

CHARITY NUMBER:SC049417

**INSPIRING YOUNG VOICES SCIO
TRUSTEES' REPORT
AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5th April 2025**



Chartered Certified Accountants
42 Shore Street
Nairn
IV12 4PX

GJC is a trading style of Gareth Jones Compliance Ltd / Registered in Scotland No. SC498367

INSPIRING YOUNG VOICES SCIO
TRUSTEES' REPORT
AND ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5th April 2025

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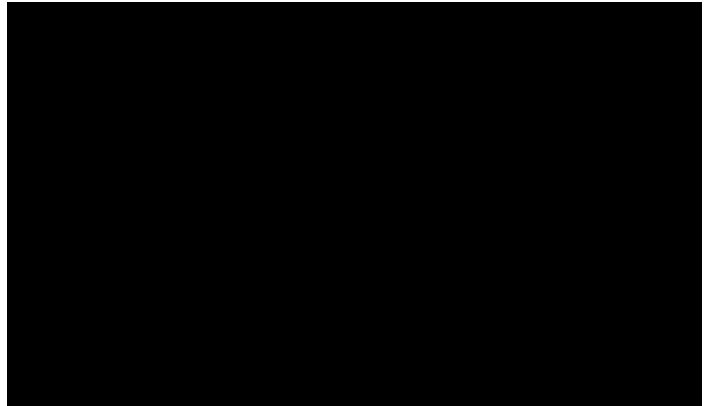
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Inspiring Young Voices SCIO

ACCOUNTS

For the year ended 5th April 2025

TRUSTEES



PRINCIPAL CONTACT ADDRESS

New Start Highland Offices
9 Carsegate Road North
Inverness
IV3 8DU

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER


Gareth Jones Compliance Ltd
42 Shore Street
Nairn
IV12 4PX

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER:

SC049417

Inspiring Young Voices SCIO

Trustees' Report for the period ended 5th April 2025

The trustees are pleased to present our report and accounts for Inspiring Young Voices for the period ended 5th April 2025.

Organisation

The charity was registered on 28 June 2019 as Highland Children and Young People's Forum (SCIO) and is constituted as Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) governed by a constitution. On 22 November 2021 the charity changed its name to Inspiring Young Voices (SCIO).

The charity was established to replace Highland Children's Forum (SC031945). Highland Children's Forum (SC031945) wound up and passed its assets and liabilities to Highland Children and Young People's Forum (SCIO) (SC049417) on 28 June 2019.

Appointment and Induction of Trustees

Any person, nominated individual or body who/which wishes to become a Charity Trustee must sign a written application for Charity Trusteeship; and for a corporate body, that application must be signed by an appropriately authorised officer of that body who will remain as the representative of that corporate body until such time as the corporate body informs the Board otherwise. The application will then be considered by the Board at its next Board meeting. The Board may, at its discretion, refuse to admit any person, nominated individual or corporate body, or veto the proposed authorised officer acting as a representative of a corporate body, to Charity Trusteeship.

Objects of the Charity, principal activities of the Charity

The organisation is established for charitable purposes only, and in particular, the objects are: "the advancement of human rights, conflict resolution or reconciliation", "the promotion of equality and diversity", "the relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage"

The area within which the organisation shall operate (in this constitution referred to as the 'Area of Benefit') shall be The Highlands and the surrounding areas. The organisation shall promote (but not promote exclusively) its activities and delivery operations to people within the 'Area of Benefit', defined as "Children or young people", "People with disabilities or health problems", "Other defined groups". These people will be the organisation's beneficiaries.

Activities

In the course of 2024 - 25, we had a number of staffing changes. The Inclusion Worker role came to an end in October 2024 and our Participation Lead moved on to a different role outwith IYV. Two new roles were created in 24/25. Funding through Inclusion Scotland enabled the appointment of a Communications intern in May 2024. IYV appointed a Sessional Youth Consultation Worker in February 2025. The roles of Chief Officer, Policy Officer and Youth Participation Officer remain unchanged.

Inspiring Young Voices exists to inspire and be inspired by the voices of children and young people in Highland facing challenges in their lives. We seek to ensure that these voices are raised, heard and acted on. We advocate for changes in policy and practice across Highland which support and promote the meaningful participation of children and young people at every level of decision making.

During the 2024 – 25 financial year we have done this in a number of ways through our work in Youth Participation and Policy.

