



YMCA

Here for young people
Here for communities
Here for you

2024/25 Impact Report

YMCA ROBIN HOOD GROUP



Introduction

This impact report celebrates a year of growth, learning and positive outcomes at YMCA Robin Hood Group showing how, together with our communities, we have created opportunities that truly transform lives.

Everyone deserves a fair chance to discover who they are and what they can become.

At YMCA Robin Hood Group, this belief runs through everything we do. Shaped by the voices and needs of our communities across Nottinghamshire and East Riding of Yorkshire, our work opens doors for children, young people and families to thrive.

Our programmes are varied – because **every young person’s journey is unique**. From early years through to adulthood, we provide spaces, services and relationships that more children and young people where they are – and support them to **belong, contribute and thrive**.

This commitment to opportunity for all is rooted in our place within the YMCA movement: a global community of hope and transformation for over 181 years.

In June 2024 we launched our North Star mission to bring our services together under a shared goal: **that every child and young person should have access to the life-shaping opportunities and supportive relationships they deserve**.

Our varied services and front-line teams support young people as they build confidence, discover their potential and create brighter futures for themselves.

Over the last year, this shared mission has united our teams and partners, inspiring us to deliver with impact at the heart of everything we do.

This report shares that impact – through stories, achievements and evidence of change. It highlights the progress we have made, the difference it has created for the children and young people in our communities, and the hope and ambition driving us forward into the year ahead.



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Message from the CEO

This year has been a defining moment for YMCA Robin Hood Group as we united our work around a single guiding mission, our North Star. It captures everything we believe in - ensuring every child and young person has the developmental relationships and close connections that help them discover who they are, develop their strengths, and learn how to engage with and contribute to the world around them.

The creation of our North Star reminds us why we exist and what truly changes lives. It gives us a shared language of positive change and development for young people in our region, across every service, every background, every community.

This North Star impact can be found in the small moments I am so grateful to bear witness to every single day at YMCA. It exists in the patient encouragement of our Children's Residential Services teams, in the laughter and curiosity of children in our Nursery, and in the renewed confidence of young people who find stability, safety and purpose through our Supported Housing or Youth programmes. Each moment of connection, however small, reflects the heart of who we are as a YMCA.

The past year has brought both challenge and progress. I have seen our staff meet increasing demand with incredible compassion and creativity. Together we



have strengthened our models of care, expanded opportunities for youth voice, and focused more deeply than ever on outcomes that build lasting change. I am continually inspired by the values our teams live out, caring, respect, responsibility and honesty, even when the work is hard.

Our North Star now gives us a clear and unifying direction for the years ahead. It focuses our purpose, connects our diverse services, and inspires us to ask at every turn, "how can we help one more young person flourish?". It challenges us to bring consistency and excellence to everything we do, while never losing the empathy and beliefs that sit at our core.

As I look to the future, I feel immense pride in how far we have come and deep gratitude for the people who make this possible - our colleagues, volunteers, partners, and supporters. Guided by our North Star, we will continue to build a YMCA where every young person has the relationships, opportunities, and confidence to thrive.

Craig Berens
CEO, YMCA Robin Hood Group

About the YMCA Robin Hood Group

What we do: Provide the foundations every young person needs to build a brighter future.

YMCA Robin Hood Group believes in **fairness** and **opportunity**. They are essential building blocks for a full and rewarding life: a safe home, a sense of acceptance, guidance, friendship, good physical and mental health, academic support, employment skills, and access to real opportunities.

Too many young people in our local communities have never had these foundations. For others, they have been lost as they grew up. But every young person needs and deserves them. All of us do.

We strive to provide these critical foundations – creating stronger starts for young people and a better quality of life for them and the wider communities we serve.



Our Story

Who we are: A local charity with over 150 years of history, dedicated to building stronger communities.

Our journey began in 1871, when a group of friends came together to set up a local YMCA branch in Nottinghamshire. More than 150 years later, we are still here, growing and supporting communities across Nottinghamshire and East Riding of Yorkshire.

Based on Christian core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility – we are an autonomous regional charity devoted to promoting youth development, healthy living and social responsibility for everyone in our communities.

Through our wide range of front-line services, every programme we deliver strives to improve the mind, body and spirit of our young people, families and communities.



Our Core Values

Caring
Be caring and kind to both oneself and others



Honesty
Be honest with oneself and truthful to others



Respect
Treat every living being including yourself with respect



Responsibility
Take responsibility for your actions and do what is right



Our Core Values are woven into all our services and programmes.

Our staff, young people, and volunteers are recognised for exemplifying these values over other kinds of achievement, keeping us aligned to our purpose – that everyone should have a fair chance to discover who they are and what they can become.



Our North Star

In June 2024, we launched our North Star mission across the organisation to unite our diverse services under a shared ambition of positive social change for children and young people.

“We work relentlessly to ensure all children and young people have the developmental relationships and close connections that help them discover who they are, develop the strengths and abilities to shape their own lives, and learn how to engage with and contribute to the world around them.”

Throughout this year, we have worked hard to embed the North Star direction into all our departments, empowering our staff team to deliver services driven by impact and outcomes for those we support beyond all else.



Developmental Assets

At the core of our North Star sits a research-backed youth development framework that guides how we structure and craft our services. A decade of research shows that a child is far more likely to enjoy a happy, healthy future when they are supported by the community around them to build positive personal competencies and behaviours¹.

