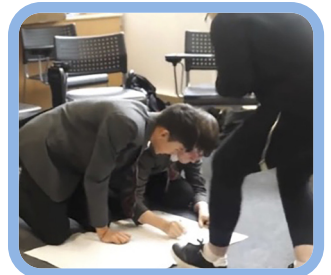




High Sheriff Youth Awards

Annual Review 2024-2025



Helping young people
make Surrey safer

High Sheriff Youth Awards



Each High Sheriff of the 55 Counties of England and Wales is appointed by HM the King and holds office for one year. The office is the oldest secular office save for the monarchy, dating back to Alfred the Great in the Saxon era, when the 'Shire Reeve' collected taxes and maintained law and order for the King. It is an unpaid independent appointment that involves supporting the judiciary, police, emergency services and civic authorities, as well as charities and voluntary organisations.

The High Sheriff Youth Awards charity recognises the work of young people in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, which is akin to the responsibility of High Sheriffs in the past to preserve the peace. By applying for an award to make your community in Surrey safer, you are continuing a tradition that has been in place for more than a thousand years.

This Year's High Sheriff of Surrey is Peter Cluff who was installed as the High Sheriff of Surrey for 2025/26 on March 21st in Guildford Cathedral. Peter is a Trustee of the Community Foundation for Surrey and until recently Chair of Guildford Philanthropy.

He was handed over the chain of office by Shahid Azeem DL the High Sheriff of Surrey for 2024/25.

During his year he will actively promote the work of the HSYA as well as carrying out his main roles of supporting the Royal Family and the Lord-Lieutenant, supporting the Judiciary and all who maintain the King's Peace (including judges, Magistrates, the Police and Prison Service) and encouraging those working in the charity and voluntary sector.

He will also during his Shrieval year shine a light on young people in Surrey who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs).

He has commissioned research by the University of Surrey's Centre for Britain and Europe to examine the different cohorts of young people in the County who are (or who are at risk of becoming) NEET, with a view to developing targeted and earlier interventions to help ensure these young people have a better economic and social future.

More information can be found on the official High Sheriff of Surrey Website – www.highsheriffsofsurrey.com.

Peter Cluff
High Sheriff of Surrey 2025-2026

Review of the year 2024-2025



As I come to the close of my second term as High Sheriff of Surrey, I find myself reflecting on what has truly been an extraordinary privilege. To serve this wonderful county in such a distinguished role has been a humbling experience — one that I will always hold dear. This role brings you face to face with the very heart of Surrey — our police officers, fire and rescue teams, NHS staff, the judiciary, our prison and probation services, coroners, and the remarkable volunteers who give so much of themselves each day. Alongside them are leaders in education, local government, and health, all working tirelessly to ensure Surrey remains a place where people can live, work, and thrive.

I have been continually inspired by the passion and commitment shown by people from every walk of life. It has been a joy to attend so many special events and meet individuals whose contributions too often go unrecognised — yet whose impact is deeply felt. These are the people who make Surrey the extraordinary community it is, and I am deeply grateful to each and every one of them.

I would also like to take a moment to thank those who have supported me throughout this incredible journey. To my family, friends, and colleagues — your unwavering support has been the foundation of this year. A special thank you goes to my two cadets, Kieran and Ruby. You've both been outstanding, and it's been a pleasure to watch you grow into fine young leaders.

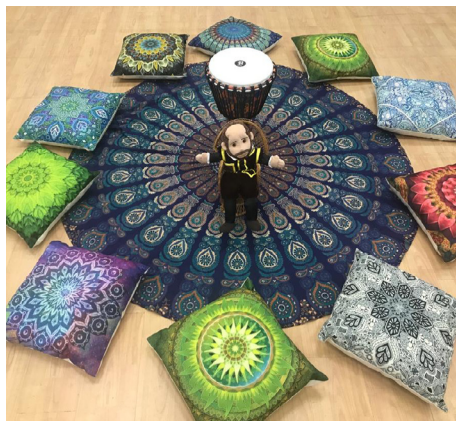
This year, I have focused on several key themes close to my heart — particularly the importance of **faith, justice, and community service**. With the support of His Majesty's Lord Lieutenant, we've made significant progress through the Surrey Faith Forum, bringing together diverse communities in

