EYAI

Enhancing Young Adults Independence

Trustees' Annual Report 2025

Name of Charity	Enhancing Young Adults' Independence (EYAI)
Charity number	1195406
Postal address	3 Willow Road, Thame OX9 3BE
Trustees	Keith Pound, Daniel East, Elise Butler

Introduction

This annual report summarises progress in governance, volunteering, client support, the community café, partnerships, digital activity and finance, and sets out the organisation's priorities for 2026.

During 2025, trustees and volunteers continued to balance EYAI responsibilities with work, home and training commitments. To support clearer oversight, the Operations Manager introduced six-monthly reporting alongside the trustees' Annual General Meeting and developed more structured ways of coordinating the wider team.

Governance, Team and Volunteering

EYAI continued to strengthen its governance and operational capacity.

- Trustees: Keith Pound and Dan East remained in post, with Keith continuing to support the treasurer function while recruitment progressed. Elise Butler remained listed with the Charity Commission pending a replacement, and the Charity Commission was informed of the position.
- Operations Manager: Jo Brown remains in this post.
- Safeguarding: Dan East
- Finance: Jayleen Ong joined, reporting in to Keith.
- Creative: Joining the team were Brandon Burton as IT support and Victoria Wasilewska organising social media. Brian O'Carroll continued to host the website.

Recruitment remained a priority throughout the year. Working with Community Impact Bucks (CIB), EYAI advertised for additional trustees and finance support through its website, Volunteering Bucks, LinkedIn, social media, the Buckinghamshire Council website and university networks. Several candidates were interviewed, with further interviews planned for early 2026.

Safeguarding arrangements remained in place for volunteers and clients. New adult volunteers were contacted by the safeguarding team within two weeks of starting, while volunteers under 18 required parental or carer consent.

Jo held an enhanced DBS check through EYAI and completed safeguarding training through her paid work, alongside other relevant courses including MIND's Youth MHFA (mental health first aid).

Client Support and Community Referrals

- Client referral routes changed significantly during 2025. Jo's paid employment created a temporary conflict of interest whilst working for the MoJ, and direct contact with High Wycombe clients was paused. Following the end of that employment and a six-month interval, contacts in High Wycombe began to be renewed for 2026.
- The community hub, Bridge the Gap, reduced its opening frequency to once a month and EYAI was no longer able to retain a presence there, although partner charities continued to display EYAI flyers and collaborate. Aylesbury Youth Action closed during the summer, ending several joint projects and the website's use as a learning platform. EYAI therefore relied more heavily on contacts made through Pippa's Community Café, St Peter's Community Café, the Vineyard food bank and wider networking.
- In Aylesbury, new and renewed relationships included Youth Concern, Young Adult Carers and Oasis. These links broadened referral options and created possible volunteering routes for young people needing additional support.
- Support provided during the year included CV development, form filling, employment guidance, referrals for counselling and training, help with Universal Credit applications, and signposting to specialist services. At the end of 2025, two former clients asked to resume support: one continued by text with face-to-face meetings planned for 2026, while the other met Jo fortnightly while volunteering at St Peter's Community Café.

Pippa's Community Café

- Pippa's Community Café at Stone Village Hall remained an important community base for EYAI. It provided a welcoming venue for informal support, volunteer interviews, professional meetings, signposting and community connection. The café continued to rely on donations and was not yet self-sufficient.
- During the summer, opening hours moved from the afternoon to 10.30 am - 1.00 pm. Attendance had been low during the first half of the year, but increased after

the move to morning opening. The café continued to close for three weeks in August and two weeks at Christmas, with summer and Christmas charity raffles held before the breaks.

- Visitors during the year included the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire, the MP for Stone and Waddesdon, local community professionals and community police officers. Their visits supported local discussion, strengthened awareness of EYAI and added resources to the café's information table. Increased social media activity also helped EYAI reach more people locally.
- The café provided supported volunteering opportunities for young people. One teenage volunteer used the role to build confidence and independence in using public transport, although the change in opening hours made attendance more difficult. Another young volunteer previously connected through Aylesbury Youth Action helped during school holidays and at summer fêtes before moving to opportunities closer to home.
- The café also enabled direct support. For example, one young adult received information about specialist recovery support, help beginning a Universal Credit application and follow-up links.
- A young volunteer described the café as "a non-judgemental safe space", reflecting the supportive environment recognised by customers and visitors.

