



Annual Report 2021

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Foreword

It is an honour for me to be offering this forward to the annual report for Project4Change.

Projects4Change was created by Kelly to help fill the closure in services to young people created by the Conservative Governments cruel policy of austerity and the decimation to the public infrastructure of youth work caused by it. Her powerful commitment to young people through a critical youth work lens drove her to establish Projects4Change and this work began in January 2018. In my view Projects4Change does 3 things that are critical to the future wellbeing of our communities and society. They firstly respond to the needs and concerns of young people, they secondly provide youth-led projects, and they thirdly maximise young people's voice, choice, and potential to explore a better future.

Since their inception Projects4Change have succeeded in producing high quality youth work with a range of delivery partners helped by the support of a range of socially responsible funders. As Councillor Linda Hobson identified in the annual report last year, Projects4Change work with young people and their families and friends to prevent the difficulties that come all too easy from the circumstances of poverty, structural inequality, and social / political marginalisation in our society. The concerns and needs of young people are always related to the contexts in which their lived experiences of who they are in society are formed. Youth workers start from this premise and recognise that attentively listening to young people is a good starting point and Projects4Change do this so well. Youth workers, whether working for public or voluntary bodies, build relationships over time with young people, their siblings, their families, and other stakeholders in the community. The youth worker uniqueness is in maintaining critical distance whilst acting as an advocate for and with young people. Youth work should be compassionate at heart, excellent in form and delivered with sensitivity, dedication, open communication, critical thinking, local engagement, and time. This work needs a high degree of knowledge and skill. That knowledge and skill does not arrive in neat, off the shelf packages of training. It demands an education that mirrors the excellence of critical youth work practice.

Projects4Change combine all these ingredients and demonstrate through their ethics of care the importance of youth work services to young people who have been consistently neglected by National Government. Kelly and her wonderful team of trustees, youth workers, volunteers and young people operate from a set of principles that foreground participation and collaboration. The growing portfolio of projects; change makers and the 'listening to young people in the Northeast report', the Cowgate community garden project, the peer mentoring or the fabulous Betty's Hut alongside the ongoing training of new youth workers are all testament to the importance of building relationships of trust and a community where diversity and difference can all belong.

This year Projects4Change have continued to build their presence in the local communities they serve. This year has clearly been a challenging but productive year. Despite the realities of Covid this year has built on the hard work and success of the previous one. The range of work that Projects4Change are involved in is outstanding. The ability to seek out partnerships with others is core to the brilliant work at Projects4Change. The mentoring support to young people, volunteers, and youth workers is excellent. The work with Kenton School and Action for Children (YAK) and with Unfolding Theatre and Monkfish Productions are testament to the creative, mental health, and educational concerns that are so important to young people's wellbeing now and in the future. I commend this report to you and ask that we all continue to support Projects4Change and youth work across the region in whatever way we can.

Dr Rick Bowler

Senior Lecturer in Community and Youth Work Studies at Sunderland University

Charity Details

Name: Projects4Change Registered Charity Number: 1181162 Registered Address: The Cowgate Centre, Houghton Avenue, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE5 3UT

Management Committee:

Simon Pinkney - Chairperson (Appointed March 2019) Anisa Ahmed - Vice Chairperson (Appointed March 2019)

Amy Coates - Secretary (Appointed January 2018) Jo Nicholson - Treasurer (Appointed October 2019) Amanda Hall - Trustee (Appointed October 2019) Tristan Dunlavy - Trustee (Appointed October 2019) Helen Hall - Trustee (Appointed January 2018)

Changes to Management Committee:

None

P4C Team:

Kelly Coates - CEO Chesley Conlin - Student Youth Worker

Structure, Governance and Management:

Projects4Change is a registered CIO within the UK Charity Commission. The organisation is managed by Kelly Coates, CEO and governed by the Management Committee through regular Committee meetings. We have a strong pool of youth workers within the region who work on our projects and funding bids under supervision and management of the CEO.

All major decisions are made via committee vote and approval and documented in committee meeting minutes which are signed off by the Chair of the Management Committee.

