



Lancashire  
Youth  
Challenge



# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

## INTRODUCTION

**Every year is vitally important for a charity which works with young people who are most in need of support. However, there is no doubt that 2019 has been the most important and eventful year for Lancashire Youth Challenge (LYC) since it was established in September 2015.**

Towards the end of 2018, the Board of Trustees recognised that LYC was at a pivotal moment in its short history. The need, value and significance of the work being undertaken by the charity and the remarkable outcomes it was achieving were undeniable. A fundamental weakness, however, was clearly identified which, if left unresolved, was a genuine threat to the future of LYC and, hence, the beneficiaries it was so successfully serving.

The crux of the problem was one of long-term sustainability. LYC had – and still does – have an excellent track record in attracting funding to deliver its many valuable activities. The Board was concerned that this successful piecemeal approach to securing funding disguised more critical issues of both maintaining LYC's operational structure and creating a more solid foundation for its future...



# INTRODUCTION

...The Board set out to address this problem by securing investment from Comic Relief to commission a business consultant to support the Board with the development of a robust business plan, fundraising strategy and staff restructure. Collectively, we identified that LYC required a Chief Executive, whose role would be to develop an approach for engaging with more strategic partners and exploring wider range income generation opportunities. The CEO would also manage a small team of qualified Youth Engagement/Pastoral workers, headed by a new full-time Youth Support Worker, responsible for front-line delivery of our programme.

Once the strategy had been approved by the Board, it was then all hands to the pump to secure the necessary structural funding. It is with tremendous pride that I can only compliment every Trustee for their wholehearted determination to achieve our aspirations. Thanks to their commitment and unstinting efforts, LYC is now facing the future with confidence after being granted £120,000, over three years, from the Big Lottery Community Fund.

Summer appointments of our Chief Executive and Youth Support Worker are already delivering wonderful benefits. The former has prepared and submitted numerous grant applications and been proactive in building new relationships with targeted key stakeholders including school partners, further and higher education partners, funding bodies and local/regional cultural, physical and artistic agencies/organisations. Our new Youth Support Worker, Sam Duckles, is also doing a splendid job in leading the pastoral development of our young people and the 'face to face' youth work.

The exciting and rewarding activities of LYC will be found elsewhere in this annual report but it is my pleasure to conclude that 2019 has proved a successful year in our objective of achieving growth and stability. We now feel confident about generating significant new income streams to diversify our financial portfolio and the potential of 'exporting' the proven LYC model to other localities in Lancashire.

**GEORGE HARRIS, CHAIR OF TRUSTEES**



# INTRODUCTION

This year has been one of considerable change in terms of our participatory output, strategic focus and staff structure. In April, our Project Coordinator Amy Selant left the organisation having coordinated our programme since early 2016 and in July the charity welcomed Sam and I as Youth Support Worker and CEO respectively.

Since July, Sam has worked tirelessly to deliver a robust, target driven 1-1 personal development programme and worked closely with over fifty local young people.

Earlier this year we launched the 'Our Place in the World' programme thanks to financial support from the National Lottery Community Fund, Francis C Scott Charitable Trust, Areti Charitable Trust, Garfield Weston and several regional and local charities.

This programme enables and empowers young people to develop their sense of place, explore and understand their emotional and physical landscape and seek to make positive changes in their lives and the wider community.

We recognise that our continued success is dependent on the retention and development of strong and meaningful partnerships and during these last six months we have continued to work closely with several local partners including: CAMHS, Bay Fit Performance PT, More Music and the Tara Centre.

We have also developed new working relationships with Lancashire County Council, Strawberry Fields Training, Lancashire Constabulary, Lancaster & Morecambe Cultural Education Partnership and Lancaster University.

