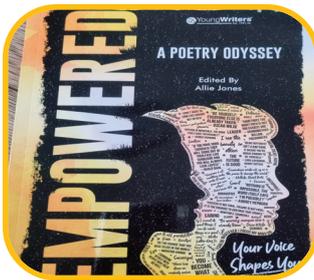




High Sheriff Youth Awards

Annual Review 2021-2022



Helping young people
make Surrey safer

High Sheriff Youth Awards



This charity gives to projects that help young people and which make the county safer for its youth. As a former barrister and Circuit Judge who sat in the Crown, County and Family Courts of Surrey for over thirty years, I came to know about the areas most in need of support and about youth crime. As a school governor for many years, and as a trustee of Surrey Clubs for Young Persons, and with involvement in other charities helping young people, such as GASP, I have seen how young people can be helped in constructive ways. It is vital to assist them to make a decent start in life, and prevent them from taking a path which may blight a young life.

Although we are emerging from the worst of the two-year pandemic, Covid hasn't gone away. Lockdowns brought many difficulties and people of all ages were adversely affected, not just by illness or financial problems, but their mental health also suffered. Sadly, the incidence of domestic abuse went up and children and the young are often traumatised by it. As Chairman of the Lord-Lieutenant's Focus Group on Domestic Abuse, I have learnt about the people and agencies helping victims and their children. The principal aim of my year may be described as **'Against Abuse, For Recovery'**.

Hundreds of volunteers across Surrey have stepped up these past two years, and given great support to those in need - a tribute to our sense of helping those worse off than us. But more assistance is required to stimulate recovery and to help people cope with the increased cost of the basic necessities of life; of which the tragic war in Ukraine is one cause. I aim to bring people together, to forge links, and thereby promote the more efficient use of resources to help the vulnerable and needy.

Each year the High Sheriff Youth Awards (HSYA) distributes at least £50,000 in grants. All eleven Surrey Boroughs and Districts donate to the charity, as do Surrey County Council and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Dedicated HSYA volunteers reach out to support, and assess applications from, youth organisations throughout Surrey.

The first HSYA Golf Day was held at Foxhills Country Club and Resort. 88 golfers competed for a very fine cup. They all enjoyed fine food and drinks at the half way house. At the dinner, Jackie Alliss and her son Simon were our guests and they received a very warm reception, as all golfers have a strong affection for Jackie's late husband, Peter Alliss, who was for over forty years the Voice of Golf. Another golfing legend, Ken Schofield, was also warmly applauded. He sat on the event committee with Messrs Azeem, Reynolds, Lee, Evans, Sehmer and Critchlow. This event raised much needed funds for the HSYA and I shall look forward to reporting on the success of this event in due course.

May I urge all who are reading this to think of organisations and charities that they know about and encourage them to apply for an award in order to help more young people.

His Honour Christopher Critchlow DL
High Sheriff of Surrey 2022-2023

Review of the year 2021-2022



Across the country, the role of High Sheriff thrived, adapting to rise above challenges and continuing to be more relevant than ever. As the 800th High Sheriff of Surrey and the 10th woman to hold the role, I took office with some trepidation as the COVID-19 pandemic raged on, but on reflection, it seems to have been a particularly impactful shrieval year for that very reason.

The silver lining of the post-pandemic recovery was the emergence of a genuine desire to reconnect with people and a collective will to achieve ambitious goals. To 'convene and connect' was a delight, and produced many positive results, particularly surrounding my theme, 'Every Child Included'. My goal was to reduce the number of permanent school exclusions in Surrey, continuing the work of two outstanding previous High Sheriffs (2017-2019) on this difficult but important issue: 41 per cent of prisoners were permanently excluded from school (Justice Committee, 2019).

