

OYCI IMPACT REPORT 2024/25



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OUR MISSION AND VALUES

**All young
people in Clacks
can flourish**

OYCI creates space and opportunity for young people to be themselves while they figure out what is important to them, and what they might want to learn and achieve.

Our Values - the principles we hold dear
What we offer **We are**

Fun and safe
participation for all

Kind

Relationships based on
respect and shared
values

Inclusive

Seeing the potential of
the whole person

Fair and Equitable

Opportunities to build
confidence

Working together with
others

Helping others and improving our community



WHAT WE DID

We offered free clubs for young people aged P6+ almost every day of the week during term time, and programmes across the school holidays. We worked in schools on projects like Hi5 and Forest School. We provided after school care for Tillicoultry Primary. Below shows every activity we ran this year.

OYCI Volunteers

Play in a Week

Easter Holiday: Games and Crafts

Fun, Food, and Friendships

Dance Marathon for Children in Need

Remembering Together

Clacks Youth Theatre:

Tillicoultry

Clacks Youth Theatre: Alloa

Gaming

Crafty Builders Club (using Minecraft)

Stress Free Saturdays

Codesign

Summer Holiday Sessions

The Great Outdoors

Junior Youth Club (P6 - S1)

Connect (S2 - S6)

Autumn Fun Day

Holiday Sessions

Super Saturdays

I'm a Young Person... Get Me Into Here!

OYCI Christmas Party

The Great Outdoors

February Holiday

OYCI Festival of Light

Doune Castle Adventure

Calm Creative Crafts

Reach

After School Childcare

Hi5

Forest School

Plus - we moved!

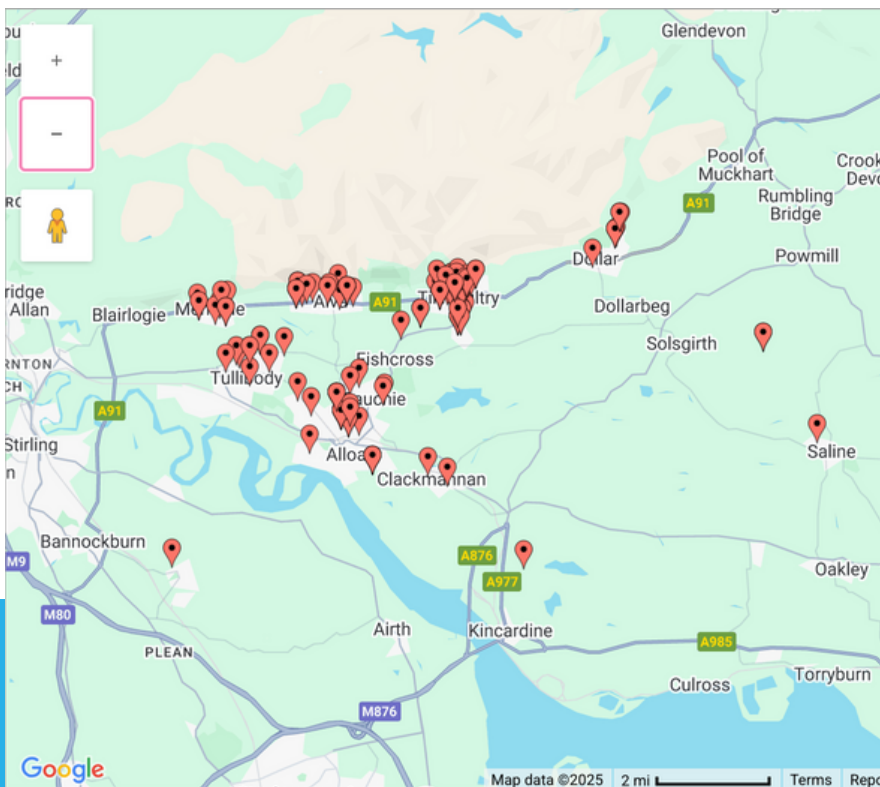
We moved into our fantastic new home at The Ben Cleuch Centre, allowing us more space, more flexibility, and more outdoors time in the garden! This has allowed us to expand our work to welcome in more of the community, whilst keeping young people at the heart of everything we do.

WHO WE WORKED WITH

- 126 young people attended a session at our base or after school, 152 P7's completed their Hi5 with us, we welcomed 18 after-school childcare participants, and worked with 12 forest school attendees, totalling **308 young people**.
- We received 2436 bookings across the year for sessions at the Ben Cleuch Centre – meaning our average participant attends 19 OYCI sessions in a year.