These are grouped into two broad areas:



External Assets



Support



Constructive use of time



Empowerment



Boundaries & Expectations

Internal Assets



Positive Values



Positive Identity



Commitment to learning



Social Competencies

Both categories are made up of 40 individual assets and supported by a set of Developmental Relationships (positive relationships which best support children to build the strengths and abilities.²

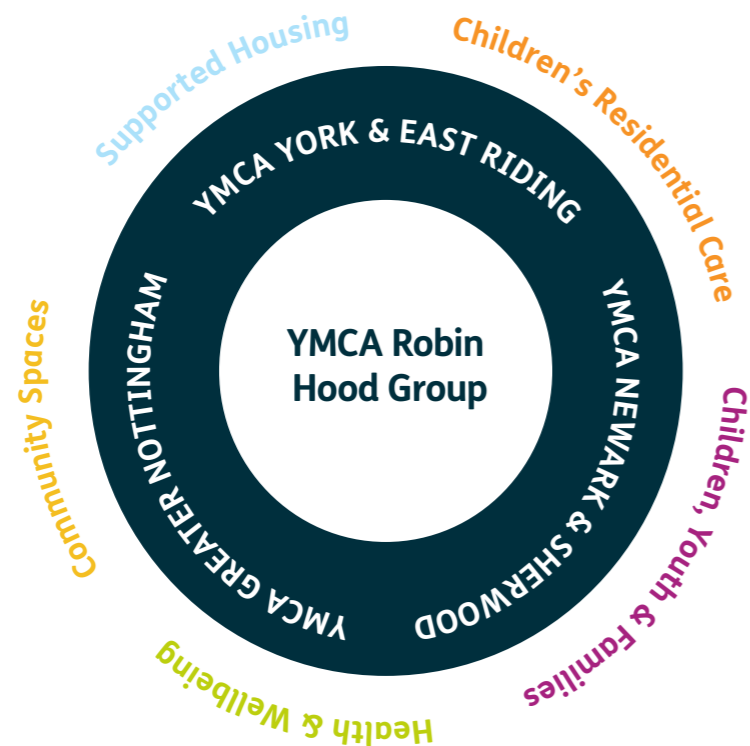
“Developmental Assets and Relationships form the foundation of our North Star guiding us to craft and deliver services that support all young people holistically and equitably.”

¹Search Institute (2024), 'Insights' [<https://searchinstitute.org/insights>]

²Search Institute (2024), 'Insights' [<https://searchinstitute.org/insights>]

Our Group Structure

YMCA Robin Hood Group is an alliance of local YMCAs and organisations, all working to support the local community across Nottinghamshire and East Riding.



Approach

To holistically support communities, our strategic approach splits into two core directives:

1. Respond

Dedicated services for those whose wellbeing is at immediate risk, including support for vulnerable children and young people who require specialist services to protect their immediate safety and accompanied by longer-term pathways to independence and stability



Children's Residential Services

Purposely designed homes which create nurturing, family-style environments with a therapeutic approach embedded into day-to-day life. Each home is supported by highly qualified teams who can support children with complex therapeutic needs.



Supported Housing

Providing temporary supported accommodation for vulnerable young people and adults across Nottinghamshire and East Riding. We also provide transitional houses to support residents on their journey to regain independence.

2. Prevent

Activities with a long-term view of positive social change, through developing young people and communities.



Hospitality

Serving our community through the provision of physical spaces and venues, as well as acting as a vehicle for social change and opportunity through programming.



Children, Youth and Families

A varied and vibrant mix of services to support children and their families with the opportunities and tools they need to thrive as they grow.



Community and Activity Village

The YMCA Community and Activity Village in Newark is a hub of community life, delivering services and partnerships designed to nurture mind, body and spirit, where individuals of all ages can thrive.

Year in numbers

724

people participated as members of the YMCA Community and Activity Village



77%

of those who left Supported Housing transitioned into managing their own tenancy, or reconnecting with family

41,749

young people provided with safe, supportive spaces to grow, build relationships and thrive through our Children, Youth and Families services



10

children supported with 24-hour, individualised therapeutic residential care



124

low-income families accessed youth services and day camps through the YMCA Scholarship Programme



28

vulnerable people were given First Aid by Street Pastors on the streets of Nottingham

4,232

hours of training delivered for youth climbing qualifications

90,685

hot drinks served at YMCA Café facilitated the community connecting with one another

46

Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children supported towards community integration through trauma-informed care and housing



5

therapeutic family-style homes, for nurturing and caring for looked-after children

3,077

community visitors to the YMCA Village per week

461

young people built confidence, resilience and green skills through Outdoor Education

13,557

days of asset-building early years care provided at YMCA Nursery

Supported Housing

Thank you so much for believing in me and supporting me to get me where I am today. I couldn't have done it without you.

KB, Former Supported Housing resident.

Supported Housing

Over the past year, our Supported Housing provision has remained focused on providing high standards of care and support for those experiencing homelessness in the communities we serve.

We are incredibly proud that our services this year demonstrated a 77.1% positive move-on rate, which is an over 5% improvement compared to last year's milestone high.

"Positive Move-Ons" are one of our most valued measures of impact, with each person it represents being a someone impacted by homelessness who now has transitioned to a life of independence.

But these are not just captivating numbers - they are a clear demonstration of the fantastic work of our teams, and the ever-inspiring resilience and determination we see in the young people we support, no matter the challenges they face.



