

The Bank Youth Project – Registered Charity, Number 1075067

MANAGEMENT GROUP ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Management Group Members

Alison Irens	Trustee and Chair
Elaine Baker	Trustee and Vice Chair
Deborah Sterling	Trustee, Hon. Treasurer and Funding Group Chair
Zoë Williams	Trustee and Hon. Secretary (resigned July 2021)
Pauline Yau	Trustee and Hon. Secretary (July-Feb 2022)
Peter Brewer	Trustee (and Chair until Oct 2021)
Rev. Mark Rylands	Trustee
Alison Thomas	Trustee
Jo Heagarty	MG member (resigned Dec 2021)
Tonia Lewis	MG member (resigned June 2021)
Cllr Sarah Parker Khan	Ashburton Town Council Representative (resigned Jan 2022)

Staff

Julian Skinner	Lead Youth Support Worker (part-time)
Michael Park	Asst. Youth Support Worker (part-time)
Cheyann Wood	Asst. Youth Support Worker (part-time, left July 2021)
Tegan Warburton	Asst. Youth Support Worker (part-time, left Dec 2021)
Meadow Smith	Trainee Youth Support Worker (part-time, left Dec 2021)
Blair Chadwick	Asst. Youth Support Worker (part-time, left March 2022)
Kate Martin	Asst. Youth Support Worker (part-time, from Feb 2022)
Jerram Hall	Asst. Youth Support Worker (part-time, appointed March 2022)
Lesley Booker	Administrator and Fundraiser (part-time)
Narelle Lucas	Cleaner (part-time)

1. Introduction

We have emerged from Covid restrictions and now are better attended than we have been for many years. We have gone through difficult situations with staffing, and now have a brilliant and enthusiastic team. We have had changes to our Management Group, but still have a committed core group.

In July 2021 Zoe Williams, BYP's longest serving Trustee, retired, and remains an actively interested friend of BYP. In October 2021 Peter Brewer also stepped down as Chair of BYP after 15 years in the role, happily continuing his role as a Trustee. Thank you to Deborah for her hard work managing our finances.

2. Membership and Attendance

On 13 April 2021, BYP re-opened for drop-in evening sessions following the third National Lockdown. A re-opening campaign in collaboration with DYS SPACE campaign about re-opening of Devon Youth Clubs, included distribution of leaflets - produced with help from Dartmoor National Park - to local schools. Attendance began to grow gradually, and BYP adjusted its Covid precautions in line with the latest National Youth Agency advice (including use of masks, ventilation, number limits, etc). Although attendance was initially fickle as members and their families re-gained confidence, by 2022 attendance numbers were consistently among the highest in BYP's history. Among new members are many whose

families moved to Ashburton during the pandemic and who were excited to have the opportunity to integrate with the community and make new friends through BYP.

Programme

(a) Advice and Support Services

BYP continues to be a source of information, advice, support and guidance to the young people of Ashburton and the surrounding area, including:

- Group discussions and one-to-one sessions with qualified staff, with the emphasis on promoting positive values
- Working 1-2-1 to support young people with mental health issues
- Employment advice, referencing, and CV writing
- Advice and support on issues relating to training, education, health, sexual health and contraception, drugs and alcohol, relationships and family matters, housing and benefits
- Leaflets and access to information via the internet
- Signposting and referral to other specialist agencies.

Being able to provide a wide range of support services for young people offers a great sense of 'peace of mind' for them, allowing them to make informed decisions based on good quality, up-to-date information. Having a diversity of personality within the staff team, coupled with the appropriate training, allows more choice for members to be able to engage with whom they feel most comfortable.

(b) Youth Club Activities

BYP has continued to offer a variety of creative, developmental, educational, recreational and social activities, including: -

- Life skills, including speaking, communicating and self-expression
- Debates and discussions, and homework help
- Outdoor team games, and indoor games including pool and table tennis
- Quizzes, competitions
- Arts and crafts activities
- Music activities
- Outdoor sports, swimming and team building activities.

The Youth Support Workers delivered these activities with support from responsible and dedicated young volunteers, whose help continues to be particularly valued with the increasingly popular and energetic Wednesday sessions for younger members.

With a DYS SPACE Covid Relief Summer Activities grant, BYP hired Ashburton Swimming Pool for three successful evening outdoor pool parties in the summer, as well as enjoying use of the Sands Sports Court and Ashburton Recreation grounds for outdoor sports activities.

The staff team monitor behaviour, follow BYP's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, and regularly receive training.