The charts below show a breakdown of our participants who have attended activities in our base or after school clubs.

This map shows the geographical spread of our participants.

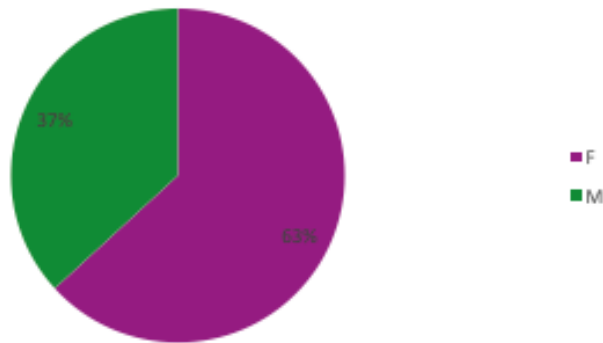


Our participants attend 26 schools across Clackmannanshire, with the majority attending:

- Alva Academy – 26%
- Tillicoultry Primary School – 23%
- Alva Primary School – 11%

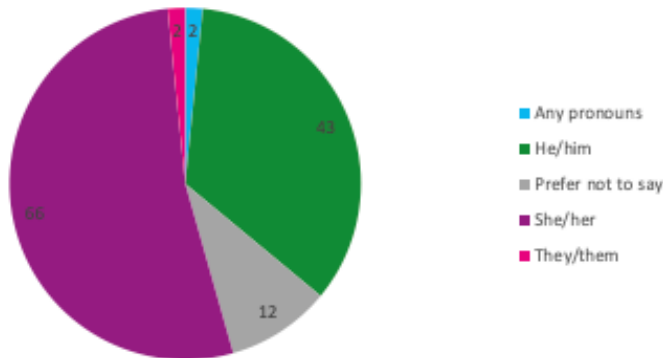
WHO WE WORKED WITH

Gender



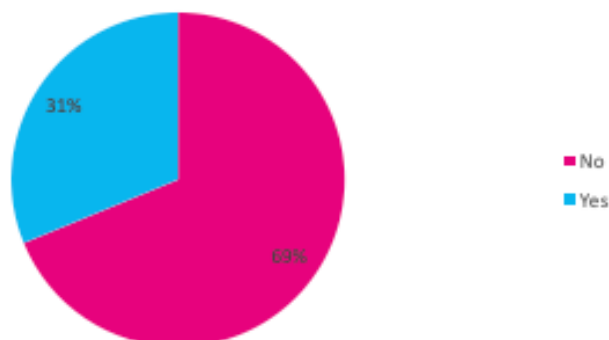
We had slightly more girls (63%) attending than boys (37%).

Preferred Pronoun



We are pleased to report the gender diversity in pronoun use with OYCI as we strive to be an inclusive and safe space for young people, however they identify.

Does your child have any additional needs?



31% of parents identified additional needs within their children, across a range of ASN and ASD. We feel this is reflective of the current mainstream school landscape.

FUN

Everything we do at OYCI aims to be fun. When young people are having fun, they feel confident, they feel safe, and they make friends. Whether it's through games, creative activities, or community events, fun is the spark that helps young people flourish.

Community Fun

With more space and the garden, we were able to welcome the wider community into Ben Cleuch for events full of fun and connection — an October Fun Day planned by our young volunteers, a festive wreath-making workshop, and a Festival of Light in February. Each was well attended and filled with laughter and creativity. One participant at our Christmas event described it as ***“a really mindful and fun way to spend her afternoon.”***

Gaming

Our most popular club brings young people together to play both digital and analogue games. It's often loud and busy — but consistently noted by staff for its inclusive and supportive atmosphere. One participant encouraged another with “Yes, what a pass man!” after a successful move in FIFA. Another pair worked thoughtfully together to build an OYCI club on FIFA, calmly negotiating who to sign for the team.

One participant took on the challenge of learning chess with the help of another young person — sticking with it and showing real determination and openness to feedback.

Fun, Food and Friendships

A quiet but powerful example of fun leading to growth came from our Fun, Food and Friendships group. One young person began the club shy and withdrawn, barely engaging with others. But thanks to the small group setting and the warm, inclusive nature of the other participants, they slowly began drifting into activities — then joining in — and eventually sharing inside jokes. Another participant said the presence of young leaders was comforting, showing the unique value those older peers bring to the sessions.

