

2017-18

Annual Report

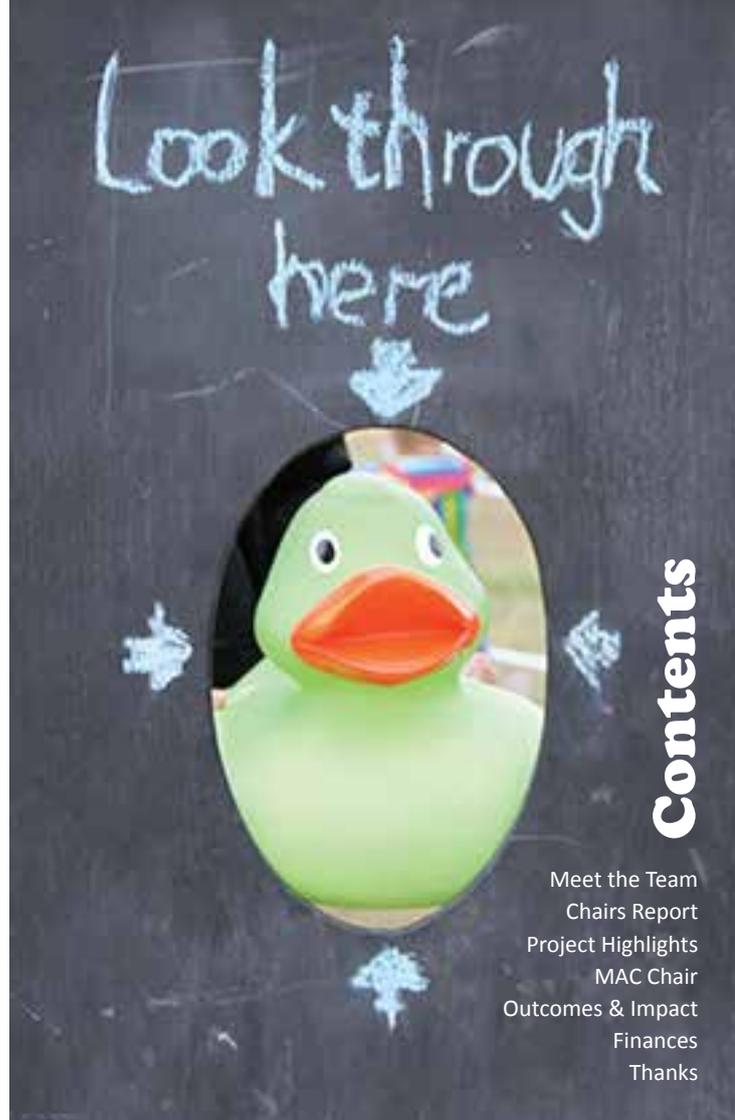
Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the great work we achieve across the community at Aylesbury Youth Action!

With over 1400 hours of volunteering completed, there have been many highlights this year for me. Towersey Festival was a brilliant weekend, with volunteers planning and leading the Youth Festival Tent across the four days, with activities including henna, circus tricks, board games, face paint, colouring and football. We have continued the important work alongside Bucks County Council across the Local Area Forum's (LAFs). Projects have taken place in Wendover, Greater Aylesbury, Great Brickhill, Wing and Ivinghoe and Winslow. The projects range from forums for young people, to filming and editing their voices and opinions. Our inter-generational project, Generate, also continues to be one of our most popular projects, with over 260 hours volunteered. This project now incorporates our After School Club as well. We are able to take disadvantaged children to local care homes and provide activities planned and led by youth volunteers for the young children and older residents. This has been hugely impactful and successful. Speaking of impact, we have now also started to implement a new 'Impact Measurement' initiative, which will allow us to better show the impact and outcomes of the work we undertake.

It has been a year full of countless achievements. We hope you enjoy reading about our year and our volunteer success stories make you smile!

Rebecca Williams
AYA Manager



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- Chairs Report
- Project Highlights
- MAC Chair
- Outcomes & Impact
- Finances
- Thanks

Meet the Team

Covers the period: September 2017 to August 2018



Rebecca Williams
Charity Manager



Melissa Basile
Assistant Manager
(until Mar 2018)



Melinda Orton
Finance and Admin
Co-ordinator



Rafiq Mohammed
Project Worker



Rebecca Acres
Project Worker
(until Mar 2018)



Honorary President

Keith Smith OBE, is our Founding Chair of Aylesbury Youth Action and is currently our Honorary President.