Inspiring Yong Voices SCIO

Trustees' Report - continued for the period ended 5th April 2025

Activities - continued

Youth Participation

Through our Youth Participation work we have continued to support Inspire Highland, our youth-led collective voice for young people (YP) in Highland at risk of harm & facing trauma & adversity in their lives. Our Inspire Highland project, which was established in December 2018 due to an expressed need by YP with disabilities/additional support needs (ASNs) to have their voices heard, is a creative, dynamic youth-led project that promotes the rights, participation & inclusion of YP up to the age of 25 (or 26 if care experienced). This work targets those YP most vulnerable in Highland, including those with long term health conditions, disabilities or ASNs, specifically YP: Affected by mental health problems and mental illness; With learning disabilities & communication challenges; Impacted by Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES); Young asylum seekers & refugees; & Who live in remote and rural areas of Highland. The approach of this project is rights-based & grounded in trauma-informed practices & principles to ensure that our charity responds in ways that prevent further harm, support recovery, address inequalities & improve the life chances of vulnerable YP in Highland. This work was funded by the final year of our National Lottery Community Fund Scotland New start award. Through this project we continued to support Inspire Highland group members at two monthly in person and online meetings to develop their own youth led projects. We have also delivered Big Day out opportunities for our Inspire Highland young people. This is a chance for the wider group to meet face to face and have a fun day of activities as a thank you for all their hard work and included an afternoon a Halloween celebration, a Christmas celebration and a trip to 'Singing in the Rain' at Eden Court. We continue to find new ways to recruit more young people to the Inspire Highland Group.

In 24/25 we have continued the promotion of 'Angus the Autism Bear' to raise awareness of autism and neurodiversity. Current work is focusing on finalising our book co-created with our young people, Angus The Bear's First Day At School. This work is supported by a small grant from the Highland Cross.

A small grant from the Alcohol & Drugs Partnership Local Improvement Fund enabled us to work in partnership with Cromarty Youth Cafe over the summer to deliver wellbeing sessions to over 40 young people, many of whom have been affected by drug and alcohol related harm, as well as traumatic bereavement. These sessions involved yoga, breathing exercises, coping strategies (e.g. for anxiety) and healthy juice and smoothie making. The young people were able to build on these skills each session and began to practice these independently themselves outwith the sessions.

Funding from the Volant Charitable Trust Small Grants Programme, administered by Foundation Scotland enabled us to grow our work with asylum seeking, refugee & resettled young people in Highland. In 24/25 we successfully delivered our Connections project in partnership with Compass Collective and Eden Court. The partnership supported this group of young people within a youth-led theatre participation project. This ran from January 2025 until April 2025 in which time we connected with 34 young people from Cameron Barracks and the wider Highlands, from Inverness to Invergordon, Dingwall and Alness. Our Connections cast performed 'Happy People' to an audience of over 150 people at Eden Court's One Touch Theatre in April. Their performance of the powerful story of Mohammed, who arrived in Scotland and found connection and community on a cricket pitch, received a standing ovation.

Inspiring Yong Voices SCIO

Trustees' Report - continued for the period ended 5th April 2025

Activities - continued

Youth Participation - Continued

During 24/25 IYV developed and started to pilot a new youth-led participation outreach programme, working with C&YP with ASN/disabilities to develop their learning and understanding of working as a team, values, identity, inequality, stigma, discrimination, barriers and enablers to participation, their rights, youth-led participation and social action. Funded by the Whole Family Wellbeing Fund, our approach is fun, informal and participative. The programme comprises of up to 8 learning sessions which support the participants to develop youth-led participation and social action projects. IYV staff work with each group over a 3-4 month period (depending on the needs of the group) delivering our learning sessions and supporting them with their projects. We set out to pilot this in 4 different settings; primary school, secondary school, further education and rural youth group setting. We are already delivering this to 22 children in a primary school setting, with a 70% ASN in an area of high deprivation in Inverness, and with a group of 6 Young People with learning disabilities who attend Cantraybridge College. Young people's voices are at the centre of this programme. Feedback from them is shaping how and what we deliver in each setting. The programme is youth-led, co-designed and co-developed, and therefore centres around issues that are important to the children and young people. The youth-led participation & social action projects allow children and young people to take part in an opportunity that lets them express their voice in a creative way and influence change in their setting or at a local or national level. We have recently secured funding to pilot this in Caithness, in a rural youth group setting, and are seeking funding to pilot in a secondary school setting.