My year was bookended by two summits, centred around the research by Royal Holloway, which convened Surrey's educational and voluntary sectors with the local authority and police. In July 2021, 70 delegates happily came together for their first face-to-face gathering in 18 months. Having heard the new data, they developed a list of evidence-based recommendations for change. By the second summit in March 2022, after much hard work, material changes were in place and the number of permanent exclusions in Surrey had reduced by 40 per cent. A new Surrey Alternative Learning Programme and the Community Foundation of Surrey's £2 million mental health fund for young people sparked national interest, and the Children's Commissioner for England (2021) was a guest speaker at the March Summit.

There have been countless other wonderful experiences, including supporting numerous superb charities, many of whom received grants from the Surrey High Sheriff Youth Awards (HSYA). Young people have suffered tremendously at the hands of the pandemic, so the 2021-22 awards, which totalled at over £50,000, were therefore particularly relevant.

I am delighted that the grants have covered a wide range of projects, as displayed at the very successful Annual HSYA Celebration, kindly hosted by the University of Surrey. I am hugely grateful to Professor Max Lu DL and the University team for their outstanding support, Dr Jim Glover OBE for being an excellent compere, and the HSYA Committee who did such a wonderful job putting the event together.

I would especially like to express my sincere thanks to Mr Peter Lee DL for all his hard work and dedication, as he steps down as HSYA Chair after 7 years of outstanding service. I would also like to thank the Trustees and Council members, whose enthusiasm and willingness to give so freely of their time is invaluable. HSYA would not function without the generosity of its donors, and my huge thanks also go to the Police and Crime Commissioner, Surrey County Council, and the local Boroughs and Districts.

It has been a pleasure to work with my successor as High Sheriff, His Honour Christopher Critchlow LL.B, DL, and I wish him every success as he works on his chosen theme, 'Against Abuse, For Recovery'. It has been an honour to be High Sheriff and my very sincere thanks go to everyone at HSYA, and indeed all those who do so much to help others in Surrey.

Dr Julie Llewelyn
High Sheriff of Surrey 2021-2022

The High Sheriff Youth Awards in



“I feel so much more supported, motivated, and inspired to achieve and be kind. You have helped me more than I can imagine and I am deeply grateful”

Coping with the Pandemic

The beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdown seems a long time ago now but the fallout from it continues. Early on it was recognised that young people would need even more support to regain a normal, healthy, social life and to cope with the mental health issues created by reduced human contact.

The Trustees of the High Sheriff Youth Awards agreed to earmark £18,000 specifically for projects responding to the immediate impact of the lockdown on young people’s activities. 14 awards were made, in two tranches – to support youth organisations through the pandemic and to enable them to prepare for a return to normality.

One major factor for charities was that cash flow became a significant problem especially for those that relied on income generated by their activities. Fundraising became more challenging as funds were re-focused on mitigating the effect of the virus. The HSYA felt that it was important that the youth charities were in a sound financial position to re-open when possible and so supported four charities with an award for ongoing costs such as rent and staffing costs.

Volunteers are the key resource for all youth organisations and it was recognised that many of these individuals were seriously affected by the isolation measures and the cessation of activities. An award was made to Surrey Clubs for Young People so that they could not only maintain contact with their volunteers but

also to implement, or continue, their training. Pleasingly, they managed to increase the number of their volunteers.

All organisations had to adapt their operational methods, some moving to remote working, some resorting to physical changes and some creating new projects altogether. Amber, a residential project for the homeless, stayed open but with a heavy requirement for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Skillway created a safe outdoor space and installed screens indoors. Skaterham managed to keep their outdoor ramps open, with increased PPE and cleaning. The HSYA supported these initiatives.

Peer Productions, who normally work with young people ‘face to face’ moved to digital media and delivered an on-line mini-series *50 Days; Together Alone*. This was developed by, and for, young people to better understand the effects of the pandemic on interpersonal relationships. By adhering to COVID-19 guidelines and using rigorous risk assessments, Frimley Green Youth Centre were able to run their summer course as an educational “bubble”, enabling a closed group of socially disadvantaged students, some with mental health needs, to prepare for their transition in September. Both these projects received an award from the HSYA.