Board of Trustees

The Management Committee is composed of members of the community with knowledge, experience and an interest in youth volunteering.



Richard Stansfield
(Chair)



Simon Garwood
(Vice Chair & DSP)



Rob Marshall
(Treasurer)



Stacey Barry
(Secretary)



Rich Snaith
(Trustee & DPO)



Jason Burton
(Trustee)



Don McLaren
(Trustee)



Martin Oliver
(Trustee)



Jade Clarke
(Trustee)



Alex Moss
(Trustee)

We welcome two new trustees.

*Pat Shelley
Dermot Kennedy*



Richard Stansfield
AYA Chair

The Charity's activities during the year have been exciting and challenging but after over 47 years of existence we are still ensuring two constants:

- ★ *our aim continues to provide exciting volunteering opportunities for young people through community projects for social action.*
- ★ *our young volunteers, although forever changing over the years, continue to be enthusiastic, creative and extremely committed to giving their time and energy.*

Message from the Chair

The last 12 months has been very challenging with a number of funding issues and organisational/structural demands. The organisation has responded well to these challenges and has now achieved an improved organisational and structural base from which to move forward.

AYA Manager Rebecca Williams has now been in position since July 2017 and has established herself as an effective leader of the team. Rebecca has worked with the Trustees to reassess the priorities and resources of the Charity and a new structure and reduced fixed cost base has been implemented. The new structure not only reflects the refocused priorities but also provides a more flexible and improved approach for delivering future and ongoing projects. The new structure includes a part time administration assistant (still being recruited) and a realigned role for Melinda Orton enabling a greater focus on bid writing for fundraising to assist Rebecca. The structure also includes a project coordinator providing a more effective and simpler management across all projects. The transformation to the new structure has increased planned costs both for redundancy of a previous project worker and additional migration costs to the new structure.

The Financial accounts for the year show a disappointing deficit of £19,051 (2016/17:

£13,619), impacted by challenges in raising funds in the later stages of the year and the planned changes in staff and management structure during the year to refocus the organisation onto a lower future cost base. This has impacted severely on the reserves position and the Trustees are in agreement that this cannot be ongoing and hence the decision to restructure and reduce the cost base.

The charity is budgeting for a smaller deficit of £9,000 in 2018/19, to be driven by a combination of increased income and reduced expenditure. Although our budget reflects the challenges experienced in 2017/18 the Trustees will be working to try to reduce the budgeted deficit further.

The Charity exists to provide a platform for young people to give their time freely for the benefit of others. The Trustees' role is to be the guardian of the Charity and to ensure its sustainability. However it is the young people's organisation and we strive to be Youth led in all we do. The Trustee Board now reflects a more youthful and balanced structure and we are continuing the drive for additional Trustees reflecting the younger profile and background of our volunteering base. The Management Advisory Committee (MAC) which consists of young volunteers continues to provide a fundamental role in being youth driven and is

instrumental in helping drive project creation, development and delivery as well as providing guidance and stimulating input to the Trustees.

During the past year our programme of volunteering activities has continued to be diverse and exciting for young people within Aylesbury Town and selected areas within Aylesbury Vale. The Beams projects covering After Schools Club, Young Carers and Tasty Teas are being refocused but continue to deliver a much needed support to community groups. The Generate project activities continue to be successful through a number of care homes and elderly groups and deliver an excellent way for young and older generations to interact to the benefit of both. Through the Local Area Forum funding targeted projects agreed with the local communities are delivering local young people volunteering projects in Great Brickhill, Ivinghoe, Pitstone, Wing, Wingrave, Wendover, Winslow and Buckingham. These activities ensure a much needed local priority is supported through young people freely giving their time. Our projects also focus on providing key activities across the Summer holiday period when we provide volunteering projects, in conjunction with local partners, for young volunteers.

A key development this year has been our involvement and effectiveness in the use of social media to communicate and promote opportunities and benefits. We now have an ongoing programme of activity across a number of social network platforms ensuring our message is pertinent and

relevant. A particular success has been the development, through young people, of the You Tube channel #AYA inspires. An exciting spinoff from our You Tube work has been the excellent and exciting opportunity it has given the young people involved to learn and practise new skills.

