



Youth Borders

Strategic Plan 2023-26



www.youthborders.org.uk

Welcome

YouthBorders is pleased to be introducing its 2023 – 2026 Strategic Plan. The content of the plan focusses on the values of YouthBorders and its organisational intentions for the next three years. The plan has been informed by earlier strategic plans of Youth Borders and with consultation with members.

YouthBorders like many other sector provisions, has over the past three years adapted through adversity and uncertainty, especially in relation to the COVID pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis. There have been transformations in our management with the new appointment of a Chief Officer and additional capacity secured through new funding opportunities and partnerships to support these changes. Additionally, with the social and economic challenges facing both national and regional policy and our local communities this new plan demonstrates the commitment from YouthBorders to represent the best interests of young people and youth work practices and advocate for our members.

The plan communicates who we are and what we do. It describes our vision, aims and key priorities for the next three years. It serves as a framework of organisational business planning and self-evaluation. It will adopt the monitoring and evaluation cycle model of **plan – do – review – improve** whilst focusing on all priorities.

Members, partners and stakeholders will be updated on an annual basis assessing how well YouthBorders is achieving this plan. Regular communication and evidence of practice occurs on a frequent basis through our weekly newsletter, digital media platforms and direct contact with members partners and young people.

We would like to thank all who have contributed to the formation of this strategic plan, and we look forward to working together with you to ensure youth work continues to improve the lives of young people in the Scottish Borders.

Haylis Smith
Chairperson, YouthBorders

Julia Partington
Chief Officer, YouthBorders



YouthBorders is the network of voluntary and community-based youth organisations in the Scottish Borders, supporting and promoting good quality youth work.

Our organisation is a facilitative leader – working alongside our members, partners, stakeholders, to advance outcomes for young people and our community.

Vision

Our vision is of a voluntary and community-based youth work sector which is connected, collaborative, responsive, and recognised; working together to improve the lives of young people in the Scottish Borders

Aim

Young people in the Scottish Borders's lives are improved through participation in good quality youth work.



Principles

YouthBorders is an organisation built on the following foundations:

- Recognition of youth work as a distinct educative practice with professional standards, competences, values, and ethics
- Our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusive practice
- Our commitment to the safety and wellbeing of young people
- Our commitment to developing the workforce
- Our commitment to governance being open and transparent

Values

- **Honesty:** we will be open, truthful, and trustworthy
- **Empathy:** we will be understanding, compassionate and kind
- **Accountable:** we will try our best and take responsibility for our actions
- **Supportive:** we will be informed, knowledgeable, responsive, and proactive
- **Forward Thinking:** we will seek opportunities to advance our network, be prepared to take risks, and to invest in our people and communities for the longer term

Priorities

1. **Collaboration & Partnership** - A youth work sector which collaborates and works in partnership
2. **Voice & Community** - To have a membership which is connected, empowered and represented
3. **Workforce Development** - A membership, which is supported, confident and competent

Outcomes

- a) Our network is confident, resilient, and optimistic for the future
- b) Our members connect and collaborate within and beyond our network and communities
- c) Young people's perspectives are broadened through youth work experiences
- d) Our work is informed and contributes to the wider strategic policy landscape in Scotland



Policy Connections

YouthBorders is informed by and contributes to the wider strategic policy landscape in Scotland adopting national and regional frameworks. These address keeping children and young people safe, quality standards and performance, improving health and wellbeing and reducing isolation, rights and inclusion for young people, youth work outcomes, equality, engagement and participation.



Key Actions

- Strategic partnerships and Projects
- Networks and events
- Representation and sectoral advocacy
- Provision of information and support
- Workforce development and training
- Creation of regional and national opportunities for young people and their communities

Charitable Purpose

YouthBorders will support the advancement of citizenship and community development by supporting voluntary and community-based youth organisations in the Scottish Borders.

