

Trowbridge Future

Registered Charity Number: 1165254

ANNUAL REPORT 2023/24



Inclusive **Impartial** **Engaging** **Kind**



LETTER FROM THE CEO

MEG AUBREY

Over the past year Trowbridge Future has continued to be a vital and valued organisation within Trowbridge and surrounding areas, that people feel comfortable to engage with and be part of. I am proud of the on-going hard work and commitment of all our staff, trustees and volunteers who have helped create safe, accessible spaces where people are able to build relationships with trusted adults to meet their variety of needs and gain support to move forward on positive journeys of change. We have built an amazing team who bring so much energy, support and kindness to their roles and makes Trowbridge Future what it is.

As we continue to navigate the challenges of the cost-of-living crisis and increasing demands on local services, Trowbridge Future have had to take some time to review and reflect on its core purpose and offer to the community. This has meant that the trustees and senior leadership team have had to make some courageous decisions to expand our services. This has resulted in the decision to open a dedicated youth centre in the heart of Trowbridge, that will enable us to develop a purpose-designed facility that will support up to 50 young people at one time. This has been something that has been missing from the town for some time. This expansion has been planned alongside the development of a larger town centre Community Hub in The Shires which will enable us to reach a larger audience, whilst also creating the space to give people the privacy to be supported to discuss issues and concerns they have.

Both these developments will strengthen the voluntary sector in Trowbridge, help increase the footfall in the town and support its overall regeneration. These developments have been made more possible through the generous support of Wiltshire Council through the Vacant Properties Future High Street Fund, giving money to the refurbishment and development of town centre properties. This dovetailed with the launch of our first ever £100 business challenge working with local businesses to raise funds for our new youth centre alongside a further generous donation and support from Selwood Housing. This has been remarkably successful in raising our profile in the town and demonstrating how we can diversify our income streams.

Alongside these developments we continue to support the professional development of our staff. We are committed to ensuring all our staff where possible are Mental Health First Aid trained. Our youth team have been trained through the National Youth Agency and the youth team are working hard to ensure that their youth sessions are delivering activities that align to the National Youth Agency National Occupational Standards.

We continue to look for further projects that we can offer beyond our core activities and this years has been no exception. It has been exciting to extend our Community Fridges with the delivery of our Cultural Cookery with Nariman. We have been able to celebrate the legacy of our successful Odyssey Project a collaboration with the National Theatre and Trowbridge Town Hall.

Trowbridge Future

THEORY OF CHANGE

Goal

Trowbridge Future will enhance the life of the communities of Trowbridge, by giving a voice to the most vulnerable, to see the change they want to see in their town,

Intended Outcome

Enable young people to reach their full potential in personal and social development.

Building relationships and peer support to enable ongoing positive journeys of change.

Activities

To provide sustainable, regular and holistic youth activities through informal learning and constructive activities in a safe, non-judgement environment.

To support local residents to come together and respond to issues and concern to improve their lives and the areas in which they live.

Current Condition

Trowbridge is a post-industrial town, with an aging population and few opportunities for young people. There is lack of access to support services and youth activities which is showing increasing demand for our services.



SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

In the last 12 months we have delivered the following key activities:

- Weekly youth sessions within Seymour & Studley Green areas of Trowbridge.
- Aligned our youth activities to the National Youth Agency curriculum and frameworks.
- Supported a group of our young people to participate in a theatre project in collaboration with Trowbridge Town Hall and the National Theatre Public Acts.
- Took a group of young people to London to visit the National Theatre.
- Provided activities for young people in academic years 5 & 6 at a summer school to aid their transition between primary and secondary school.
- Held a Christmas silent disco with a photo booth and props.
- Obtained, renovated and developed a new dedicated space for young people at Mill Street.
- Launched a successful £100 Business campaign, engaging local business and raising funds for our youth provision.
- Continued to work with our youth ambassadors to give our young people choice and a voice.
- Worked with Pentabus Theatre Company to do a workshop on the successful play 'Destiny' which covered topics on sexual assault and grooming.
- Provided work experience for 6 young people.
- 2 of our staff members began Level 4 Qualifications with the National Youth Agency and 1 staff member began a level 3 Qualification.
- Staff members also completed training on Healthier Relationships & Fundraising.
- We took groups of young people on cinema trips during school holidays.
- Recruited our first charity patron Florence Espeut-Nickless.