Going forward there are a number of new project ideas which are currently being worked on to provide exciting and ongoing opportunities for young people and local communities.

The Trustees are currently developing a revised strategy and Business Plan to take the charity forward. This will reflect the continuing changes in the local environment, driven by local authority developments towards Unitary structure and the changes in youth organisations within Aylesbury Vale and the County. These potential changes will have an impact on future funding opportunities and sustainability of smaller charities and the revised strategy will need to position the charity to respond to these challenges.

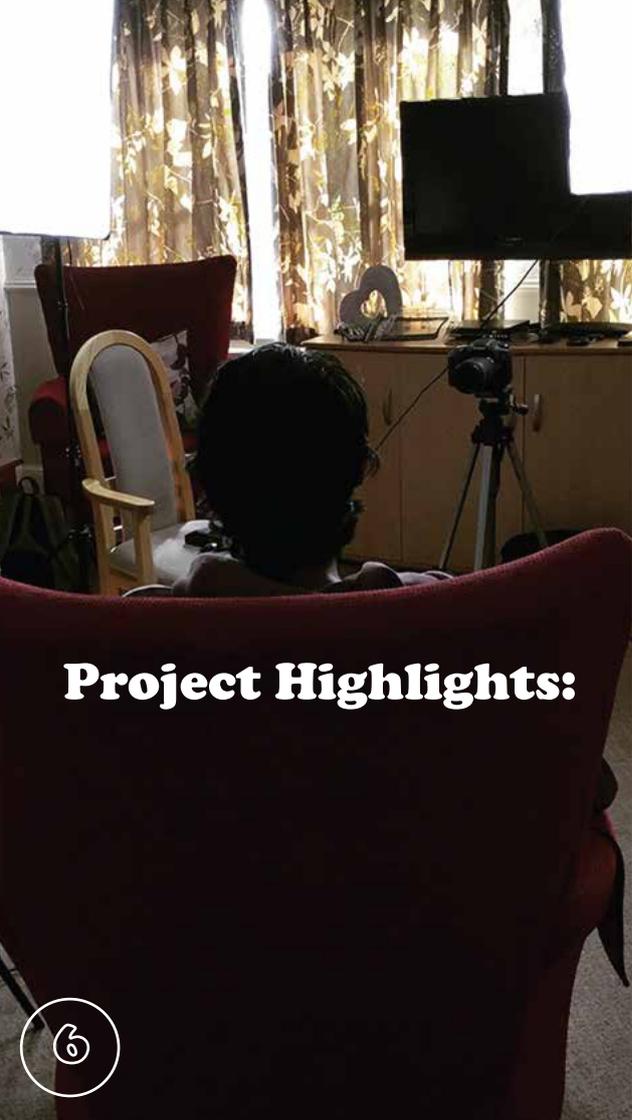
Funding continues to be a challenge with further retrenchment of local authority funding and the tightening of other funding opportunities and requirements. We are very appreciative of the continuing funding support we receive from Aylesbury Vale District Council, Williams Harding Trust and Buckinghamshire County Council. The work we undertake with a variety of Parish Councils through the Local Area Forums continues to develop and we are very appreciative of their

support. We are also very thankful to a number of other one off funders who have provided financial support for specific projects. The staff team and Trustees are enthusiastic about the year ahead and will continue to work on meeting our activities' needs and to obtain funding to ensure future sustainability.

The year has been challenging for the Trustees but the Board continues to develop as a team and is extremely committed to work with the staff team to provide important support and guidance utilising their individual experience and skills. During the year we welcomed two new Trustees who were co-opted who will bring some additional skills and experience to the Trustee group.

The Trustees wish to thank the staff for their hard work during the year and congratulate them on their many successes. We are extremely grateful to the many donors who have enabled the Charity to be able to offer exciting opportunities for young people's development and community service.

Richard Stansfield
AYA Chair



Project Highlights:



You Tube #AYAinspires

Funded by Aylesbury Vale Town Council & Heart of Bucks: #iwill Social Action Fund

#AYAinspires is a You Tube project that showcases the great work of AYA across Aylesbury Vale.

The videos are made by young people for the young people. Each video takes time and patience to produce, with a storyline, editing and producing the short stories. There are a variety of videos to choose from; animation, seeing what fun and exciting activities happen at a care home, issues that the young people are facing in the local community and stories of how volunteering has helped a volunteer and his personal battle.

