



ANNUAL REPORT 2026



OPEN is regulated by the Scottish
Charity Regulator (OSCR)



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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Jessica Carlyle - Chairperson

At a recent board meeting, I asked fellow trustees and members of our staff team to describe the last year of OPEN in a single word. The responses were: phenomenal, evolving, change, transforming, growth, insightful, and productive. I feel this captures the energy and momentum of the year well.

If I had to choose one word myself, it would be change. Change can be challenging, but it also brings opportunity and growth. Over the past year, OPEN has experienced a lot of transition. We have said goodbye to valued staff and trustees, while also welcoming new members into the team. We have adapted and developed our work, testing out new venues for Da Café, launching work such as our Alcohol and Other Drugs project, and reshaping our peer mentoring to focus more on training and building these skills more widely across the community.

What stands out most to me from this past year is the strength of our people and the connections we continue to build. I am particularly proud to have welcomed new staff, many of whom began their journey with OPEN as young volunteers. This reflects one of our greatest strengths: a commitment to supporting young people's personal development, helping them to recognise their own strengths, build their confidence, and step into leadership roles. Young people are not just participants in our work, they are the driving force behind it..

This year has also been marked by meaningful collaboration and connection. From residential trips and events across the mainland to hosting the Hot Chocolate Trust over the summer, which was an exciting first for OPEN, being the hosts instead of the guests! It has been inspiring to see relationships grow and new ideas emerge. The development of Shift Up is another highlight, bringing together young changemakers and strategic partners to create lasting impact for young people in Shetland.

I would like to give a massive thank you to our dedicated staff team, volunteers, and trustees. Your commitment, creativity, and passion are what make OPEN what it is today. I am equally grateful to our funders, partners, and the wider community for their continued belief in and support of our work.

Looking ahead, there are already exciting developments in the works, so watch this space. I look forward to seeing how OPEN continues to evolve and grow in the year to come.



OPEN'S STRATEGY

OPEN's vision is to make Shetland a place where young people thrive

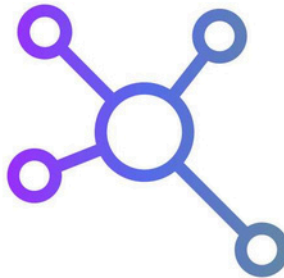


Our ambition is to cultivate a youth-led environment in Shetland where young people can thrive. Embracing a holistic approach, we aim to address the challenges faced by young people and establish a comprehensive framework for positive change. We highly value collaborative relationships and are committed to working together.

What we want to achieve:

Shetland's young people feel more connected, valued, and heard on issues that matter to them

Systems policy and practice better reflect the priorities of Shetland's young people



Shetland's young people have influence through leadership roles and partnership working

Young people are informed and empowered to develop strength and wellbeing

OPEN's values are grounded in the guiding principles that define who we are, these values are the essence of OPEN, shaping our vision and driving for change:

Diversity: Embracing diverse perspectives fuels our creativity and adaptability

Supportive: Using a person-centred approach to tailor solutions to individual needs

Inclusive: Fostering a culture of inclusivity and valuing the worth of every individual

Compassion: Creating a supportive environment where everyone can thrive

Trust: Transparency, honesty and accountability guide our actions

Innovation: Pioneering innovation to challenge the status quo to inspire progress

Charitable Purpose

The advancement and promotion of youth-led community action, education, welfare and holistic development of young people, with a particular emphasis on young people aged 12-25 and living in Shetland.



Contact Us

FB Open_Project_11 email: openproject@shetland.org Phone: 01595 743950
[OPEN website](#)

OPEN BOARD

OPEN is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) and is governed by a board of trustees. As per the constitution, our board is made up of young trustees aged 16-29. The board meets monthly to lead the strategic direction and governance of the organisation.

Structure and governance

In 2025-26 OPEN have had 10 Trustees, welcoming in 2 new trustees - Jade Mitchell (Astro) and Evelyn Henry, and saying goodbye to 3 founding trustees, Emma Coutts, OPEN Chair, Chloe Paton and OPEN's Treasurer Stephanie Thompson who retired (turned 30) and became a mentor for the new Treasurer, and will attend quarterly meetings to provide support.

This year there were 11 Board meetings.

- Peer Research & Fundraising sub-committees create ongoing decision-making roles
- Board aspiration tracker and policy development sessions (Sexual Harassment, Neurodivergence, Complaints handling)
- Leadership through national presentations Big Ideas, Youth Scotland, Community Knowledge Matters.
- OPEN developing training for local boards on youth involvement – in progress
- Leadership and governance training residential planned for May 2026

OPEN Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2025

On the day OPEN staff and trustees came together to set up the hall, prepare the food and get everything ready. It was a great team effort, everyone sharing all of the tasks and working together to ensure everything ran smoothly. We had 30 people in attendance, 18 of which were members of OPEN/young people, alongside OPEN staff and various supporters. This included a special visit from

Larissa Fischer from Esmee Fairbairn who travelled all the way from London to attend, we appreciated her effort and time for coming along for the night. At the AGM we also said goodbye to Emma Coutts, who has been chairperson since OPEN became independent, as well as having one new member stand for trustee!

