

**ANNUAL REPORT 2025**



# INTRODUCTION

Annual General Meetings are opportunities to both look back at the previous year, to see where we have come from, and to look forward to what may be ahead of us. This AGM is particularly reflective for me as I step down from my role as both the chairperson and as a trustee after more than 13 years, during which time I have had the role of Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-Chair and Chairperson as well as serving 3 years on the National Council, and whilst I have loved my time serving as a trustee, other work and family pressures means that it is unsustainable at this time.

Looking back over that time, we have seen what started as a fledgling new SCIO, after some fallow years after the original YMCA buildings closed, to the purchasing of both Canal St and (soon) Dunlop St, premises. We have literally seen thousands of children, young people and community members from almost every demographic and background engage with our services, and we have seen many of our young people upskilled and empowered in order to take up leadership positions here and beyond.

As we look forward, this drive, passion and enthusiasm to see people grow in 'mind, body and spirit' should remain and I look forward to hearing stories in years to come about the impact that Renfrew YMCA has had on our future leaders.



**Graeme McMeekin Chairperson of Renfrew YMCA**

# INTRODUCTION



Good evening everyone, and welcome to my first of what I hope will be many openings to the Renfrew YMCA AGM.

It has certainly been quite an introduction to my career within the YMCA movement. Each time we have faced a challenge and met it head-on, another has quickly followed. However, those challenges have also highlighted the resilience, commitment and potential within Renfrew YMCA.

During my first six months, my main focus has been on stabilising the organisation's finances and guiding the project through a period of uncertainty. I am pleased to say that we are now on a much steadier footing this is only temporary.

This has allowed us to begin shifting our focus towards what truly matters: the quality of the work we deliver, how we deliver it, and ensuring that we build strong and sustainable foundations for the future.

This work represents the beginning of a five-year plan to help Renfrew YMCA not only survive in a difficult climate, but truly thrive. My vision is that by the time we come together for the 2026 AGM, we will already be seeing the early results of that plan—stronger services, deeper community impact, and an organisation that is more confident and resilient than ever before.

The waters may still be challenging, but together I am confident we can navigate them and build an even brighter future for Renfrew YMCA and the community we serve.

**Andrew Allan Centre Manager**

The 2022-2025 strategic plan sees Renfrew YMCA aligning its vision and purpose with the global YMCA movement through the adoption of Vision 2030.

The plan also maps Renfrew YMCA's objectives with the Scottish National Improvement Framework and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.



### COMMUNITY WELLBEING

-  We are healthy & active
-  We live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe
-  We grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential
-  We are creative and our vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely



### MEANINGFUL WORK

-  We are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society
-  We have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone



### SUSTAINABLE PLANET

-  We value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment
-  We have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy



### JUST WORLD

-  We respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination
-  We tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth & power more equally
-  We are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally



## Our Values

Renfrew YMCA is an inclusive Christian youth organisation, open to people of all faiths and none. We seek to work with all children and young people in a non-judgemental and supportive manner.

## Our Purpose

Renfrew YMCA was established in 2011, we work with children and young people aged from 0 years old to 25 years old, their families and the community through early intervention projects and service provision for community issues. We work with all children, young people and families breaking down barriers in the community and building positive relationships with other community members. We provide support through needs led strategies to enable all children and young people to reach their full potential.

## Our Vision

A world where every person lives in harmony with self, with society and with creation.

## Our YMCA Mission

To empower young people and the community to build a just, sustainable, equitable and inclusive Scotland, where every person can thrive in body, mind and spirit.

# OUR VALUES IN PRACTICE



**As the world's largest and oldest youth organisation, YMCA is committed to upholding the principles of the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).**

We strive to ensure young people are engaged, heard and consulted locally, nationally and internationally and that they can influence and impact the world around them.





## COMMUNITY WELLBEING

YMCA believes that every person should have the means to grow and thrive in body, mind and spirit while taking care of their individual and collective wellbeing.

During 2024 Renfrew YMCA provided strategic support to several local YMCAs to develop new and existing YMCA premises, improving safe community spaces and creating new learning hubs.

## LITTLE RASCALS - PARENT AND CARER SUPPORT PROJECT

Our twice-weekly sessions have become a core part of our service over the past year, and it has been particularly humbling to welcome families who are new to Scotland and looking to connect with members of the local community.

