

About Key Contact from Organisation	
1.	Name
	Graeme Johnston
2.	Employer / Organisation
	Arran Youth Foundations (AYF)
3.	Position
	Youth Work Project Manager
4.	E-Mail at Work
	graeme@arranyouthfoundations.org
5.	Address at Work
	Youth Centre, Arran High School, Lamlash, Isle of Arran, KA27 8NG
6.	Telephone Number at Work
	07946 061793
7.	Role in the Project
	Graeme's role is to manage the youth centre and secure funding.
An Introduction to the Project	
8.	Which partner organisations are involved in delivering the project (local authorities, organisations, community groups, etc.)?
	BBC Children in Need, Co-op Community Fund, North Ayrshire Council, The Robertson Trust, STV Children's Appeal, Young Start.
9.	Does the project have specific aims and/or objectives?
	The primary objective of the project is to provide a safe, warm environment in which young people can meet and develop educational, physical and social skills. Many members make new friendships through the activities and events that are delivered. The Arran Youth Foundations also strive to involve young people and children in management and decision-making.
10.	Does the project have a title?
	Arran Youth Foundations
11.	When did it start?

	The charity was formed in 2008 and volunteers tried to establish a regular Friday night youth club without success. Graeme became the charity's first employee in 2010 and established regular weekly sessions.
12.	Has it finished? Is it on-going? Does it have an end date?
	The project is on-going, with no end date.
13.	Which groups of people, if any, are targeted by the service provided?
	Young people on the Isle of Arran.
14.	How many people have been served by the project?
	1,000+.
15.	Where is it delivered?
	A cabin on the grounds of Arran High School in Lamlash.
The Initial Idea	
16.	Are you able to talk about the initial idea to introduce the project?
	Yes.
17.	Who had the initial idea?
	Angus Adamson, Helen Kerr, Lexie Andrade and David Christenson.
18.	How did the idea for the project come about?
	Church members recognised the need to provide a space for young people.
19.	Were any published reports / papers / research evidence or practice shape the initial thinking?
	No.
20.	Who was involved in developing the initial idea of the project?
	Angus Adamson, Helen Kerr, Lexie Andrade and David Christenson.
21.	Were those with lived experience of poverty involved in developing the initial idea of the project?
	Unknown.
22.	What funding was used, if any, to support the development of the initial idea of the project?
	Church of Scotland was used to support the development of the initial idea.

23.	What in-kind resources were needed when developing the initial idea of the project?	
	Facilities	A cabin.
	Equipment	Items for the young people to use (e.g., an Xbox).
	Local Knowledge	Local knowledge of what young people need in the community is required.
	Food and Drink	N/A
24.	What, if any, barriers did you have to overcome when developing the initial idea of the project?	
	Recruiting trustees to form a board, securing a premise and funding, recruiting volunteers, securing the first employee and building a positive reputation within the community were all barriers that were overcome.	
25.	What, if anything, was helpful when developing the initial idea of the project?	
	Nothing of note.	
26.	Was a feasibility study conducted?	
	No.	
27.	What was the timeline between the initial idea and the start of the project?	
	Unknown.	
28.	Who made the decision to introduce the project?	
	The four founders—Angus Adamson, Helen Kerr, Lexie Andrade and David Christenson.	
Pilot Project		
29.	Was there a pilot project?	
	No.	
The On-going Development of the Project		
30.	Has the project changed through time?	
	Yes.	
31.	In what ways has it changed?	
	Scale	Provision increased from one night (Friday) to five nights (weekdays) every week.