Following on from the AGM everyone came together and ate food, sang karaoke and even did some Makaton! Everyone enjoyed the celebrations, see below for some photos from the night!



Sign up to become a member of OPEN

Membership is open to anyone aged 14-29 who has a significant tie to Shetland.

Anyone aged 30+ or anyone who does not have a link to Shetland may apply to become an associate member.

Membership is free and you will receive an invite to OPEN's AGM and information about training and opportunities.

MEET THE BOARD

**EMMA
COUTTS**

Chairperson



Founder - Trustee 13.07.2023
Stepped down: 05.09.2025

**JESSICA
CARLYLE**

Chairperson



Joined: 06.11.2025

**AKIRA
FOSTER**

Vice-chair - Trustee



Joined 15.11.2023

**ALEX
TRESADERN**

Secretary - treasurer



Joined 01/10/24

**STEPHANIE
THOMPSON**

Treasurer



Founder - Trustee 13.07.2023
Stepped down: 18.12.2025

**GARETH
POWELL**

Vice-Chair / Secretary



Joined 01.10.2024

**ANDY
ANDERSON**

Trustee



Joined: 06.11.2025

**CHLOE
PATON**

Trustee



Founder - Trustee 13.07.2023
Stepped down: 05.09.2025

**EVAN
PALMER**

Trustee



Joined 20/2/24
Stepped down: 01.04.2026

**MATTIE
MURIE**

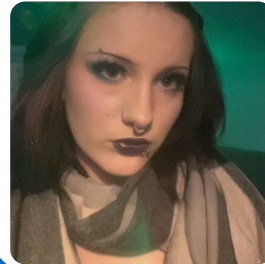
Trustee



Joined: 23.04.2025

**EVELYN
HENRY**

Trustee



Joined 29.01.2026

**ASTRO
MITCHELL**

Trustee



Joined: 17.12.2025

**GAMUCHIRAI
NEMAUNGWE**

Prospective Trustee



Joined: 17.12.2025

MEET THE TEAM

UNA MURRAY

Coordinator



"You'll never walk alone 🌿"

WAYNE LEASK

Development Worker



"It matters not what someone is born, but what they grow to be."

SHANNON BOSTON

Peer Research Development Worker



"You may never know what results come from your actions, but if you do nothing there will be no results."

JESS CARLYLE

Organisation Development Lead



"Strength lies in differences, not in similarities"

MARIEL LEASK

Youth Worker



"A flower does not think of competing with the flower next to it. It just blooms."

JOANIE MASON

Trainee Youth Worker



"Be a voice, not an echo"

RHIANNAN BURNS

Trainee Youth Worker



"Accept the things you can't change. Change the things you can't accept."

FERN SEMPLE

Trainee Youth Worker



"My experience with OPEN has shaped my journey in amazing ways"

FAITH FLEMING

Youth Worker



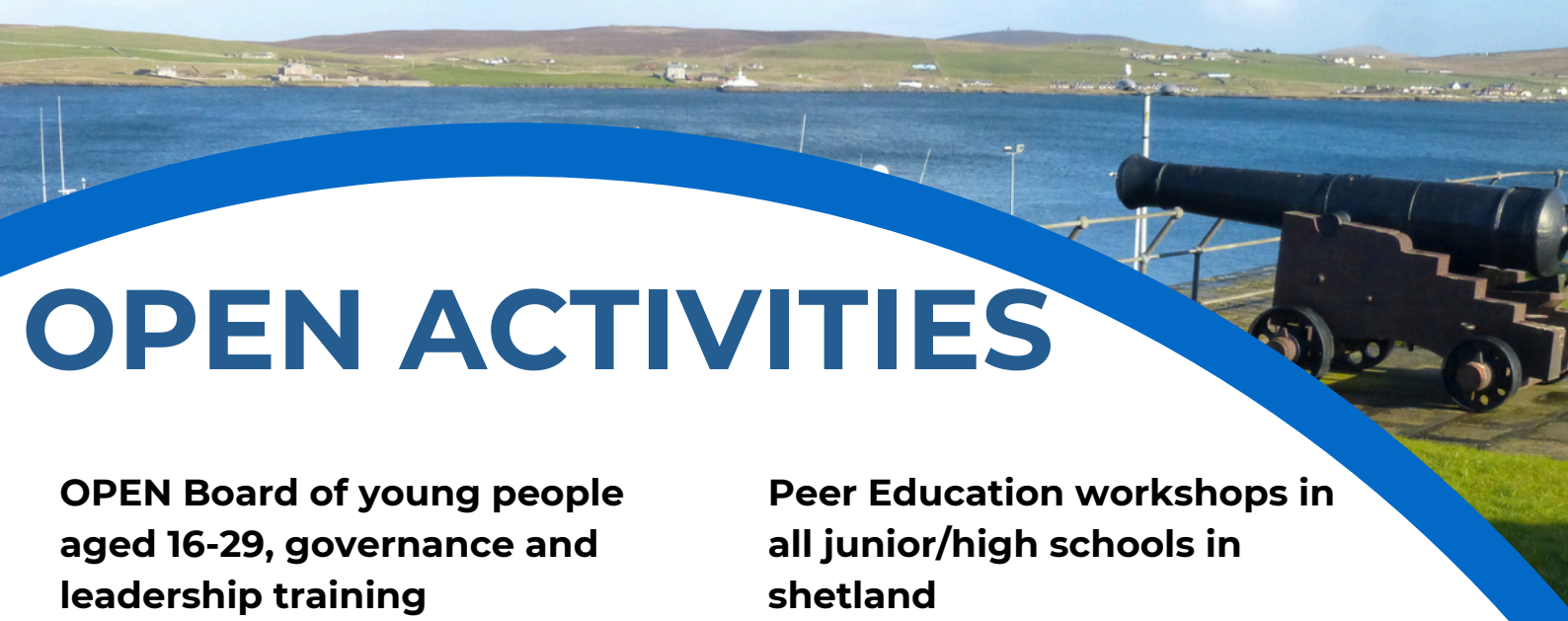
"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world"