Recruitment of new Trustees takes place through local advertising, word of mouth and advertising on Charity forums. Trustees are appointed in quorate Committee meetings and documented in meeting minutes.

Public Benefit Statement:

Charity Trustees have complied with their duties to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the commission in exercising their powers and duties.

CEO's Report

This year it was heartwarming to finally Bring Back Betty's Hut! to Cowgate in July 2021 and yes, we did celebrate in style but more about that later!

It just so happened that on the day of the Hut's arrival the flower bed the lads had planted was in full bloom with sunflowers, cornflowers and poppies galore. We had plenty of visitors too from Alan Wear our overseer to the leader of the council to our good friends at the patchwork project. This was bittersweet in our memory as this was the last time we saw Michael Patchy Bell the stalwart of The Patchwork project and our great friend, he said he would not miss such a momentous occasion and we are so glad we spent that time together.



To watch the arrival of the Betty's Hut on sunny day surrounded by some of the very people that helped it happen was a joy, it was indeed a momentous occasion.

After the initial first day Ron and Louise Bowey our funders and the nearest and dearest of our patron Betty Playford gathered to officially cut the ribbon, a task Betty had wished to be herself but would have been so proud to see her family in her place. (please see picture below). We of course didn't stop there, not with the community to welcome through our newly fitted gate adorned by the mural the young people made with the help of Betty herself. I apologize if we are sounding self-congratulatory here but we really are just beyond proud at what we have achieved, especially after working so hard to get here.



In true Projects4change and The Unfolding Theatre style we had a four-day festival in July 2021 to celebrate, but more about that later. I'm building the suspense!

This year we also hired our first apprentices, fired up our pizza oven, swung on our tree swings, learnt to graft an apple tree and done bushcraft, upcycled fly-tipped junk and much more but above all we have listened and acted on what young people care about and it's feels great!





Kelly Coates, CEO

A Note from our Trustees



Amy Coates, Trustee and Secretary of Projects4Change

Along with the relief of coming out of multiple lockdowns and trying to familiarise ourselves with the new 'normal' comes the realisation that the pandemic has had a life changing effect on all of us, particularly the young people who require our dedicated support to ensure their health and wellbeing going forward.

There's a clear focus on mental health and wellbeing in all aspects of society, which is great to see, but a careful approach is needed with young people in communities where resources and support are diminished and exhausted.

I'm thrilled to say that this year we celebrated the completion and opening of Betty's Hut and Garden which has created a central hub from which our charity thrives. Along with the allotment in Blakelaw, we now have two fantastic spaces to deliver a wide range of projects, from gardening and pizza making to outdoor theatre and crafting.

We've employed more youth workers to support the growing demand in the community, and congratulate Les, Elisha and C for completing their level 2 Youth Work qualifications and running their own youth sessions with us. As members of the Cowgate community it's wonderful to have their involvement in the project.

Amy Coates, Trustee and Secretary of Projects4Change

Objectives

To relieve the needs of young people for the public benefit through:

- The provision of support and activities which develop young people's skills, capacities and capabilities to enable them to participate in society as responsible individuals.
- The provision of recreational and leisure time activities provided in the interest of social welfare, designed to improve young people's conditions of life.
- Providing more youth work places for young people through developing projects in partnership and providing direct delivery support to youth organisations.

A Year in Projects

Achievements, Activities and Progress

Betty's Hut Festival July 2021

The 4-day pop-up stage and festival of celebration was a proud moment for the whole community full of the talent and energy of local young people, the special element being The Unfolding Theatre.





It was everything we hoped it would be, we created songs, performed, painted murals, DJ'd and ate pizza. We toured the estate with the Back Yard Rhythm Band belting out rave tunes and had everyone from grandparents to toddlers were clapping and dancing. It was emotional and full of creativity and friendship.

It was the springboard to what was named the Summer of Fun!



Being a part of Projects4Change changed me to be more confident and surer of myself. (Anna 18)

Community Work Easter

Egg hunt at Betty's Hut, stories, planting sunflowers, food and face painting.