In October 2024, the YMCA Goole team was nominated for North Yorkshire Council's Care Leaver Champion Awards and were proud to win at the celebration event held at York University. Three young residents attended the day, taking part in activities and joining the celebrations. The award now takes pride of place in our Goole office, a testament to the amazing support provided to the young people in their homes.

1159

residents supported out of homelessness and into independence

2920

support plan completed with residents

77.1%

Positive move-rate

79%

of residents aged 35 or under

Friendship Day

After a challenging year of demonstrations and increased national tensions regarding immigration in the UK, the Unaccompanied Asylum-Seeking Children (UASC) team held a co-created Friendship Day on 22nd August 2024 and welcomed the wider community to their home.

Many partners such as Refugee Roots, Al Hurraayah, Nottinghamshire County Council, local mosques and community groups were welcomed, where our young people had cooked and prepared traditional dishes from across their cultures to share. Together, our young residents also built a wooden bench, with materials donated by a local Wickes store, to create a safe and comfortable shared space.

Friendship Day created an opportunity for the young people in our UASC service to mutually build positive relationships with their local community, share culture, build confidence and support their development as young people settling into life in Britain.



Working with B&Q has been a privilege, and this experience highlights how meaningful collaborations can directly enhance the lives of the young people we house and support.

Co-Production in Action

Residents leading the vision, community partners bringing it to life.

Our Goole Communal Spaces project was truly co-produced. With a £1,500 budget, residents played a central role in shaping their environment—choosing paint colours, furniture, flooring, and accessories to create a space designed around their needs. The result is a welcoming, functional area that reflects the people who use it every day.

In October, a team of enthusiastic B&Q volunteers joined forces with our maintenance team and an engaged resident to begin the transformation. Over two energetic days, they painted walls and cupboards, built and installed furniture, and added decorative touches to make the space feel more homely.

The finishing phase introduced Art Deco wall features, modern kitchen fittings, and soft furnishings that brought warmth and personality to the space. B&Q generously provided all the materials and equipment, showing a real commitment to supporting their local community.

This collaboration has created benefits far beyond the physical transformation. One young resident who supported the project was later offered, and secured, a part-time role at B&Q—a powerful example of how opportunity can grow from connection.

The refurbished communal area now offers residents a vibrant, comfortable place to cook, socialise, and relax together. This project stands as a brilliant example of how partnership and shared purpose can enhance both spaces and livess with certificates and vouchers for their contributions.



It isn't just about giving someone a roof

Team Spotlight: Jon, Housing Operations Manager

What do you love most about your job?

What I love most is helping people move from crisis to stability. It's rewarding to support them, not just in getting housed, but in building confidence and skills to maintain it long-term.

What inspired you to work in supported housing?

I wanted to make a difference for people facing homelessness. Knowing that stable housing is the foundation for rebuilding lives motivates me every day to help people not just to get a home, but to keep it and feel supported.

How do you and your team support residents day to day?

We provide practical help with managing their tenancies, offering emotional support and connecting them to services like healthcare, benefits and training opportunities. We work closely with each person to build skills and confidence so they can maintain their home long-term.

What's one thing you wish people knew about supported housing?

It isn't just about giving someone a roof – it's about ongoing support, building trust and helping people regain independence over time.

What's your proudest moment in this job?

When residents I've supported successfully maintains their tenancy and starts rebuilding their life – seeing that positive change makes all the challenges worth it.

Creating Opportunities

Our young residents have also been central in shaping our services through co-production with Nottinghamshire County Council. They gained valuable skills and confidence by supporting staff recruitment, co-writing interview questions, and participating on youth panels.

Their professionalism, teamwork, and communication impressed staff and candidates alike, and they were recognised with certificates and vouchers for their contributions.

Building Skills, Relationships and Belonging

Our Supported Housing teams worked closely with the young people this year to ensure an abundance of opportunities and experiences were in place to strengthen their support plans, build positive relationships and grow their own skills and abilities.



46 young unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have been supported through our UASC service

Residents have been able to experience a huge number of activities, such as creative projects, physical exercise and collaborative DIY projects to personalise and improve their own spaces.

Crucially, our Supported Housing teams ensure our services are welcoming, supportive and embracing of the vibrant mix of cultures that makes up our community. Young people are empowered to feel proud of their identity, and to share their culture enthusiastically, through creating and sharing traditions around key times of the year, such as Christmas and Eid.



👁️ It was brilliant

– I learnt a lot

– I'd do it again, 100%.

Looking Ahead

Our Supported Housing service will remain focused on providing safe, compassionate and supportive environments where young people can thrive.

We are driving the development and introduction of Life Skills units across all services, to ensure every resident has the opportunity to strengthen their abilities and prepare for independent living.

Following our Ofsted registration in July 2024, we are committed to achieving the highest standards in our registered services and preparing fully for inspection. Above all, the service will keep young people at the centre of all we do, empowering them to shape their own lives and futures.



Children's Residential Care

“The passion that staff have for caring for the children is clear. Staff understand the children and speak positively about them. They have ambitions for the children and work closely with them to support them to reach their goals.”

Ofsted Report 2024/25

Our Children's Residential Services are key to our North Star mission to give every child and young person opportunities to discover who they are and what they can become.

