

# YMCA



YMCA BARNSELEY

Annual  
Report  
2020

## ► A Message From The Chair

I am pleased to introduce the annual report of YMCA Barnsley. In what has been a difficult year for everyone, we have tried to ensure that our work with young people has continued in some form to ensure they are supported during this difficult period. We have all learned new skills, be it for social media, zoom and teams and work outside of our buildings; our report this year shines a light on our work within the local community.

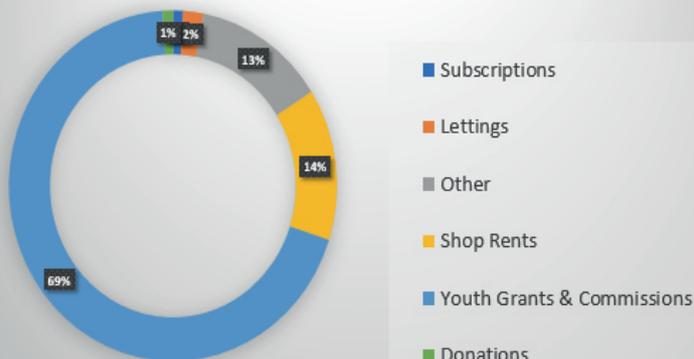
As ever our team of dedicated staff have continued to go above and beyond for us: across all our projects with support from our core admin team. Our staff and volunteers bring so much to the projects they are involved with, and to the wider work of the YMCA. The Unity Project whose aim is to build emotional resilience and wellbeing in young people age 8–14 years will be so vital in moving forward and similarly our work within other projects including detached work in the Central and North Areas, Y Stay In for 13–19's, Young Volunteers, Short Breaks and Little Y will be key in supporting our young people as we re-open our centre based youth work.

We are now starting to emerge from the latest lockdown caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. For many this will have been another difficult period but hopefully it has also given the opportunity to reflect on what has passed and is a time to look forward to building on our work from 2019/20 taking positives from the last year where we can. However we emerge, our goal remains to support our young people to reach their full potential.

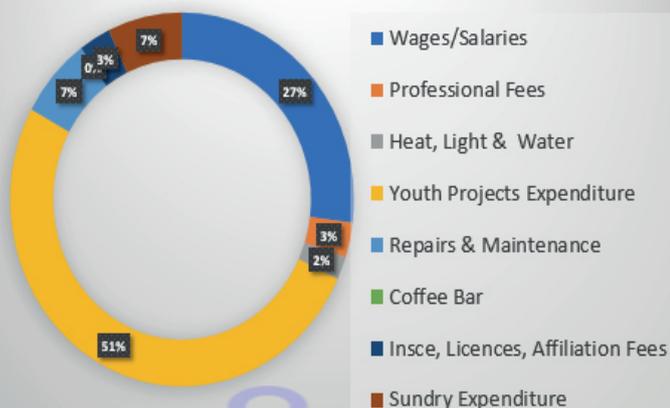
Sue Williams.  
Chair.

## ► Finance

### YMCA INCOME YEAR TO 31ST DECEMBER 2020



### YMCA EXPENDITURE YEAR TO 31ST DECEMBER 2020



“The Central Area Council are proud partners of the YMCA who offer community based opportunities and activities to build emotional resilience in young people across the area. Our young people have noted an improvement in their confidence, self-esteem and aspirations as a result of the project and as well as addressing topical issues (most recently Covid-19), they also support young people through the transition from Primary into Secondary schools”. The way that the staff and Trustees at the YMCA Barnsley have adapted and flexed their funded service throughout the pandemic has been phenomenal. They have ensured that our young people get as much support as possible and they have continued to do it with the energy and enthusiasm that we know and appreciate.”

Lisa Phelan,  
Central Area Council Manager

## ► Y Stay In, Central & North Detached

Throughout 20/21 we have maintained contact with key young people and their families largely due to our dedicated text / phone lines and our social media platforms. In between lockdowns we have been able to meet in public spaces and at garden gates whilst observing government and National Youth Association guidance. Focusing on the positives:

A detached presence has been maintained throughout the last 12 months, despite lockdowns, minimal contact and horizontal snow and hail. We have been a consistent and reliable point of contact for children, young people and their families as we have bumped into them on an ad hoc basis. Brief encounters have often turned into a broader engagement be it at garden gates or via our dedicated phone lines and social media.

Our team have carried out numerous litter picks. With our very visible branded work wear, people stop to chat and often thank us for our efforts, the impact of the pandemic is often discussed and information gathered has often informed our practice. Our 13-19 youth club Y Stay In has suffered the biggest impact. Thankfully we have been able to maintain contact and continue to grow our relationship with perhaps some of the more vulnerable young people we work with. Again our dedicated phone lines, text service and social media presence has proven key to keeping in touch.

Prior to the pandemic we had an emerging group of older Y Stay In members who become volunteers. This small group of young people maintained their contact with our team and once allowed, met on a weekly basis on YMCA Barnsley's allotment. Often the group would sit in Covid secure shelters in all weathers and talk, and talk. They needed this space and would eat together and discuss how the impact of Covid 19 might change their landscape perhaps permanently.