Halloween

Our spook night at Betty's Hut this year was the scariest yet, ghost stories for the older ones were told by Alex from The Unfolding Theatre around the fire and Annie took care of the small one with stories more appropriate for little ears, Chocolate donations from Robson Laidler Wealth Management.



Young Parents Residential

This is the third year the mam's have gotten away with their children for a weekend residential, unfortunately it will be the last as the mam's are not as young as they used to be, but we are looking forward to their children attending independently in a few years' time and of course we will still keep in contact with the families and welcome them for community events.



Festive Season

The sessions held at both Blakelaw community center and Betty's hut saw 57 children and young people benefit from music, food, gifts, arts, crafts and festivities. Funded by the Streetgames Best Winter Ever Programme. A young woman aged 16 received a bag full of gifts from Robson Laidler Wealth Management as she had recently been made homeless.



Inspiring young people and nurturing staff

So far, we have inspired 4 young people to do their level 2 youth work course and 2 have gone on to Sunderland University. We take local apprentices and spend our time investing in young people and their ideas and passions. We have created two new community spaces both in Cowgate and Blakelaw, as well as working in Kenton High school two days a week.



A Little Bit of Good in the World: July 2021 – February 2022

Working with our partners The Unfolding Theatre. The project focused on 4 C's of good: Creativity, Connection, Critical Thinking of Citizenship with Creativity with visual artist and photographer Damien Wootten. The session used doodling and drawing to help us all unlock our creative spark. The young people enjoyed the doodling because:

- "It's good for your mind it relaxes you"
- "You can do it while talking and hanging out we found out loads about what music and films each other liked while doodling away"
- "Most people do doodle anyway" (so you can go with it and have fun)

We used doodling to think of the good things that being creative can do for you and others. One young person said:

"Anyone can do it - you don't have to be a 'good artist'.

The session worked well as a way on unlocking creativity, and the group felt that this approach would be a good and accessible way of engaging all ages and abilities in a creative session. It was loose enough as a structure for people to be involved in something whilst still having time to socialise.



The 2nd workshop Focused on Connection with artist Helen Shaddock

The session focused on connecting with our bodies, through a physical exercise inviting us to be present in our bodies. Next, we drew self-portraits, as a way of connecting to ourselves and sharing that with others. Finally, we drew & discussed the places, people, and activities that either a) we feel connected to, or b) make us feel connected to other people. Feedback:

"Headphones make me feel connected to the music I love"

"Trees, greenery, going outside with my friends"

"Talking about our vulnerabilities makes stronger connections"

Male aged 15 "Are you coming back? Because I really think others would enjoy this activity"

3rd workshop Focus on Critical Thinking with writer, rapper, and actor Kema Sikazwe

The group discussed why they're drawn to different types of music, before creating a new character called Axel and deciding on the messages they wanted to put out into the world in a new song about Axel's life. They hope the personal lyrics will help people relate to the emotions, learn not to judge people, think about what they say and imagine things from Axel's point of view.



4th workshop focus on Citizenship with visual artist Sofia Barton

The session focused on creating a zine (small magazine) to explore how we all play our part in our community and in wider society.

GOT-G (Guardians of the Garden)

Our weekly environmental group GOT-G have been working as green influencers with Robson Steel from the children's foundation, they are now coming to the end of their first project up-cycling locally fly tipped junk. Fly-tipping in a huge problem locally, they repurposed an abandoned metal grid which made a lovely flower support and tire's which made nice planters when painted.





Work In Gala Field-Newbiggin Hall

Through our work within Kenton school during the spring term of 2021 a group of girls identified the need for a space to access support and organise projects.

They wanted to fund raise by designing and embellishing reusable canvas shopping bags and selling them to raise funds to reduce the price of Prom for their year 11 peer group. Initially there were 5 girls and it has grown to a mixed group of 12.

During Summer they started their project by doing a creative consultation within Newbiggin Hall working with Newcastle Arts Team and Digital Voice. They created info graphic's on topics they feel passionate about, they choose

- Environment, acting and making change
- Violence against woman and girls
- Projects to support LGBTQ+ young people
- This is an example of the work they have done.