#AYAinspires has completed its pilot year with great reviews. It has now been fully funded by Aylesbury Vale Town Council and the #iwill Social Action Fund via Heart of Bucks.

Our current aim is to think of subjects that may harm young people's mental health and give them tips on how to overcome anxiety. This will, of course, be led by our young people!

The funding also incorporates two trips into London to link up with the Young People's Health Association and their

partnership organisations. The YPHA have already visited us in Aylesbury and given a workshop on 'What does health mean to you?', which was held at Youth Concern. This was a successful day in which the young people had a lot to say!

We will be attempting to increase our impact by recruiting further young people to this project and linking up with other like-minded organisations. To watch these videos, type #AYAinspires in the search bar in You Tube or follow the QR code here:



*AYA You Tube Channel QR Code.
Scan with your QR app on your mobile phone to access our channel or type in #AYAinspires in the You Tube search bar.*

Project Highlights:



Beams: Children's Programme

*Funded by Heart of Bucks: Rectory Homes & Main Grants
The Woodward Charitable Trust*

The Beams programme include all children's projects, events and activities, including our main weekly projects.

Tasty Tea - Young Carers - After School Club

Beams continues to be an extremely successful project, incorporating our work with the Vineyard Church, which are held weekly on a Tuesday during term-time and across each Thursday during the holidays. This project continues to be one of our most popular, with at least 8 volunteers per session and a high number of volunteering hours accounted for across the year. We have also assisted at Bucks Young Carers club nights throughout the year, ensuring they have further assistance across their activities to support young carers across Aylesbury Vale.

This summer, we assisted the Jonathon Page Play Centre by holding activities over three sessions. The children enjoyed our different games

and we hope to continue this relationship within future holiday schemes. We also continued our relationship with Action for Children by assisting them at their sessions for children with additional needs across the summer holidays. We are grateful to be able to continue to assist these organisations and thank them for welcoming us within their communities.

Thank you to Heart of Bucks Main Grants and Rectory Homes Grant Scheme and The Woodward Charitable Trust for their funding support across these projects. We would be unable to provide our volunteering opportunities without your support.



Project Highlights:



Local Volunteering

Funded by Buckinghamshire County Council

We are continually trying to reach young people all over Aylesbury Vale and we have been funded to provide volunteering activities for Winslow, Great Brickhill, Wing, Ivinghoe, Wendover and the outskirts of Aylesbury Town.

Greater Aylesbury

The Greater Aylesbury project in partnership with Barnardos helping to setup a Youth Club at Griffin Place, this incorporates our hub for the GA LAF project of a Youth Forum within this area.

Our main object of this project is to provide a voice for young people to be heard within the Greater Aylesbury area. The forum will be held alongside the Youth Club, which means a higher number of young people are accessing the programme, as well as having their voices heard.

We have now also linked up with Bucks Youth Voice, who will advertise our forum on their Bucks Family Info page.

We have recently completed an Open Day with Aylesbury Vale Academy, where we presented to five Year 10 groups, and held a stand all day with information on our projects and volunteering opportunities. We have

also linked up with the Healthy Living Centre to incorporate another area for our forum, in the hope that we will be able to recruit young people from that area also.

Winslow

The Winslow project covers the community directly in Winslow and the areas around the town. AYA have been in partnership with the Winslow Community Bus, allowing connections to be made between other groups like Winslow Young Carers. We hope to include some social trips as well as community linked events like the Christmas Shopping event with residents of all ages from the Winslow area. We hope to continue to expand the project to include schools and other charity partnerships to discuss further volunteering opportunities in the area.

Great Brickhill, Wing and Ivinghoe

After the success of the Wendover project we have developed and expanded the idea to cover the Great Brickhill, Wing and Ivinghoe (GBWI) area. The project aims to connect young people living in the area, their parish councils and their local community. AYA utilises our relationships within the local areas to work with youth clubs across each location, forming small groups from each youth club and utilising film, fundraising and volunteering. We aim to support the young people to think of ways in which they can promote and help fundraise for their local communities, such as 'tea-parties' or a local fayre for business stalls and charities.