	Location	The project moved to a cabin on Arran High School grounds.
	Population	The service expanded from a focus on high school pupils to include upper primary pupils and young adults.
	The Offer	Increased range of activities. Currently, there are art therapy, music lessons and sports clubs. These opportunities enable young people to acquire valuable skills. The cabin is open during lunchtime and after school.
32.	What were the reason for these changes?	
	The reason for these changes was due to increased demand from young people.	
Accessing the Service and Engaging with Service Users		
33.	Is there a referral process?	
	Not a formal one.	
34.	How are potential clients made aware of the project?	
	There are few young people on the island who are unaware of the project, as it is well-known and established within the community now. The project has strong links with health services, schools, the police and other partners to ensure the project is well-promoted. AYF is also promoted during visits to classes at the start of each school year, with information letters being sent to homes during this period. AYF also have strong links with social services, so they often refer young people to the service. AYF also has a strong social media presence.	
35.	How is contact maintained with service users? Do service users have a preferred method of contact?	
	Contact is maintained through two private Facebook groups. One for parents and carers and the other for young members of AYF where updates and signups for opportunities are available.	
Working With People with Lived Experience of Poverty		
36.	Are those with lived experience of poverty involved in <u>delivering</u> the project?	
	No.	
37.	Are people with lived experience of poverty involved in <u>managing</u> the project, <u>supervision</u> within the project, or project <u>governance</u>?	
	No.	
38.	Are people with lived experience of poverty involved in <u>any other aspect</u> of the project?	
	No.	

Leadership, Governance and Partnership Working	
39.	Who is responsible for managing the project?
	Graeme Johnston.
40.	Is this the only responsibility of the person managing the project?
	No. Graeme runs the youth centre and makes sure the grants are in place so there is funding for the project.
41.	Is there a Project Steering or Advisory Group or Organising Committee?
	Yes, there is a committee that meets every couple of months. During these meetings, committee members go through agenda items on any specific business AYF is currently managing. They produce a fundraising report, financial report and youth work report. AYF's committee comprises of five people: a retired social worker who is the Chair, general manager of Auchrannie, a parent of former members, a retired teacher and a retired Arran Outdoor Education Centre manager.
Staffing	
42.	Are there any paid staff?
	Yes. Graeme, one full-time youth worker and a few part-time youth workers. The art therapist and guitar tutor are also paid staff members.
43.	Are volunteers involved in delivering the project?
	Yes. There are several volunteers who coach girls football or help run after-school groups, such as youth club. Another volunteer is a psychologist from the Mary Davies Trust and offers free counselling sessions to young people who may benefit.
44.	Was additional staff or volunteer training required to deliver your project?
	Yes. All staff undergo induction training that covers Code of Conduct, Child Protection and First Aid as well as other youth work related courses when appropriate.
Links to Wider Policies, Strategies and Statutory Requirements	
45.	Is the project part of a wider anti-poverty strategy?
	No.
46.	Is the project part of any other strategy?
	Yes, the project works closely with Youth Scotland and aligns itself with their Growing Sustainable Community-Based Youth Work strategy.
47.	Is the project delivering a service that is a statutory commitment?
	No.

Funding		
48.	Who funds the project?	
	Most of the project is funded by grants. Organisations like Children in Need and the National Lottery provide funding. The project receives £10,000 from North Ayrshire Council through a working agreement. North Ayrshire Council also provide smaller grants.	
49.	How is the project funded?	
	The project is funded primarily through grants, comprising approximately 85% of the budget. 10% of it is funded through fundraising. For example, Graeme raised £5,000 running the length of the island. 5% is raised by the young people themselves.	
50.	What is the budget for the project / how much does it cost to deliver?	
	£100,000 per annum.	
51.	Is future funding based on pre-agreed outcomes or outputs being delivered?	
	Yes, the Arran Youth Foundations must demonstrate that it benefits young people in order to receive further funding.	
Resources		
52.	What in-kind resources do you need to deliver your project?	
	Facilities	A cabin on school grounds.
	Equipment	Instruments, gaming consoles, art supplies, cooking supplies, sports equipment and maintenance equipment for the cabin.
	Local Knowledge	Local knowledge of what young people need in the community is required.
	Food and Drink	No.
53.	For each of the in-kind resources listed above, who provides it?	
	Facilities	Arran Youth Foundations and the local high school.
	Equipment	Donations from local businesses or from the project budget. Local tradesman sometimes offer their maintenance services for free.
54.	Did you have to buy or develop new IT systems, software (databases, apps) or technology to deliver your project?	
	No.	
Formal Monitoring and Evaluation		