The group have the results of the consultation and started making plans, the group have met with Lichfield's and Northumberland Estates who are keen on backing their idea of a local environmental event for young people. They have been invited to Alnwick Gardens to look at archives to help choose the street names of the new housing development in Callerton.

They wanted to fund raise by designing and embellishing reusable canvas shopping bags and selling them to raise funds to reduce the price of Prom for their year 11 peer group. Initially there were 5 girls, and it has grown to a mixed group of 12.

Change Maker Volunteer #2

The purpose of the Change Maker Volunteer Programme is to work with young people as partners, listening and helping young people to shape our work as well as act on issues they care about. Therefore, embedding the voice and needs of young people within our work from the very start. Change Makers deliver peer-led consultations and feed the results into social action projects that create genuine change for themselves and other young people.

Our original intake in 2018 produced an impressive report and consulted with 114 Young people, the respondents reported being negatively impacted by: Not feeling listened to Mental health, Personal safety and they were concerned about their local and global environment.

Young people are facing barriers to success in many areas of their lives, and they have told us that they feel powerless to change it. When young people are discussed, or policy is created for them they feel:

- Frozen out of the debate
- Not a part of seeking solutions
- That their needs are side-lined

"I think the consultations was a real eye opener for me. I didn't know what kind of mindset people my age had. The consultations showed that even though the type of hardships varied from person to person they all looked at life in a similar way. At the end of the day there were more similarities than differences" (Change Maker Volunteer, Female, 17



A few of our previous CMV and a cohort of interested new young people attended a two-night residential to the Northumberland Coast to learn about social action and our Change Maker Volunteer Programme starting early next year.

I've never been this sociable and met new friends since I was 11, Glory aged 15



Looking at this photo makes me feel like I have friends for the first time in a long time. (Looking at photo from residential) Sal aged 15

Trans and Non-Binary Support Group

It became apparent to us that young people felt able to express their true gender in our settings, when we asked young people about this and how we could support them better they requested a group specifically for young people who were finding out about themselves and who may be Trans or Non-binary.

The youth worker asked us in the main group if we wanted to tell share information about ourselves, they said if we didn't feel comfortable, we could write it down in a note or speak to them individually. I gave them a note about me and my interests including my thoughts about being Trans. They followed up the session with tailored information and support. Kyle aged 15.



Together with Action4Children we undertook training from Mermaids a national charity specialising in working with Trans and Non-binary young people. We then came together to develop a pilot project consisting of access to a safe and welcoming space and an artist to help the group look at their needs and the purpose of the group. The group started in early Feb 2022 with 9 members.

Toasty Club

In September 2021 we began the Toasty Club, the club is open access Mon and Thursdays 3.30-6pm at Betty's Hut. The purpose is to provide a safe space and regular contact with young people to help young people especially in the aftermath of Covid. Over summer we realized there were new young people attending without friendship groups who had been isolated away from others. These sessions offer friendship, belonging and engagement in fun activities as well as hot toasties, homemade pizza, jacket potatoes and pasties as well as fruit, fresh juices, squash, and treats. Food insecurity is a real problem in our area. These sessions are not without drama as we are aimed to support the development of relationships between different groups of young people by providing a neutral space of safety and positive role models where all can thrive. We use local volunteers and bring young people through our project as apprentices and workers.



The group helped me feel more comfortable around different people, now I talk to people that I didn't talk to before. I didn't know what youth work was before, now go to Betty's Hut and have made more friends, I have met new people who live round the corner from me, two of them are from Poland. Owen aged 15.

Youth at Kenton

The Youth at Kenton project (YAK) is a commissioned piece of work from Kenton High School and Action4 Children we are the delivery provider it starts April 2021.

Idea: A youth worker attends every Tuesday and Thursday to provide support to young people in the aftermath of Covid to be an extra layer of support where needed. The purpose was to address young people's school related and wider needs, initially to get to know the young people, working to understand their lives and the barriers they face, providing a safe space for talk. The engagement is voluntary.

Notes from the Youth Worker

The level of opportunity and enrichment that has sprung from the Youth in Kenton (Yak) partnership project is very exciting.