Youthwork has now returned to near normal, although the impact on mental health must not be underestimated. The following projects highlight some of the many success stories from last year.

2021-2022



East Surrey YMCA

The YMCA run a programme to support young people who are homeless. They are not at school, with no job or prospects, often only with the clothes they stand up in, and often have been through a traumatic experience.

The programme has 5 Steps, with the ultimate aim of the young person moving on into rented accommodation, living independently, either in employment or training for a skill or even back in education.

Step 2 involves the young person setting goals, both short term and long term. During Step 3, they receive support in working towards those goals and in Step 4 they achieve them. A group of 12 decided that one of their short term goals was to climb Snowdon... and they succeeded!

More than that, they showed how much they had developed as individuals and as a team. About four fifths of the way up two of the group had completely run out of energy and felt they could do no more. On their own initiative, the others rallied round and, as a team, helped the two make it to the top.

The smiles and the look on the young persons' faces made it all worthwhile.

The HSYA awarded funding for this unforgettable part of the programme.



Emerge Advocacy

Emerge work with young people attending A&E in hospitals across Surrey and who are in crisis with their mental health. In the evenings, volunteers visit A&E and children's wards, chatting to those who want to talk. Not all do, but those who do and have mental health issues are offered follow-up support. Young people are also referred to Emerge by the hospital.

Emerge started to work in East Surrey Hospital in July 2021. The uptake has been good with up to 30 referrals per month and about half of these accept follow-up support. The HSYA award has helped establish the project and, most importantly, recruit and train new volunteers and staff.

Emerge met and started supporting Carly (name changed) in August 2021, when she was very low and struggling with various aspects of life.

Carly said, "Before I met Emerge, I was very lost, distrusting, lonely and I had a lot of fears that were holding me back. After I met Emerge, I feel so much more supported, motivated, and inspired to achieve and be kind and I am so grateful as I wouldn't be this happy if I didn't meet you. You have helped me more than I can imagine and I am deeply grateful."



St Peter's, West Molesey

In April 2021, St Peter's were able to reopen the Youth Centre, following the relaxing of COVID rules and gradually resume their activities for and with young people, with funding from the HSYA.

They continue to offer after-school activities as well as more structured activities for two age groups, providing the young persons with a safe place to meet and let off steam. Some evenings will revolve around games and others will be more formal, tackling issues relevant to the young people.

St Peter's believe that relationship building is absolutely crucial for curbing anti-social behaviour and supporting the vulnerable. The focus of the centre is 'being together' and 'building trust'. Some of the young people drop in when they feel like it but others turn up every time the centre is open and if there is nothing on for their age group, will volunteer to help out.

The success in building trust has resulted in St Peter's youth workers being invited to visit the local Secondary School to chat with students at lunchtime, to be a friendly and non-judgemental presence. Recently, this has led to the team mentoring two students in school time and a further three out of school.

The High Sheriff Youth Awards in



“It’s brilliant to see how he’s growing and developing his confidence in new things, and we’ve got lots of tips and advice to help him continue to thrive. Thank you”

Relate, West Surrey

Although Relate traditionally has been focused on couple counselling, 40% of their work is now with young people aged 10-18 years-old. Relate have a contract with the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service to provide 6 sessions for each individual, but this may not be enough and the waiting list, particularly due to COVID, may be too long.

In response to this Relate have set up a ‘paid for’ service, called *iRelate*, to help plug the gap. Not all parents can afford this option and the HSYA award is used to subsidise the cost, at the discretion of the *iRelate* team.

Freya (name changed), a 14 year-old, was really struggling with anxiety, anger and aggressive moods. She had suicidal thoughts and was self-harming. *iRelate* explored, with Freya, the ‘triggers’ for these feelings and then introduced and practised coping strategies.