For the filming section, the videos created incorporates a combination of different sessions with young people, discussing their concerns regarding their local community. The young people go out into the local community and interview local residents regarding their opinions of the local area. Once the film has been created, this gives young people an opportunity to present their findings Local Councillors and discuss their concerns. In performing this project, young people will learn how to work within a democracy, showing that they have the ability to make a difference in their community.



Wendover

The Wendover project has been running for just over a year now and aims to connect young people with the community and Local Councillors through the medium of film. This is in partnership with Wendover Youth Centre. We arrange to attend the Youth Club and speak with the young people, ask them their views on their area and what they would change. They are then given the opportunity to ask Councillors questions regarding their concerns. We then ask them for ideas as to how they could improve their area, taking into account what they have learnt. We have finished the first cycle for Wendover and the surrounding areas; Weston Turville, Aston Clinton and Halton, and are embarking on the completion of this project, with consideration to their skate park and safety issues surrounding this.



Project Highlights:



Generate

Funded by AVDC

Generate has developed into a fantastic project this year, with funding from AVDC.

Volunteers meet residents, offer companionship and listen to the older generation's unique stories. We have also began to bring children from the After School Club project in to meet with the residents, making this project even more intergenerational!

Furthermore, there are different activities every week to offer, such as

the resident's favourites- bingo to virtual reality (VR). From the comfort of the sofa, residents can have a virtual tour of anything they please, from sunny California to swimming with dolphins. Volunteers work together to make sure the activity that they help organise are a success while offering support and encouragement to other volunteers to have an enjoyable experience.

Volunteering at St Leonards is a thoroughly rewarding experience.

Heidi, Volunteer

**“Thanks for a fun afternoon.
Good to see you all.”**

Ruth Webster
(St Leonards Residential Home)



Project Highlights:

Events and One-off Projects

We are continually trying to reach young people all over Aylesbury Vale and we have been funded to provide volunteering activities for Winslow, Great Brickhill, Wing, Ivinghoe, Wendover and the outskirts of Aylesbury Town.

Towersey Festival

We travelled to Thame Showground to take part in Towersey Festival 2018. We have a long-standing relationship with the festival and this year did not disappoint. AYA were tasked with organising 'The Hive', which was a tent specifically for Youth to hang out and take part in different activities. The four days zoomed by, with games, henna, singing, performances, colouring and projected X-box and Wii games. Our volunteers took part in lots of different festival activities, with a ride on the ferris wheel and watching a variety of bands.



**Towersey was amazing!
I loved taking part in
the Ceilidh dancing and
taking photos with
Keith the Duck.**

Mitchell, Volunteer



Talking Newspaper

The Talking Newspaper is a project where young people read and record articles from the Bucks Herald Newspaper. This enables community members who are visually impaired or have difficulty reading to have the option of receiving a weekly newspaper. AYA join a number of organisations on a rota, where we are setup with the recording equipment every three months. This is a project that young people are keen to help out on, with the ease of popping in when they have a free moment to read as many articles as they are able.



School Community Involvement

Each year, we are approached by Aylesbury High School to help some of their students complete Community Involvement over 12 weeks. The volunteers learn how the charity runs, how to fundraise, plan, organise and lead a project and then finally evaluate the process.

In 2017, the team completed a Bake Sale to fundraise a 'Christmas Movie Afternoon' for adults with additional needs. Pizza was provided and everybody enjoyed watching 'Elf'. Some of the students then became consistent volunteers, so we feel grateful to have even more students this year!

If you know a school that would like to get involved in a similar way please feel free to contact us to discuss details.

NCS

This Summer, young people completed the National Citizen Service programme via Action4Youth. During the programme, young people aged between 15-17 years are recruited to complete the three-week programme during the summer holidays. There are four waves of young people across the summer. We were involved in two ways this summer. The first week of the programme is designed to build team-work and engagement with the young people in a residential trip to Gloucester, with activities such as wind-surfing, kayaking and rock-climbing. The second week takes the team to the Action4Youth Caldecotte facility, where they are given a charity to represent and raise money for. Bex was invited to become a 'Dragon' on the Dragon's Den panel, which saw each team from the Wave present their ideas of how they will represent and fundraise for their charity. There were some brilliant ideas! We were then lucky enough to

be a chosen charity for Wave 4. Our team decided to help us raise money via face-painting and temporary tattoos at the 'Play in the Park' day held by AVDC. This was an extremely successful day, with them raising over £300. They then also completed a sponsored walk, as well as other fundraising activities. They also completed fun activities with children at Griffin Place, which was a lovely day. Over the week, the team raised over £600, which was then match-funded by the trustees Martin and Pam Reed, taking the total to £1200. Thank you to our NCS Team!