TASHA WATT

Development Worker



"no matter what anyone tells you, words and ideas can change the world"



OPEN ACTIVITIES

OPEN Board of young people aged 16-29, governance and leadership training



Peer Education workshops in all junior/high schools in shetland



OPEN Peer Mentoring providing one-to-one support and guidance to help mentees achieve their goals



Peer Research Project, Youth-Led community action



Da Cafe - a space for young people in our community



PEER EDUCATION

Meetings

The purpose of the Peer Education Meetings is to provide training to volunteers, to improve the personal development of volunteers, provide an opportunity to connect professionals with young people, and enable the design and development of issue-based workshops to be delivered with other young people in Shetland.

Training Programme

- OPEN Induction Training
- LGBT+ Awareness
- Youth Work Skills
- Mentoring Skills
- Insights to Wellbeing
- First Aid Awareness
- Child Protection & Online Safety
- Harm Reduction in Drugs
- Harm reduction in Alcohol
- Sexual Health
- Sexual Health Clinic
- Grooming
- Mental Health

External opportunities / consultations

OPEN have been involved in a few opportunities looking at listening to young people's voices on various topics.

- Making Shetland Fairer Research
- Digital Lives - Hot Chocolate Trust
- RYAN Personal Project funding application
- Knife Crime and Online Violence Research (No Knives Better Lives)

Local Opportunity Event

OPEN takes part in several opportunity events in Shetland to raise the profile of the charity and to recruit more young people. This year we have attended the Local Opportunities Event, the Youth Philanthropy Initiative in the AHS, and the S6 Getting Involved Event.

Saltire Awards

In 2025, 16 of OPEN's volunteers have achieved Saltire Awards, ranging from 10 hours to 500 hours. Collectively, the volunteers have contributed 1625 hours with OPEN. This is an incredible achievement for all the volunteers!



Peer Education Meeting



Local Opportunity Event 2025



Saltire Awards 2025

PEER EDUCATION (CONTINUED)

Workshops

OPEN runs a wide variety of issue-based workshops with young people in all 7 of the secondary schools in Shetland. OPEN also delivers these workshops/training with any other young persons group in Shetland. This year OPEN has delivered 92 workshops with 1285 young people!