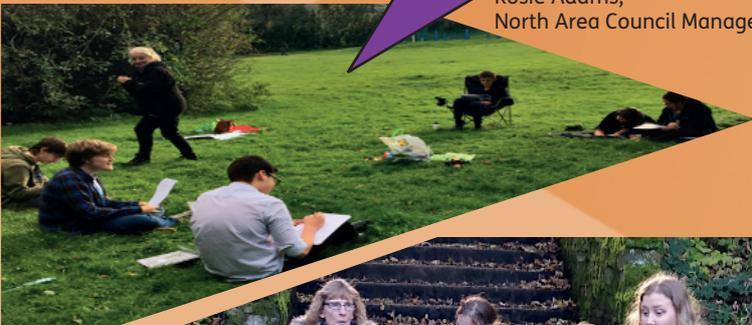
They are as enthusiastic as ever to remain part of YMCA Barnsley and will play a crucial role in the future of their youth club and how it will look as we continue to 'unlock'.

We are confident this and other projects will assist in galvanising a core membership for their Y Stay In youth club as we re-emerge together.

*"The North Area Council has had the pleasure of working with YMCA Barnsley for a number of years via our Stronger Communities Grant opportunities. Each year YMCA Barnsley have adapted their youth work offer. It has been particularly exciting to monitor their progress with families in the Kexborough area where some intergenerational work has been delivered with a community that has historically be resistant to engagement.*

*Throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic YMCA Barnsley have proved themselves to be a dynamic and dedicated provider of local youth provision."*

Rosie Adams,  
North Area Council Manager



## ► Short Breaks

It's been a very strange year for us well for everyone..... We have managed to keep contact with the majority of the young people who usually attend our Short Breaks Provision.

We've managed this by being creative enabling us to keep the young people and the staff safe throughout. Our young people weren't keen on virtual sessions, so we created opportunities to keep in touch with them all and see the young people.

We initially started with phone calls to keep in touch and then we had cards delivered just to remind them we were still thinking about them and then when we were allowed, we did home visits and walked around their local areas all socially distanced to ensure safety was upheld.

We created packs to deliver to each young person these included wellbeing and creative activities to help occupy them in times we could not see them. We also arranged walks around local green spaces so that the young people could see each other and visit the YMCA allotment. During the Christmas season we took Christmas Activity packs to all the young people.

We then worked in partnership with the other TYS Short Breaks team to welcome the young people back into a youth club setting at the Ozone which is based at Barnsley Football Ground. In May we will be welcoming the TYI Short Breaks young people back into the YMCA

## ► Unity Project

The delivery of the programme during 2020-2021 has been significantly impacted on by the challenges and restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic and consequently YMCA Barnsley has adapted our delivery models to the needs of our participants using Covid safe youth work interventions. The project has looked different this year to the commissioned 'out of school hours' programme where delivery would normally take place after school, twilight, evenings, weekends and school holidays with some transition support taking place in curriculum times. During the Covid-19 pandemic the delivery model has been flexible to maintain support for participants whilst working within school's restrictions. Some of the Covid Specific Interventions have included; Text line support number, social media messaging & email support, outdoor youth work sessions, detached youth work during lockdowns, engaging with young people in their localities on the streets and in green spaces, offering support and reinforcing Covid safe messages and social distancing guidelines, 1-1 support, Virtual Youth Clubs, short films recorded by staff and posted on the YMCA Facebook page, creation of a specific resource page on our website YMCA@home, consultation about the impact of COVID-19 on our participants, Hello, check in & seasonal postcards and activity & resource packs delivered to participants. These enable them to engage with our activities and to support their personal, emotional and mental health whilst they are not able to access youth clubs. Outdoor lunchtime clubs and health and wellbeing sessions in schools with keyworker children.

*"XXXXX enjoys all aspects of coming to YMCA, the staff, the activities and the environment."*

"Thank you so much, I really wish I had filmed it, he had the biggest smile ever bless him."

Response to postcard sent by YMCA

# 10 children and youth work programmes



Our youth workers have delivered **472** children's and youth work sessions in 2020

Our amazing volunteers

Have offered

hours of their time

**132**

We have Supported



**607**

young people

**9000**

Contact hours with Children and Young People

"One of xxxx's favourite activities is going up to the allotment, he really does love those sessions and has told us lots of information which has been sourced from there. In a nutshell we would lost without YMCA they have helped xxxxx so much ..... Thank you."

"must say they (YMCA) have been great, she used to attend their club after school, she's had letters and little gifts off them through the pandemic and now the virtual youth group, lovely to see her having fun with others."



Room Hire available.

Community Hall - seats 100

Large Sports Hall

Conference Room - seats 10



Donate:

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Please visit our CAF Donate webpages and help us make a difference in our local community.

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/11882> - Youth Work & General Funds

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/11818> - Supporting the Vulnerable & Homeless



A big **THANK YOU** to all our partner organisations, volunteers, staff, funders and donors.