Study Higher

This year, we have teamed up with Study Higher to ensure young people across Aylesbury Vale are aware of all educational opportunities within the area. AYA was able to introduce Study Higher to various other youth organisations such as Youth Concern, Young Carers and the Vineyard Church. This ensured that they were able to engage with them to offer as much information regarding their future options as possible. We then extended our work with Study Higher by completing peer mentoring training, enabling our young people to mentor their peers regarding all of their options. Although a pilot project, initial mentoring sessions have gone well. Thank you to Study Higher for funding these opportunities.





Management Advisory Committee (MAC)

Youth Advisory Board to AYA

The Management Advisory Committee is run by the young people who volunteer with AYA. As a group, they ensure that we are primarily a youth-led organisation, representing the volunteers as a whole and suggesting project ideas and improvements to the charity.

We would like to introduce ourselves as the Aylesbury Youth Action Management advisory committee. Part of our role as the MAC is to ensure the views of the volunteers are represented in the running of the charity. It is important to us that the opinions and ideas of the youth play an integral part in the management of Aylesbury Youth Action. We are aware of the significant impact that the volunteer projects have on communities and individuals and want to ensure that this impact can continue to grow. We involve ourselves in the organisation and planning of these vital projects,

including inter-generational and children's projects, so we can make certain that the projects provide a feeling of fulfilment to the volunteers, the communities and individuals they impact and Aylesbury Youth Action itself. We look forward to expanding and developing Aylesbury Youth Action as the Management Advisory Committee.

Emily
Emily McGill, MAC Chair

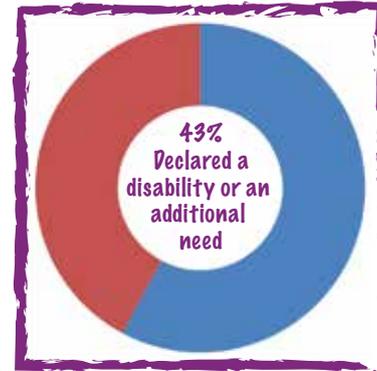
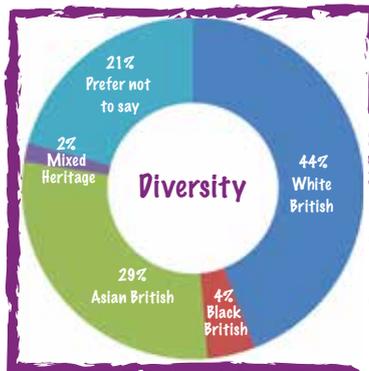
Impact Measurement

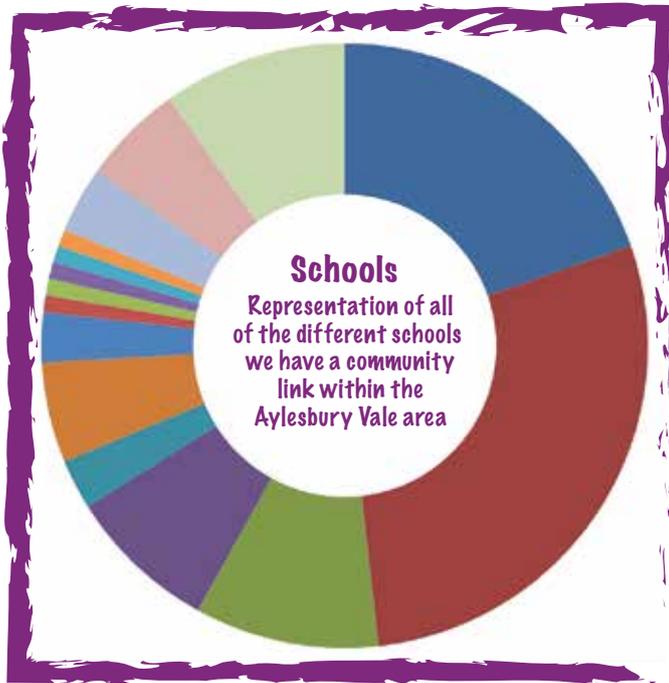
At AYA we take the long-term view of impact in the community, giving young people the opportunity to practise their life and employability skills in a supported environment, so that they may take a helpful attitude through into adulthood.