Developments

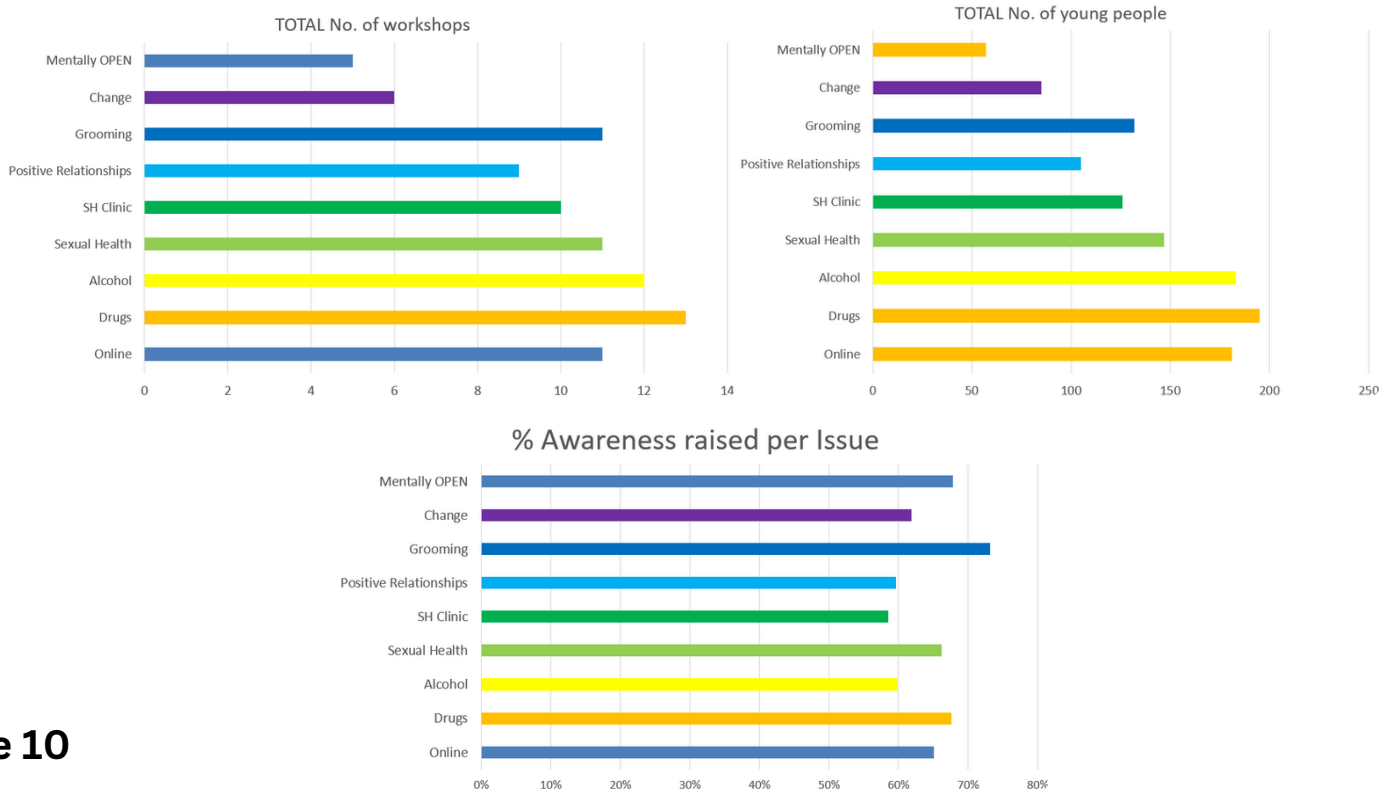
This year we have spent some time developing a workshop for the Virtually Safe Virtually Sound events that happen each year in Secondary schools. We have also been developing an online safety video around Cyber Bullying to use in our Online Safety workshop.

Schools Delivery Programme:

- S1: Online Safety
- S1: Child Protection
- S2: Drugs
- S2: Alcohol
- S3: Sexual Health
- S3: Positive Relationships
- S3: Sexual Health Clinic
- S3: Grooming
- S4: Mental Health
- S4: Change

Workshops stats

* Mental Health and Positive Relationships workshop numbers are down for this year as the AHS have elected not to utilise these workshops. OPEN are developing a new workshop to compliment this new programme in schools.



RESIDENTIALS

Big Ideas

OPEN were invited to Big Ideas in Stirling to deliver a drugs harm reduction workshop to the young people at the event. We were also able to take part in some of the other workshops which were really informative! This went incredibly well and we had so much fun meeting other young people! 🌟



OPEN Training Residential - Edinburgh & Dundee

OPEN took 9 volunteers on a training residential to Edinburgh and Dundee where they had received Emerging Drug Trends and Harm reduction training from Crew 2000. In Dundee we met up with our friends at Hot Chocolate Trust where they showed us around their amazing building! OPEN's volunteers also ran workshops with their young people which was incredibly fun and informative 😊



YOUNG ISLANDERS NETWORK

This collaborative project between Young Islanders Network (YIN) and OPEN Shetland, centred on the idea of a Trainee Youth Worker role hosted with OPEN. The intention of the role is to complement and amplify existing youth work activity already taking place within OPEN, while helping to create meaningful links between young people in Shetland (aged 16–25) and the national Young Islanders Network.

Rhiannan's role will support:

- Communication between YIN and young people in Shetland
- Awareness of YIN activity and opportunities
- Informal gathering and sharing of youth perspectives
- Light-touch support for local engagement that aligns with YIN's wider aims

The Young Islanders Network held a conference in Orkney on 13th – 15th of March 2026 and funded for 3 volunteers alongside OPEN's trainee youth worker to attend this. On the residential the volunteers took part in a variety of workshops around what it means to be a young islander and the National Islands Plan. There was a scavenger hunt activity planned which gave people the opportunity to explore Orkney and its history whilst visiting and the young people had to find different landmarks etc to win a prize. The volunteers enjoyed meeting other young people from the different isles and gained confidence through doing group work with them, they also enjoyed the different activities and workshops that took place over the weekend. The young people worked towards and completed their Dynamic Youth Awards throughout the weekend which is an SQA recognised award!