In their own words

“Everything at OYCI is always fun”

“I had so much fun”

“Best thing I do at OYCI? Play games and have fun”

And it's not just the young people saying it...

In our youth worker end-of-session evaluations, the word fun comes up almost every time. It's not just an outcome — it's the foundation.

CONFIDENCE

At OYCI, we create spaces where young people can grow in confidence — whether that's performing on stage, sharing their ideas, trying something new, or simply showing up.

Youth Theatre

Through Clacks Youth Theatre, young people had the chance to perform on a professional stage for the first time as part of the HUBBUB Festival at Macrobert Arts Centre. One participant summed it up as ***"fun and scary,"*** while another said it was ***"an exquisite theatrical experience"*** seeing his own script come to life. After the curtain came down, several young people were already asking if they could do it again next year.

As part of the CYT, they also created and screened their own short films. One young person described hers as ***"funnier than expected"***, and while another received heartfelt praise from peers and staff — a moment of quiet encouragement that clearly stuck.

For some, the change has been deep and personal:
"This class has helped me speak up and talk."
"I feel less shy and more confident."

Junior Youth Club

Confidence sometimes builds very quietly. In our Junior Youth Club, young people build trust through regular sessions and consistent support from staff. One participant, who had started off hesitant and reserved, grew in confidence to start joining in games with others — including choosing to play alongside a group she'd previously watched from the sidelines.

Elsewhere, young people began taking ownership of sessions, requesting their favourite games and leading the way. A grandparent of one participant reflected on what this meant:

"He'd been attacked by four boys recently, and this is a nice safe space for him to come to."

Sometimes confidence just looks like sitting next to a new person, or speaking up in the group for the first time, but these moments are often the most impactful.



TEAM WORK

From building dens to running events, teamwork is at the heart of what we do. Across OYCI projects, young people collaborate, support one another, and learn how to work towards shared goals.



Volunteering and Community Events

Our young volunteers took the lead in planning and hosting a community coffee evening — offering tech support, conversation, and even origami to local residents. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming, with one attendee noting: ***“Stuff like this is so good for all of us.”***

Guests asked if it could become a regular event, and our young people said they *“really enjoyed it and felt it was a successful evening.”* The event helped spark new connections — and confidence.

The same team helped plan and deliver the October Fun Day, showing brilliant initiative and collaboration in bringing the event to life.

Forest School

In our outdoor sessions, teamwork often emerged in hands-on, creative ways. Whether it was den building or fire lighting, young people encouraged each other, problem-solved, and shared in their successes. One participant grinned after finally getting a spark to catch: ***“I did it, I did it, I DID IT!”***

Another was so inspired by the experience that they brought their dad back to the woodland: *“I showed him where we were and we built a den.”*

These moments show how working together builds more than just shelters — it builds resilience, trust, and pride.



ACCREDITATION

We offer a range of accredited opportunities through Youth Scotland's Hi5, Dynamic Youth Award (DYA) and Youth Achievement Awards (YAA). All are credit-rated and levelled on the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF), giving young people a meaningful way to showcase the skills they've developed through youth work.

What young people have achieved this year:

- 152 P7 pupils gained a Hi5 Award (SCQF Level 2)
- 9 Young Leaders gained a DYA through iLead training (games leadership)
- 6 completed glitter tattoo training and delivered it at a community event
- 14 young people completed a DYA during the residential weekend
- 8 Young Leaders gained a Hi5 as part of the Reach 25 event
- 4 Silver YAA (Level 4) and 5 Bronze YAA (Level 3) currently in progress
- 8 young people will gain accreditation for taking part in the Codesign project
- 10 young people shaped our mission, values and fundraising plans through the OYCI Youth Board

These awards recognise everything from leadership and peer mentoring to creative delivery, teamwork and personal development. Our young people aren't just taking part – they're leading, co-designing and making change happen in their communities.

Hi5

As part of our P7 transition programme, 152 young people from 8 primary schools completed the Hi5 Award in early 2025. Through a mix of teamwork, communication and confidence-building activities, pupils were supported to feel more prepared – and more excited – about moving up to Alva Academy.

The programme is inclusive by design, with tailored support for those who need it. Feedback from schools was glowing:

"It was excellent – the children were fully engaged in fun, purposeful activities and became more confident about their move to high school."

"The Hi5 initiative works perfectly alongside the other transition days... They have absolutely loved it. Thank you so much!"