We have reviewed how we measure our impact, due to a change of charity management and the new data protection regulations. The introduction of Project Logic Models has helped us to be clearer in expressing our goals, coupled with the collation of surveys, session evaluations and case studies to capture people's experiences of volunteering. Please take a moment to read about Liz's story overleaf and how volunteering has impacted her life.

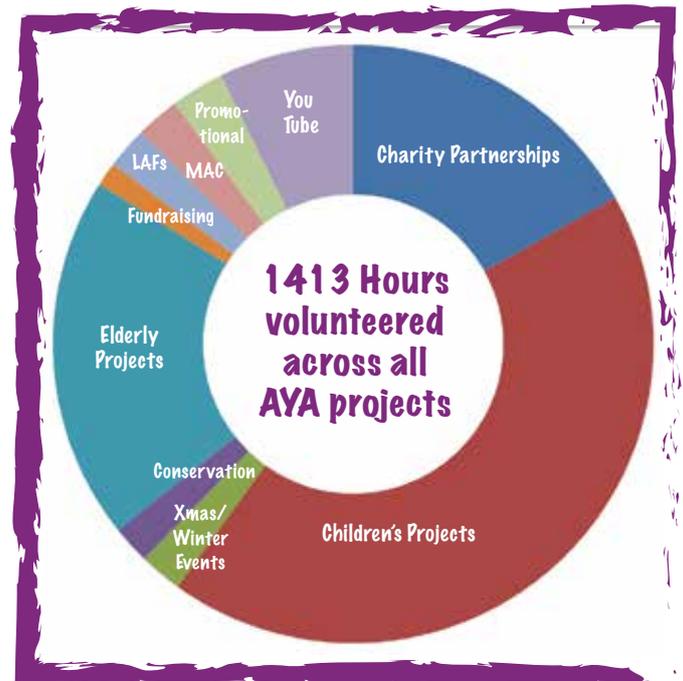
Since GDPR came into effect earlier this year, we have changed our style of reporting to concentrate on those actively volunteering, ensuring that we have a focused team of volunteers for each project. Please note that our policy now, is that any young people who have not volunteered actively for one year are quizzed to whether they wish to continue, otherwise we unfortunately need remove them from our records. This ensures that we keep a high level of enthusiasm for volunteering and have the most up to date information for anyone on our books. Of course, this does not stop anyone wishing to re-join AYA at a later date.

Volunteers Snapshot





Community Impact



Long Term Impact

Your feedback is important to us at AYA and as such we try to include as many human stories as possible. Sometimes we even get to hear of how your time at AYA has fed through into your later life.

Liz's Story

My name is Liz Armstrong and I spent many of my teenage years volunteering with AYA. I was initially aware of AYA through a presentation that a teacher at Mandeville School. She spoke of all the great things that AYA did out in the community, as well as the opportunities for making new friends and socialising through the activities, I couldn't wait to reach the age of 14.

Being a shy and socially awkward teenager, from very strict parents, I tended to be a bit of a loner only having a couple of good friends at school and was painfully lacking in confidence. I was also really unsure of exactly what I wanted to do career wise and hoped that the work of AYA might help me decide. I wanted it to be something more meaningful for me to do, than just hanging about and "wasting my time". I initially attended one of the Youth Forums and was made very welcome by a group of young people that I would never have met had I not attended, as they were all from a different school background to me. It turned out to be the best thing I ever did; being immediately apparent to me that I

had found something very special.

I was so nervous, but everyone there at my first meeting was really nice. I could never have guessed that these young people of all ages would prove to shape my whole future, both as role models and some even now are lifelong friends. I was hooked! After that memorable evening, I was volunteering four evenings a week; and The Queens Park Centre was my place to hang out with AYA friends on a Saturday afternoon. Finally, I had found a peer group where I felt I actually belonged.