IDEAS FUND

Evidence Building Grant 2025-28

The overall purpose of our Learning by doing, Leading by example project is to pursue system change that amplifies young people's priorities and permanently embeds a youth-led voice into the wider system of decision-making structures and services that affect the health and wellbeing of young people. We want to invest the time and effort required to truly explore ways in which permanent system change can be achieved.

Year two is about design and implementation, we intend to have identified and defined the need and opportunities for change so that we can design and implement action that addresses needs and takes advantage of opportunities.

Building on learning:

The findings from OPEN's peer research projects over the last 5 years has highlighted young people's priorities. As a part of this work OPEN has identified actions from research priorities and linking this to OPENs strategic plan for Shetland to be a place where young people thrive.

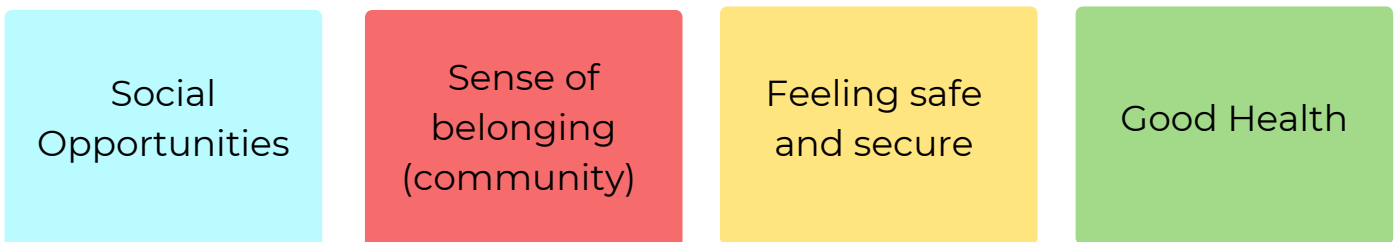
OPEN is planning to build on the learning and evidence gathered in the next year.

Key Priorities



Young People's Priorities:

OPEN became aware that there was an emerging trend that was becoming increasingly apparent with the completion of each research project. OPEN defined all previous research themes to understand young peoples priorities, these are:



OPEN plan to raise awareness about these over arching themes from the research through a year of action with the aim of building connections between young people and the community. To change community attitudes on how they work with young people, moving away from consultation and more towards collaboration.

Evidence Building Grant Glasgow Trip

The Dream Team went to Glasgow to meet with others within the Evidence Building grant. The event provided the opportunity to share ideas, build connections, and see how projects across the UK are making a positive difference. The conversations highlighted how important it is to avoid doing the same thing twice, to combine our strengths, and to keep up the momentum of our work. We discussed different ways to involve communities in research, use creative methods, and share what we've learned more clearly. The event reminded us how valuable it is to connect with others, share ideas, and work together to make real change.

Ideas Fund - Community Knowledge Matters In-Person Gathering

OPEN's transformational journey to becoming Shetland's first youth-led charity was a presentation spot light. OPEN shared the experience, learning and knowledge gained while becoming Shetland's first youth-led charity, from developing a unique governance structure to leading research projects, OPEN has shown how evidence from young people can shape real change.

You can see the presentation [here](#). Dive deeper into community-led research discussions [here](#).

The CKM in-person event provided the opportunity to network with other practitioners, researchers and policy-makers passionate about community-led research to connect and share practice. The Co-Priority Survey working group collaboratively carried out and reported the research from the Doing Mental Health and Wellbeing Research with rural communities.

OPEN contributed to this work and joined the group presenting findings and learnings at the Community Knowledge Matters In- Person event.

Hot Chocolate Research Project

The Hot Chocolate Trust (HCT) ran a peer-research project on the digital lives of young people. OPEN partnered with HCT to recruit and support local young people to take part. OPEN staff recruited two young people for the interview strand and eight for the group sessions, including both existing volunteers and new participants from Shetland Youth Voice.

To facilitate sessions we began with an online introductory session linking the Shetland group in Market House with the HCT team, allowing everyone to connect and share their initial research collages. The following week, HCT visited Shetland for an informal meet-up and a peer-led focus group exploring young people's views on digital lives. The general feedback that staff received was that young people enjoyed taking part in the research and having the opportunity to speak about all of the topics. It was great to have a different organisation visit Shetland and run a piece of work with us!





PEER RESEARCH

Making Shetland Fairer

The Making Shetland Fairer OPEN peer research project aimed to identify and understand both the impact of equity and inclusion. In our research, young people spoke honestly about their lives in Shetland and what they see around them. The OPEN Board requested that the topic - cost of living and poverty for young people - to be investigated as part of OPEN's peer research programme. Recognising that cost of living and poverty were too broad, the researchers switched their focus to equity and inclusion.