Policy

At a policy level, Inspiring Young Voices has been a strong voice representing the interests of children and young people and the third sector on a wide range of committees and forums. These are attended by the Chief Officer and /or Policy Officer and include the Highland Council/NHS Highland Joint Monitoring Committee, the Children's Rights and Participation Implementation Group, the Highland Strategic Alliance, Highland Child Protection Committee, the Promise Board and many others.

During 24/25 IYV staff sat on the Boards of Thriving Families, Youth Scotland and Children in Scotland.

Our Policy Officer supported the elected members who have taken on the Children's Champions role within Highland Council with regular meetings and updates. At a national level they sit on the Scottish Government's Disabled Children and Young People's Advisory Group. Our policy work has also included the publication of our latest report on 'Influencing Youth Mental Health Provision in Highland' for which we consulted with young people ages 18-26 in Highland on mental health support and services. This work was funded by the Scottish Government's Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing Fund, administered by Highland Council.

In this reporting period, we have continued to work with young people and partners from the public and third sector to co-create a Children & Young People's Participation Strategy and Implementation Plan for the Highland Region.

Throughout 24/25 the wider work of IYV has continued to be supported through funding from our service level agreement with the Highland Council, the People's Postcode Lottery and from a [REDACTED] grant administered by the Corra Foundation.

Inspiring Yong Voices SCIO

Trustees' Report - continued for the period ended 5th April 2025

Future Plans

We will continue to develop our Youth Participation and Policy work in 2025 - 26.

Our Participation Team will work to expand our participation projects including Inspire Highland, increasing the numbers and diversity of young people that we reach across Highland.

At a policy level we will continue to be a strong voice representing the interests of children and young people most vulnerable in Highland, including those with long-term health conditions, disabilities or additional support needs, specifically young people: Affected by mental health problems & mental illness; With learning disabilities & communication challenges; Impacted by Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES); Young asylum seekers & refugees; & Who live in remote & rural areas of Highland.

As we move into the implementation stage of the Highland Children and Young People's Participation Strategy, IYV will play a key role in its implementation across Highland.

Collectively we will continue to inspire & be inspired by the voices of children & young people in Highland facing challenges in their lives. We will continue to seek to ensure that these voices are raised, heard & acted on. We will continue to advocate for changes in policy & practice across Highland which support & promote the meaningful participation of children & young people at every level of decision making.

Finances

The net deficit for the year ended 31st March 2025 was £3,902 (2024: £38,544 - surplus), giving unrestricted funds amounting to £82,603 (2024: £60,449) and restricted funds of £22,855 (2024: £48,911) at the year end.

Reserves Policy

The board members have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in the light of the main risks to the funding of the organisation. Realising that unrestricted reserves are needed to sustain the day to day operations of the charity, the board members consider that the ideal level of reserves should be the equivalent of three months' operating costs calculated and reviewed annually.

Inspiring Yong Voices SCIO

Trustees' Report - continued for the period ended 5th April 2025

Trustees' Responsibilities

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the accounts comply the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

In preparing these accounts, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and.
- prepare the accounts on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

Approved by order of the board of trustees and signed on its behalf by:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dated: 30th September 2025

Inspiring Young Voices SCIO

Independent Examiner's Report to the Inspiring Young Voices SCIO

I report on the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 5th April 2025, which are set out on pages 8 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 ("the 2005 Act") and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended) ("the 2006 Regulations").

The charity's trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1)(d) of the 2006 Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section (44)(1)(c) of the 2005 Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.


Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and, consequently, I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In the course of my examination no matter has come to my attention:-

- 1 which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:-
to keep accounting records in accordance with section 44(1)(a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Regulations, and
to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Regulations have not been met, or
- 2 to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


Gareth Jones Compliance Ltd
3 Wyvis Drive
Balloch
Inverness
IV2 7HP


Date: 30th September 2025

Inspiring Young Voices SCIO

Statement of Receipts and Payments For the year ended 5th April 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Receipts					
Charitable activities	4	86,860	38,393	125,253	164,982
Other Income		112	-	112	164
Total Receipts		86,972	38,393	125,365	165,146
Payments					
Charitable activities	6	75,366	53,901	129,267	126,602
Independent Examination Fee		-	-	-	200
Total resources expended		75,366	53,901	129,267	126,802
Surplus for year		11,606	(15,508)	(3,902)	38,344