Key Outcomes:

- Provided a new dedicated safe space for the young people of Trowbridge, with more opportunity for a wider range of activities to meet their needs and interests.
- Built professional working relationships with young people.
- Gave young people access to trusted adults for advice and signposting.
- Trowbridge Future Youth gave opportunity for young people to have a voice.
- Supported young people to access and participate in other community activities and groups.
- Supported young people and their families with any safeguarding needs, referrals to foodbanks, form filling and just being a listening ear and a place to turn to when they needed help and support.
- Helped young people transition from primary school to secondary school.
- Upskilled our youth team with JNC recognised youth work qualifications, Fundraising knowledge and skills to help young people understand their relationships.
- Upskilled young people with informal learning about different topics and life skills.
- Gave 6 young people the experience of what it is like to work for a local charity.

Trowbridge Future Youth



MILL STREET PROJECT

In October 2023, we picked up the keys to No.1 Mill Street and this started a brand new and exciting journey for us as a charity, to create a new and dedicated youth space within the centre of Trowbridge.

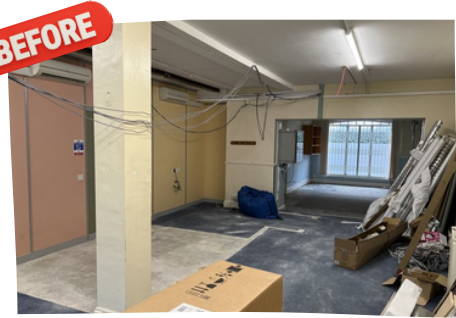
We were always aware that a youth centre was a very real need for Trowbridge, however with a lack of resources and funding, we knew we couldn't make this possible... at least not straight away!

We were lucky enough to be awarded a grant from the Vacant Commercial Units Fund as part of the overall Future High Streets fund that was awarded to Trowbridge in 2023 and this was distributed by Wiltshire Council, alongside a further generous grant from Selwood Housing. This was an incredible opportunity for us and we quickly realised that we could finally find a suitable venue within the town centre. After weeks and months of searching we finally settled on Mill Street and the renovations began.



It took us around 4 months to fully renovate the building with the help of Cottage Building & Restoration Ltd who knocked down walls for us and made everything tidy and safe and then the mammoth task of decorating began and again we were lucky enough to have been supported with a huge donation of decorating materials from Beard Construction. We got to work, armed ourselves with paintbrushes and rollers and were helped along by members of Trowbridge Men's Shed who kindly came in every week to help us paint, put furniture together and fix and repair anything that we needed.

Whilst we were renovating the building, we also had extra support financially from the local businesses taking part in our £100 Business Challenge and we celebrated this huge achievement with everyone who had helped us along the journey at our opening event in April 2024



AFTER



Mill Street youth centre was officially opened by our first charity patron Florence Espeut-Nickless who is a successful playwright and actress and a huge advocate for young people and the Mayor of Trowbridge, Councillor Stephen Cooper who kindly made us his charity of the year and raised money and brought awareness for us throughout the year by doing his mayoral events.



Trowbridge Future Youth

£100 BUSINESS CHALLENGE

In August 2023 we launched our successful £100 Business Challenge. Our reasoning behind the challenge was to help us fundraise for a dedicated youth venue in Trowbridge. We recognised that we had very quickly outgrown the venues that we were using, which were primarily small portakabins and the effect this had on the young people of the town and the limitations we faced with the range of activities we were able to provide. As the county town of Wiltshire, we felt like Trowbridge deserved a safe space for it's young people to socialise with peers, develop new skills and build relationships with trusted adults.

Our Youth Team approached over 300 local businesses around the Trowbridge area, informing them of the challenge and asking them to help us fundraise amongst their colleagues for a new, much larger, dedicated youth venue in the town. We had a wide variety of local businesses sign themselves up for the challenge, these included: **Stone Developments Wiltshire LTD**, **Thomas Porter Wealth Management**, **Apricity Theatre**, **Tesco**, **Katie Lifts**, **Alert Systems**, **Sash Windows & General Carpentry est. 2004**, **Islington Motors & Trowbridge Ford**, **The Stallard's Inn**, **THG Labs**, **Gallagher LTD** and **Handy Mart**, as well as donations from individuals around the town. The businesses got creative amongst their teams and participated in all sorts of ways, fancy dress days, sponsored cycles, sports matches, exercise classes and poetry writing.