Some young people feel supported and included. Others face barriers that affect their confidence, choices, and future.

What feels fair about life in Shetland:

- Young people spoke highly of the opportunities in Shetland
- Close knit community and connections
- Access to services
- Job and career Opportunities

What creates inequality in Shetland:

- Wealth & inherited privilege
- Geographic disadvantage
- Discrimination & social stigma
- Digital exclusion

These differences matter, because fairness shapes how young people feel about themselves, their future, and where they belong. Changing the sources of inequality is a long-term challenge but young people see ways that their negative impacts can be reduced. Young people understand that inequality is complex – but they are clear that action is possible.

Young people want their voices to be listened to and taken seriously, more youth-friendly spaces, better transport and connectivity, and more help to access training, jobs, and housing.

Full report [Making Shetland Fairer | OPEN](#)

The support of professional researchers has been fundamental to the Making Shetland Fairer project, providing training and support for OPEN's staff and volunteers to design and carry out youth-led community research.

Who We Heard From:

- 49 young people took part
- Aged from 14 to 25
- From across Shetland

“Everybody gets a say in everything and gets to share their opinions. Everybody gets given the same opportunity's.”

“Overall fairness means making sure that all are treated with the kindness and respect they deserve.”



SHIFT UP

Shift Up (Formally the Live Working Group)

Shift Up OPEN's Alcohol and other Drugs Project brought about the creation of Shift Up bringing together strategic change makers from NHS Shetland and Shetland Islands Council and young change makers who's lived experience can guide the group to benefit Shetland young people.

Shift Up's Project Charter and workstreams have been developed to create actions from young people's ideas for change from OPEN's Peer Research projects. Shift up has been developing new ways for young people and professionals to work together to improve services. They have done this by creating tools such as the trusted adult exercise, TikTok service walk throughs and exploring community conversations. An induction pack was also produced by the group, so that new members are well informed about the groups purpose and work.

The group ran the trusted adult exercise at care day, this was well received by participants. The Community conversations led the group to develop 3 personas to share their stories and experiences while remaining anonymous, supported by OPEN staff.



Care Day

The theme of this year's Care Day was #ConnectedbyCare. To celebrate, the Meids group hosted an event in Lerwick Town Hall. During the event, participants engaged in an activity called 'Making a Meid'. Adapted from Shift Up's 'trusted adult exercise', this activity encouraged participants to reflect, individually and in small groups, on the qualities and skills that make a good Meid.

The exercise was to support the Meids in understanding what qualities and traits care experienced young people value in trusted adults, encouraging reflection and development among staff. The image to the right is taken from a participant groups that attended care day. Sharing examples of what makes a trusted adult.



ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Project

The Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Project is a Youth-led pilot created to work towards achieving 3 main outcomes:

- Young people feel more connected, valued and heard on issues that matter to them
- Young people are informed and empowered to develop strength and wellbeing
- Increased public awareness and understanding lead to a reduction in stigma surrounding alcohol and drug use, fostering a more supportive and informed community

Activities

Through the project, we set up a wide variety of activities:

- DJ Workshops - 6 young people learned DJ skills from DJ Drosso and DJ Foggy while having conversations around drugs and alcohol culture
- Fire Swinging - 2 young people learned how to (safely) fire swing using fire staffs and fire Poi
- Banner Painting - young people will create and paint UV banners for decorating local music events
- Tiktok - Young people ran three tiktok lives and posted 2 informational tiktok posts
- Podcasts - volunteers created a podcast episode as part of a Community Podcast Project. This is going live in April 2026
- Drop-in sessions - held 4 drop in sessions in Mareel Cafe for young people to talk about their experiences with drugs and alcohol
- Outreach around Lerwick's pubs - 2 staff members went around pubs to speak with the community about the project and speak
- BBC Radio Shetland - Youth Voice

AOD Report 2026

If you would like to know more about this project please follow this viewing link to the AOD Project report:

<https://canva.link/t8h5zsbccw40hm0>



SPACE PROJECT

Da Café

OPEN has spent the last year testing out spaces where young people can socialise with peers. There is still an identified need for young adults to have somewhere to socialise with peers, to get support, and to improve their skills.

Since April 2025 we have trialed running our youth space in the SIC Youth Services Hub, Market House, Clickamin Loch Bar, and the Methodist Kirk Hall, on Mondays and Thursdays 4-6pm. Over the year we have worked with 48 individual young people (316 cumulative)

In The Hub we had access to comfy spaces with lots of resources including a cache free food and drinks to ease the cost of living.

In Market House we started having free iced coffee's and hot chocolates with requests from our young people.

In the Clickamin Loch Bar we continue the free iced coffee's and hot chocolates, but this venue wasn't as well attended.

We held a review session with a group of young people to look at a 6 month test of change and to see if we could try something new to interest more young people. the decision was to hire the Methodist Kirk Hall and offer free hot chocolates and bacon rolls over the winter months (October-March).