Inspiring Young Voices SCIO

Statement of Balances as at 5th April 2025

	05/04/2025	05/04/2024
	£	£
Cash Funds		
Cash & Bank Balances as at beginning of the year.	109,160	70,816
Surplus for the year	<u>(3,902)</u>	<u>38,344</u>
Total Cash Funds	105,258	109,160
Other Assets		
Technical Equipment Net Book Value	-	-
Prepayments	-	-
Gift Aid Receivable	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Liabilities		
PAYE Liabilities	-	-
Provision for Independent Examination & Accounts	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Approval

This report was approved by the Board of Trustees on 30th September 2025
and signed on its behalf

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Signature]

Trustee

Inspiring Young Voices SCIO

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 5th April 2025

1. Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice for Charities. The principal policies which have been used are:

a. Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are prepared under the receipts and payments basis.

b. Income

Income represents voluntary donations and offerings and gift aid recoverable.

c. Allocation of Expenditure

Charitable activities represent the cost incurred in running and upkeep of the charity.

d. Restricted Funds

Monies given for specific expenditure are shown as restricted funds.

2. Allocation of Funds	Balance at 6 April 2024	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Net Movement	Transfers	Balance at 5 April 2025
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds	60,449	86,972	(75,366)	11,606	10,548	82,603
Restricted Funds						
Highland Council SLA	-	297	-	297	-	297
CYP Participation Strategy	14,567	-	(8,637)	(8,637)	(2,000)	3,930
HADP	5,000	-	(5,000)	(5,000)	-	-
Highland Cross	3,500	-	-	-	-	3,500
Inspire Highland	22,874	-	(13,470)	(13,470)	(9,404)	-
Young Start- TNLCF	-	15,000	(15,669)	(669)	669	-
YGM-0213	2,970	-	-	-	-	2,970
Mental Health & Wellbeing	-	3,000	(3,151)	(151)	151	-
Inclusion Scotland	-	5,096	(5,132)	(36)	36	-
Volant Trust	-	5,000	(2,842)	2,158	-	2,158
Whole Family Wellbeing	-	10,000	-	10,000	-	10,000
Total Restricted Funds	48,911	38,393	(53,901)	(15,508)	(10,548)	22,855
Total Funds	109,360	125,365	(129,267)	(3,902)	-	105,458

3. Payments to Trustees

Under the constitution of the charity remuneration to the trustees is allowed under contract of employment. The following trustees or their close associates were paid under contracts of employment during the year.

Inspiring Young Voices SCIO

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued for the year ended 5th April 2025

	5th April 2025			5th April 2024
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
4. Income From Charitable Activities				
Highland Council SLA Funding	48,286	297	48,583	48,286
Grant Funding (see note 5)	33,000	38,096	71,096	111,155
Other Income	5,574	-	5,574	5,541
TOTAL	86,860	38,393	125,253	164,982

	5th April 2025			5th April 2024
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
5. Grant Income - Organisation				
The Highland Council	-	13,000	13,000	54,470
Peoples Postcode Trust	25,000	-	25,000	-
The Corra Foundation	8,000	-	8,000	8,000
Inclusion Scotland	-	5,096	5,096	-
Volant Trust	-	5,000	5,000	-
ICS	-	-	-	4,000
Scottish Refugee Council	-	-	-	14,315
Highland Third Sector	-	-	-	5,000
Youth Scotland	-	-	-	2,400
Youth Highland	-	-	-	2,970
The National Lottery Community Fund	-	15,000	15,000	20,000
	33,000	38,096	71,096	111,155

	5th April 2025			5th April 2024
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
6. Expenditure Charitable Activities				
Bank Interest & Charges	59	-	59	60
Board Costs	-	-	-	289
Book-Keeping & Professional	2,232	-	2,232	1,246
CYP Participation Strategy	-	-	-	5,433
HR Support	270	-	270	600
Inspire Highland -Development	-	-	-	5,843
Inspire Highland -participation costs	-	-	-	6,225
Insurance	903	-	903	666
IT Software & Support	3,086	274	3,360	4,489
Memberships	374	-	374	380
Office Expenses	161	3,097	3,258	132
Payroll Expenditures	-	-	-	480
Policy Participation	-	-	-	607
Postages	-	-	-	10
Property	2,392	288	2,680	2,344
Staff Costs	64,173	43,330	107,503	96,135
Supplies & Services	-	4,258	4,258	-
Telephones , Broadband & Digital	309	337	646	1,430
Training & Development	171	181	352	233
Travel & Subsistence	1,236	2,136	3,372	-
TOTAL	75,366	53,901	129,267	126,602