The challenge exceeded our expectations, and all businesses together raised £2390, with the top spot going to **Stone Developments Wiltshire LTD** who managed to raise a total of £697.50, all of which contributed towards our newly renovated youth venue in the centre of Trowbridge. Not only did the challenge bring in donations for our youth centre, but it also boosted a sense of community in the town, allowing local businesses to build a relationship with and support a local charity. All participants were invited to our launch event the following year to celebrate all that they had contributed.

As our first £100 Business Challenge was so successful, this is something that we now wish to launch annually and build upon each year. We hope to engage more local businesses and raise more funds for our general running costs so that we can continue to offer our activities for free for the young people of Trowbridge and the surrounding areas.

Trowbridge Future

SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY

Over the past 12 months we have delivered the following key activities:

- Providing practical advice, support and signposting at our central Hub.
- Three Community Fridges on the Seymour, Studley Green and Longfield estates, distributing unsold food items from local supermarket, a bakery, and a fast food outlet. We also received additional funding to purchase supplementary food items to support residents with the cost of living.
- Two Kindness Cafes on the Studley Green and Seymour Estates, where people can come together in a warm, safe space, helping to alleviate social isolation.
- Two weekly craft groups in the Shires Shopping Centre Hub and The Seymour Hub. Local residents can come together and join a common activity, promoting wellbeing and peer to peer support.
- A day trip to Poole for the Seymour Kindness Café attendees.
- Transitioned into a larger capacity Community Hub in the Shires Shopping Centre, doubling the space available to local residents.
- Deliver bi weekly cultural cookery lessons in association with Hubbub.
- Distributed 150 Christmas Hampers through the community fridges, donated by Banner.
- Provided robust English lessons for those who speak other languages, also engaging with Wiltshire Council Refugee and Resettlement team
- Supported Mark TUGS Mental Health Support groups and the Veterans monthly drop in.

Key Outcomes:

- Offering substantial help through fresh food and personal hygiene product donations.
- Distribution of supermarket and energy vouchers to the most vulnerable residents in the local community
- Provision of air fryers and slow cookers, offering residents to opportunity to cook healthy and nutritious meals whilst lowering their energy costs
- Preventing large amounts of food waste on a weekly basis.
- Engaging with particularly vulnerable audiences to support them with specific signposting and support around issues such as accessing employment, benefit advice, tackling loneliness and mental health needs.
- Helping combat the feeling of helplessness and isolation, particularly for the ageing population and those with significant mental health concerns.
- Giving recipients a sense of belonging and self-importance as they develop new friends and feel connected with the local community.

Trowbridge Future

SNAPSHOT OF THE YEAR

Community



ENGLISH LESSONS ATTENDEES 289

THE SHIRES
VISITORS
2,637



COMMUNITY
HUB DROP-IN
DAYS

192



104
NO. OF
KINDNESS
CAFES

CRAFT
CAFES



104



624



NO OF FOOD
COLLECTIONS

144

NO OF
COMMUNITY
FRIDGES



4,016

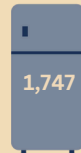
SEYMOUR
FRIDGE
VISITORS



STUDLEY GREEN
FRIDGE VISITORS

1,523

LONGFIELD
FRIDGE
VISITORS



1,747

Youth



102

Youth
Sessions
Delivered



999

No. of youth
session
places
provided

Funds raised
through our
£100 Business
challenge



£2390

246
Young
People
Engaged



Trowbridge Future

- Making community members feel part of a family.
- Building positive relationships with people on the road to recovery from addiction, rough sleeping, and mental health breakdowns to support them on to positive journeys of change. Engaged with the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller and boat dweller population.
- Prevent isolated people entering high-end crisis medical care and prevent suicide.
- Providing positive progression routes and training opportunities for volunteers.
- Responding flexibly to the changing needs of the community.





FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Trowbridge Community Area Future

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

	31.3.24 £	31.3.23 £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	15,676	20,672
Charitable activities		
Grants	<u>362,313</u>	<u>203,697</u>
Total incoming resources	377,989	224,369
EXPENDITURE		
Charitable activities		
Wages	182,560	161,401
Pensions	3,067	8,184
Rent	8,895	-
Insurance	2,214	1,189
Light and heat	7,941	1,430
Telephone	2,736	2,467
Postage and stationery	1,811	1,137
Advertising	1,056	1,118
Sundries	14,316	5,208
Travel & Subsistence	1,665	3,990
Activity Expenses	49,885	24,862
Hire of a room	1,061	356
Staff Training	2,736	2,835
Repairs and renewals	42,834	3,146
Bank Charges	107	101
Accountancy Fees	<u>792</u>	<u>660</u>
	323,676	218,084
Other		
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	<u>6,957</u>	<u>4,977</u>
Total resources expended	<u>330,633</u>	<u>223,061</u>
Net income	<u>47,356</u>	<u>1,308</u>

Trowbridge Future

GOALS FOR NEXT YEAR

Sustainability	Belonging	Youth	Community
Undertake annual reviews of our boundaries and purpose in strategy day and regular staff meetings.	Embed our core values into our everyday standards, work ethic and practice.	Open the Mill Street youth centre Venue	Establish new, larger Community Hub, with 10% increased footfall.
Help to promote and refer to our key partner organisations where appropriate.	Identify our client group and any community needs, research and explore groups and individuals that we are not reaching.	Look after & settle our current young members	Open Community Hub from Monday to Thursday providing drop-in sessions, advice, signposting, and a welcoming, safe place like a public living room.
Ensure that we recognise our TF teams skills and provide a chance for building on their skills.	Realistic goals and expectations for staff against their skills and aptitude.	Introduce NYA curriculum into the planning of our activities	Complete at least 9 regular pick ups each of week of fresh food.
Establish a clear sustainability and fundraising strategy along with the Fundraising Sub-Committee, with an annual funding timeline.	Ensure that the TF team have adequate time for information handovers, administrations duties	Continue to meet with our youth ambassadors	Pilot Community Cookery programme with bi-weekly sessions for up to 10 people each session, with Hubbub: a national network of community fridges.
Develop and deliver a workforce strategy.	Undertake annual reviews of our policy and procedures and ensure that any changes are reflected.	Continue to research street based working, monitor trends & respond.	Continue to work with Selwood Housing & Wiltshire Council to support social and physical improvement projects in the 3 priority neighbourhoods.
Undertake regular reviews of our risk strategy to ensure our sustainability.	Ensure regular review of our risk assessments.	Maintain & strengthen our current and key working partnerships with other community groups in the area	Continue to work with Fighting Hunger with Food waste to provide additional food donations to Community Fridges

Trowbridge Future

WORKING PARTNERSHIPS

Delivery

- Wiltshire healthier Communities
- TSUG
- Brews & Wets
- Pentabus
- Trowbridge Eco
- Active Trowbridge
- Wiltshire Rural Music
- Educare
- National Theatre & Public Acts
- WOLT

Network

- Trowbridge Chamber of Commerce
- Multi Faith Forum
- Trowbridge Pride
- Celebrating Age
- Wiltshire Youth for Christ
- 4 Youth
- The Bank of England
- Trowbridge Men's Shed
- BIBO Studios
- Youth Action Wiltshire
- National Citizen Service
- Trowbridge Lions
- Sustrans
- Wiltshire Sight
- Local Schools
- Alabare
- Amber Housing
- Alzheimer's Support
- Haines & Smith
- Wiltshire & Swindon Youth Network
- Trowbridge Mosque
- Blue Cross
- Pets at Home
- Apricity Theatre
- Mighty Girls

Referral

- Fearless
- Storehouse Foodbank
- Wiltshire MASH Hub
- Wiltshire Adult Social Care
- Racial Equality Council
- DHI Connect
- Turning Point
- Youth Offending Team
- Julian House
- Families Out Loud
- Barnardos

Key

- Selwood Housing
- Trowbridge Town Council
- Sovereign Housing
- National Lottery
- Wiltshire Community Foundation
- Neighbourly
- Greggs
- Sainsburys
- Marks & Spencer
- National Youth Agency
- Trowbridge Town Hall
- University of Bath
- St James Trust

Advisory

- Trowbridge Police
- Racial Equality Council
- Trowbridge Child Wellbeing Partnership
- NVCO
- Charity Commission
- Debt Advisory Service
- Centre for Independent Living
- Wiltshire Housing
- Wiltshire Money
- GP Practices
- Wiltshire Council
- Wiltshire Public Health

Trowbridge Future

VOICES OF OUR PARTICIPANTS

Youth Provision

"Lucas loves coming. The new facility is more than perfect. Added bonus the staff are great and easy to approach".