The project has been supported by ASDA, Renfrewshire Council, and SGN, who have provided us with the resources needed to engage effectively with households and help them stay warm and safe throughout the year.



## Introducing : Nehemiah FORC Recovery Cafe

Looking to better serve our community as well as make better use of our estate we have teamed up with the good people at Nehemiah to give them a space and platform to aid the recovery through faith, music and group work.

The project leaders Sussan and Ende said:

'In August Nehemiah re-located their Recovery Café to the warm and bright YMCA building at Dunlop Street, Renfrew.

Although a small beginning, there has already been encouraging growth.

We have been able to start offering our Pilings Recovery Groupwork Programme alongside creative writing and a music group. From small acorns mighty oaks grow!'



Galatians 6:14 - Soli Deo Gloria.

## COMMUNITY WELLBEING



## LET'S INTRODUCE ANXIETY MANAGEMENT (LIAM)

Based on NHS cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) principles, our trained staff deliver weekly sessions on Saturdays for a small group of young people. These sessions support participants in managing anxiety-related challenges, such as heightened jumpiness, overthinking, and other common manifestations of anxiety.

Our specialist team provides structured, therapeutic activities designed to build coping strategies, improve emotional resilience, and promote overall well being. The Saturday morning sessions are making a meaningful and measurable difference to the young people who attend.





YMCA believes that all young people deserve the right to learn, engage in flexible dignified and meaningful work and build sustainable livelihoods.

## STAFF & VOLUNTEER DEVELOPMENT

Lifelong learning is the foundation of progress. As stated in the Centre Manager's opening remarks, in an ever-changing world continuous learning keeps us adaptable, creative, and ready to meet new challenges.

This has been particularly evident in our second staff training session, where staff learned to adapt to YouthLink's outcomes and indicators model for youth work planning, delivery, and reporting.



A cornerstone of our programme, our **Friday Drop-In** provides a safe, welcoming space for young people of high-school age to spend time off the streets and engage positively with others.

New for 2025, we introduced a range of fresh experiences, including a workshop on *Fairtrade and Vaping*, as well as subtle improvements to the overall programme. These changes have helped young people explore different perspectives, develop critical thinking skills, and grow as responsible citizens.

Some exciting new projects have already emerged from the meaningful conversations held within the group — so watch this space for further developments.

### DROP IN: High School Years Safe Space



MEANINGFUL  
WORK

## St James's Primary Outdoor Class

Another new project for 2025 is the imaginary titled 'St James Primary Outdoor Class'. In this class, held on a wednesday we hold a class to promote a greener , STEM based approach to wellness.

## Newmains Primary School 'N2N 2025'

Continuing our expanding billable youth work within school settings, our **Nature to Nature (N2N)** project is a unique programme delivered in partnership with a local school. Each Friday, we are entrusted to take a selected group of young people out of school to participate in a structured wellbeing session.

The programme includes a wellness walk through Renfrew, guided journaling to support reflection and emotional literacy, and a planned team-building STEM activity. This combination of outdoor engagement, personal development, and practical learning has proven highly effective in supporting the young people's wellbeing, confidence, and teamwork skills.



**SUSTAINABLE  
PLANET**

YMCA believes that we should all commit and take action for the protection and regeneration of our planet, preparing for a Just Transition to a world where humans live in full harmony with nature.

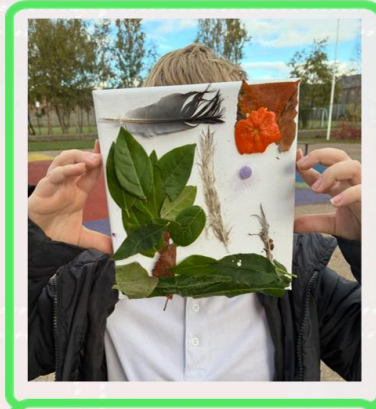
YMCA commits to become a Greener Movement, an active youth voice on climate justice and champion of youth-led sustainability solutions.

## Outdoor Play: Saturday

Funded by the Robertson Trust, this unique club encourages us to embrace the outdoors as much as possible (despite the weather) and is built on the principles of play, exploration, and connection with nature. The programme makes full use of Renfrew's green spaces and the town's post-industrial regeneration, offering young people opportunities to learn, play, and discover in their local environment.