I am thoroughly excited and honoured to be CEO of such an amazing grass roots charity and I look forward to leading the charity into what promises to be an exhilarating, dynamic and financially stable 2020

**GUY CHRISTIANSEN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

# OUR PURPOSE, VALUES AND APPROACH

**PURPOSE** TO NURTURE, SUPPORT AND CHALLENGE YOUNG PEOPLE SO THEY MAY ACHIEVE PERSONAL SUCCESS

**VALUES** UNIQUE  
COLLABORATIVE  
ACHIEVING  
EQUITABLE

## UNIQUE

Recognising individual uniqueness and cultural identity whilst celebrating our collective, common humanity. Providing each young person with bespoke support to enable them to identify their place in the world and make positive and meaningful change

## ACHIEVING

Empowering young people to identify their personal goals, develop their confidence and achieve their full potential

## COLLABORATIVE

Embedding collaborative practices into the work of Lancashire Youth Challenge; to ensure high quality delivery of our purpose with young people, communities and stakeholders

## EQUITABLE

Equal and equitable provision defined to meet the needs of the young people we serve

## APPROACH

Lancashire Youth Challenge believes in a strength and asset-based approach to our work with young people and we encourage the celebration of achievement, youth empowerment, collaborative working and youth led practices.

Many of the young people accessing our provision are vulnerable due to personal, socio economic and mental health related issues. Our focus as a charity is to enable young people to overcome their personal obstacles, build resilience and to be celebrated and recognised for their achievements.

To this end, when discussing or promoting our work, we adopt asset-based language and focus on the achievements and successes, rather than the vulnerability or challenging lived experiences of the young people we serve.



# PARTICIPATION PROGRAMME

## OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD

Launched in 2019, 'Our Place in the World' is an innovative three-year programme designed to enable young people to investigate and define their place in society via participation in high quality personal wellbeing projects, cultural and creative arts-based activities, community impact projects, bespoke 1-1 personal development sessions, educational events and our annual outdoor challenge programme.

As a targeted youth provision, young people are referred to the programme via local health, education and youth & community partners.

Our annual programme is delivered in partnership with industry experts and provides a voice to young people who feel disenfranchised and underrepresented; enabling them to make positive changes in their own lives and the wider community.





# 2019 PROGRAMME

Our Youth Support Worker meets every young person at least once per month for a bespoke 1-1 personal development session. These sessions are designed to identify the goals, ambitions and aspirations of the young person and to produce an action plan to assist them on their journey to success.

## ASSESS

Initial 1-1 meeting focused on trust building and getting to know the young person and their needs, aspirations and personal goals.

Identifying any difficulties, challenges and obstacles they wish to overcome

Exploring and identifying existent support structures and key people in their lives and community who can help them achieve their goals.

Identifying personal strengths and level of personal resilience.

## PLAN

Each young person will be supported to produce a personal action plan to include specific, measurable, achievable and realistic targets.

Advice, guidance and support to be offered to enable the young person to identify the steps and actions needed to achieve personal goals.

Exploration of opportunities to develop personal resilience and increase positive mental and physical wellbeing

## DO

The young person is encouraged to attempt to complete the tasks agreed and to document their successes, challenges and learning. When a young person is signposted to external provision, we shall support the young person to attend the first engagement. The young person will then be encouraged to attend independently; as part of their programme of developing personal confidence and resilience.

## REVIEW

We will review the action plan on a monthly basis to share successes, analyze learning, adapt and review the targets set.

The action plan should always be a work in progress and therefore we discuss any challenges, obstacles and issues as they arise and define approaches to overcome them going forward.

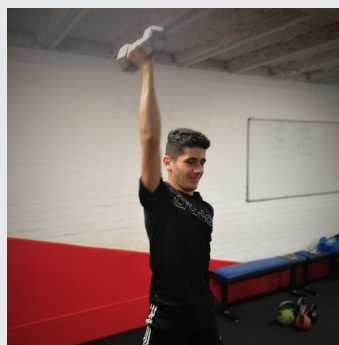


# PERSONAL WELL-BEING PROGRAMME

On Monday evenings we attend a somatic meditation and relaxation session facilitated by Reverend Jitei White at the Tara Centre, Lancaster. These sessions provide young people with the space, skills and practices to help them reduce stress and anxiety and positively enhance their mental health & wellbeing



Every Tuesday evening our team attend an intensive and fun physical fitness training session at Bay Fit Performance PT at which they use static bikes, boxing equipment, weights and cardio equipment to increase their core fitness, develop discipline and achieve their fitness goals.