shared understanding and respect. In collaboration with the coroner's office, we have seen the development of a new mortuary and non-intrusive post-mortem facilities in Bagshot — a project that will benefit many families and improve the dignity of care during difficult times. We also launched the very first Justice of the Peace Forum, where businesses and corporate partners pledged their support to JPs — an important step in strengthening community justice and promoting civic engagement. Another initiative particularly close to my heart is our work with Surplus to Supper, which began at Sunbury Cricket Club to tackle food poverty. Thanks to the dedication of many, it has now expanded into Aldershot, and with hope and continued support, may soon reach other sports venues across the country.

As I now hand over the mantle of High Sheriff to my successor, **Peter Cluff**, I do so with complete confidence that he will carry forward this work with passion, diligence and compassion. I look forward to watching how this work continues to evolve and flourish in the years to come. I offer my deepest thanks to each and every one of you for your support over the past year. It has been the honour of a lifetime to serve as your High Sheriff and thank all for supporting the quite outstanding work of the HSYA during my Shrieval year. Though I step down from this role, I do so with a heart full of pride and an unwavering commitment to continue serving this county that I love so dearly.

Shahid Azeem DL
High Sheriff of Surrey 2024-2025

The High Sheriff Youth Awards in 2024-2025



Guildford Shakespeare Company

GSC established in 2006 is one of the largest professional producers of live Shakespeare and workshops in Surrey. GSC's Education and Outreach Department offers over 26,000 participation opportunities a year, working with a mix of generations, across the South East.

With My Eyes is a unique course of dramatherapy workshops for Surrey teenagers with mental-health needs and their parents, run by Guildford Shakespeare Company and professional drama therapists. It is aimed at young people who have been excluded from school or are at risk of exclusion. 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. The teenagers and their parents are supported in developing a mutual understanding, based on shared experiences, in a consistent and safe environment.

We are so grateful for the continued support of HSYA.

40 Degreez

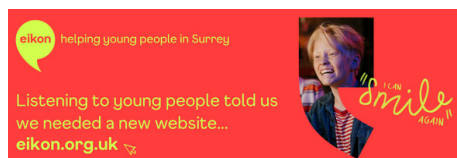
Empowering Young Women with Confidence and Self-Defence
Dragonfly Warriors and 40 Degreez are dedicated to equipping young women with essential self-defence skills, confidence and personal development in a safe, inclusive environment. Our girls self-defence course goes beyond physical techniques — it fosters resilience, assertiveness and self-belief, ensuring participants feel strong, supported and prepared for life's challenges.

Building Confidence & Self-Esteem
By learning to set boundaries, recognise threats and defend themselves, girls gain self-assurance and control over their personal safety. The supportive environment encourages trust in their instincts and greater confidence in daily life.
Forming Healthy Relationships
The course emphasises respect, assertiveness and boundary-setting, helping girls build positive, trustworthy relationships. Participants learn to recognise red flags and communicate effectively in friendships and social situations.

Making Good Choices
With a focus on situational awareness and decision-making, the course empowers girls to assess risks, trust their judgment and prioritise their safety in real-world scenarios. Join us in empowering the next generation!



Emerge helped me understand my worth and built up my confidence. You helped me come outta my shell and feel worth it. It's like a weight has been lifted and I have a new lease of life. Thank you for what you guys do x



Emerge Advocacy

We support young people who are coming into A&E departments across Surrey because of mental health issues. Sitting with them in hospital, our team provide reassurance and encourage young people to engage effectively with staff. We continue to support them for three months post discharge, building relationship and connecting young people with community resources to reduce risk of further crises, resulting in a reduction in demand on Police and Paramedics, and strengthening communities.