Talking openly in the sessions enabled Freya to talk to her Mum about sensitive topics and eventually to text her Dad about self-harming. Both parents were already aware but were now able to discuss this with Freya without fear of a traumatic reaction.

By the end of the sessions, Freya’s anger had diminished, with no suicidal thoughts or further self-harming.

east to west

east to west are at the forefront of *bringing hope to young lives*. Their vision is for children, young people and families to overcome the challenges they face and become the very best they can be. The HSYA award enabled east to west to develop and run COVID-19 anxiety groups for each of their eleven secondary school partnerships.

Harry was a highly anxious student, struggling to interact with other students. Over the course of 6 weeks, Harry was able to talk about how he was feeling, the things he found difficult and was able to start building relationships and friendships with his peers.

The course leader set Harry a challenge – to publicly share a piece of work within the group. Harry said: “It made me feel more confident and when people clapped afterwards, it felt like I’d done a great job. I’m not sure I want to keep speaking in public, but at least I know I can do it!”

Harry’s Mum added: “It’s lovely to know that there is this type of support for Harry. It’s brilliant to see how he’s growing and developing his confidence in new things, and we’ve got lots of tips and advice to help him continue to thrive. Thank you”.



Guildford Shakespeare Company

With my Eyes is aimed at young people with serious social problems due to mental health difficulties. They may struggle to leave the house, attend school or come into conflict with peers and family. Intervention is expensive, but is negligible when compared to a lifetime of service support. The purpose of *With my Eyes* is to break the cycle of mental health issues and provide an opportunity for emotions and feelings to be expressed and explored through drama and creative arts.

Unusually, the course is for both parent and child. At the beginning of each session, they work together but then split into two groups with a drama therapist and facilitator each.

Zara (name changed) suffered from depression and mental health problems, and was excluded from school. She agreed to take part in the 12 week course with a parent and made it to the end. In fact, she was so successful, she enrolled in 'Play on', a follow-up programme of drama therapy, joined the Saturday Group and now is part of the public-facing Youth Theatre - a bright outgoing girl!

Parents can find their children's issues very isolating when having no one with whom to discuss them. This course is as beneficial to them as to the child.



Matrix Trust

A locally based charity, The Matrix Trust has provided a lifeline for at-risk young people across Guildford for over 20 years. They are dedicated to catalysing change for young people by nurturing, inspiring, connecting and empowering them, putting young people at the centre of everything Matrix does, including meeting them at their schools and in their neighbourhood.

Elevate was launched in 2019 and supports at-risk and disadvantaged 15-18 year-olds from Matrix's school and community projects who require further support. *Elevate* aims to build a community within this group, as well as to equip and empower young people to thrive now and reach their full potential in the future, through developing personal and professional skills. Despite restrictions, the project ran throughout the pandemic, with some adaptations, including briefly running online.

During a one-to-one discussion, it was noted a young person particularly lacked confidence, and so they were encouraged to attend the *Elevate* programme. When they began attending, they were initially unwilling to eat in front of other attendees. After some time engaging in group activities, they began to relax and eventually asked for some toast, saying to the leader 'this is the first thing I have eaten all day'.



Surrey Young Carers

Surrey Young Carers supports 3500+ young people who look after someone who has an illness, disability, or mental health or drug issues. They give free, impartial information and support to young carers and their families on minimising the impact of their caring role. In 2019 they successfully trialled an interactive workshop, *Your Life, Your Choices*, organised in partnership with specialist agencies, for 100 vulnerable young carers aged 8-18 from across Surrey. The follow-up event was postponed in 2020 and again in 2021 due to COVID.

In March of this year, the event finally went ahead. The focus was on learning to stay safe and make good choices, despite being under pressure. These pressures are: how to deal with county lines, gangs, and internet safety. The aim is to enable them to be in a position to seek help.

