



# North Avenue Youth Centre

Reg Charity No.1125028

## Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020

**Address:** North Avenue, Chelmsford CM1 2AL

**Trustees:** Rev Kenneth Thom (Chair)\*  
Trevor Andrews  
Peter Bardwell  
  
Janet Cassels (Secretary from December 2020)  
Jane Humphreys (Treasurer)\*  
Jung Youn (also known as Maria) Lee\*  
Martin Solder#  
Yvonne Spence  
Rebecca Stanley  
Moira O'Sullivan  
Margaret Watchorn (to December 2020)

\* Appointed by the United Reformed Church

# Appointed by Essex Youth Trust

Other trustees are elected/re-elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM); those co-opted between AGMs stand for election at the next AGM

**Custodian Trustees:** The United Reformed Church (Eastern Province) Trust are the custodian trustees of the premises

**Bankers:** Cooperative Bank Plc  
Miller Street  
Manchester M60 0AL

**Independent Examiner:** Roger Louth FCCA

**Governing document:** Constitution agreed 07.09.2000

## **Objectives and activities**

The aim of the North Avenue Youth Centre (NAYC) is to help boys and girls (age 8-25) through their leisure time activities so to develop their physical, mental and spiritual capacities that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and as members of society, and that their conditions of life may be improved.

In order to achieve this, a full-time Centre Manager, part-time youth workers, a combined administrator and fundraiser have been appointed. The grants awarded to NAYC allow it to run a varied programme of out-of-school activities for young people from the local area, which is one of great social deprivation. NAYC has the use of purpose-built facilities which include a sports hall and an outside all-weather play space.

In their role of guiding and monitoring the planning and delivery of these activities, the NAYC Trustees (known as the Management Committee) have regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

## **Achievements and performance**

2020 started with a normal programme of sessions each week at the Centre, including preparing a project for British Science Week and providing support for members affected by the murder of a local teenager.

Due to Covid lockdown the Centre had to be closed from Mid March with a few sessions in the Autumn. However, the work has carried on with weekly online sessions and use of appropriate social media. Numbers have been much lower than with physical activities, but staff have engaged in positive and meaningful youth work with a small group of young people. Topics covered included coronavirus, Black Lives Matter, education and exams.

The YCM is in the process of looking at different platforms and approaches and putting together an online policy that supports a more open and youth led approach.

Alongside this from August staff delivered detached work where the youth workers go out to the community to engage with young people wherever they find them. This initiative to engage with young people who may be reluctant to attend the Centre was already planned but the closure of the premises has accelerated its introduction.

Staffing remains an issue. Both detached work and digital engagement have now been shown to be valuable parts of the activities which NAYC should offer in the future. Running these as well as Centre based sessions

plus week-ends away and other activities as in previous years ,will only be possible with an expanded team with appropriate skills and experience in delivering youth work. Recruitment of one or more youth workers has begun.

Plans to convert the charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation with a revised constitution, were put on hold until such time as it is possible to hold the appropriate Special General Meeting in accordance with the current constitution.

## **Financial Review**

NAYC continues to rely primarily on grant funding to operate. In 2020 we were again grateful to Essex Youth Trust for funding of £12,000 towards our core costs, although this was lower than in previous years. We secured an additional £38,869 – our thanks go to Essex Community Foundation, URC Eastern Synod, Christ Church URC Chelmsford, British Science Week, Streetgames, FSJ, the Community Safety Development Fund, and the Essex Association Community Interest Fund. From November we made use of the coronavirus Job Retention Scheme receiving £1275. Total unrestricted income for the year at £57,255 was £4993 less than in 2019. Unrestricted expenditure of £50,523 was £1209 less than in 2019.

We drew down the remaining £8250 of the Chelmsford City Council award for equipping the indoor and outdoor facilities at the Centre. We also received £3500 for the purchase and installation of a community defibrillator, and were grateful for a top-up grant from Essex County Council to cover unforeseen installation costs. Grant spending in respect of specific young people was severely curtailed by the pandemic.

The pandemic most directly affected expenditure on those activities where young people had fun and worked together. As a result, overall expenditure in 2020 of £62,264 was £7755 less than total income. The total assets of the charity therefore increased to £55,450.

The reserves policy of NAYC is to hold sufficient cash to cover six to nine months' expenditure. At end 2020, unrestricted cash held totalled £43,000, equivalent to around 8 months' planned expenditure of £63,362 for 2021.

## **Looking forward**

At the time of approving the 2020 report and accounts, activities continued to be restricted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Detached work restarted on 15<sup>th</sup> March after the winter lockdown period and a new digital platform has been agreed. The Trustees consider that NAYC remains a going concern and do not expect the pandemic to threaten its ongoing

viability, as no major sources of income have been lost nor additional expenditure incurred. Applications for grant funding based on current and planned activities will continue.

**Declaration**

This report and the accounts were approved by the Trustees at their meeting on 23rd April 2021

Signed:

Position: