CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

# Trustees' Annual Report for the period

**From 01.04.25 Period start date To 31.03.26 Period end date**

**Charity name: Bridport Youth and Community Centre Trust**

**Charity registration number: 1168464**

## Objectives and Activities

| | SORP reference | |
|---|---|---|
| Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document | Para 1.17 | Bridport Youth and Community Centre Trust exists to provide a safe, supportive and inclusive space for children, young people and the wider community of Bridport. Our aims are to;<br><br>1. Support young people. We provide a safe and welcoming space where children and young people can meet, take part in activities, learn new skills, get advice and support, and build confidence and independence. We help young people stay connected and included, particularly those facing disadvantages, so that they can lead happier, more fulfilling lives.<br><br>2. Strengthen the community. We work with local people, councils, voluntary groups, and other organisations to improve life for everyone — no matter their gender, background, beliefs, or views. Together we offer educational, social, and leisure activities that bring people together, promote wellbeing, and make our community a better place to live. |

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| Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts. | Para 1.17 and 1.19 | BYCC directly run 5 youth club sessions per week during term time; two Junior (school years 3-7), one Middle (school years 7-8) and two Senior sessions (school years 9-13). All youth clubs provide a safe space for local young people. Activities range from arts sessions with local artists, crafts, creative writing, cooking, various sports, music room, recording studio, pool table and tuck shop. We also run a popular bike mechanics workshop for all ages. We often hold holiday activities if funding is available.<br><br>On Friday evenings we operate an outreach programme where our Youth workers patrol popular gathering areas to ensure that young people have a positive and safe experience, while guiding them towards constructive activities at youth clubs.<br><br>We also provide a range of affordable activities and support services for the wider Community of Bridport and surrounding villages, either directly or by partners using our building. Our building is unique in that it has a sports hall, a sound studio and a range of spaces suitable for a variety of uses and group sizes. Some activities are aimed at young people and families, such as the stay and play group for toddlers and parents/carers, SupaStrikers football, autism and LGBT+ youth clubs, a boxing club, bike workshops and practice for young performers. Other activities are aimed at older residents, such as steel band and choir groups, table tennis, bingo, diabetes prevention, dementia group, men's wellness, social prescribing, Seetec Pluss (who help people into work) and U3a groups, for those no longer working to learn new skills. We also provide valuable storage for both the local food and clothes banks. |
| Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit | Para 1.18 | The trustees confirm that they have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit when carrying out their duties. |

**Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

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|---|---|---|
| | SORP reference | |

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| Policy on grant making | Para 1.38 | The charity does not operate a grant-making function and does not provide grants to individuals or other organisations. |
| Policy on social investment including program related investment | Para 1.38 | BYCC is committed to creating positive social impact by investing our resources directly into programs that strengthen youth development and community well-being. |
| Contribution made by volunteers | Para 1.38 | Volunteer capacity has increased significantly to strengthen administrative and practical delivery capacity. There are now 27 volunteers, including trustees, and 17 of these were recruited during 2025/26. A volunteer induction pack is also now in place. |
| Other | | The whole of our community offering is based on partnership as we deliver most of our activities either directly with partners or with their indirect support. |

## Achievements and Performance

| | SORP reference | |
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| Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole. | Para 1.20 | **Youth club achievements**<br>• The youth club has provided a more engaging and wider range of activities, which is reflected in growing numbers using BYCC.<br>• New youth club activities were introduced; an Easter egg hunt, cookery lessons, an art centre visit. We also reintroduced summer holiday activities,<br>• We have successfully introduced three young leaders working at the youth club, along with volunteering opportunities for DofE participants, creating pathways into more responsible roles.<br>• Youth club numbers have risen by 34% in the last year, from 3,041 to 4,090 in 2026, showing the importance of the youth club to developing the skills and confidence of young people in Bridport. We have had a significant increase in senior numbers, which are the age group we most need to engage with.<br>• We responded to the increase in youth ASB in the Autumn of 2025 by stepping in and offering a safe space as a first |

response, then working in partnership with other partners to find ways to support young people to try and reduce the problem. Without a youth club this intervention would not have been possible.

**Community achievements**

- A new Community Development Worker started at the end of March 2025 to strengthen community bonds and increase community use of the Centre. Since then, support has been provided to existing users and a number of new groups started or expanded their use of the Centre, including Bridport Clothes Bank, Bridport Food Matters (Nosh and Natter), Edible Bridport, Boxing Club, and community cookery sessions run with Ripple Workshops, and Rock Choir.
- Revenue from bookings increased by 18%.
- To collaborate with other community groups to promote health and wellbeing, a new initiative, the Forget Me Not Fiesta, was delivered in partnership with NHS social prescribing and with funding from the Dorset Council Community Fund to raise awareness of dementia.

**Income increase**

Income increased from both fundraising and room hire to £171.8k. Income from rental of our facilities grew by 19% from £41.5k in 2024/5 to £49.5k in 2025/6.
Income from fundraising rose by 5% from £108.5k in 2024/5 to £114k in 2025/6. 2024/5 was an exceptional year due to a Crowdfunder campaign and we are pleased to have replaced this income from other sources, mainly from Trusts and Foundations.