**St James's Primary  
Outdoor Class**



**Newmains Primary  
School 'N2N 2025'**



**SUSTAINABLE  
PLANET**



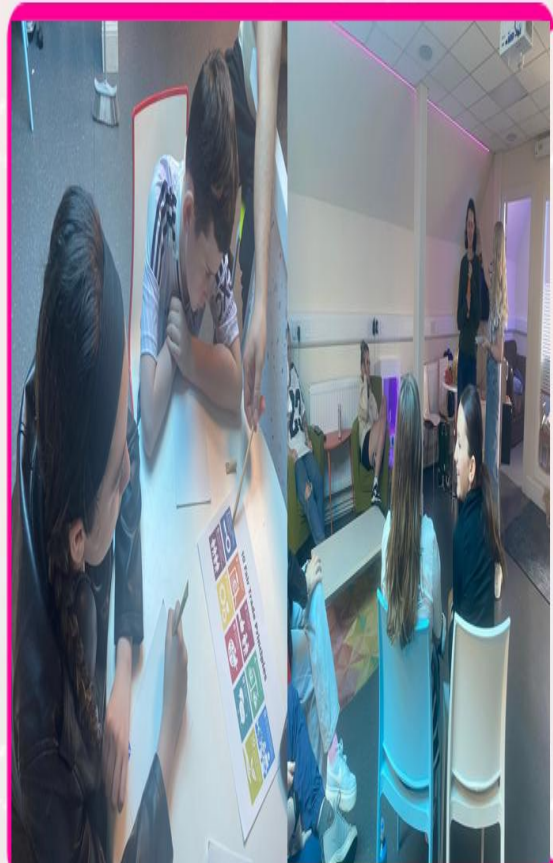
**JUST  
WORLD**

**YMCA believes in the power of young people and communities to promote and advance justice, peace, equity, and human rights for all.**

**YMCA will become a global voice in the fight against systemic discrimination, inequity, injustice and racism in all its forms, amplifying the voices of young people and communities where it is active to ensure that everyone's voice is heard.**

Renfrew YMCA is part of a worldwide movement, and in partnership with Fair Trade Scotland, our 'Drop-In' session had the opportunity to learn about the power of choice in the products they select.

While the transaction may take place here in Renfrew, the impact of each purchase can be felt globally.



## IN IT TOGETHER

We are proud to host the only mid-week, non-sport ASN youth group for miles around. Our highly trained staff have consistently delivered youth provision recognised and valued by social work throughout 2025.

Meeting the diverse and complex needs of our young people in a small space is both a demanding and highly skilled challenge—but week after week, our team rises to it, creating an environment where every young person can **thrive and grow**.



JUST  
WORLD

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

A key principle of high-quality community work is recognising not only what **Renfrew YMCA** brings to the town, but also the unique contributions of each partner, allowing us to build stronger initiatives together.

For example, our local police are always welcome to **drop by** and engage with young people, and we work closely with **Renfrew Toy Bank** to distribute low-cost or donated costumes for seasonal activities, ensuring that everyone can participate and benefit from our programmes.



JUST  
WORLD

## IN IT TOGETHER - CASE STUDY

ANNUAL REPORT 2024

### Case Story: "G" (aged 11)

"G" has been attending Renfrew YMCA sessions for several years and is now 11 years old. He regularly takes part in our weekly *In It Together* session, our *N2N* group, and our Saturday *Y Mentoring* programme.

"G" remembers that, before joining the YMCA, he often had a lot of spare time and very few hobbies apart from gymnastics. Since getting involved in our programmes, he has found new interests, new friendships, and a place where he feels genuinely supported.

He told us:

*"I feel like when I come to the YMCA, I feel relaxed and less stressed, and I get excited to come back. I enjoy seeing my pals, and I love the science (STEM) part of the sessions. On a Saturday I meet another pal who invented his own game that I play. He has similar levels of creativity as me."*

"G" continues to grow in confidence, curiosity, and creativity, and the YMCA has become a key part of his weekly routine and personal development.



## Juniors

This club remains our busiest and most challenging group, firmly placed on a Friday night. Frequently averaging in the high twenties and early thirties in footfall, we combine traditional youth work and play activities with video games, dance, and, of course, a meal that we all enjoy sharing together.

The session is further supported by our volunteers and helpers, who are themselves learning the principles of youth work. We have partnered in the past, and continue to work, with Barnardo's, creating new employability opportunities for both young people and adults.