SPOTLIGHT ON: CODESIGN

In partnership with YouthLink Scotland and Abertay University, OYCI's Codesign project brought together 12 young people with a shared love of gaming to collaboratively create a game from scratch. The project was built around the theme of inclusion, and through weekly sessions, participants explored game design, storytelling, sound, and visual art.

Through a series of workshops held both at OYCI and Abertay, the young people chose to focus on either game design, art, or sound, and worked together to create a brand new game: Scales of Sorrow.

At the end of the project, funding was secured to collaborate with Abertay University's Masters students to transform the prototype into a fully playable online game. The students loved working with the young people and commented that their feedback was some of the best they'd ever received on a project.

Case Study 1

Young Person A joined OYCI with a history of anxiety and was midway through an ASN assessment. They often isolated themselves and withdrew from the group—at one point even hiding under a table to be alone.

Within Codesign, they shone.

The project tapped into their interests and allowed them to gradually step into a leadership role, overseeing the game's development and gently supporting other group members. They led group discussions, helped manage dynamics, and ensured all voices were heard. Staff noted a huge transformation in Young Person A over the course of the project—something clearly reflected in their continued confidence and leadership across other OYCI programmes. This growth can be directly attributed to the safe, creative space that Codesign provided.

"People like me don't usually get to do things like this." – Young Person A



SPOTLIGHT ON: CODESIGN



[Click here to watch a video about the making of Scales of Sorrow](#)

[Click here to play Scales of Sorrow](#)

Case Study 2

Young Person B joined the project full of enthusiasm and quickly picked up the coding and programming skills needed to contribute to the technical development of the game. Despite being ahead of their peers in this area, they worked hard to ensure everyone felt involved—something Abertay staff commended, along with their creativity, confidence, and inclusive attitude.

Although they didn't see themselves as a strong problem-solver at the start, Young Person B learned how to use online resources to develop new skills and overcome challenges. Their sense of ownership and confidence led them to take the lead in presenting the project at the final celebration event—speaking to a room full of young people and adults with clarity and pride.

They now want to pursue a career in game design.

"Where or when else would we get to do this?" – Young Person B

Overall Impact

This project had a profound effect on its participants—offering opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have had, and allowing them to shine creatively while building valuable technical skills.

They summed it up best:

"I've gained so many skills – coding, game design, and Scratch. Plus I had fun."

"Did I enjoy this? Yes, definitely, absolutely."

"More of this please."

NATIONAL SKILLS FRAMEWORK

In 2023–24, OYCI took part in the national pilot of the Youth Work Outcomes & Skills Framework, led by CLD Officers in Education Scotland in partnership with YouthLink Scotland. The pilot aimed to support young people to better understand and articulate the skills they're developing through youth work — and to create a shared language around skills across schools and community settings.

The framework was developed through extensive consultation with young people and the youth work sector. It recognises the value of non-formal learning, offering a structure for youth workers to have reflective learning conversations with young people, and to better track personal achievement and progression over time. Rather than replacing school-based tools, it complements them — bringing CLD values and principles into the evaluation of youth work.

We trialled this new framework across our groups and activities, helping young people reflect on what they've learned — and where they've grown.

Case Study: Residential Weekend

We used the framework to evaluate a weekend residential in Aberfeldy with our volunteering and codesign groups. The weekend combined outdoor adventure — including Highland games and paddleboarding — with team-building and project planning.

Young people worked in mixed groups, giving our more experienced volunteers the chance to lead and support others. Over the weekend, the groups bonded, collaborated, and reflected on the qualities that make a great volunteer. They created profiles of their “ideal volunteer” and identified the support needed to thrive in these roles.

They also voted on topics they cared about most, formed new working groups around these, and began planning real youth-led projects for the year ahead. These sessions, paired with outdoor challenges, gave us rich insight into each young person's development — from teamwork and leadership to communication and resilience.

See table on next page to demonstrate the framework and examples.

