



FEARLESS YOUTH ASSOCIATION

IMPACT
REPORT
2023-2024



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It is my privilege to introduce to you this annual report describing our work in 2023/2024. We made a difference to more than 1,000 people. Fearless Youth Association is dedicated to supporting young people on their path to independence.

During my time as chair I have sought to instil a wider sense of community support for Fearless Youth Association. Many partners (both formal and informal) make our vital work possible. I truly hope that we continue to deliver on and expand the vision for young people's services that first inspired those pioneers of the late 1980s and early 1990s.

As the Army says, you can't beat boots on the ground, and so it is with Fearless Youth Association. Effective time spent on the streets having dialogue and listening to young peoples' needs is the reason for the success of the project. The team's experience allows for a well delivered and high-quality service over a one-year period in Nottingham. The economic downturn has increased the need for our service, with a massive increase in young people losing their jobs, suffering and causing increased poverty. Our preventative education and digital media programs continue to help reduce antisocial behaviour, while working with young people on a voluntary basis to develop young person-led ideas and projects.

The success of the organisation is also enhanced by their partnership working with other agencies and organisations to ensure the best outcomes for young people in their area.

We would also like to thank all of our trustees who dedicate their time and support to us. We would also like to thank our funders, local businesses and partners for their continued support to enable us to deliver the quality service to our young people.

WHO WE ARE



Formed in 2016, by 12 young people who were out of education and work, now we have become an effective group in attracting and engaging young people who are seeking to turn their lives around.

Since then, 3 of the founding members have joined university, 4 have joined college and 2 have found employment.

We are proud that we have been able to expand this programme and listen to other young people who would not be comfortable to engage with mainstream services.

Listening to them, we have been able to provide counselling and a safe space, campaign against knife crime and youth violence, and develop training programmes that engage many more young people, giving them confidence that they can achieve much more than they were expecting.

We are also proud that we have been able to make partnerships with organisations such as the Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Nottingham Trent University, and Communities Inc, to be able to offer mentoring, and learn how to make sure young people are represented and feel confident to be actively engaged in countering youth violence, particularly in BME and new and emerging communities within Nottingham.

The aim of FYA is to provide mentoring for young people in the Nottingham area by creating a safe space where we recruit members, sustain our momentum and growth, train members and other young people about digital media, administrative skills, management, employability and confidence.

We believe we are making a difference in our community because we offer practical skills to young people in BME and new and emerging communities, and through this help them gain confidence to think about their futures.

We help to ensure that they can actively challenge stereotypes, gain skills and act as ambassadors against violence within their communities. We can influence large numbers of young people and ensure that they have a brighter future, and we work towards more cohesive communities.

OUR PRINCIPLES

Support
Possibility
Commitment
Responsibility

OUR MISSION

To work directly with the communities we are supporting in providing accessible and relevant services, products, and solutions that meet their needs

OUR VISION

To transform communities by empowering them to sourcing, accessing, and using information.

OUR VALUES

Integrity
Justice
Service
Transparency

THE TEAM

OPERATIONS DIRECTOR

Angela Wathoni

CREATIVE ARTS COORDINATOR

Ann Waruga

SOUND AND MEDIA AGENT

Kamau Small

DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Erin O'Donoghue

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Edrissa Touray

MEDIA PRODUCER

Seif-El-Deen Abushkhaidem



OUR IMPACT

12.1% **THE AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR 16-24 YEAR OLDS IN THE UK ACROSS 2023**

With most of the young people that we work with, we have found that a lot of them have had negative experiences within the education system. Through our educational courses we want to improve and create positive interactions with a form of education. This is accomplished through our new CPD accredited courses on knife crime and media literacy, which involves teaching skills like critical thinking, risk assessment and responsible media consumption. These skills empower individuals to make informed decisions, engage with their communities and promote positive social interactions.

Another impact that we strive for with our courses, is to decrease the lack of employment within young people, as currently age group 16 - 24 has the highest unemployment rate in the UK. This is achievable as our courses teach them useful skills that'll be used in securing them a job. Giving them increased control over their future and a sense of purpose, increased confidence and self belief. Furthermore, due to our lessons taking part in groups, students are able to interact and socialise with other young people, enabling them to create social bonds.

Our projects generate a greater understanding and awareness of the issues we highlight, empowering others outside Fearless Youth Association to get involved and contribute while enhancing their own knowledge on the topic. Additionally, our projects positively impact participants' wellbeing and financial stability, providing valuable support to those we assist.

OUR PROJECTS

Here at FYA over the past year we successfully completed a diverse range of community-centred projects focused on outreach, empowerment, and support. These initiatives were designed to connect with the community directly, offering accessible courses, resources and events that strengthen their financial stability and wellbeing. Our goal is to provide a supportive environment where individuals can build meaningful connections, gain valuable skills, and enhance their quality of life. By working together and creating accessible pathways to knowledge and resources, we empowered community members to reach their fullest potential and foster an engaged, thriving and resilient community.