Our homes create nurturing, family-style environments where therapeutic approaches are embedded into day-to-day life. Each of our five homes are supported by highly qualified clinical teams and residential teams who are specially trained to support children with complex therapeutic needs.

This year we have supported ten children with bespoke therapeutic care, and we are very proud to have seen one of the children in our care positively move-on to semi-independent living after years of support and therapeutic intervention within our service.

By providing space, time and support to heal from developmental and relational trauma, we create chances for these children to discover who they are, develop the strengths and abilities to shape their own lives, and learn to engage with and contribute to the world around them.

“One parent described staff as being like family to her child and felt she could not wish for a better key worker for her child. This promotes the security and emotional progress of the children.”



“Staff know the child's past experiences well. With the use of appropriate boundaries and consistency, this is now the longest placement the child has experienced. The child is making progress.”

10
supported with bespoke therapeutic care within our homes.

1
Child positively moved on into semi-independent care after years of support within our service.

5
registered with Ofsted delivering specialist therapeutic care.

The numbers may seem small but the impact on these children and their young lives is huge. Each child supported in our service is one more young life being given opportunities to recover and thrive.



Our Therapeutic Care Model

2024-25 has been the first full year with complete integration of our therapeutic model into all our Children's Residential homes. This allows us to offer exceptional support for traumatised children most in need by providing specialist therapeutic service, providing placements, home and therapies to children suffering from severe trauma responses.

Led by world-class forensic psychologists and supported by a fully trained and clinically supervised therapeutic care team, our model centres children as individuals – understanding that children can only thrive when they feel safe and secure.

“ Staff adopt therapeutic theory-based practice to support the child's needs. This has meant the child can process emotions and feelings in a safer way

Impact through Opportunity

Our Children's Residential homes are unique in their connection with the wider YMCA services. This year has seen links and relationships between our services strengthen to give those in our care the opportunities for holistic, diverse and rich childhood experiences.

From Camp Williams, our school holiday camps, to experiencing the climbing wall and cycle tracks of the YMCA COmmunity and Activity Village, children in our homes have been supported to engage and seek opportunities outside of the home environment and into the local communities.

The impact of creating these opportunities is vital to building the developmental relationships and assets needed to build happier, healthier futures.

Looking Forward

Our ambitions for the next year are centred on the quality and availability of our care. One year into a fully therapeutic service, our energy is focused on stability and consistency of care, with our priorities centred on expanding further the quality and availability of care.

The development of a broader Clinical function is also on the horizon at YMCA Robin Hood Group, which will build on the important work of our own clinical work within Children's Residential Services, as well as recognising and responding to Clinical needs elsewhere in the community.

Crucially - our service will continue to centre and grow its response to the voices and experiences of the children in our care.

“ Our belief is that all children deserve to be nurtured and supported to become rounded individuals – not just by their carers but also by the greater community

Craig Berens, Group CEO





Children, Youth & Families

Built around the developmental assets and relationships core to our North Star mission, our Children, Youth and Families department delivers a vibrant mix of services that support children and young people as young as 3 months old.

This diverse, far-reaching department sits front and centre of our Prevent strategy, equipping children and their families with the opportunities and interpersonal tools they need to thrive as they grow - building positive community change which reduces the need for urgent support services long-term.

This year, CYF services have delivered significant impact:

13,557

day bookings at YMCA Nursery

33,724

childcare sessions booked through YMCA

2,322

skill development sessions delivered

461

participants in Outdoor Education sessions

804

volunteer hours through supporting students to gain experience working with preschool children

64

scholarships granted – giving young people access to opportunities they might not otherwise have

41,749

young people give access to safe, supportive spaces where they can grow, connect and feel included

673

Families supported to work by booking Camp Williams school holiday care



Nursery & Childcare

Now in its third year, YMCA Nursery at the Village has continued to grow in both reputation and reach, with booked sessions increasing by 56% compared to last year. The Nursery is proud to have also won the YMCA's North Star Award, reflecting how strongly the service embodies our mission and values in practice.

This year, opportunities for our children have expanded to include activities many would not ordinarily access, such as bouldering, age-appropriate sessions with qualified coaches in the on-site Strength & Conditioning gym and learning to ride on our purpose-built cycle track. These experiences, alongside the Nursery's creative and nurturing environment, help children to grow in confidence, resilience, and readiness for life.

Family engagement continues to be central, with parents and carers welcomed into their children's learning journey. A new focus this year has been oral health, with daily tooth-brushing introduced in response to local dental health needs in Newark and Sherwood, where 20.9% of under-fives experience decay.



This year, 2 of our practitioners became Maths Champions through the National Day Nurseries Association.



Plans are underway to launch a Forest School on site to provide children with opportunities to explore the outdoors and support their wellbeing and development.

Childcare

Operating across five primary schools in Nottinghamshire, our Ofsted-registered childcare service continues to provide safe, welcoming spaces for children aged 4-11 to learn, play, and grow beyond the classroom. Breakfast and after-school clubs run during term-time, alongside Wollaton Holiday Club, which supports families during school breaks.

This year, YMCA Childcare has supported families through 33,724 booked sessions across term-time clubs, alongside 1,340 weeks at Wollaton Holiday Club. These numbers reflect the growing demand for high-quality childcare, helping children discover their passions, develop confidence, and support their wider educational outcomes.

“Thank you for how you have supported B to grow. He will miss you all very much but because of your help, he is so ready for school

Preschool parent 2024.