Website, Communications and Partnerships

- Following the departure of the previous website host, Brian O'Connell supported the website through Webventure and Aylesbury Youth Action. The site was developed as a live learning resource and was regularly updated. After Aylesbury Youth Action closed, Brian agreed to continue supporting it independently. Outstanding and new website costs were discussed, and Jo submitted a successful funding request for the 2026 costs, which was received after Brian stopped working with EYAI. The funding is now planned to be used for the next website host and designer.
- Partnership working remained central to EYAI's approach. Collaboration with Aylesbury Youth Action and Oasis supported referrals, internship applications and interview preparation. Plans were also made to explore opportunities with MK Christian Foundation and other training and volunteering providers.

Fundraising and Finance

- At the end of December 2025, EYAI's bank balance was £536.33, with a £20 cash float.
- An unexpected £500 donation was received to support café rental payments. Regular giving included £5 per week from 23 October 2025 and a continuing £20 weekly donation from a café customer.
- Although café income did not cover all EYAI costs, fête stalls and raffles contributed towards annual insurance, printing, design, website domain and hosting costs.

- Following a mouse infestation at the café over the 2024 Christmas break, the Clare Foundation generously funded replacement stock, and supermarkets including Sainsbury's and Waitrose provided additional weekly supplies and baking ingredients.
- Fundraising activities included the Stone Village Fête, Thame Carnival and the café's summer raffle.
- EYAI was also registered with the Bucks Lottery.
- The finance team explored Gift Aid and further funding opportunities.
- Membership of Youth Action was not renewed because no additional DBS or safeguarding training was required during the year; the cost and value of Action4Youth membership will be reviewed with new volunteers in 2026.

Review of 2025

- EYAI made meaningful progress during a year of transition.
- Governance procedures were strengthened
- The café became more productive after changing its opening hours.
- The organisation's profile grew across Aylesbury's community-support network, and new digital, finance and referral relationships were established.
- The closure or restructuring of partner services reduced some established referral routes and reinforced the need for a broader volunteer base and stronger income generation.

Priorities for 2026

- Continue recruiting trustees, finance support, mentors and café volunteers.
- Re-establish client-support activity in High Wycombe in additional to Aylesbury.
- Strengthen team coordination through weekly action lists and clearer delegation.
- Secure café and website funding, including provision for paid Operations Manager hours and volunteer travel expenses.
- Develop a practical plan for summer fundraising following the loss of access to a marquee and tombola wheel, previously borrowed on a regular basis.
- Attend the Bucks Skills Show and other networking events, with sufficient volunteer support.
- Maintain summer and Christmas café raffles
- Continue developing referral partnerships.

Conclusion

EYAI ended 2025 with a stronger operational foundation, a growing team and increased visibility in the communities it serves. The focus for 2026 is to convert that progress into sustainable volunteer capacity, secure funding, consistent governance and wider access to practical support for young people and the local community.

Keith Pound, Trustee Jo Brown, Operations Manager

11 March 2026

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Section A - Receipts and payments for the period 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025

		£	£
Receipts			
	Voluntary Donations	806	
	Events	391	
	Café	1,215	
			2,412
Payments			
	Café - rent	880	
	Café - stock and other	433	
	Meetings & Events	74	
	Marketing	291	
	I.T.	80	
	Public Liability Insurance	140	
	Small Society Lottery Licence	20	
			1,917
	Net Income		**495**

Notes: *There are no restricted and/or endowment funds.*
There were no asset or investment sales or purchases.
Each individual figure has been rounded to the nearest £.

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Section B - Statement of assets and liabilities as at 31st December 2025

		£	£
Assets			
	Cash at Bank	536	
	Petty cash	20	
	Total Assets		**556**
Liabilities			
	Total Liabilities		-
Net Assets			**556**

Notes: *Only monetary assets held at 31/12/25.*
Each individual figure has been rounded to the nearest whole £.

Cashflow for the period 1st January 2025 to 31st December 2025

		£	£
Opening Bank & Cash Balance			**61**
	2025 income	2,412	
	2025 expenditure	1,917	
Net Receipts			**495**
Closing Bank & Cash Balance			**556**

K P Pound (Trustee)