FYA partnered with Deloitte to provide the community with valuable access to expert support, resources and opportunities to engage with their peers.

The collaboration contributed to an increase in digital capacity within the community.

Deloitte has supported FYA's digital development projects, connecting us with the right expertise, advice and support networks to expand our services for young people to develop their media skills.

We aim to continue to provide young people with access to career development opportunities and explore their passions for media, enhancing their professional growth and preparing them for success within the digital media industry.

The success of the project reiterated the importance of collaboration and engagement, in giving every young person in our community the chance to make, learn and earn in digital media.



FYA hosted a series of digital media training sessions, led by experienced media specialists, offering a comprehensive, hands on learning experience.

The sessions focused on building practical skills, where participants gained both technical knowledge and creative expertise through direct engagement with these tools and techniques.

The program empowered attendees to explore their digital media passions and translate them into professional opportunities.

We emphasised practical application, the program encouraged creation, collaboration, and confidence-building, to succeed in the digital media landscape.

TOPICS

PODCASTING
DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY
VIDEOGRAPHY



Fearless Youth Association empowers young people by providing a platform for their voices through podcasts and YouTube videos.

The weekly episodes, featuring community members from various industries, offers educational insights and inspiration and equips Nottingham youth with practical tips for academic and personal growth.

Despite challenges in maintaining digital engagement, FYA has fostered a connected, inclusive community that builds communication skills and confidence among participants and listeners.

Through audio-visual media, Fearless Youth Association strengthens community ties and supports youth empowerment.

TOPICS

LGBTQ+ AND YOUNG PEOPLE

THE POLICE

MEAT FREE AND YOUTH

HOMELESSNESS

SOCIAL MEDIA'S IMPACT ON YOUNG PEOPLE

KNIFE CRIME

FEARLESS YOUTH ASSOCIATION

IMPACT REPORT 2023-2024



Fearless Youth Association partnered with Nottingham City Council, along with a range of women's organisations, to celebrate International Women's Day at the Council House in Old Market Square.

The event encouraged women from all over the city and from different communities to attend, make new friends, get advice and leave feeling empowered.

#INSPIRE INCLUSION

FYA hosted a stall which provided women the opportunity to access information and advice about our support services and opportunities we can provide them.

Workshops and activities offered the women a space to network, meet new people and feel inspired.

By working closely with the women in our communities, we were able to build relationships, engagement and celebrate women's empowerment.

11 - 3PM **7TH MARCH 2024**



Fearless Youth Association launched a training course, Recognising and Safeguarding Against Knife Crime, designed to equip professionals and the community with the essential skills to understand, prevent and respond to knife crime.

Edrissa runs the course, providing an interactive learning environment, allowing participants to explore the root causes, impacts and intervention strategies surrounding knife crime, while promoting critical thinking and situational awareness.

It also facilitated important conversations around issues such as prejudice, discrimination, and violence prevention.

By providing attendees with the tools to address these challenges, the course has helped enhance community safety and support ongoing professional development in young people.



We continued to provide a media literacy course, designed to equip young people with the essential skills to navigate, evaluate and responsibly create media.

The course covers a range of topics: identifying fake vs real content, understanding media influence, and developing critical thinking skills.

We offer a hands on training approach to online radio broadcasting using 'studio-in-a-box' setups. This interactive environment allows the young people to explore media related career paths, aiming to reduce unemployment in our communities.

Through partnerships with online radio and social media platforms, Fearless Youth Association provided participants with the opportunity to amplify their voices and enhance their skills.



Fearless Youth Association offered a bespoke training program designed to build a strong knowledge base and foster a culturally inclusive environment where young people feel empowered to engage openly and share diverse perspectives.

It was a 13 week program, featuring 2 hour, weekly in person sessions, addressing the critical soft skills that young people need today.

We offered individualised learning plans that ensured personalised support, aligning with the learners unique needs and goals.

Our interactive, positive teaching style created open dialogue, empowering young people to share their views and develop the essential skills for a more inspired, informed future.

TOPICS

REACH AND INFLUENCE OF MEDIA
THE ROLE, IMPACT AND PURPOSE



THE YOUNG PEOPLE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

With the support of the Community Fund, our Reaching Communities project allowed us to expand and enrich our Young People Ambassador Program, aimed at promoting lasting positive change.

The 3 year initiative, with a commitment to extend support for future years, equipped our young ambassadors with essential skills in community organising, youth advocacy, event planning, violence prevention.

Ambassadors worked collaboratively on projects, applying their training to real-world challenges.

Graduates joined our alumni network, gaining ongoing mentorship and fostering long term connections.