# Evaluation

our core youth club has thrived over the past year, with attendance, engagement, and smiles all reaching an all-time high. Evaluated against the **SHANARRI wellbeing indicators**, outcomes in every area have improved.

Young people were asked to score us out of 5 on how **Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, and Included** they felt. We set a self-imposed benchmark of 75% to achieve top scores (4 or 5 out of 5). The results were:

- **Safe:** 93%
- **Healthy:** 74%
- **Achieving:** 79%
- **Nurtured:** 100%
- **Active:** 87%
- **Respected:** 91%
- **Responsible:** 90%
- **Included:** 93%

This represents a highly positive start, with only one area just below our new high standard. We will continue to develop this dataset and establish a high-water mark as we strive to deliver top-quality youth work for our young people.



# STAFF FOCUS:

## ERIN

For some, the outdoors can feel cold and unwelcoming—especially in the West of Scotland—but for Erin, it is her office. She brings energy, creativity, and professionalism to everything she does, embracing every task as an opportunity to learn and grow within the wider YMCA movement.

Even when Mother Nature conspires against her Saturday Outdoor Play group, Erin's **inventive approach and adaptability** ensure that young people still receive top-quality, engaging youth work. Her dedication, skill, and positive attitude make her an invaluable member of the team.



### In Erin's Own Words...

#### 'This job is a privilege'

"I first started with Renfrew YMCA when I was 17, which feels like a lifetime ago, as I'm now 20. My proudest achievement has been being nominated and interviewed for the YMCA's Leadership Academy.

I love being able to make a real impact on people's lives. I live by the mantra that you never know what might change the course of someone's life, and I'm proud to be in a position where I might help nudge someone in the right direction."



# FINANCES

## Financial Review

Daniel McElhinney (Finance Officer)

Renfrew YMCA)



Overall, our key metrics are down. We saw a reduction in income of **£41,735.16**, largely due to tighter funding conditions. However, this was offset by a significant **£93,736.89** reduction in our expenditure.

This has helped **reverse the near £93k loss recorded the previous year**, with this year's losses reduced to a more modest **£17.717**. Approximately **£15,000** of this was the result of the unexpected increase in employers' National Insurance contributions announced in the late 2024 budget.

Enter charity name below  
**Renfrew YMCA SCIO**  
Enter SIC No. below  
**SC042802**

**Receipts and payments accounts**

For the period from  to

	Unrestricted to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Expendable to nearest £	Permanent to nearest £	Total funds to nearest £	Total funds last to nearest £
<b>Section A Statement of receipts and payments</b>						
<b>A1 Receipts</b>						
Donations	2,739				2,739	48
Legacies	5,037				5,037	5,037
Grants		159,499.00			159,499	203,303
Receipts from fundraising activities	682				682	985
Gross trading receipts	31				31	31
Income from investments other than						45
Rents from land & buildings						-
Gross receipts from other charitable						-
<b>A1 Sub total</b>	<b>8,489</b>	<b>159,499</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>167,988</b>	<b>209,449</b>
<b>A2 Receipts from asset &amp; investment</b>						
Proceeds from sale of fixed assets						
Proceeds from sale of investments						
<b>A2 Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>8,489</b>	<b>159,499</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>167,988</b>	<b>209,449</b>
<b>A3 Payments</b>						
Expenses for fundraising activities						
Gross trading payments						
Investment management costs						
Payments relating directly to charitable activities		177,137			177,137	271,943
Grants and donations						
Governance costs:						
Audit / independent examination						
Preparation of annual accounts						
Legal costs						
Other						
Payment due to error						
<b>A3 Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>177,137</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>177,137</b>	<b>271,943</b>
<b>A4 Payments relating to asset and</b>						
Purchases of fixed assets						
Purchase of investments						
<b>A4 Sub total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>177,137</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>177,137</b>	<b>271,943</b>
<b>Net receipts / (payments)</b>	<b>8,489</b>	<b>(17,638)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(9,149)</b>	<b>(62,494)</b>
<b>A5 Transfers to / (from) funds</b>						
<b>Surplus / (deficit) for year</b>	<b>8,489</b>	<b>(17,638)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(9,149)</b>	<b>(62,494)</b>

# Trustees and Staff

## Honorary President

Walter Johnston

**Chair:** Graeme McMeekin

## Trustees:

Heather Henderson

Kareen Ross

Pauline Hoyles

Rachel Taylor

## STAFF

Andrew Allan Centre  
Manager

Amanda 'Mandy'  
Marshal Housekeeper

## Youth work team:

Alan Hoey

Ellie Gallacher

Erin Vaughan

Lynsey Muir

Shelby Davidson

Sean Markie- Placement Student



# THANKS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following funders for having the faith in us to funding our humble project in the last 12 months. We couldn't have done it without you.