Emma Cocker - Parent

"Trowbridge Future has always been very supportive for many of my Daughter's needs and we are very grateful that they gave her a great experience when they took her for work experience and she really enjoyed her 3 days working with them. Also love the new youth centre, its a real home from home (With the added extra of a pool table) that poppy loves to go to".

Wendy Perry - Parent

"Trowbridge Future has created an environment where my child can have fun, make friends and build his confidence and life skills. Without all of what Trowbridge Future offer, my son would be bored in the evening and wouldn't have gained the confidence that he has."

Claire Beavis - Parent

Cookery

"I don't really eat vegetables. I don't like them - I don't anything but like English food. But when it's cooked like this, when it's all mixed together with lovely spices and herbs then I love it and it makes me want to eat. I don't eat well, but this food makes me eat properly."

Shires Hub

"this is this is a safe place. I come to Trowbridge future every day. ... They're a lifeline to me. They've helped me with so many things, from ringing the doctor, to help me calm down when I'm a bit suicidal.... I'm glad it's around.... I come from Devizes and they haven't got all this support."

Community Provision

Partnerships

"Trowbridge Future is such a valuable resource for so many people in our local community and we are really proud to support its work. We're thrilled that we could give people the chance to explore the Dorset coast for the day, and to enjoy the time together."

Trina Moran, Training Manager, Cereal Partners

"Trowbridge Future have always been an active partner of the Town Hall. Building on the success of last year's collaboration on The Four Winds, it's been wonderful to welcome back TF Youth members into our new community theatre project. We hugely value Trowbridge Future's regular contribution to Celebrate community paper by sharing articles about projects that they're undertaking. TF plays a vital role in the community, and we look forward to even closer collaboration in the future."

Tessa Slack - Trowbridge Town Hall

"Trowbridge Future has a profound positive impact on our local community, fostering strong partnerships with Wiltshire Council to drive change. Their exceptional youth club offer provides a safe, inclusive space for young people to grow, while their detached youth work reaches those most at risk, offering vital support and guidance. Through their incredible efforts to reduce food waste and support the most vulnerable, Trowbridge Future creates a healthier, more resilient, and caring environment for everyone."

Liam Cripps - Strategic & Engagement Partnerships Manager. Wiltshire Council

Trowbridge Future

OUR CORPORATE SPONSORS



Cereal Partners Worldwide



Marks & Spencer



Islington Motor Group
& Trowbridge Ford



Banner Ltd



ASDA



Sainsburys



Greggs



Neighbourly



Beard
Construction

Trowbridge Future

OUR FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS

We would not be able to do the important work for our local community, without the generosity of our funding partnerships. We would like to thank the following funders & businesses for their continued support.





SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to extend a special thankyou to the following people ...

Trowbridge Future - Board of Trustees

Our trustees are the brains behind our charity and regularly give up their time voluntarily, to ensure that the charity is looked after and the people of Trowbridge have a brighter future. They consistently support us, to support all of you!

Trowbridge Future - Staff & Volunteers

Our dedicated staff and volunteers are the heart and soul of our work and we would not be able to reach and support as many people throughout the town, without their smiling faces, their knowledge and skills, positive energy and overall enthusiasm.

Key Funders

We couldn't do the important work that we do as a charity without the financial support from all of our key funders.

Partnerships

We sometimes need some help from our partnership organisations and the difference it can make working together with like minded organisations is incredible.

Local Community

We meet some incredible people across Trowbridge and the surrounding area on a daily basis. We are sending a huge thankyou to you all for sharing your voice and letting us know what is important to you and trusting us enough to help you achieve your goals.