By empowering young voices and strengthening community engagement, this program created lasting, meaningful impact.



SIM CARD ALLOCATION

Our ongoing partnership with the Good Things Foundation, allowed us to continue bridging the digital divide and providing essential connectivity to individuals in need.

Every Thursday, the team works together to distribute SIM cards and data packages to refugees and asylum seekers.

We aim to empower these individuals by providing them with the tools necessary for effective communication, access to vital information and integration into the community.

600+

**THIS YEAR WE PROVIDED MORE THAN
600 SIM CARDS TO REFUGEES AND
ASYLUM SEEKERS IN OUR COMMUNITY**



We successfully hosted our annual music festival as part of Youth Music's 'Give a Gig Week', bringing together the Nottingham community to celebrate young, local talent.

The event featured 16 emerging artists including Rae Remell, DJ Haze, and Ashly Song, who delivered powerful performances that resonated with the audience.

This free festival showcased the incredible skills of young musicians whilst highlighting the importance of supporting grassroots music initiatives.

We raised awareness of career pathways in music for young people, amplified the voices of upcoming artists and reinforced our commitment to nurturing creative talent in Nottingham.

The event's success underscored our ongoing efforts to empower the next generation of artists and contribute to a vibrant, inclusive cultural community.

OUR COURSES

In the last year we provided a wide variety of courses to engage with and to educate young people in the Nottingham area.

We mainly focused on teaching students about how today's media works, along with the introduction to numerous creative fields.



MEDIA LITERACY

Our media literacy training program equipped learners with the knowledge and tools to responsibly navigate the modern digital landscape.

TOPICS

- Know about the 'Media'
- Distinguish between 'fake' and 'real' content
- Explore media as a means of income generation
- Basics of media law
- Interrogate mainstream media and young people's perceptions of it
- Know about the social media
- Learn about online radio as a broadcast media



DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Our young people gained valuable creative skills that will support their personal and professional growth.

The course covered essential techniques, from mastering camera settings to post-processing images, and provided hands-on projects that allowed learners to apply their knowledge to real-world scenarios.

Feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive, with many reporting increased confidence in their photography abilities.



RECONGNISIGN AND SAFEGUARDING AGAINST KNIFE CRIME

Our CPD accredited course provided participants with valuable insights into the impact of prejudice and discrimination in society, also addressing the principles of knife crime and the devastating effects.

The course developed critical thinking and situational awareness, empowering participants with the knowledge and skills to contribute to a safer and more informed society.

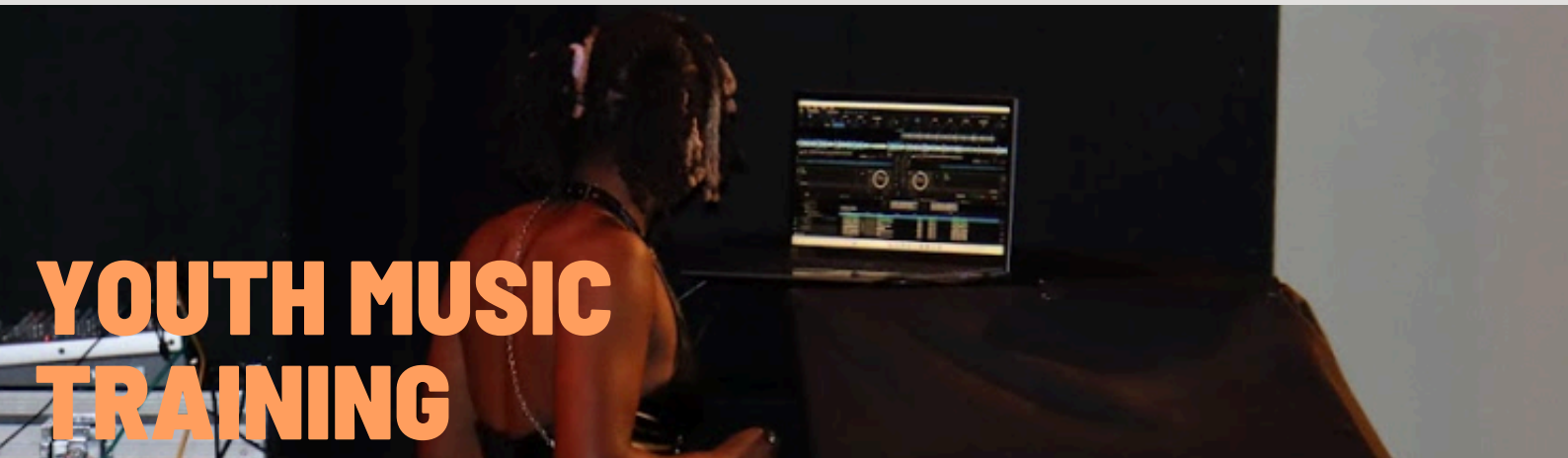
Feedback highlighted how the course encouraged open discussions about local challenges and reinforced the importance of community safety.