A range of issue have been raised by young people during the pilot which has created opportunities for the young people to move forward and reengage in life again post covid. This was made possible by the joint approach from the professionals involved which supported the practice of youth work within Kenton. The pilot has shown that youth work is and effective method of supporting young people's wellbeing particularly in terms of their emotional and mental health.

Financial Review

Mental Health

What we learned from the initial conversations and self-Image stars was that mental health was an identified issue for many young people, however it was the same issues "as old as time" that were the catalyst for the decreased sense of mental health.

Issues like Feeling safe, self-confidence/self-esteem, having a voice/ being heard, having enough resources/ money, having agency/independence, feeling happy, having opportunities, places to go/youth work, ambition/ having a future, dealing with stress/emotions.

Then layer on a year of Covid, broken routines, more time in difficult homelife situations, less support, fewer opportunities, missed education, getting into negative patterns of behaviours has meant that young people are experiencing a perfect storm of unaddressed needs with no respite from the issues effecting their lives.

There was genuine urgent need for professional mental health support in some young people and I found that they were as frustrated as staff at the lack of timely and appropriate support, many mentioned not feeling comfortable with online support during covid and not getting help early enough.

One of the most frustrating aspects of the situation is how overstretched children and young people's mental health services are, one girl said, "you have to attempt suicide to get noticed and the help you need". This sentiment was echoed by three young people on separate occasions. This saddens me as we are asking young people to talk and seek help but there is not enough helping to go around. Young people are aware that asking for early help does not always get you the help you need.

The range of needs identified:

(Issues like Feeling safe, self-confidence/self-esteem, having a voice/ being heard, having enough resources/ money, having agency/independence, feeling happy, having opportunities, places to go/youth work, ambition/having a future, dealing with stress/emotions.

YAK engages with around 50 young people per term, around 10-20% of young people get involved with the project after school as a result, three children have undertaken mentoring one to one as a result with The School Youth Work Link. One of the benefits of having a youth worker within school who works in the young person's local area is the ability to offer opportunities for wider engagement in youth led after school and holiday projects those issues ranging from trauma, immigration and bereavement.

Closing comments

Our outdoor spaces are a catalogue of young people's work, from our front gate with a mosaic made by our young people and betty herself to our hand built and painted pallet furniture. We created a whole project around salvaging tires as planters, we have made 3 large murals, grown vegetables, fruit and flowers. Our project is one which has come to flourish because of the talents of our young people. Projects4Change belongs to the community and the young people and Betty's Hut and Garden and Blakelaw Allotment reflects all of the young people's efforts. So, thank you young people for being so creative and dedicated, your hard work shines through the pages of this report. Well done! The Trustees are responsible for the preparation of accounts. An audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and an Independent Examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners.

Receipts & Payments Account 14 December 2019 to 31 March

	Notes	Unrestrict
Receipts Transfer from Unincorporated Association Grants & Donations Total Receipts	4	17500 17500
Payments Salary Costs Capital Project Youth Training Activities, Materials and Resources Sweatshirts Subsistance and Refreshments Accommodation and Room hire Motor and Travelling Expenses Media Expenses Insurances		370
Postage and Stationery Accountancy Consultancy Subscriptions		250
Sundries		130
Mosiac Artist Depreciation Total Payments		495 1245
Surplus/Deficit for the period		16255
Transfer Between Funds		0
Funds at 14 December 2019		94
Total Funds at 31 March 2021		16349

2021							
2019 - 21 Restricted	Total £	2018-19					
77978 77978	0 95478 95478	2577 38388 40965					
33388 17014 4750 7210	33388 17014 4750 7210	10275 0 0 2220					
2234	370 2234 0	157 988 834					
1329 677 165 156	1329 677 165 156 250 0	2128 133 165 111 0 200					
198 261	198 391 0 495	0 0 675 495					
67382 10596	68627 26851	18381 22584					
0	0	0					
22490	22584	22584					
33086	49435	45168					