“Camp certainly made a difference more than any school has ever made”
- Camp Williams Parent

Camp Williams

Our flagship school holiday programme, Camp Williams, continues to provide children aged 4-15 with a vibrant space to grow, play, and thrive. Rooted in the Developmental Assets framework, the camp is designed to help children build confidence, resilience, and self-esteem while forming positive relationships with peers and role models. Through a wide choice of sports, creative and experiential activities, children are empowered to make decisions, try new things, and develop skills that support their wellbeing long beyond the school holidays.

Camp Williams has also seen a surge in demand, with summer bookings increasing year on year with 673 families using the school holiday provision over the academic year.

“Thanks again for supporting, encouraging and showing love to A for who he truly is. Camp certainly made a difference more than any school or service has ever

made, solely for accepting and embracing everyone's unique differences and allowing them to be their true self.” Camp Williams parent.

Looking Ahead

Camp Williams will be focussed on expanding opportunities for older campers by strengthening our leadership and volunteer pathways for young people aged 15+, allowing them to stay part of Camp as they step into new roles of responsibility:

- support individual growth
- help young people develop as confident leaders
- build resilience, teamwork and communication skills that will stay with them for life.



This year, 64 families were able to attend thanks to our Scholarship programme, ensuring financial barriers did not stand in the way of children benefiting from the unique opportunities on offer.



Everyone is important,
I've been able to listen and
respect others outside
-ChangeMakers Participant

ChangeMakers

Launched in February 2025, ChangeMakers is YMCA's newest youth voice and social action programme, designed for young people aged 11-16 in Newark. Rooted in the Developmental Assets framework, the programme creates safe, youth-led spaces where young people can connect, build relationships, and act on the issues that matter most to them.

From intergenerational tea parties to community litter picks, every ChangeMakers project has been co-designed with young people, ensuring they feel valued, heard, and supported.

Participants become active contributors within their communities, building confidence, self-esteem, and leadership skills along the way: young people become visible role models, strengthening intergenerational links, creating safer and cleaner neighbourhoods, and fostering a community that actively values young people.



Young people from some of the most deprived areas of Newark have stepped forward as ChangeMakers, sharing their voice and developing the skills to turn ideas into action.

Looking Ahead

YMCA will continue to scale the programme in 2025/26, embedding it in schools and community settings and launching new strands including a Youth Advisory Board and a Youth Podcast. By continuing to measure developmental assets, we will track growth in empowerment, positive identity, and constructive use of time, ensuring that ChangeMakers becomes a sustained offer that reaches more young people, particularly in areas of highest deprivation.

ChangeMakers has really boosted my daughter's confidence and helped her voice her views on what's important to her.

ChangeMakers parent

Outdoor Education

Our Outdoor Education service creates opportunities for young people and communities to grow in confidence, resilience, and wellbeing through meaningful interactions with the outdoors. Delivered by expert leaders, it offers safe, inclusive and challenging experiences that nurture body, mind, and spirit while helping individuals reach their full potential.

In 2024/25, over 144 outdoor education sessions were delivered, engaging 461 young people and community members.

Activities include:

- Environmental learning
- Team-building projects
- Residential trips

All delivering a positive impact of outdoor learning on both individuals and communities.

2025/26 will see a renewed focus on two key areas:

- Supporting schools with targeted provision for vulnerable young people
- Expanding family engagement through camping weekends that offer opportunities for families to connect and strengthen relationships in the outdoors.

These strands of work will build on a clear direction of impact, using outdoor education to improve wellbeing, inclusion, and community cohesion across our region.



The Zone Youth Project

As part of a collaborative partnership with YMCA Robin Hood Group, the Zone Youth Project has played a pivotal role in enhancing services for children and young people. The charity focuses on supporting children and young people aged 12-21 through a variety of educational programmes.

This year, the Zone Youth Project has provided outdoor education and mental health support through providing access within disadvantaged communities in our region.



YMCA Community and Activity Village

“The YMCA Village has been a game changer for our family across multiple generations... it brings us all together.”

Hannah, local parent and business owner

YMCA Community and Activity Village

YMCA Community and Activity Village in Newark has continued to grow as a hub of community life, embodying our North Star mission to provide children, young people, and families with opportunities to discover who they are, develop their strengths, and build meaningful connections.

Every service and partnership within the Village is designed to nurture body, mind, and spirit through accessible, asset-building experiences, making the Village a place where individuals of all ages can thrive.

Membership growth has remained strong this year, with new initiatives, new membership options and expanded timetables of activities.

The impact is visible in the wide range of people engaging with the Village on a daily basis, from toddlers in our nursery through to grandparents in our inclusive fitness groups.

Diverse Programming

The relaunch of the Bike Track has seen coached sessions, including our Learn to Ride sessions, which help children aged 4-10, while the Climbing Centre remains at full capacity, with waiting lists for NICAS qualifications.

Our studio programme has grown too, with new fitness and wellbeing classes and the expansion of inclusive sports like Boccia.

The Children, Youth & Families team have relaunched Creative Academy (including DJing, music production and dance) and launched two flagship youth voice programmes – ChangeMakers and Y-Kids – directly responding to the needs of local children of all ages.



“The YMCA is a wonderful place where I’ve met new people, made friends, and tried out different sports.”

Michelle, YMCA Village Member



Our Gypsy Roma Traveller (GRT) programme has gone from strength to strength, supporting 27 children from the community with weekly activities and trusted relationships.