Our project team meet young people at their point of need and begin to build a trusting relationship with them in hospital which continues into the community post discharge. By doing this and connecting young people with community resources, and helps them to reconnect with a sense of hope and purpose for their futures.

At the HSYA Showcase last year we were approached by a staff member of another charity who told us that EmERGE had actually supported her a number of years ago when she was in crisis. She told us that it had helped with her recovery and impacted her to the extent that she decided to pursue a similar line of work. She explained that her sessions with EmERGE equipped her to be there for other young people and she wanted us to know how much difference it had made to her.

We are incredibly grateful for the support of the HSYA in helping us to be there for young people, and in bringing together like-minded charities after a common goal of seeing young people empowered and, in turn, becoming able to invest in their communities.

Eikon

Eikon is helping children and young people feel safe, heard and supported. We listen, talk, and help them build the skills and confidence they need to thrive. And we work with families and professionals to make sure that everyone gets the support they need.

For 30 years Eikon has been empowering and supporting children and young people across Surrey. Our focus is on prevention or helping early on before a concern becomes a crisis. We work with them directly in their schools and communities providing one to one and group support, as well as with and through partners, supporting them to deliver services that improve young people's physical and emotional wellbeing and mental health. Our vision is for all children and young people to be safe and thrive!

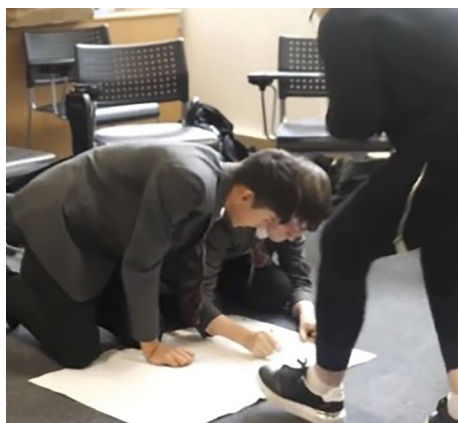
Eikon's summer transition programme supports young people in Elmbridge aged 10-12 who are either anxious about the move to secondary school or at risk of school dropout. We work with them on their own set goals through pre and post summer 1:1 sessions and group sessions and offer summer workshops on themes such as wellbeing and mindfulness, organising and getting to school, friendship, bullying vs banter, online safety and more. We also support parents and carers to help their young person. The programme aims to build their skills, confidence, and feel more motivated to start secondary school with a positive mindset.

Big Leaf Foundation

We are a registered charity that works with displaced young people aged 16-25 living in Surrey. We provide educational, therapeutic, and community-focused activities that combat social isolation and empower young people to build safe and fulfilling lives in the UK. We currently support ~300 young people from 21 countries. The experience of resettlement is often overwhelming and difficult, leaving them vulnerable to loneliness, isolation and anxiety, negative external influences or self-destructive behaviour. We want to engage our young people to embrace opportunities available to them, and to develop their unique talents and abilities so they can move forward with renewed optimism.

Every summer for the past four years, Big Leaf has run a Summer School programme, focused on core English/Maths proficiency, and physical activity/exercise, alongside workshops with community partners such as Surrey Police, Surrey University, and members of the community. This programme has been very popular with Big Leaf beneficiaries and has gradually evolved and grown year-on-year both in scope (breadth of the programme) and reach (number and diversity of participants). The Summer School is well aligned with the aims of the HSYA in two main ways: Firstly, combating isolation and assisting with everyday interactions guards against negative external influences (eg vulnerability to contact with extremist or criminal groups, exploitative and illegal working arrangements); and secondly, the workshops specifically focus on law and safety to help build understanding and trust in the police and other authorities (eg accidental criminal behaviour due to misunderstanding of UK law, and antisocial behaviours around drugs and alcohol).