**Building improvements**

Grant funding was secured to make various improvements to the accessibility of the building, including replacing the broken automatic front doors and upgrading the sports hall accessible toilet and baby changing facilities. The recording studio was sound-proofed. Changes were also made to the layout of other rooms, all to provide flexibility to support a broader range

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| | | of community users and to increase rental income.<br><br>**Governance improvements**<br>Improvements were made to the financial planning and management processes and to monitor performance information. |

**Additional information (optional)**
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

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| Achievements against objectives set | Para 1.41 | (targets from the business plan included in the above para) |
| Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set | Para 1.41 | (targets from the business plan included in the above para) |
| Investment performance against objectives | Para 1.41 | BYCC did not make any investments during the financial year. |
| Other | | |

## Financial Review

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| Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period | Para 1.21 | We are now in a more secure financial position than last financial year. Although expenditure grew by 40% to £157,996, Income grew by 10% to £171,780. Net surplus at year end was £13,784. This is the second year we have contributed to building up reserves.<br><br>At the end of the most recent accounting period total unrestricted reserves were £53,660. Restricted reserves were £21,797 to fund projects being delivered in the current financial year. |
| Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held | Para 1.22 | The Trustees have set an unrestricted reserves policy of holding a minimum of 3 months of core budgeted operating costs, as we have 4 part-time salaried staff members so need to make sure that we can cover wind down costs should we cease to operate for any reason.<br><br>Any surplus to this will go into a designated buildings reserve to enable maintenance and investment in the Centre. |
| Amount of reserves held | Para 1.22 | £75,457 - £53,660 unrestricted, £21,797 restricted |
| Reasons for holding zero reserves | Para 1.22 | |
| Details of fund materially in deficit | Para 1.24 | |
| Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern | | |

**Additional information (optional)**

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

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| The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising) | Para 1.47 | The Trust received 66% of its funds from fundraising activities in 25/26.<br><br>52% of fundraised income came from Government sources; either from service level agreements, subject to annual performance measures, or from grants for projects.<br><br>38% came from Trusts and Foundations, for both projects and core funding. |

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| | | 8.5% came from individuals in the community<br><br>We received 34% of our funds from the rental of rooms in the building to community groups , from renting car parking spaces and from charging for attending charitable activities that we deliver.<br><br>We are planning to grow the support we receive from individuals and businesses in an effort to diversify our income sources.<br><br>We have had considerable success over the last 2 years in securing grant funding for projects to develop both youth club and community activities as well as to support core activities. |
| Investment policy and objectives including any social investment policy adopted | Para 1.46 | The Trust is not yet able to consider having an investment policy. |
| A description of the principal risks facing the charity | Para 1.46 | Growth in activity has led to increased costs. We need to keep pace with the income we generate from rental and fundraising to meet these growing costs, whilst at the same time planning for future investment to keep our facilities and services relevant to the community.<br><br>With limited staff resources, we have kept the team small and cost effective and made increasing use of volunteers for both administration and operations. Fundraising is currently managed entirely by volunteers. However, this reliance on volunteers in some business-critical areas is high risk, and current staff are fully stretched, so we need to seek funding for capacity building to increase staff numbers in key areas. |
| Other | | |

## Structure, Governance and Management

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| Description of charity's trusts: | | |
| Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter) | Para 1.25 | Trust Deed |
| How is the charity constituted? (e.g. unincorporated association, CIO) | Para 1.25 | CIO |
| Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees | Para 1.25 | New trustees are appointed by existing trustees. A new Trustee recruitment policy was developed to improve the rigor of the recruitment process in line with charity commission guidelines. |

**Additional information (optional)**
You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

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| Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees | Para 1.51 | A Trustees' induction and training policy has been created to ensure all Trustees are aware of their legal obligations. |
| The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works | Para 1.51 | BYCC is a small organisation with 4 part time employed staff; a Centre Manager, a Community Coordinator, Lead youth worker and Cleaner/caretaker. We also have 8 sessional paid youth workers and 3 paid young leaders. This small team manage the day to day running of the centre, running youth clubs, outreach activities and events, also working with community users to support their activities.<br><br>The board of trustees meets 6x per year and is responsible for updating policies, approving and managing project expenditure, for staffing and for oversight of budgets and operational plans.<br><br>Working groups comprising trustees, staff and volunteers oversee the operational aspects of delivering business plan targets, fundraising and communications, as well as business planning and financial management, including setting and |

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| | | managing budgets. Working groups report to Trustees meetings.<br><br>Staff are currently managed by different Trustees. |
| Relationship with any related parties | Para 1.51 | We have no related party relationships |
| Other | | |

## Reference and Administrative details

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|---|---|
| Charity name | Bridport Youth and Community Centre Trust |
| Other name the charity uses | BYCC |
| Registered charity number | 1168464 |
| Charity's principal address | Gundry Lane<br>Bridport<br>DT6 3RL |
| | |

**Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity**

| | Trustee name | Office (if any) | Dates acted if not for whole year | Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Ian Bark | Chair | | |
| 2 | | | | |
| 3 | Alan Weston | Vice Chair | | |
| 4 | Jo Burlington | Secretary | Resigned Nov 2025 | |
| 5 | Joe Hackett | Building | Resigned April 2025 | |
| 6 | Helen Farmer | Safeguarding | | |
| 7 | Julie Woods | Marketing | | |
| 8 | Victoria Davison | | Appointed 17.11.2025 | |
| 9 | Paul Funnel | | Appointed 01.04.2026 | |
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Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

| Director name | | |
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Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

| **Trustee name** | **Dates acted if not for whole year** | |
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## Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

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| Description of the assets held in this capacity | |
| Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how these fall within the custodian charity's objects | |
| Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets | |

**Additional information (optional)**

**Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)**

| Type of adviser | Name | Address |
|---|---|---|
| **Ad Hoc/ Legal /Council** | Andrew Holdridge | c/o Bridport Town Council |
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**Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)**

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| Katrina Polanska (Operations Manager) |

## Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

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## Other optional information

## Declarations

**The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.**

**Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees**

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| **Signature(s)** |  | |
| **Full name(s)** | Ian Bark | |
| **Position (e.g. Secretary, Chair, etc.)** | Chair | |
| **Date** | 28.09.2026 | |