love to have you there and hear your voice!

## **Trustee:**

If you're 16+, you can also get involved as a trustee. This means helping us make sure we're running smoothly and legally. You'll support our team by offering advice, building skills, making sure we stick to our rules, and helping us manage money properly. Trustees also play a big part in planning, fundraising, and helping us build connections so we can grow. While you'll guide us, we'll be following the ideas and direction of the young people leading the charity.

## **Sponsor:**

If you're a local business or organisation, you can support us as a sponsor. This means providing financial support or resources to help us run events and projects. Sponsoring RYV comes with great benefits, like positive publicity, showing you care about youth empowerment, and building links with the local community. It's a chance to make a real difference while boosting your brand's reputation for being involved in social issues.





# In the coming year..

As we look ahead to the coming year, we look forward to continuing our work within our community through strengthening our relationships with our fellow **youth voice groups** as well as forming similar relationships with **Renfrewshire's decision makers**.

On top of this, we also intend to create more of a presence within the local area amongst young people. Our main means of doing this will be through hosting more **"Nights at the Bungalow"** due to the great success of the first event this year.

By continuing these events not only do we provide young people with fun and **safe spaces to hear live music** and socialise with others their age, we also - by making the event free help to ease the financial stress we know burdens many of Renfrewshire's young people.

Furthermore, we hope to once again celebrate the wonderful achievements of the youth of Renfrewshire by hosting our 13<sup>th</sup> Annual **Positive About Youth Awards** later in the year.

We always look forward to this event, even more so with the addition of working with Engage Renfrewshire to present the **Saltire Summit Awards** on the night and with the privilege of hosting even more young performers.

# TRUSTEE'S AND DECLARATION



A. McKechnie

Adrian McKechnie  
Trustee

Daniela

Daniela Onyewuenyi  
Trustee

Alex

Alex McCracken  
Trustee

John Kennedy

John Kennedy  
Youth Team Service  
Delivery Lead



Renfrewshire Youth Voice c/o Youth Services, West Primary  
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