NATIONAL SKILLS FRAMEWORK

SKILL	EXAMPLE OR QUOTE FROM YOUNG PERSON
CONFIDENCE	One young person was hesitant to join in the highland games, but watched, built up confidence, and eventually joined - happily!
COMMUNICATION	<i>"I can listen to the opinion of other people better. During the highland games, we had to move a tire to the other end of the field. We needed to listen to each other"</i>
BUILDING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS	The five boys didn't previously know each other well, but developed strong relationships, playing games and teaching each other to play chess.
RESILIENCE	<i>"During the caber throw in the Highland Games, I couldn't tip the caber over, but I kept trying and eventually I was able to. And when we were walking up the hill, I kept going, it was tough"</i>
LOOKING AFTER MYSELF	<i>"I enjoyed spending time outdoors & doing activities that I wouldn't usually do"</i>
ORGANISATION AND PLANNING	Young people worked together to agree on the issues they all felt strongly about and would like to work on moving forwards
DECISION MAKING	<i>"I am a lot better at solving problems and making decisions"</i>
PROBLEM SOLVING	<i>"I learned to play chess"</i>
TEAMWORK	When one young person hurt their foot during the hike, another stepped up and made sure they were OK and went at their pace.
LEADERSHIP	One young person was given a group to lead that they weren't happy with, but adapted to the role and the team worked well together
CREATING CHANGE	<i>"I think I've improved because we learnt how to be a good volunteer and how we can help our community"</i> <i>"I feel more confident that I can make change"</i>

SPOTLIGHT ON: REACH 25

Eight of our young leaders and volunteers represented OYCI at Reach 25, a national youth-led event organised in partnership with Youth Scotland, Scouts Scotland, and Girlguiding Scotland. Held at Fordell Firs Outdoor Adventure Centre, the event brought together young people from across the country to explore themes of Climate, Connect and Change through high-energy workshops and outdoor adventure.

Participants tackled activities including bushcraft, ziplines, and vertical climbs — building confidence, resilience, and leadership along the way. All eight of our young people took part enthusiastically, gaining a Hi5 Award (SCQF Level 2) for their participation.

One participant showed incredible self-awareness and resilience when faced with a noisy icebreaker involving beach balls. Though nearly overwhelmed, they opted to stay and continue participating fully — later choosing a quieter role at the s'mores station and chatting confidently with other young people and staff.

Another attendee joined a group without any other OYCI participants, but quickly made new friends and even supported others through the more challenging physical activities. When a rope-pulling volunteer was needed for the vertical ladder, they stepped in without hesitation — demonstrating empathy and encouragement.

Our young people also made a strong impression on Youth Scotland staff. When another attendee became overwhelmed outdoors, four of our young leaders stepped up with compassion and care — helping him feel included and successful. Their teamwork, leadership, and kindness earned them special mention at the closing ceremony.

Throughout the day, they cheered each other on, sang their newly invented group theme tune, and stretched their comfort zones.

"This has been the best day ever. Can we camp here tonight? I don't want to go home!"

"This was the funnest thing ever."

They returned home proud, exhausted, and with the chance to take part in planning future Reach 25 events as Young Advisors. True ambassadors for OYCI — and for what youth-led adventure can achieve.

ANNUAL SURVEY 2025

36 young people, 28 parents/carers, 10 partners and 3 supporters filled in an anonymous survey about their experience with and perceptions of OYCI. The respondents were gathered from young people at sessions and from sharing the survey via our mailing lists and social media channels. This is the same survey as we circulated in 2023 and in 2024 so can draw comparisons.

YOUNG PEOPLE

When I come to OYCI...	22/23	23/24	24/25
I mostly/always have fun	75%	96%	92%
I am mostly/always listened to	76%	96%	86%
I mostly/always feel safe	86%	91%	95%

86% would recommend OYCI to a friend

PARTNERS

In line with 2023 and 2024, **100% of partners** agreed with the following statements:

- I would like to work with OYCI again
- OYCI deliver high quality services
- I can trust OYCI
- OYCI provide a good service for young people
- OYCI add value to our community .

PARENTS/CARERS

100% of parents/carers said their young person has fun when they attend OYCI.

93% of parents/carers noted their young person makes friends at OYCI.

80% of parents/carers have noticed their young person feels confident after attending OYCI.

The most important factors for parents and carers when sending their young person to OYCI are: the range of activities, the opportunities to make friends, and to build confidence.

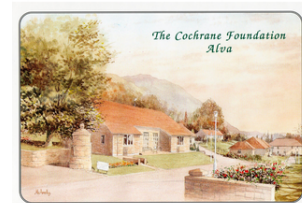
"I think the group is fantastic, the volunteers are great and the groups provides my child the opportunity to spend time with people the same age and she is always happy after attending." - Parent

"I admire the work that is carried out with young people by OYCI. As far as I can see they are the only service available providing youth work around the Hillfoots." - Supporter

"OYCI is the best!!!" - Young Person

FUNDERS

None of the work we do would be possible without our funders, and we'd like to say thank you to them for their continued support.