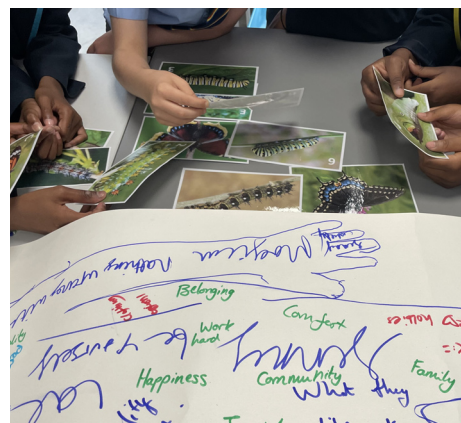
The High Sheriff Youth Awards in 2024-2025



Intergenerational Music Making

Intergenerational Music Making (IMM) pioneers co-produced music projects, training, workshops, and events in the UK. Over a decade in Surrey, IMM engaged 200+ schools, PRUs, care homes, and community groups.

Activities include song writing, therapy, choirs, and orchestras. A 12-week rap project targeted 9-18 year-olds in Woking, fostering positive relationships and addressing specific needs. Led by experienced producers and therapists, it facilitated creative expression and intergenerational mentoring, showcasing positive outcomes. Goals involved engagement in positive activities, reducing anti-social behaviour, and fostering self-discipline and citizenship. Despite COVID-19 challenges, the project mitigated isolation's impact, improving emotional well-being. Aligned with HSYA funding, it effectively targeted at-risk youth, reducing potential anti-social behaviour in Woking.



SparkFish

SparkFish is a local charity based in Redhill that exists to inspire young people in faith, hope and love. SparkFish has three strands of work:

- 1 Hope** – supporting young people during times of challenge through mentoring, 'drawing and talking', small groups, and transitions support for year 6's.
- 2 Think!** – we create spaces where young people can reflect mindfully on their lives and the world around them
- 3 Learn** – we support RE provision in schools by providing seasonal events, lessons and assemblies.

We greatly value the opportunity through this grant to offer mentoring sessions to young people free of charge in schools. Young people who have engaged with our mentoring programme say:

'You can tell them anything and they always find a way to help.'

'I like how I can be here unjudged. I have learnt how to view stuff more positively.'

We firmly believe our mentoring with young people improves self-esteem, increases resilience levels and creates healthier young people at secondary school age and beyond.



Surrey Care Trust

Our Steps to 16 alternative education programme specialises in supporting and reengaging 14- to 16 year-olds struggling with mainstream education. The students live with a range of needs and challenges including problems at home, low self-esteem, and poor social, mental, and emotional health. Our high tutor to student ratio supports the holistic learning environment. The curriculum is tailored to the specific needs of each student, and the more informal educational setting of our Learning Centre in Woking helps students to feel more at ease. With this approach we aim to nurture the young people's social development and help them achieve the best possible learning outcomes.

The team encourages and enables students to gain qualifications in core subjects such as English and Maths while the nurturing environment and Life Skills curriculum (Healthy Living, Domestic Cooking, Sport and Fitness, Group and Teamwork, Preparation for work and college, vocational activities, art etc.) helps students develop strong life skills as they transition into adulthood.

During 2023-2024, 27 students were supported by the team, the most the team have ever supported, indicative of the increasing demand for services like STEPS to 16. Out of the twelve year 11 students who took their exams all successfully secured accredited qualifications. 95% of STEPS to 16 leavers have gone on to further education or into employment.

Bespoke Youth-West Molesey

We are an Anglican church that is heavily focused on serving the local community through youth and children's work. Although we are a Christian organisation, many of our projects are not evangelical as we want our Community and Youth Hub to be a space where people of all beliefs are welcome. We are currently running 10 different youth sessions across 5 days a week to cater for young people of different ages and backgrounds. This includes, a girl's group, small group hubs, youth drop-ins, and a music project. We run sports activity days during the half term holidays. All our groups are free and open-access sessions. We also provide some kind of free food at each session.

We believe that relationship building is absolutely crucial for curbing anti-social behaviour and supporting the vulnerable. It has been noted that there is an increase in antisocial behaviour generally due to lack of services for young people prior to our project starting 5 years ago. Locally there was an increase in antisocial behaviour over the lockdown period with instances of criminal damage to buildings and recreational cannabis use much more noticeable in the area. We would like to divert young people away from this by making all of our activities attractive to young people who might stumble across us or be referred to us by the local authority.