# CULTURAL AND CREATIVE ARTS PROJECTS

Thanks to investment from Lancashire County Council we have been working with a team of settled Syrian refugees from Lancaster, Blackpool and the Fylde Coast. Over a ten-week period we facilitated a mini challenge programme including outdoor adventure days, cultural visits and 1-1 personal development workshops.



On Wednesday evenings, a team of young producers from Lancashire Youth Challenge, More Music, CAMHS and the Prop Up Project have been meeting to plan, organise and facilitate an evening of live theatre, music and dance performances.

The Chameleon II event takes place in December and will showcase the talents and skills of young artists whilst celebrating how high-quality arts practice can positively enhance young people's mental health & wellbeing.







# ANNUAL CHALLENGE PROGRAMME

In March we visited Grizedale Forest to complete the Go Ape zip line and tree top adventure course. This exhilarating and nerve-racking event was an amazing success with plenty of nervous laughs and giggles.



In preparation for our Hadrian's Wall challenge we arranged for the team to tackle the famous Cross Bay Walk in aid of local charity, Cancer Care. This eight-mile hike saw the team wadding through waist deep waters and navigating the treacherous sinking sands of the bay.

In August a team of sixteen young people completed the Hadrian's Wall Challenge; hiking over fifty-miles from Hedden-on-the-Wall, near Newcastle to Carlisle Airport. This epic adventure took just over four days to complete, with the team walking an average of twelve miles per day.

The amazing Phil and Andy from Big Adventure ensured we completed each day safely and on time; whilst also educating us all about the various flora and fauna we discovered en-route. The challenge was a fantastic opportunity for our young people to get outdoors, test their fitness, overcome fears and discuss a whole range of topics from the history of Hadrian's Wall to the meaning of life!



# SECONDARY SCHOOLS, FURTHER AND HIGHER EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

We have strong working relationships with Central Lancaster High School and Bay Leadership Academy who both referred young people to our 2019 programme.

Working in partnership with Lancaster District CVS, the Children and Family Wellbeing Service and Police we have been engaging targeted groups of young people at Secondary schools across district; providing workshops on citizenship and positive life choices.

We are very excited to be working closely with the widening participation and outreach departments at Lancaster University on the development of a formal partnership which aims to provide an educational foundation to the 'Our Place in the World' programme.

## PRESS & PROMOTION

Earlier this year we commissioned freelance journalist Louise Bryning to promote our charity in the local and regional press. Louise did a fantastic job and our work has featured in the Visitor, Lancaster Guardian and the prestigious Lancashire Life magazine.

We have continued to work with the excellent Adam Bannister, Barefoot Designer who manages and maintains our excellent website.



# VOLUNTEERS

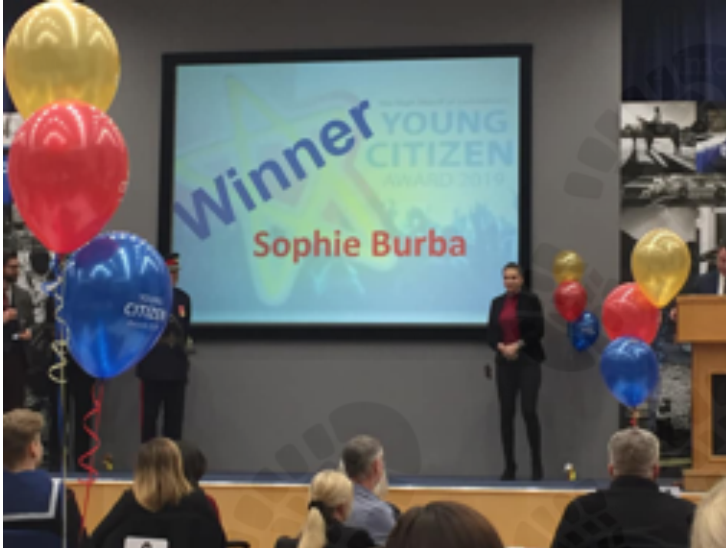
**It would be impossible for Lancashire Youth Challenge to facilitate our annual programme without the support and dedication of our phenomenal volunteers.**

We would particularly like to thank the following individuals:

Ken Calland for driving the minibus and keeping us safe on our numerous journeys across the country. Marcus Devaney, Devon Jacques and Donna Coleman for their support, assistance and good humour on our Hadrian's Wall Challenge.