Scholarships
that change lives.

Making opportunities affordable and accessible

64 young people at The Village were supported through scholarships, and those children are often among our most engaged participants. They benefit not only from activities, but also from pastoral support and a sense of community they might otherwise miss.

For Leo, the scholarship did more than make membership affordable – it opened the door to daily social interaction that wasn't possible before. As a home-educated young person, he now has a place to make friends, join activities he loves and feel part of a group. This approach keeps our model financially sustainable while remaining responsive to local need.

64

Scholarship places to provide children with opportunities they might not otherwise have



I've made new friends here and I really love the art and animation sessions – it's my favourite place to come.

Leo, Aged 15

Community Impact

The Village continues to act as a base for collaboration and community impact. Our business space hosts everything from volunteer days and sponsorship events to corporate away days and school engagement.

We are so proud to have welcomed Macmillan Cancer Care and Every Turn (NHS Talking Therapies) into the Village this year, bringing vital health services to the heart of Newark.

Internally, the Village remains a training ground for young people, with a comprehensive work experience programme and apprenticeship pathways in partnership with Lincoln College, supporting local young people into qualifications and employment.



The YMCA is a great place to base our family support charity... the staff here have been so supportive, friendly and helpful.

Sara, Manager, Home-Start Newark



Looking Forward

For the year ahead, YMCA Newark and Sherwood has set out a clear strategic plan to maximise use of the Village facilities, expanding inclusive programmes, and growing youth voice initiatives.

Priorities include developing leadership pathways for young people, enhancing volunteer opportunities, and embedding tools such as the Developmental Assets survey to measure long-term impact. With a focus on empowerment, inclusion, and collaboration, the YMCA Village is firmly established as a driver of wellbeing, opportunity, and community in Newark and the wider communities.

724

memberships over 2024/25 (which continues to grow)

3,077

average weekly visitor numbers

78

children's birthday parties

16,145

climbing bookings made

2,578

youth football sessions delivered by community partners

£31,921



raised by fundraising and sponsorship by local communities and businesses



Community Spaces and hospitality

Within our region, our Hospitality is an important facilitator of our North Star mission, serving our community through the provision of practical spaces, as well as acting as a vehicle for social change and opportunity through programming.

 Hospitality has been a key driver of social change and community connectivity throughout YMCA for over 180 years

YMCA Café at the Village

A space used by almost every visitor to the Newark Community and Activity Village, our Café has become a natural hub, supporting both our YMCA mission, and the valuable work of our community partners. Alongside the continued engagement with young people's cooking classes as part of YMCA membership, this year our Village Café have host events for a range of positive community focused organisations, including:

- Lincolnshire Air Ambulance Service
- East Midlands Ambulance Service
- The National Trust
- Google
- NHS
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Our Dementia Choir

And many more community groups and businesses utilised our spaces and hospitality for their work. The venue also hosted the Mayoral Election and General Election hustings and debates.



For the second year, we hosted NottAlone Live, a two-day event during Children's Mental Health Week, which brought over 1,000 school children through our doors for workshops, activities and presentations to support their wellbeing.



Our Meet and Eat sessions in conjunction with Age UK are delivered in direct response to local community needs.

This programme has been specifically developed to bring people at risk of social isolation around the table

90,685

hot drinks served to customers from our communities

210

private hire bookings, providing a welcoming social and meeting space

105

children's birthday parties catered for

Malt Cross

A unique part of the YMCA Robin Hood Group family, Malt Cross is a beautiful and cherished Grade II listed bar, kitchen and events venue in the heart of Nottingham city centre.

The Malt Cross is open to the public, seven days a week to serve individuals, groups and communities with freshly prepared food, a curated drinks selection and social sessions including live music, quizzes, comedy event, arts and crafts workshops and much more.

The core focus is to create a welcoming, accessible and safe space in which to socialise responsibly, supported by a cultural events programme to deliver positive community impact and support the YMCA's mission.

Looking Ahead

Over the next year, our Hospitality offering will build on its opportunities and events for community impact, as well as refreshing and connecting its branding to celebrate its relationship to the wider YMCA, the opportunities that affords the wider community, and how their support contributes to our impact.

We will look to shape programmes and services to provide asset-building opportunities for young people, especially around healthy lifestyles - including recipe cards, demonstrations, talks and workshops.

68 community events delivered to provide a welcoming and socially enriching venue

3 weddings hosted

26 live music performers and artists, providing accessible experiences



A proud achievement of 2024-2025 has been the launch of a series of events called **Cyndi Says Relax**, designed to support individuals who identify as women or gender non-conforming. These events – inclusive of makers markets, DJ nights, bingo and more – were built in response to reports that highlighted the extremely high prevalence of sexual harassment faced by young women and gender non-conforming people in public spaces. Through direct action, our spaces have been able to nurture belonging, safety and fun for individuals who may otherwise not feel comfortable in typical city centre settings.



During the festive period, Malt Cross fundraised through community events for YMCA's Winter Giving campaign, hosting events such as 'Festive Feasts' and 'Beer and Carols' - directly funding the kitchen team to cook a Christmas dinner for residents of Supported Housing.

Street Pastors

The Malt Cross Trust owns and manages our heritage building and delivers our Street Pastors programme in Nottingham city centre.