I helped out weekly at a local adventure playground, with kids who had emotional and social issues, as well as putting on a disco at a local residential unit for people with profound learning disabilities. I also volunteered at the old St. John's Hospital, (a psychiatric unit now no longer in existence) providing social events for the people who lived there. My time was always well spent, doing all sorts of things from clearing out clogged up streams and ponds, to amazing residential weekends with workshops and activities, that I would not have had the chance to do otherwise.

There were also regular Volunteer's social events, so it wasn't all work, work, work. We certainly knew how to have a great time. The ultimate opportunity was being chosen to attend a Youth Volunteer Conference in Holland, representing AYA; where myself and a friend got to learn of all the great things that young volunteers were doing all over Europe. That was certainly a trip to remember and my first trip overseas.

All of these experiences proved to broaden my view of the diverse nature of the world and it was soon obvious to me that I wanted to carry on my future in the field of health and social care work. AYA also arranged regular training and education opportunities, to support the role that we played at these events, in addition to workshops for self-awareness and personal development. Much of the priceless learning I gained from this experience, I still carry with me and draw upon today.

I was so pleased when I realised that the great work and opportunities of Aylesbury Youth Action are still going 35 years on and social media is great for following the

adventures of the present team of Volunteers. Long may you continue. I would highly recommend any young person to join them.

Without Youth Action, I wouldn't have had the experience or self-confidence to take my life in the direction that I have, let alone achieving a degree at University. I have had a wide, varied and interesting career, both as a qualified Health Care professional and now supporting Adults with learning Disabilities, as a "Citizenship Mentor." I always feel as though I have come full circle, being able to reflect upon my Youth Action roots, when I took a career change from Nursing a couple of years ago, even talking of the work that I did back then, when I was interviewed. The experience is still proving priceless to me, even today.

Thank you so much Aylesbury Youth Action. Long may you all continue the great work.

Liz
Ex-Volunteer

Finances

Statement of Financial Activities

April 2017 to March 2018

Incoming Resources	£
Grants and donations	78,038
Interest and investment income	1,807
Total	79,845
Resources Expended/Losses	
Charitable activities	100,428
Outgoing Resources	
Outgoing resources	(20,583)
Gain on revaluation of investments	1,532
Deficit for the year	(19,051)

Balance Sheet

Year Ending March 31st 2018

Current Assets	£
Investments	45,125
Cash deposits	-
Cash current account	14,049
Petty cash	-
Total	59,174
Current Liabilities	
Creditors	-
Net Current Assets	59,174
Funds brought forward	78,225
Deficit for the year	(19,051)
Funds carried forwards	59,174

Thank You!

We would like to say a BIG thank you to all of the people, businesses and organisations who have supported us during the year of September 2017 to August 2018.

FUNDERS

Aylesbury Town Council
Aylesbury Vale District Council
Aylesbury Vale Community Trust
Awards for All
Buckinghamshire County Council
Heart of Bucks
Interfaith Youth Trust
Kop Hill
Mulberry Trust
Prevention Matters
Ravens Family Trust
Rothschild Foundation
Study Higher
William Hardings Charity
Woodward Charitable Trust

PROJECT PARTNERS

Aylesbury Vineyard Church
Abbeyfields Residents Care Home
Action 4 Children
Aylesbury High School
Aylesbury Grammar School
Aylesbury College
Aylesbury Talking Newspaper
Barnardos
Bromford Housing
Griffin Place
John Colet School
Mix 96
St Leonards Residents Care Home
Thames Valley Police
The Gables
Vineyard Church
Wendover Youth Centre
Womens Aid Refuge
Young Carers
Youth Concern

COMMUNITY PARTNER

Aylesbury Multicultural Centre
Aylesbury Society
Community Impact Bucks
Eagle Graphics
Morello Marketing
Queens Park Arts Centre
Small Charities Coalition
Towersey Festival
UK Youth

... and of course our dedicated young volunteers.

Contact AYA

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Queens Park Arts Centre
Aylesbury
Bucks
HP21 7RT

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Web: www.aylesburyyouthaction.co.uk

Instagram: @AylesburyYouth

Facebook: /AylesburyYouth

Twitter: @Aylesbury Youth



Aylesbury Youth Action is a registered charity
Charity Registration Number: 1165882

Donate via Just Text Giving

Text "AYAS40 £10" to 70070

This is a free service so 100% of your donation, plus any gift aid,
will fund youth-led volunteering projects in Aylesbury Town and across Aylesbury Vale.