Rae Holden and Sam Harding for their significant hard work in providing high quality, healthy and nutritious meals for our whole team during this year's challenge and for their listening ear and kind support of our young people.

We would also like to say a particular thanks and a massive well done to Sophie Burba who having volunteered with Lancashire Youth Challenge for three years was awarded the prestigious High Sheriff Lancashire Young Citizen of the Year Award







Lancashire  
Youth  
Challenge

# STATISTICS (DECEMBER 2018 - NOVEMBER 2019)

56

Young People engaged in our annual programme

213

Personal wellbeing, cultural and creative arts, challenge programme and 1-1 personal development sessions delivered

1210

Participation opportunities provided

10

10 Outdoor Physical Challenge days

## SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to say a massive thank you to our wonderful funders without whom our 2019 programme would not have been possible

- The National Lottery Community Fund
- Francis C Scott Charitable Trust
- The Areti Charitable Foundation
- Garfield Weston Foundation
- Banks Lyon Memorial Trust

We would also like to say a special thank you to our team of hard working and committed Trustees and to Handstand Productions who once again have made a phenomenal documentary film of our 2019 Hadrian's Wall Challenge

The Banks Lyon Memorial Trust



THE ARETI  
CHARITABLE TRUST





**Lancashire Youth Challenge**

**Accounts For The Year Ended**

**31 March 2019**

## Lancashire Youth Challenge

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**Lancashire Youth Challenge**

**Officers and advisers**

**Management Committee**

Guy Christiansen - Chairman  
Rachael Holden  
Yakub Patel - Secretary  
George Harris  
Julie Brown - Treasurer  
Samantha Harding

**Accountants**

GMR Accountants Ltd  
1st Floor  
8 - 12 London Street  
Southport  
Merseyside  
PR9 0UE

**Registered Charity**

Charity Number 1163469

**Lancashire Youth Challenge**

**Accountant's Report**

**Accountant's Report to the Management Committee:-**

You have approved the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019 and have acknowledged your responsibility for them, particularly for the appropriateness of the accounting basis and for providing all information and explanations necessary for their compilation.

We have not carried out an audit and have relied on the records, information and explanations you have given us to enable us to prepare these financial statements.

GMR Accountants Ltd

1st Floor  
8-12 London Street  
Southport  
Merseyside  
PR9 0UE

Dated : 4th December 2019




**Lancashire Youth Challenge**

**Approval of Financial Information**

We hereby approve the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2019 and acknowledge our responsibility for them, particularly for the appropriateness of the accounting basis and for providing all information and explanations necessary to the accountants for their compilation.

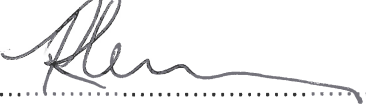
The Management Committee:

Guy Christiansen - Chairman



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Rachael Holden



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Yakub Patel - Secretary



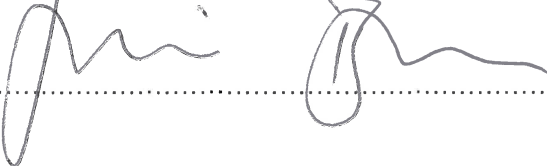
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George Harris



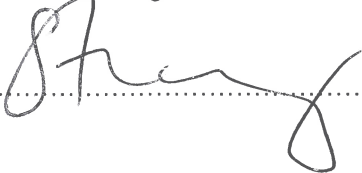
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Julie Brown - Treasurer