Grants Received	£
Unrestricted	
Ballinger Trust	£15000
High Sheriff's Awards	£2000
Other donations	£500
	£17,500
Restricted	
Key Fund – Change Maker Volunteers	£1448
NCC – Wards Committee	£6515
Newcastle Community Asset Trust	£3467
North Fenham and Blakelaw Parish Council	£3828
The National Lottery Community Fund	£22,423
Street Games Grants	£4195
Rise North East	£3200
North – North East	£1250
Student Support Fees	£1486
Other Grants (under £1000)	£1050
LGA Foundation	£5000
Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland	£24,116
(includes as listed below)	
Bowey Grass roots Fund (£13,700 Betty's Hut	
Bowey Grass Roots Fund (£7,386 Utilities)	
David Dockray West End Young People's Fund (£3,030 Gate)	
Total Grants and Donations Received	£77,978
Total Salary and NI costs for the year were £33,388	
Total cost for the independent examination for the year will be $\pounds 275$	

	Balance 12/14/19	Income	Expenditure	Balance 3/31/21		
Restricted Funds					Fixed Assets	
Young Peoples Projects					Cost	
Nothumbria Police- Commissioners Fund	1740		1740	0	As at 14 December 2019	
Key Fund-Change Makers Volunteers	250	1448	1698	0	Additions	
Sub total	1990	1448	3438	0	Disposals	
					As at 31 March 2021	
Ballinger Trust	10000		10000	0		
Community Foundation Tyne & Wear -					Depreciation	
Change Makers Volunteers	5000		5000	0	As at 14 December 2019	
Sir James Knott Trust	5000		5000	0	Charge for the year	
Local Giving- Sports Donation	500		500	0	Disposals	
NCC - Wards Committee		6515	6515	0	As at 31 March 2021	
Newcastle Community Asset Trust		3467	3467	0		
North Fenham and Blakelaw Parish Council		3828	3828	0	Net Book Value at 31 March 2021	
The National Lottery Community Fund		22423	10084	12339		
Street Games Grants		4195		4195		
Rise North East		3200		3200		
North - North East		1250		1250		
Student Support Fees		1486	1486	0		
Other Grants (under £1,000)		1050	1050	0		
Captial Projects - Betty's Hut						
LGA Foundation		5000		5000		
Community Foundation Tyne & Wear						
and Northumberland Grants		24116	17014	7102		
Total	22490	77978	67382	33086		
Unrestricted Funds	94	17500	1245	16349		
Total Funds	22584	95478	68627	49435		

Delivery Partners 2021



Funders



Dedication and Thank you

A special Dedication

This annual report is dedicated to Michael Bell 7th June 1962 - 4th August 2021Michael was the long standing manager and community leader at The Patchwork Project In Benwell. His contribution to neighborhood youth work and the wellbeing and happiness of young people across the Northeast during his long career cannot be underestimated, his passion and dedication was unmatched. His unwavering support helped Projects4Change to flourish, he was our friend, mentor, and ally. A cultivator or people, parsnips, and pansies. Thank you, Michael, you brightened our lives and taught us so much that we will take with us into our future challenges.



Lastly, a special thank you to the following people for their guidance, support and assistance during this difficult year. Your help is hugely appreciated.

Andy Ditchburn and the team at Perro David Coates - Accountant Wayne Dobson - High Tide Adventure Company Emma Thompson - Robson Laidler Accountants Rick Bowler - Professor Sunderland University Youth Work Rico - Dynamix State Park Chi Onwurah - Newcastle Upon Tyne MP Glenn Pendleton - NCAT Alison Flannagan Wood - NCC Arts Team Will Benson - Kids Cabin Annie and the team at The Unfolding Theatre Una and the Team at the Key Fund Irene Teasdale - Mrs T Café Michael Bell - Patchwork Project Linda Hobson - Blakelaw Councillor Karen Colley - Community Champion at Tesco Alison Ni Charraighe - Professor Childhood Studies Northumbria University Alan Wear - NCC Nicola Lynch - Artist Melanie Kyles - Artist Claire and the team at Monkfish Productions. Andi, Lynn and all the staff at The Patchwork Project. Julia and the staff at Children North East

Caroline and the staff at Action4Children

PROJECTS 4 CHANGE

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