The Methodist Kirk hall was a great space where the young people could gather and socialise and get their free bacon roll and hot drink. Feedback from young people as that they liked the space but it was slightly difficult to find even with clear directions, and it did have a "churchy vibe". They also thought that if we tried another space we should do it longer term as the jumping around spaces was likely confusing for young people. Consistency is key, something we have relearned as this proved the case in 2019. From April 2026-March 2027 OPEN will be rebranding "Da Café" as the OPEN Café and we will be held on Thursdays 4-6pm in Mareel Cafe (upstairs). all young people 14-25 will be able to get a free drink and chill.

We look forward to growing this project with all young people to meet the need for a space for young adults.





PEER MENTORING

What is Peer Mentoring -

The Peer Mentoring Programme supports and trains young people aged 16-25 to become peer mentors to provide support and guidance for 14-21 year olds. These young people can be from any background. Mentors and Mentees are matched together based on sharing similar backgrounds, experiences and interests. The young people build a meaningful and trusting relationship, supporting the mentees in developing a positive pathway.

Update

OPEN Peer Mentoring Project has been running for 6 years and there has been successes and challenges as the initiative has evolved to meet the needs of young people in Shetland. Peer mentoring relationships have shown positive outcomes for both mentees and mentors and it has highlighted the need for this approach to be developed. However the recruitment of mentees has been challenging and referrals from services has been less than expected and although evidence shows positive impact from mentoring relationships it has led us to address the low numbers of young people accessing the service. OPEN's strategy is to change our approach and provide bespoke mentoring training with young people and groups in a variety of settings in the community to equip more young people in the community with the skills and knowledge to support their peers confidently in their own settings

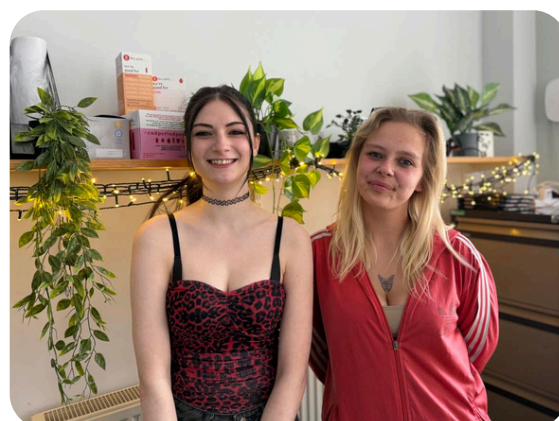
Recruitment and Training

This year OPEN has delivered two mentoring skills training sessions with 11 young people. over the next year we are aiming to focus on sharing the Mentoring skills training with young people, volunteers and professionals working with young people to improve their skills and lead to more supportive conversations for young people and their peers.

Mentoring Relationships

OPEN has supported one mentoring relationship in 2025 which lasted for over 1 year. This was an amazing example of how positive the mentoring relationships can lead to inspirational change.

OPEN will continue to support mentoring relationships in this way, though the development of these will be through natural relationships built up through the OPEN Café and other volunteers opportunities within OPEN.



STRATEGIC PARTNERS

OPEN advocates that young people are consulted at the highest level on issues that impact them. OPEN endeavour to enable young people to have the confidence and skills to influence and engage at a strategic level and drive transformative change in service design and delivery. In turn, young people directly influence systems, policy, and practice, to meet identified needs and priorities.

OPEN's strategy, vision, values and approach aims to rebalance power to communities and support them to make change.

Local partners :

- Voluntary Action Shetland
- Third Sector Forum
- Shetland Children's Partnership
- Shetland Public Protection Committee (SPPC)
- Shetland Islands Council, Children's Services,
- NHS Shetland
- Shetland Alcohol and Drugs Forum/Partnership
- Digital Safety and Child Sexual Exploitation Online Protection, SPPC
- Shetland Sexual Health BBV Strategy Group, NHS



National partners:

[YouthLink Scotland](#)
[Anderson Solutions](#)
[Ideas Fund](#)
[Community Knowledge Matters](#)
[Children in Scotland](#)
[Rank Foundation](#)
[Youth Scotland/](#)

Local Strategic Partnerships

OPEN staff and volunteers have attended 75 strategic meetings this year with local and national partners.

CHILDREN IN SCOTLAND

How Good is Our Third Sector Participation in Children's Services Planning? Perspectives of Young People in Shetland

As part of the Supporting the Third Sector Project, Children in Scotland have been working with third sector and statutory partners in Shetland to implement the 'How Good is Our Third Sector Participation in Children's Services Planning? Self-evaluation Toolkit. As part of this work, Children in Scotland, in collaboration with OPEN, ran a pilot session which facilitated the participation of children and young people in the self-evaluation process.

In this pilot, we held a session with young people from Shetland to identify how they in their day to day lives engage with the Children's Services Plan, their knowledge of the plan and their views and experiences of how young people could be involved in future.