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Samantha Harding



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Dated

**Lancashire Youth Challenge**

**Profit & Loss Account**

**For the year ended 31 March 2019**

	Restricted Funds		Unrestricted Funds		Total Funds		Restricted Funds		Unrestricted Funds		Total Funds	
	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2019	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018	2018
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>												
Donations		602		602		602	140	1,138		1,278		1,278
Bag Pack						-		487		487		487
Grant	37,132				37,132	40,797				40,797		40,797
Bank interest received			602		37,734						1,625	42,562
		37,132				40,937						
<b>Expenses</b>												
Wages	13,728				13,728	15,767				15,767		15,767
Employers Pension Contribution	345				345							
Rent	1,080				1,080	1,070				1,070		1,070
Membership	85				85	342				342		342
Project Costs - Creative Programme	4,751	73			4,824	3,312			160	3,472		3,472
Project Costs - Physical Programme	16,440	263			16,703	6,150				6,150		6,150
Project Costs - Meals & Healthy Eating Project	3,215				3,215	2,146			6	2,152		2,152
Staff Training					-	156				156		156
Insurance	504				504	486				486		486
Equipment and Materials					-	343			150	493		493
Marketing	414	26			440	879				879		879
Telecommunications and IT	254				254	216				216		216
Volunteer, Staff and Trustee Expenses	295	433			728	581			557	1,138		1,138
Travel and Project Travel Costs	687	438			1,125	1,576			211	1,787		1,787
Consultancy	4,509				4,509	1,920				1,920		1,920
Payroll Bureau	258				258	379				379		379
Accountancy Charges	1,440				1,440	1,200				1,200		1,200
Depreciation	223				223	171				171		171
Bank Charges	35				35							
		(48,264)			(49,496)					(36,696)		(37,779)
		(1,232)			(11,762)					(1,084)		(3,783)
<b>Net Surplus</b>												
	£	(11,132)	£	(631)	(11,762)	£	4,241	£	542	£		4,783

**Lancashire Youth Challenge**

**Balance Sheet**

**As at 31 March 2019**

	2019		2018
	£	£	£
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets		893	342
<b>Current assets</b>			
National Westminster Account	13,341		19,791
CAF Bank Account	965		38
Cash Account	602		
OTSS	147		
	<u>15,055</u>	<u>15,948</u>	<u>19,829</u>
			<u>20,171</u>
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Deferred Income	7,840		
Accruals	900		1,200.00
			<u>1,200.00</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>	<u>8,740</u>	7,208	18,971
<b>Net assets</b>		£ <u><u>7,208</u></u>	£ <u><u>18,971</u></u>
<b>Financed by:</b>			
<b>Capital accounts</b>			
Balance as at 1 April 2019		18,971	14,188
Surplus for year/(deficit)		(11,763)	4,783
		£ <u><u>7,208</u></u>	£ <u><u>18,971</u></u>

**Lancashire Youth Challenge****Notes to the Accounts****For the year ended 31 March 2019****Tangible Fixed Assets Unrestricted**

	<b>Office Equipment</b>	<b>Total £</b>
<b>Cost</b>		
At 1 April 2018	513	513
Additions during the year	774	774
At 31 March 2019	<u>1,287</u>	<u>1,287</u>
<b>Depreciation</b>		
At 1 April 2018	171	171
Charge for the year 33%SL	223	223
At 31 March 2019	<u>394</u>	<u>394</u>
<b>Net book value</b>		
At 31 March 2019	<u>893</u>	<u>893</u>
At 31 March 2018	<u>342</u>	<u>342</u>

**Management Committee note**

The management committee comment that the accounts are showing a loss in the financial year to 31 March 2019 of £11,762.25, which is due to the following reasons:

Some of the grants made to LYC in 2017/18 had expenditure in 2018/19.

A significant fund granted by Areti Charitable Trust in January 2019 had been carried forward as deferred income into 2019/20.

We experienced staffing changes between August 2018 and March 2019 resulting in the need to commission freelance practitioners to facilitate the programme; this led to higher than expected human resource costs.