



# PEEBLESSHIRE YOUTH TRUST

# **STRATEGIC PLAN**

## 2024 - 2027

WORKING WITH COMMUNITY TO  
EMPOWER YOUNG PEOPLE

Approved By:

**Board of Trustees, June 2024**

- BUILD RESILIENCE
- ACHIEVE POTENTIAL
- FORM RELATIONSHIPS
- ENGAGE COMMUNITY

# FOUNDATION FOR STRATEGIC PLAN

The purpose of this document is to present our vision to primarily internal, but also external stakeholders, to ensure that all parties can envisage the direction of our work and the reasons for each of our programmes. It is a tool to ensure that we all move forward in the same direction as the demands on our charity continue to grow. This plan spans the next three years but will be reviewed and adapted each year as appropriate.



## INTRODUCTION

Peeblesshire Youth Trust (PYT) was established as a charity in 2009, to address the need for support around transition to secondary school for local children.

Over the last 14 years we have become a recognised and valued organisation within the community and are now working with a record number of young people as the demand for support and the service we offer continues to grow.

In the last three years we have successfully delivered six 'Achieve Your Potential' workshop series' and supported over 145 young people through individual mentoring, group activities and peer mentoring, across all of Tweeddale. On receiving referrals via schools, statutory services, or directly from families, our internal referral panel assesses how best we can support those young people taking into consideration the individual's needs and resources available. Individual referrals from families are also accommodated. We will to continue to meet the demand, by ensuring that our work is well planned with a clear vision of what we are trying to achieve.

We have set out our vision for the next three years in this Strategic Plan 2024-27, with our programmes targeting improvement under four key strategic objectives.



# CHARITABLE PURPOSES

Our vision and aims align with our charitable purposes, as cited in the PYT Constitution, as follows:

## **WITHIN THE GENERAL GEOGRAPHICAL AREA OF TWEEDDALE, THE PURPOSE OF THE TRUST SHALL BE TO:**

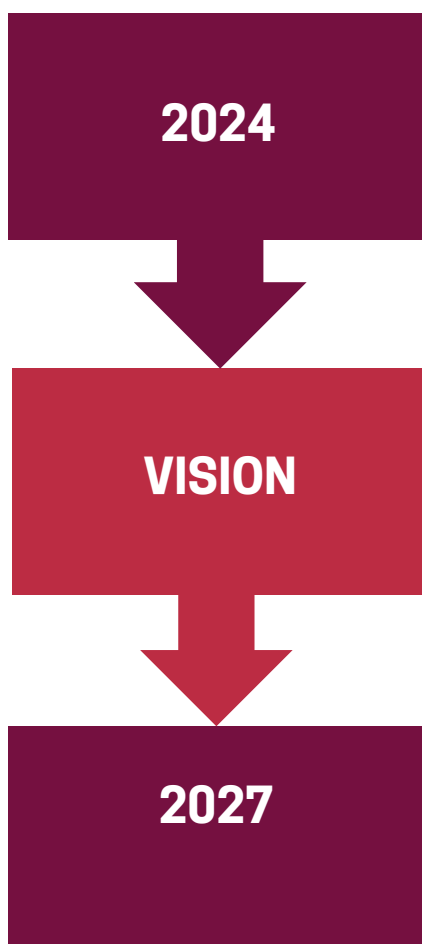
1. Prevent and/or alleviate poverty and deprivation by providing support and guidance to young people with a view to their realising their full potential within and beyond their communities.
2. Advance the education of selected young people through the provision of individual mentoring, group training and other confidence-building activities.
3. Advance young people's contribution to society, their citizenship and thereby to community development more generally through peer mentoring.



# OUR VISION

Our vision is that Peeblesshire Youth Trust will mentor, nurture, engage and encourage 10-14 year olds throughout Tweeddale, to build resilience and help to achieve their potential. We will support our young people to develop good relationships with peers and families, and to make a positive impact in their community.

Over the next three years, we will aim to:



- Continue to engage the young people that we currently support and mentor.
- Maximise the number of young people that we are able to work with.
- Expand our existing engagement with the community, working closely in partnership to improve the services offered to our young people.
- Recognise where there is a need for additional support and explore how we may meet that need with a focus on tailoring support to the best of our ability.
- Recruit, train and support a valued group of volunteers to facilitate delivery of excellent services for our young people.
- Secure and sustain financial stability and maintain the highest standard of governance.



# STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

We will strive to achieve our vision through four key strategic objectives.



## BUILD RESILIENCE

Improve confidence, resilience and self-esteem to promote good mental health in children and young people.

- We will deliver structured Achieve Your Potential workshops addressing key themes (tied in with Curriculum for Excellence) to develop confidence and positive emotional wellbeing.
- We will match young people with appropriate one-to-one volunteer mentors who will help to boost self-esteem.
- We will organise regular group activities to encourage young people to come together, enhance peer relationships and enjoy new experiences, which in turn will boost emotional wellbeing and confidence and reduce social isolation.
- Our programmes will support improved interaction with peers and the community, helping our young people to feel positive and optimistic.