The young people heard from the amazing Dean, ex-paratrooper and policeman, about how to resist pressures from other people and get out of difficult situations. They talked about their lives and what's important to them, including creating 'story cubes' about themselves.

The young people also took part in creative sessions, recording podcasts around the theme 'Keeping yourself safe'. These are now available online.

The High Sheriff Youth Awards in



“In the end it was just detention after detention which didn’t help to change anything”

Freedom Leisure

The HSYA made an award to the Friday Night Project, which is a fun and inclusive multi-sports activity evening for young people aged 11-18 from the Borough of Woking. Freedom Leisure use sport as a tool to engage with young people in a safe environment where they can meet new people each week and make new friends, learn new skills, gain social skills and improve general confidence. Following the Covid-19 pandemic, which forced this project to stop running for 18 months, young people have suffered. They haven't been able to socialise and attend activities like this. That's why, now more than ever, Freedom Leisure want to help young people to get out of the house and away from computer and TV screens and go to the Friday Night Project where they can have fun, exercise and socialise.

The project has made a significant difference for one 14 year-old teenager. He had been causing problems at school, and in conjunction with his parents, it was agreed that if he had a good week at school, he could attend the Friday Night Project. As a result, the young man has significantly improved his behaviour. Not only that, but he has started supporting younger members who attend the project.

Surrey Care Trust

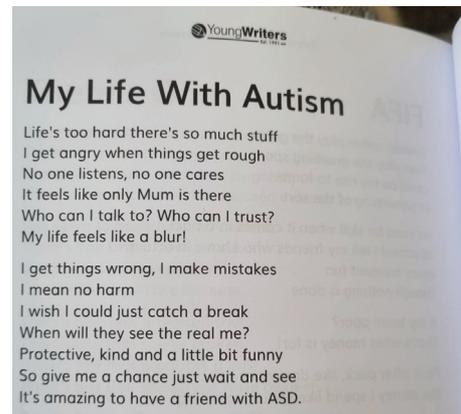
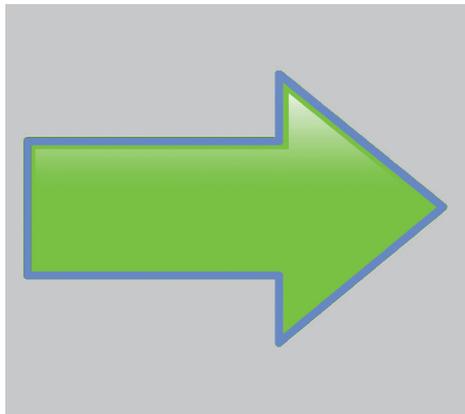
Tarkan is 16 and an able student but, frustrated with his school, he says “I sometimes just didn’t bother going to school or I would skip lessons when I was there.”

At the point of being permanently excluded, Tarkan was referred to the ‘Steps to 16’ programme. Steps nurtures their personal, social, and functional skills with small class sizes and flexible learning programmes, tailored to meet the needs of each individual student in a more relaxed environment.

Tarkan values the individual support. He says: “It’s nicer here. You can develop a good relationship with a teacher which motivates you to do your work more. There are fewer distractions too, so I can concentrate on my work. I don’t miss anything about my old school.”

Tarkan is due to sit his exams this summer and is already planning for the future – a BTEC or apprenticeship in business.

Tarkan adds: “If I had stayed at school, I would have got kicked out for good in the end. I would have no qualifications and no job. I’ve also learnt that if you give respect, you get respect back. You can start again with Steps - I’ve got a lot of respect for that!”



Looking forward

The High Sheriff Youth Awards made awards to three other exciting projects this year but due to the pandemic these have been delayed. We look forward to hearing about them next year.

The Breck Foundation are setting up their Breck Ambassadors project. This is a volunteer peer-to-peer scheme for young people aged 13-18 in Surrey, whereby 30 Volunteer Police Cadets will be trained to talk in schools to children and young people about staying safe online and the key signs of grooming.