UNDERSTANDING MEDIA

Participants gained essential skills to navigate today's complex media landscape. Through engaging discussions and hands-on activities, the course helped learners to develop a deeper understanding of the media's influence on society and individual perspectives.

Feedback indicates that participants feel more confident navigating the digital landscape for educational advancement. The course strengthened not only their media literacy skills but also their sense of active citizenship, contributing to a more informed and connected community.



YOUTH MUSIC TRAINING

The Recharge Project is one of FYA's flagship initiatives, designed to equip young people with the skills and resources needed to launch successful careers in music, by combining training, production opportunities, and live performance experiences.

Over the course of a free, 10-week program, participants received hands-on training in every aspect of music creation - from crafting beats and melodies to perfecting flow and producing their own tracks.

MARKETING

Currently we mainly use our social media accounts, websites and newsletters to promote and share news regarding our charity. Our newsletter is issued quarterly and includes information on our courses, projects and any upcoming activities that would be taking place in that month. Regarding our social media platforms, we post there frequently with a lot of info about upcoming events, courses and motivational posts. In addition, we update our website regularly as its the main way to access application forms for our courses, it also includes blogs, ways to volunteer and articles.

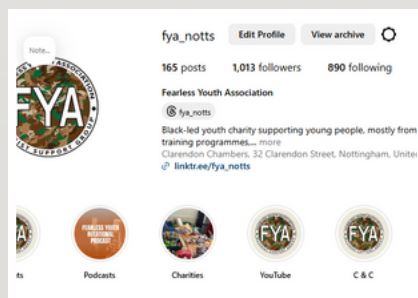
NEWSLETTER

862
SUBSCRIBERS



INSTAGRAM

1,013
SUBSCRIBERS

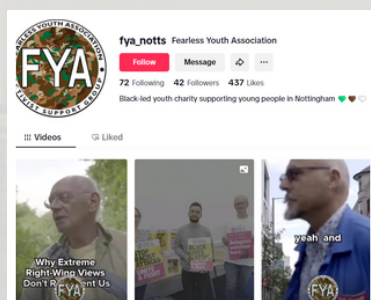


TWITTER

441
SUBSCRIBERS

TIKTOK - NEW!

42
SUBSCRIBERS



FACEBOOK

549
SUBSCRIBERS

PLACEMENT STUDENTS

4

AUTUMN TERM 2023

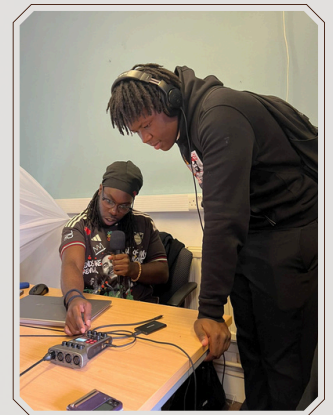
During the Autumn term of 2023 we were supported by four University placement students in the roles: **Content creator, Social media executive** and **Projects assistant**



6

SPRING TERM 2024

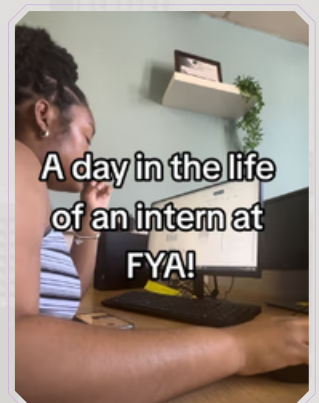
During the Spring term of 2024 we were supported by six University placement students in the roles: **Projects assistant, Social media executive, Podcast content creator** and **Events & Marketing executive**



3

SUMMER TERM 2024

During the Summer of 2024 we were supported by three University placement students in the roles: **Projects assistant** and **Community Journalist**



KEY PARTNERS



Nottingham Trent
University



The University of
Nottingham



self help uk



KEY FUNDERS





THE FUTURE

Overall we think that all of our projects and courses have been a success, however there are still always improvements to be made. We want to ensure that we are reaching the most people we can and make sure that we are properly providing for those we work with; in the most effective and efficient way possible. Here are the key areas for improvement, according to a few of our project leads

MORE DIRECT YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Our goal is to foster youth empowerment primarily through activities. We aim to create additional pathways to build self-esteem, skills, knowledge and connectivity in the community.

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

We aim to create more meaningful interactions and foster a sense of community online. We want to provide a space where our audience feels connected, informed and valued.

IDENTIFICATION OF OUR CORE COMPETENCIES

By pinpointing the unique skills and capabilities that set us apart, we can make more strategic decisions and deliver greater value. The process will help us refine our goals, optimise resources and meet the needs of those we serve.