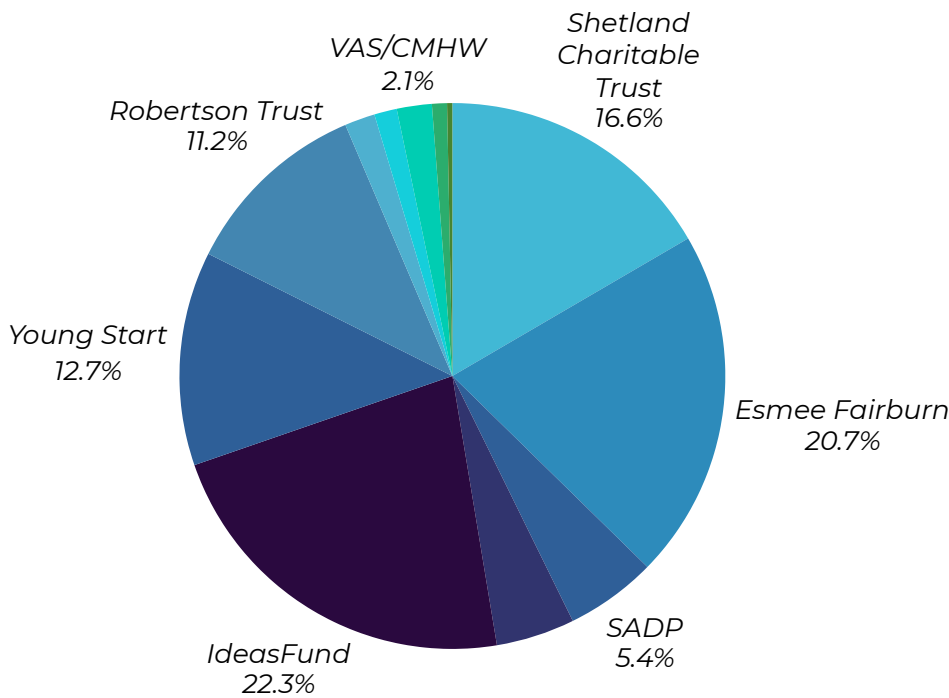
“ We would like to thank the young people who generously volunteered their time to participate in this session and for providing valuable insights and feedback on the pilot work. ”

“ Children in Scotland are planning to include engagement sessions with young people as part of the HGIO self evaluation tool in their future work in other areas of Scotland. ”

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS

OPEN strives to match local grant funding with national funding, increasing the funding available for youth-led services in Shetland

Current Funding 40% local / 60% national



OPEN's statement of the charity's policy on reserves:

The trustees have examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. They have established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds held by the charity should be between 3 to 6 months of expenditure. However, the trustees recognise this sum may only be achieved by building on reserves through operating surpluses that may be subject to funder grant condition restraints.





Special thanks to Jessica Carlyle and Mariel Leask



THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS & SUPPORTERS

Saltire Awards 2025



We would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to Jessica Carlyle, OPEN Development Worker since 2023. Jess led the transition of OPEN to become a youth-led charity. Jess left to work for the Compass Centre in November 2025.

Jess was nominated OPEN's Chair in January 2026 and we are delighted that she has taken on this position.

Mariel Leask, OPEN Peer Education Youth Worker, left to have her son Mateo in June 2025. Mariel has been with OPEN as a volunteer and member of staff since the beginning in 2011.

OPEN wishes them well in their next chapter in life.

CONTACT US :

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Approved by OPEN Board
Chairperson - Jessica Carlyle
May 2026



OPEN is regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)

OPEN Income and Expenditure - Year end March 2025

OPEN			
Charity No: SC052681			
Financial Year: 2025			
BALANCE B/F			£91,941
INCOME	Unrestricted	Restricted	
Donations	£1,310	£0	£1,310
Grants	£6,228	£204,315	£210,543
Income from investments other than land and buildings	£2,853		£2,853
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	£2,805		£2,805
Payments relating directly to charitable activities			
Misc			
TOTAL	£13,197	£204,315	£217,512
EXPENDITURE			
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total current period
Wages	£897	£148,065	£148,962
Research		£17,138	£17,138
Board costs		£3,064	£3,064
Training		£500	£500
School Delivery		£309	£309
OPEN meetings		£1,665	£1,665
Da Café		£5,762	£5,762
Management Costs		£1,522	£1,522
Project overheads		£3,800	£3,800
ICT		£7,596	£7,596
Petty Cash			£0
Insurance		£1,308	
Misc	£5,749	£186	£5,935
Total payments	£6,646	£190,915	£197,561
Net receipts	£6,550	£13,400	£19,950
Cash and bank balances at start of year			£91,941
CLOSING BALANCE			£111,891

Receipts and payments accounts are available on OPEN's website or by emailing openproject@shetland.org. These were approved by the Board of Trustees on May 15th 2025