55.	What information, if any, do you collect about your project?	
	Number of users	Yes.
	Profile of users	No.
	Experience of users	No.
	Anything else	No.
56.	Do you have baseline data on what things were like before the start of the project or before users started the project?	
	Yes. Young people complete evaluations so that AYF can see if the young person has become more confident, learned more skills and/or made new friends.	
57.	Do you produce an annual report?	
	Yes, Several annual reports are produced on fundraising, finances and young work, for example.	
58.	Have you employed an external organisation to formally evaluate your project?	
	No.	
59.	Do you intend to employ an external organisation to evaluate the service that you provide in the future?	
	No.	
Impact		
60.	What difference has the project made?	
	The project provides young people with a safe space in which they can make friends, learn new skills and engage in activities of their choosing. Activities provided, such as art classes and sports clubs, foster essential skills and well-being. Members shape what the project provides and how it is run, empowering young people by enabling them to influence the activities they partake in. Through its free counselling service, the Arran Youth Foundations also supports the mental well-being of its members. It has also provided relief to parents and families by delivering affordable trips away, free food at the centre and funds for food and energy bills.	
61.	How do you know this?	
	Through staff and young person evaluation forms. The project has also grown over the years, evidencing continuing demand.	
62.	To what extent have the aims of the project been achieved?	
	The project has, and continues, to meet its aim of providing a welcoming environment for young people on the Isle of Arran to develop new skills through engaging activities.	

63.	How, if at all, has the demand for the service changed since it started?
	Scale of provision has increased and now offers activities throughout the week.
64.	If yes, has the project had the capacity to meet these changing conditions and demand?
	Yes. It has secured funding which has enabled it to grow.
65.	Has the project had any unexpected or unintended outcomes?
	No.
66.	In your opinion, is the project having an impact on tackling poverty?
	Yes, as it provides a safe space for young people to gain valuable skills and experience activities that they may not be able to otherwise afford (e.g., music or cooking lessons). It has also raised money to support families who need help with shopping and energy bills. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the project distributed internet dongles and laptops to families who needed them. The Arran Youth Foundations also provide food in a dignified manner after securing a £2,000 grant for food. The project also delivers fully funded trips for members. This enables those who would not otherwise be able to afford to do so a chance to participate.
Learning from Experience	
67.	What is working well?
	The project currently has a strong team of staff and volunteers. There is also strong engagement with the young people.
68.	What, if anything, is working less well?
	As it is located on an island, any staff living on the mainland are dependent on the ferry service to access their work. This can impact how the club is run. Similarly, trips to the mainland are dependent on the ferry service operating.
69.	What are the key learning points that you would like to share with other practitioners? For example, is there anything that you would do differently?
	One key learning point is to listen to what young people want from a project that is for them and change activities when they are not working anymore. It is also essential to keep young people involved in the project as much as possible, as this keeps them engaged.
70.	What plans do you have to develop or expand the project in the future?
	The project plan to employ more staff, which would mean there would be greater capacity to offer a greater range of activities. A long-term ambition is that, with the support of their full-time Youth Work Project Manager, members will be able to operate the centre themselves.
71.	How easily do you think your project could be replicated in another setting?

	The project works well on the Isle of Arran as there was a lack of services for its small community. It may not work as well in areas where there is already much provision. Other projects could incorporate one-to-one therapy and counselling sessions alongside traditional youthwork provision.	
Social Media		
72.	Please enter social media contact details and weblinks to supporting documents or resources below:	
	Web Pages	https://www.arranyouthfoundations.org/
	Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/ArranYouthFoundations
	Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/arranyouthfoundations/
	Twitter	https://www.twitter.com/arran_yf
	Tik-Tok	
GDPR Consent (Add yes or no in the box)		
I give my permission to be named in the tackling poverty locally directory and associated public outputs.		Yes.
I give permission for our organisation to be named in the tackling poverty locally directory and associated public outputs.		Yes.
I give permission for me to be contacted by directory users.		Yes.
I am willing to be contacted if more details are required		Yes.