(c) Personal Development

BYP works to support members' wellbeing and positive development as individuals, family members and members of the local community in the following ways: -

- Being able to 'let off steam' safely

- Sessions to help members develop self-esteem and self-confidence
- 1-2-1 care and 'Safe Place' support for young people with mental health problems
- Awareness raising for members on issues affecting young people, such as health and wellbeing, bullying, LGBTQ, homophobia and equal opportunities
- Encouragement of socially isolated members to become more active
- Training and positive experience for volunteer senior helpers with guidance from trained youth workers
- Helping members with homework issues, or wider educational questions
- Involvement of members in staff recruitment, planning, organising and leading activities in the BYP programme.

Issues emerging among members this past year included gender fluidity, to which the youth team responded, following training based on the 'Proud2b' movement.

(d) Community Engagement Activities

While many community activities were cancelled again this past year, BYP continued to work in a number of ways to engage with the local community, including:

- participation in: -

- Remembrance Day wreath laying ceremony
- Christmas advent window and support for the Rotary Christmas appeal
- BYP updates in *Around Ashburton*
- Bank Youth Project website and FaceBook updates
- Art & Media workshops
- Working in partnership with local businesses, organisations and individuals to bring BYP to the attention of the local community and to involve more people in volunteering as adult helpers, and as members of the management group
- Ashburton SOUP fundraising appeal, where three senior helpers contributed to making a pitch for art supply funding for BYP - winning the most votes of the evening and raising £300 for art projects
- Performance by a group of members in an Ashburton Arts Centre open mike event.

5. Staffing

There have been several staff changes in the past year, as well as the need for cover and closures at times in response to staff illness and positive Covid test results. Cheyann Wood resigned as an Assistant Youth Support Worker in July due to family bereavement. Tegan Warburton, previously a session volunteer, joined the youth team, working with Julian Skinner and Michael Park. Meadow Smith worked with supervision and training as a trainee youth support worker, while BYP researched alternative apprenticeship and training options, following withdrawal from the apprenticeship programme with Petroc. Both Tegan and Meadow left for new jobs in their fields of interest in December 2021. After two rounds of advertising and interviewing early in the new year, the Youth Team welcomed Blair Chadwick from January to March, then Kate Martin in February and at the end of March, Jerram Hall.

Lesley Booker continued work as administrator throughout the year.

Senior helpers, Sunny Smith, Jess Clark, Megan Keogh Taylor and Zoe Mandel, supported sessions at BYP, particularly the Wednesday sessions for younger members.

Staff training this past year included a full-day Emergency First Aid training course, arranged by BYP with places and costs shared with Ashburton Arts Centre and the Bungalow Youth Project in Buckfastleigh. Staff members also completed required Child Protection training,

and two members of staff completed the four-part Sexual Health training required to continue to participate as a Devon C-Card scheme provider.

The Management Group approved increases in staff pay from January 2022 following a review in relation to JNC and NJC scales.

6. Premises

BYP members were involved in proposing ideas to improve and make better use of BYP's small outdoor space. A successful application to Devon Safer Communities Trust raised £1,000 to begin the project of transforming the courtyard into a more useful and welcoming social space. It was determined that some repairs to the chimney were needed first to ensure safety, which delayed work over the winter months. Once this was complete, minor modifications to the access ramp were completed with Steve Chew volunteering his time and skills to re-weld the ramp handrail, so that members can begin the final stages of decorating after the Easter break.

Regular checks and replacements, as needed, of fire safety equipment, lights, etc. continued, and a lock was replaced in the basement door.

7. Funding

BYP is fortunate to have continued support throughout this past year from the National Lottery Community Fund with payments of £25,019 in August 2021 and in February 2022.

DYS SPACE granted £4,400, as well as a separate summer activities grant.

We are also extremely grateful for the support we receive from the community, which includes donations large and small, regular and one-offs:

Ashburton and Buckfastleigh Rotary Club	Ashburton Post Office
Ashburton Town Lottery	Ashburton SOUP contributors
Buckfast Abbey Trust	Devon Safer Community Trust
Outgoing Ashburton Portreeve, John Nutley	Stone Park neighbourhood
Anonymous donors	

8. Conclusion

We now look forward with confidence for the coming year. We have a great team, both staff and Management Group, which gives us a firm foundation on which to build our future.

Alison Irens
Trustee & Management Group Chair

Lesley Booker
Administrator

Julian Skinner
Lead Youth Support Worker