PARTNERS

We have partnered with the following organisations this year to deliver sessions for young people. We'd like to thank them for their fantastic input into our programme;

Abertay University

The Conservation Volunteers

Resonate Together

Tillicoultry, Coalsnaughton and Devonside Community Development Trust

Youth Scotland

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

OYCI is committed to being an environmentally responsible charity that recognises its duty to reduce its carbon and environmental footprint. Throughout the past financial year, we have undertaken a range of actions to improve environmental sustainability across our organisation. The following report highlights some key areas we have been working on and will continue developing in the future

Energy and water usage: The premises are rented, which makes it difficult to change the utilities. We are mindful of switching off appliances, and have bought energy efficient appliances when purchasing. As the building transitions to community ownership we will work with the development trust to support efficient energy usage.

Waste and recycling: We recycle plastics, cardboard, paper, glass, metals and food through kerbside services. Furniture or equipment we no longer need we try to hand over to another local group. We have identified repurposed furniture whenever possible when we need new. We moved our kitchen units from our old premises and they are being repurposed in the new premises.

Transport: Most interactions with partners are online or they visit our base in Tillicoultry. Internal meetings are both in person and online. Staff travel tends to be limited to the local authority or neighbouring areas. If travelling further afield e.g. one staff member was asked to be part of a conference in Leeds, we encourage travel by public transport.

Procurement: We use local suppliers where possible. All food is bought locally. For activity resources, office supplies and cleaning products we purchase more ethical or environmentally friendly alternatives where available and cost effective. Our printer is a refurbished machine that is leased and the majority of staff laptops were refurbished and donated.

Staff conduct and internal practice: Staff are encouraged to plan sessions that make use of existing resources and equipment, encourage active travel, and to recycle items appropriately. Paper use is minimised using Microsoft Teams and SharePoint for session plans, risk assessments etc.

Climate engagement: We have a pollinators area in the garden and have been growing food with our groups. We have encouraged bird life in the garden with feeders and bird tables.

Our premises present an opportunity for further reduction in the carbon footprint of OYCI – once fully handed over to the development trust we will work together to identify areas where the carbon footprint can be reduced.

TRUSTEES



Christine Arjun (Chair/Trustee)

Christine Arjun has been a friend of OYCI from its early foundations as a CIC and then as a trustee making the journey to gaining charitable status. "I love being a trustee for this dynamic, creative and enabling organisation where young people's voices genuinely lead the direction of programmes and activities. I look forward to bringing my experience in Education and Human Rights, both within the third and public sectors, 8 years of board membership at HELM, Dundee and my commitment to young people and poverty alleviation, to the exciting work of OYCI.



Erin Seaman (Trustee)

Erin is currently a student at the university of Edinburgh, studying sustainable development. She has been involved with OYCI since it started back in 2017 and loves getting to see the amazing work they do. Erin joined the board in 2022 and enjoys working together with the other board members to ensure that OYCI is doing the best job it can do to support and provide opportunities for young people in the community.



Laura McPherson (Trustee)

Laura has worked in the third sector throughout her career in a range of roles including youth work, grants administration and communications. She is currently the Communications Officer for a Stirling based charity, and is also a trustee for a local arts organisation. She has followed the development of OYCI since it's early days, and felt that becoming a trustee would be opportunity to contribute to the development of a valuable community organisation



Jill McIntyre (Trustee)

Jill McIntyre works as a project manager for the Institute of Social Policy, Housing and Equalities Research at Heriot Watt University. She is a law graduate with a wealth of experience in project management, research, evaluation and policy development both self-employed and previously as Policy and Research manager at sportscotland and Private Secretary and Policy Advisor at the Home Office. Jill worked with Shona Ulrichsen on the initial young persons' consultation for EDF Energy which led to the development of OYCI. She worked with the team in the early days to scope and set up OYCI as an organisation and since then has remained involved as a volunteer on the Board. Jill lives in Edinburgh with her husband and 11 year old twin daughters Ellie and Laurie. She does several voluntary roles in her own community and would love to see an OYCI developed to benefit young people in her area too!



Niki Maclean (Trustee)

Niki joined the OYCI in 2020. With experience of youth work very early on in her career, Niki was delighted to be invited to become involved again in this area of work with an organisation local to her that is genuinely youth led. With 20 years of leadership experience in the public and private sectors, Niki loves being able to work with her fellow board members and the fantastic OYCI team to help the organisation to keep growing and developing what it is able to offer.

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT