

Structure, Governance and Management

York Schools and Youth Trust is administered and managed as a charitable trust by the trustees under the Trust Deed declared in July 1996.

The board of trustees comprises Christians from a range of churches across the City of York. The Charity is non-denominational and trustee recruitment is by an informal process. Potential trustees are recommended from within the local Christian community, they meet with some existing trustees and are given time to consider the possibility of joining the trust. Trustees are elected at the AGM or a Special Meeting called for this purpose. Trustees are elected for a three year term, and can serve no more than three terms of three years. Office holders are elected for the remainder of their current three year term.

Trustees meet once or twice each school term, with an annual strategy day and additional meetings as required. Interim meetings are held by sub-groups of trustees when required, with minutes available to all.

The Principal Staff member (Executive Officer), to whom day to day management is delegated, is in attendance at all trustee meetings.

The trustees consider risks affecting the trust from time to time such risks include:

- Issues relating to the safeguarding and protection of children and young people with whom the trust's workers are in contact. The trustees have appointed Ian Richardson, a retired OFSTED inspector, as their safeguarding officer and he provided training for staff and trustees in March 2016. The safeguarding policy is reviewed annually by the trustees.
- The trustees have remained vigilant in their monitoring of budgets in 2015/16 to ensure a satisfactory financial position.

In respect of these and other matters that may arise the trustees seek to have in place procedures to deal fully with the possible effects of such risks on the trust.

No serious incidents have occurred this year related to either finance or safeguarding.

Objectives and Activities

The trustees continue to apply the trust's funds to the objects as set out in the Trust Deed:

“Working with York Schools and churches to bring the Christian faith alive.”

In carrying out this objective the YoYo team has supported and served schools by communicating the Christian faith in ways relevant and effective to York's children and young people by:

Taking RE lessons in both primary and secondary schools
 Leading assemblies and collective worship in primary and secondary schools
 Leading Prayer Days and Quiet Days
 Supporting and encouraging staff and students through lunch time and after school clubs
 Developing resources that help and enhance the delivery of religious education
 Recruiting, training and supporting volunteers who assist in the delivery of the work in schools
 Offering pastoral support for staff and students at times of crisis and stressful situations
 Developing and delivering creative ways of communicating the Christian faith that are cross curricular

Sharing about the work in local churches who are supporters of the trust

Being involved in city wide youth work with local youth workers and other youth organisations

Working with and being involved in the year round residential programme of York Christian Youth Holidays

Staffing

The board of trustees stayed stable for the year. Two trustees resigned at the end of the year but have been replaced by three new trustees, (one of whom has been a trustee in the recent past and so already knows the charity well) so the trust is in a good position to continue to take the charity forward. The board works effectively as a team, supporting the staff workers and meeting regularly with them.

All staff, except the part time administrator, work directly with the young people of York to advance the Christian religion. The trust welcomed Isobel Barthow as a new part-time schools worker and during the year Jenny Dring went on maternity leave. At the end of her maternity cover Claire Barker was appointed on a permanent contract from September 2015 but resigned in July 2016. A new maternity cover appointment will start in September 2016.

Achievements and Performance

One of the main and ongoing achievements of YoYo is its regular clubs which are attended by a variety of students, from both a faith and no faith background. The schools highly value the opportunities that a Christian club gives to their communities.

The year round assemblies and lessons are also highly valued by both the primary and secondary schools. This can be evidenced by the fact that YoYo works in virtually all of the schools in York, with increasing regularity.

The change to working in three geographical areas has enabled more schools to be booked at key festival times such as Christmas and Easter.

The trust celebrated its 20 year anniversary with a service in September 2015 and a party in July 2016.

Strategy

A productive strategy day in March was attended by most trustees and staff members. Ian Richardson, our safeguarding officer, provided a refresher and Ian Proudler helped the team to think through the writing of a Case for Support.

Public Benefit

YoYo's provision of lessons, assemblies and clubs is available to every child, in every school in the York area, without discrimination or distinction of class, socio-economic background, colour or religion, and without charge. YoYo provides a valuable support to the schools of York in meeting the requirements of the Religious Education syllabus and by their contribution to a variety of discussions within PSHE and Citizenship studies, music and English lessons.

A full Statement of Public Benefit is available.

Financial Review

A set of the accounts for the year ending 31 July 2016 are annexed to this report.

The year started with the charity's reserves continuing to diminish. An appeal was made to supporters of the charity and the year ended with the reserves restored to a satisfactory level.

The trust's expenditure for the year was £131,439. The trust received income from donations made by churches in the York area, trusts, companies and individuals which totaled £150,336. This has resulted in an increase of the trust's reserves at 31 July 2016 to £49,089.

During the year the trust continued to use the funds previously received from the Methodist District and Henry Smith Charity and these funds are expected to be completely used by the end of January 2017. During the year the trust also received funds from the Willatts Charity which have been expended during the year.

The trust's policy is to try to ensure that at the end of each term there are sufficient cash reserves to meet the following term's expenditure. This is usually three to four months' worth of expenditure which is approximately £37,000. The year ended with an unrestricted cash reserve of £41,415 which exceeds a term's expenditure. We have no funds in deficit.

When possible, cash balances not needed for immediate use are held in either a high interest account or charity investment fund managed by CCLA Fund Managers Ltd. This is in order to maximise our return whilst minimising risk.

At the year end the trust held some stock of books to the value of £146 and is due to receive £1,960 from H M Revenue & Customs in relation to the gift aided donations received. During the year the trust received £14,000 in loans which are repayable during the next financial year. Payment of £806 is also to be made in relation to tax and pension contributions.

The trustees are extremely grateful to the supporters of the trust for this fantastic response to the request for funds during the year and to enable the trust to have a stronger base for the future.

The Way Ahead

In the 2016/17 academic year, the Executive Officer, Tony Bower, has the task of developing the new staff teams working in three geographical areas, as they seek to build partnerships with local churches and between schools and churches. In addition stronger relationships are being developed with volunteers, including providing additional training alongside the annual safeguarding training.

It is anticipated that some financial grants will be applied for to provide a firmer financial footing into the future.

In all matters the board of trustees continues to operate satisfactorily and looks forward to continuing the Charity's objectives.

Miss Heather Wraight
Chair

Mr Peter Bullock
Vice Chair

24th November 2016