## ACHIEVE POTENTIAL

Support children and young people to set goals and achieve their potential, growing in self-belief to aim for positive destinations.

- Achieve Your Potential workshops will give young people the opportunity to learn new skills and make good choices, with belief in their abilities.
- Our one-to-one mentors will encourage goal setting with their mentees, equipping them with tools to measure their progress.
- Mentors and staff will be able to take children out of their comfort zone, introducing opportunities to visit new places or try new activities, potentially reducing isolation and enabling our young people to have the confidence to expand their horizons.
- Group activities will allow our young people to push their boundaries, realising they can make their dreams become a reality and they can aim high to reach their goals.



## ENGAGE COMMUNITY

Offer support to families to address inequalities and foster engagement in the community.

- We aim to broaden our engagement with local communities, increasing our community fundraising and accessing skills and opportunities that would benefit our young people.
- We will offer opportunities to our young people to participate in activities that also benefit the wider community.
- We will continue to build upon relationships and develop projects with partner organisations, including our feeder primary schools and Peebles High School.
- We will help to diminish economic disadvantage by the opportunities afforded to our young people, and as such will encourage them to share an equal and valued role in society.
- In addition, Christmas hampers will be delivered to local families to help reduce deprivation and offer comfort at a potentially stressful time of year.





## FORM RELATIONSHIPS

Develop values of trust and respect in children and young people to encourage good relationships with peers, adults and their families.

- We will offer a range of transition activities to help young people form new friendships with pupils from other primary schools prior to moving up to Peebles High School, therefore helping with peer relationships during transition to secondary school.
- We will continue to provide support to Peebles High School by working with identified young people to enable them to fully engage in school life.
- We will help to equip families to better relate to their young people and promote good communication and relationships at home through the provision of training for parents/carers delivered in partnership with local schools and other organisations.
- Our S6 Buddies will create a foundation for our young people to achieve at high school, helping them aim to reach positive destinations at the end of school.



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Charity Number SC047324





## APPENDIX A

At a strategic level, we work hard to ensure that the views of our young people are incorporated into the strategic planning for Peeblesshire Youth Trust and, as such, have hosted workshops specifically for groups of young people as part of our strategic review.

The workshops addressed four areas in which we aimed to capture feedback from our young people:

1. How to continue engaging with our current young people (“what’s good and what’s not?”).
2. How to maximise the number of young people that we help (“how can we help more people?”).
3. How to expand engagement within the community to improve the services that we offer (“what other clubs and activities are available, and who else could we partner with?”).
4. How to recognise the need for additional support services within the community (“what’s tough out there and what else can we do?”).

The aim of our consultation was to capture and record views, opinions, ideas and suggestions, to help steer the future work of Peeblesshire Youth Trust. We achieved our outcomes through creative consultation activities, involving games, crafts, map making and quizzes, which encouraged participation whilst maintaining a sense of fun for our young people.



## Results of our consultation:

1. Our young people enjoy the support that they already receive from PYT, and that they value the programmes which we currently offer. 80% of those taking part in the consultation agreed that PYT games are fun, and that they enjoy being part of the PYT programmes. 87% stated they attend PYT activities as they love them, with only 7% saying that their parent/carers “made” them attend.
2. The young people consider that we already offer valuable services; however, we could increase our numbers in line with the aims of our strategic plan. Of those consulted 53% felt that they would like to see more of their friends coming to PYT sessions with them, despite 80% stating that they had already made new friends through PYT.
3. We consulted our young people on their current hobbies and interests (outwith PYT), and this showed that 73% enjoy playing sports and 87% love spending time outdoors. About half of the young people shared that they already engage in activities such as swimming, rugby and going to the park. From this and further discussion, it was clear that there are opportunities for us to expand our partnerships with local sports clubs. This is one area in which we will focus our expansion in community engagement in the coming years. 87% of our young people agreed that they would like to have a new hobby or sport, which also shows that there is capacity for us to expand our offering. Only 53% of those asked agreed that there was lots to do in our local area at the weekend, again reflecting that as we grow, we could fill a gap in service provision to offer places to go and/or things to do in recreational time. A huge 93% acknowledged that they feel bored when not at school, showing that even with existing services, there is a demand for more support and service provision.
4. In exploring how we could better recognise the need for additional support services, 93% of our young people acknowledged that they have seen PYT staff members within school environments. This indicates that it is worthwhile for us to pursue more work in school, as a point of access for those requiring support by PYT. By working more closely with the schools, it will also be possible for PYT to recognise and respond to any ad hoc requests for support of young people. 60% of our young people felt worried about high school, which reinforces the need for PYT to continue to offer and expand our support around transition to high school. 67% of those consulted agreed that they would talk to PYT staff about things that worried them.