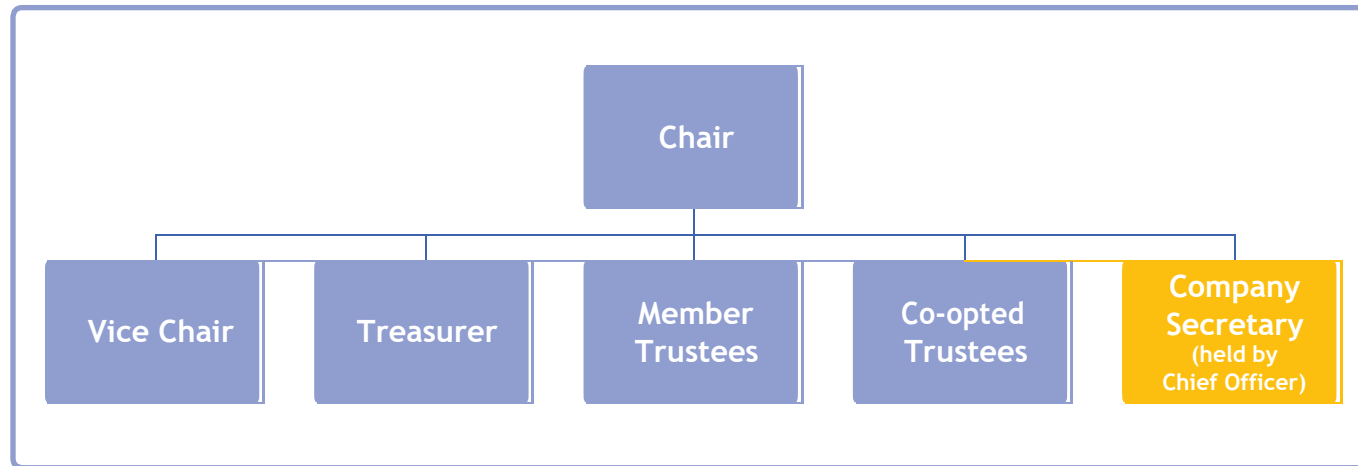
YouthBorders will support the advancement of education of adults and young people in the Scottish Borders through providing support and training for adults who work with young people; and providing opportunities for young people to develop themselves as youth workers or in other leadership roles.



YouthBorders Organisational Structure

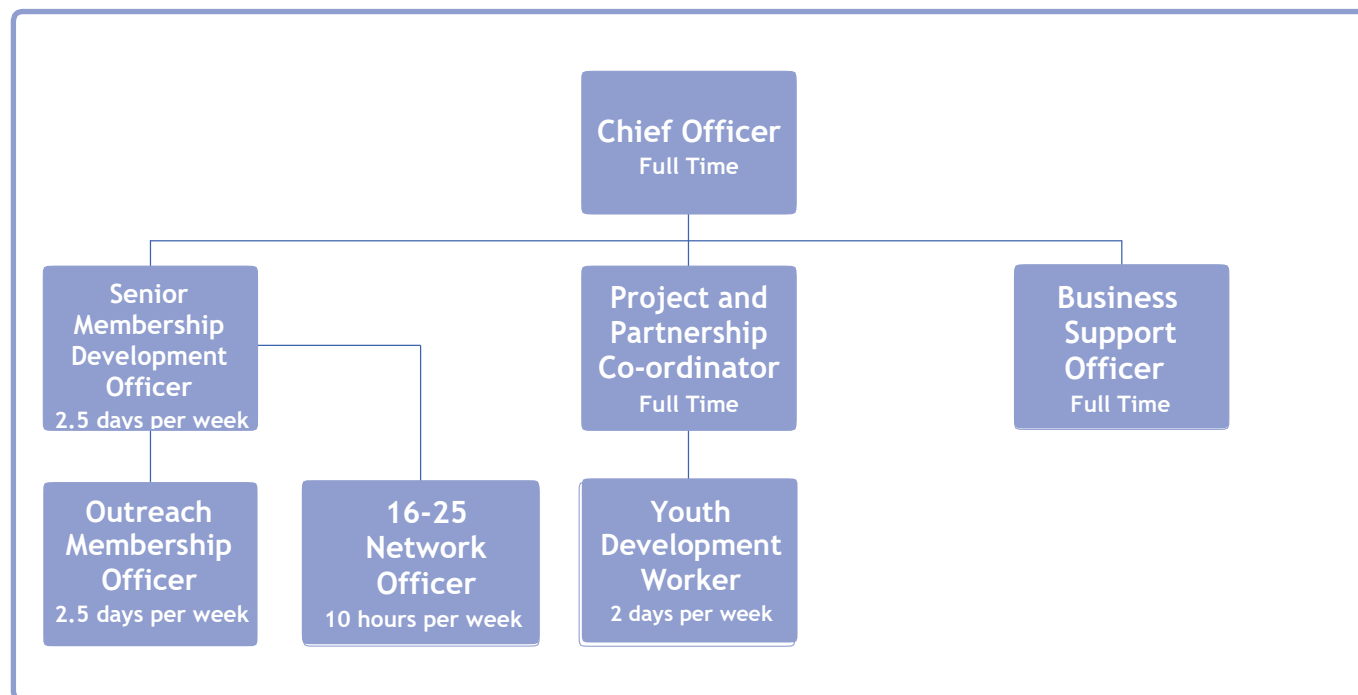
Board of Trustees

YouthBorders is a Company Limited by Guarantee with Charitable Status, governed by a dedicated Board of Trustees:



Staff Team

YouthBorders has a small staff team of core and project staff, working together to deliver this plan:



YouthBorders is a Company Ltd by Guarantee with Charitable Status: SC313338.
 Scottish Charity Number: SC037680
 Email: info@youthborders.org.uk
www.youthborders.org.uk