The Surrey Minority Ethnic Forum are developing the Muslim Girls Group based in Surrey Heath. The group will help the girls socialise with those from the same faith and different ethnicities. They will have opportunities to develop as individuals and express themselves on social and health issues. Following a visit to RHS Wisley, they decided to start a gardening project, promoting teamwork and sharing the responsibilities.

At the Annual Celebration event, the guests were treated to a full-on preview of *Skin Deep*, an educational drama about knife crime, gang culture, racism and violence aimed at Key Stage 4 students. The Solomon Theatre Company, working with Surrey Police, hope to tour this emotional production to schools in Surrey.

Peer Productions

Peer Productions is a theatre company which provides a free one-year accredited training course for young actors. These young actors volunteer their time to tour Peer Productions' original educational plays to 30 schools in Surrey. This year the HSYA has helped fund a revitalised production of *Losing it*, a play about sexual relationships and consent.

Although the play is still in rehearsal and it is too early to report on the success of the tour, some unexpected benefits have already arisen. As the production team sat down with the group of 18-20 year-old actors to discuss how to portray certain aspects of sex education, it became apparent that there were significant gaps in the actors' own knowledge, partially caused by their isolation over the past 2 years, but also by the varying quality of sex education in schools.

This has not only triggered a reassessment of the delivery of the messages within the play, but has required further education of the actors, so that they can confidently deliver their roles.

This somewhat startling revelation is another indication of the hidden impact that the pandemic has had on young people, highlighting the importance of the work delivered by youth organisations that the HSYA supports.

Eikon

The HSYA has made an award to Eikon for their summer Year 6 Transition Programme which supports students who have low attendance, are at risk of exclusion or are anxious, during their move from primary to secondary Schools. The journey has started, and although not yet complete, below is a heart-warming outcome from last year's cohort, to give a flavour of what is to come.

After the summer project, the students were encouraged to write a poem and enter it into a competition. One of the young people shared a poem called *My Life With Autism* during a 1-1 support session. It's a moving poem about his experience of autism, during a time when he was trying to find a positive aspect within a difficult situation.

Eikon suggested that he enter the poem in a competition for young writers: *Empowered / Young Writers*. Subsequently he received a certificate, and was selected to be published in a book, which will remain in the National Archives of the British Library forever! The young person, Eikon and his Mum, all thought it would be great for this to be shared across Eikon and for other young people to see it too. So here it is (above).

Abridged Statement of Financial Activities

These figures are extracted from the statutory accounts which were given an unqualified report by the Independent Reporting Accountant* and which were signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Trustees on 7 July 2022. The statutory accounts are available on request to the Administrator. Please email: admin@surreyhighsheriff.org

for the year to 31 March 2022

	2022	2021
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Donations	65,200	50,909
Charitable expenditure		
Grants, awards and costs	50,497	50,843
Management and administration	4,812	3,112
	<hr/> 55,309	<hr/> 53,955
Increase (decrease) in funds	9,891	(3,046)
Balance brought forward from previous years	16,440	19,486
Balance available for future years	<hr/> 26,331	<hr/> 16,440
Represented by:		
Debtors less creditors	(2,144)	(200)
Balance at bank	28,475	16,640
	<hr/> 26,331	<hr/> 16,440

*David Jennings FCA
51 Shottermill, Horsham,
West Sussex RH12 5 HJ

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The High Sheriff Youth Awards scheme is grateful to its funders for their continuing generous support:

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High Sheriff Youth Awards

The High Sheriff Youth Awards makes grants for any amount from £500 up to £5,000.

Applications are welcome at any time and are considered by a Panel which meets quarterly.

See www.surreyhighsheriff.org for funding guidance and an application form.

High Sheriff Youth Awards

Registered charity No: 110187

Email: admin@surreyhighsheriff.org

Email: applications@surreyhighsheriff.org

www.surreyhighsheriff.org