The Street Pastors programme provides a unique and much-needed service supporting Nottingham city's nighttime economy. Delivered by the work of a committed group of over 34 volunteers from local churches, Nottingham Street Pastors work alongside the emergency services, providing on-street care and support to those in need on Friday and Saturday nights in the city centre.

On average, the volunteers support around 20 individuals each night in a variety of ways:

- Care and Support: practical help such as providing water, help to find taxis, or assisting people who are intoxicated and/or vulnerable.
- Listening and Emotional Support: engaging with people to offer a friendly,

non-judgmental ear to listen to their problems or concerns, helping people feel safe and supported

- De-escalation: help to de-escalate potentially violent or tense situations by offering calming and non-confrontational interactions
- Safety: Clearing away broken or discarded bottles or glass to remove potential weapons or sources of injury (383 bottles in total over just one quarter)
- Give lollipops to young people, door staff and rough sleepers, reducing tension and helping to initiate positive conversations

The positive impact from this dedicated teams is felt not only by the individuals they support, but they help to relieve pressure from the emergency services and door security staff. With support from the Street Pastors programme Nottingham City retained its Purple Flag status ensuring Nottingham is a safe place for young people.





Looking Ahead

In 2025-26, the service hopes to strengthen its offer and support for individuals experiencing mental health challenges, and for marginalised groups – both of which the team have seen an increase in demand for over the past year.

“We supported some newly arrived university students with their friend who was having an asthma attack. To prevent calling an ambulance, the police agreed to escort us back to her campus accommodation. We all climbed into a police van and blue lighted to campus! The female was reunited with her inhaler and safely delivered to her room. It was a great example of police collaboration and prevented the need for an ambulance to be called.”

International Community Centre

The ICC on Mansfield Road in Nottingham continues to hire out meeting rooms and spaces for community groups and not-for-profit organisations, along with self-help groups, adult education classes, training courses, presentations, and business meetings.

This year, our spaces have allowed many community groups to support local communities in a huge spectrum of ways, including language learning, charity networks, alcohol dependency support and youth mental health provisions.

169

room bookings through our community partners

315

classes run by community groups using these spaces

69%

occupancy across our spaces

62

Street Pastor shifts carried out over the year



28

instances of first aid delivery to those in need

82

individuals supported to find a safe way to get home



A special thank you to our funders, sponsors and partners...

We are so grateful to our many generous partners and funders, without whom we couldn't serve young people and the communities they are part of.

Aarsleff Ground Engineering	Derbyshire Environmental Trust
Acorn Aluminium	Ermine Engineering
Active Partners Trust	Every Turn Mental Health
Albert Hunt Trust	FCC Communities Foundation
Aldi Winter Funder	Fiducia
Arnold Clarke Community Fund	Football Foundation
Arts Council England	Futures Group
Asda	GRJ Contracting
B&Q	Groundwork
Bassetlaw Rough Sleeper Grant	Heritage Lottery Fund
BBC Children in Need	Historic England
Bellway Homes Limited (East Midlands)	HomeStart Newark
Barclays	Influence Environmental
Barclays Community Football Fund	Inspire
Bramley Fund	Jessie Spencer Trust
British Cycling	Jones 1986 Charitable Trust
British Science Week	Kuehne and Nagel
Buttercross Estates	Lady Hind Trust
Capital Park	Landfill Communities Fund
Carlton Rotary Club	Leeds City Council
Co-op Community Foundation Lincolnshire	Lidl
Comic Relief	Lincoln College Group
Comic Relief Community Fund	Lloyd Worrall Architectural Solutions
Currys in partnership with GXO	Lord Barnby Foundation
Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport	M&S Grant Fund – Gifts That Give
J N Derbyshire Trust	Magic Little Grants
	Mansfield District Council

Morrisons	Sainsbury's
Multiple & Complex Needs Rough Sleepers Initiative	Sir John Eastwood Foundation
National Grid Community Matters Fund	Social Recovery Fund
Neighbourly	Sport England
Newark and Sherwood District Council	Sport England Queens Jubilee Fund
Newark Athletics Club	Sport England Together Fund
Newark Emmaus Trust	Sported
Newark Town Board	St Mary's Relief in Need Charity
Newark Town Council	Stewards of Trent Bridge
Newark Town Football Club	Tarmac
Newark Towns Fund	Tesco
Nigel Smith Plumbing	Tesco Stronger Starts
Nottingham BID (It's in Nottingham)	The 29th May 1961 Charity
Nottingham City Business Improvement District	The Gray Trust
Nottingham City Council	The Mary Potter Convent Hospital Trust
Nottingham City Violence Reduction Partnership	The Mighty Creatives
Nottinghamshire County Council	The National Foundation for Youth Music
Nottinghamshire Police & Crime Commissioner	The National Lottery Community Fund
Notts FA	The Skinny Food Co.
Own the Ride	Thomas Farr Charity
Postcode Places Trust	Urban & Civic
Raleigh UK Limited	Waitrose Newark and Lincoln
Reed Foundation	Wrigleprint
RHP Social Club	YMCA England and Wales
Rilmac	YMCA England and Wales RoomSponsor
	Y-Notts
	You Can Do Sport



A special thank you to all our incredible community fundraisers and sponsors who have run, danced, baked, bag-packed, gifted, quizzed, slept outdoors, attended events and so much more to support local young people and communities.