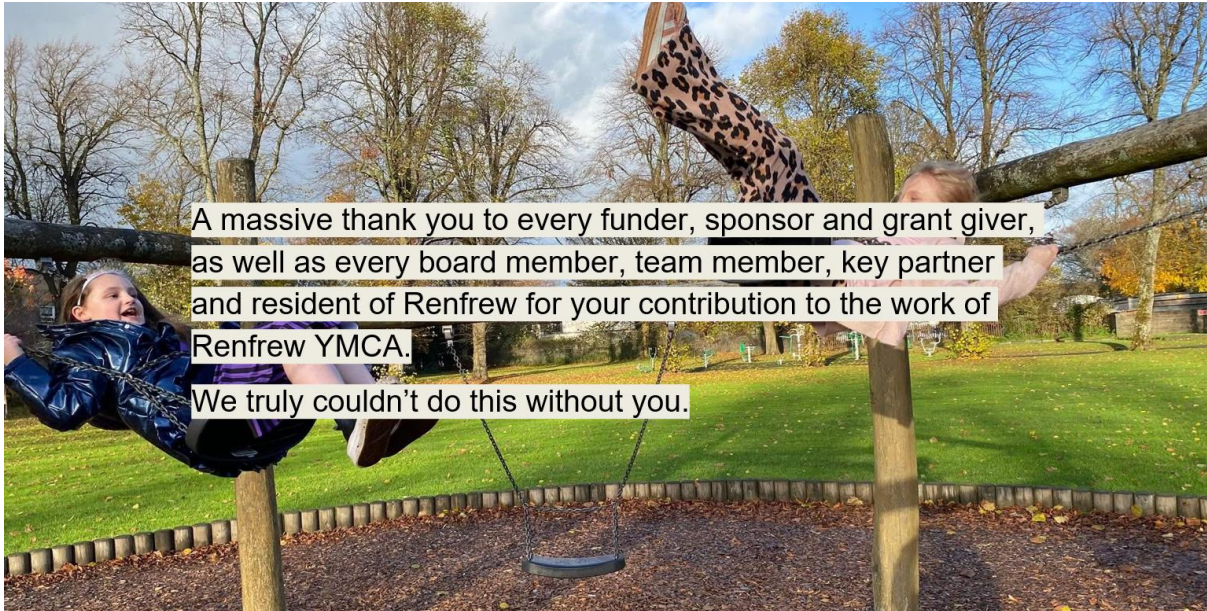
We are pleased to announce that Renfrew YMCA was able to secure the backing of 17% more funders compared to the last financial year.

Robertson Trust	£35,000	Turcan Connell	£4,200
The National Lottery	£29,944	Toy Trust	£3,395
Garfield Weston	£20,000	Foundation Scotland	£3,000
Inspiring Scotland	£14,601	Walker Laird	£2,000
Renfrewshire Council	£12,732	Screwfix Renfrew	£1,500
Benefit Trust	£8,062	7Stars Foundation	£1,500
Engage Renfrew	£6,780	Tesco Stronger Grants	£1,125
Impact Funding	£5,985	YMCA England and Wales	£600
NHS GGCGV	£4,840	Nehemia Trust	£250

# THANKS

Likewise 2024/2025 saw a number of staff move on to pastures new and we would like to also take the opportunity to thank them for their contribution to Renfrew YMCA and of course the wider YMCA project.

**Amanda Reid**  
**Ashley Kaur**  
**Cairinne MacDonald**  
**Graeme McMeekin**  
**Kaitlyn O'Hara**  
**Karren Ross**  
**Rachael Taylor**  
**Robbie Forde**



A massive thank you to every funder, sponsor and grant giver,  
as well as every board member, team member, key partner  
and resident of Renfrew for your contribution to the work of  
Renfrew YMCA.  
We truly couldn't do this without you.

We, the undersigned, confirm that this report has been reviewed and is approved for submission on behalf of the charity

Name *Heather Henderson* Position Co Chair

Name *Pauline Hoyels* Position Co Chair