Support Our Mission



Donate

Our charities deliver a wide variety of services, all designed to support young people and families across the region

A donation could help us to:

- Provide supported accommodation for homeless or at-risk people
- Support young people with mentors, creative programmes and wellbeing initiatives
- Create life-changing opportunities for families, children and vulnerable people through outdoor adventure, sport and education
- Nurture safe, loving homes for children unable to live with their own families

Find out more here:

ymcarobinhood.org

ymcanewarksherwood.org



Fundraise

Get involved with our existing fundraising campaigns and events or host your own!

Currently, our fundraising campaigns are run through YMCA Newark and Sherwood to support our Scholarships programme to create opportunities for children and young people. Find out more here:

ymcanewarksherwood.org



Partner with Us

Whether you're looking for a short-term partnership or interesting in working with YMCA Robin Hood on a long-term project, reach out to us here:

ymcarobinhood.org/get-in-touch



Join our Community

Whether you are a volunteer, wanting to donate your time to help young people or a budding employee looking to embark on your next career adventure – there's so many options to join the YMCA community. Find out more at here:

ymcarobinhood.org/careers/



Spread the word

Anything you can do to support our mission is so appreciated.

Follow our social media accounts and sign up to our mailing lists to find out more, keep in touch and share our updates with your communities



YMCA Newark & Sherwood



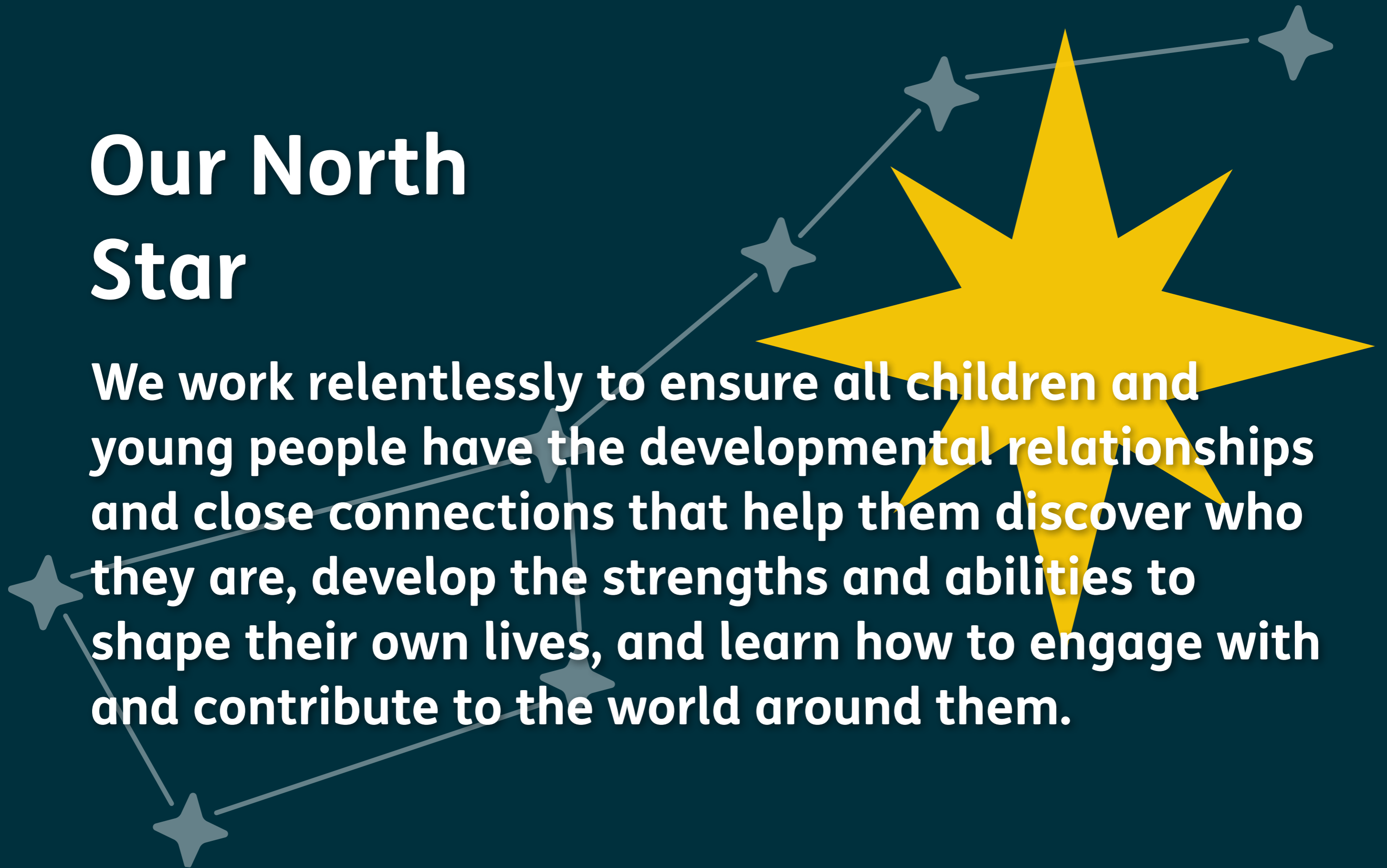
YMCA Robin Hood



Malt Cross

Our North Star

We work relentlessly to ensure all children and young people have the developmental relationships and close connections that help them discover who they are, develop the strengths and abilities to shape their own lives, and learn how to engage with and contribute to the world around them.





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Here for young people
Here for communities
Here for you