Rape and Sexual Assault Support Counselling

Our HSYA grant will go towards our Youth Counselling Programme; a free support service for Surrey based survivors aged 13-18, who have experienced sexual harm. This generous funding will contribute to the recruitment of two additional sessional counsellors to meet a growing demand for counselling for young survivors with increasingly complex needs. Thanks to the HSYA, we will be able to provide even more holistic person-centred counselling for young people who have experienced sexual harm. Each client will receive between 12 and 16 sessions of one to one, trauma informed counselling, delivered either face to face or remotely to work around school/college and work commitments.

Demand for counselling support is increasing annually, and we are expecting this to grow significantly in 2024-2025. Experiencing sexual abuse as a young person can have profound and lasting effects on both the survivor and their family and friends. All the young people we support are experiencing very poor mental health as a result of the abuse they have experienced; anxiety, depression, PTSD, trouble sleeping and substance abuse are also extremely common. Low self-esteem is both exacerbated by the trauma they have experienced, or may have made them vulnerable to abusive relationships initially. Our young clients are also more likely to suffer from suicidal ideation and self-harm which often presents as a coping mechanism.

As a result of HSYA funding we hope that all the young survivors we support through our Youth Counselling Service will:

- 1** Experience a significant, measurable improvement in their mental wellbeing
- 2** Feel safer and better able to cope with aspects of every day life
- 3** Be able to return to school/college/work/training.

The High Sheriff Youth Awards in 2024-2025



east to west

east to west is at the forefront of 'bringing hope to young lives'. Our vision is for children, young people, and families to overcome the challenges they face and become the very best they can be. We are committed to being present in the messy realities of young people's everyday lives, offering hands-on, whole-hearted help. We are not perfect, we are always learning, but we work hard to live out our ethos as a selfless and devoted community where compassion and integrity meet fun – so that in every encounter we bring hope to the young lives we're privileged to be a part of.

Support can take the form of a one-to-one and group sessions listening to and caring for young people for months and sometime years. It can also involve practical help such as going with the children to doctor's appointments or food banks, connecting them with a social worker or whatever kind of help is needed



The Surrey Magistrates Association

SMA is a charity and works to support magistrates and increase public awareness of the role of magistrates in the criminal and civil justice system. Teams of magistrates attend primary, secondary, 6th form colleges, schools, community groups, give presentations and discuss how magistrates are appointed, what kind of cases they deal with, how guilt or innocence is decided, how magistrates decide to sentence and some of the implications of getting a criminal record.

The Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition involves over 4,000 students from over 270 schools and 1,700 legal professional volunteers at 51 courts.

The Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition is part of the Law in Schools programme which helps improve young people's life skills, their understanding of the justice and the legal system, and helps them to understand that the law touches every aspect of their lives.

The competition creates the foundations for the students to develop into legally capable young people and aims to introduce the legal system to young people in an exciting way that has a lasting impact on all those involved, whilst developing student's soft skills that will be of use throughout their lives. The pupils who take part in the competition are from many different backgrounds and walks of life. State schools, Free schools and academies from around the country participate in mock trials that take place local to them. In the roles of lawyers, witnesses, magistrates and court staff, students prosecute and defend specially written criminal cases. Teams compete against each other in real Magistrates' courts in front of real magistrates.



Peer Productions

A registered charity since 2006, we provide a free one-year accredited training course for young actors (aged 18-24). Alongside this qualification these young actors volunteer their time to tour our original educational plays throughout Surrey, reaching around 15,000 young people (aged 8-18) with peer-led preventative messages about mental health, wellbeing and crime. Delivered by young peer educators, our work hits home with significance and power. Theatre is a powerful tool for education and transformation.

We also provide peer-led outreach workshops, particularly focusing on working with learning disabled young people. Young people are at the heart of our work. Each year our young actor-educators feed in to the development of new and established projects ensuring our work remains fresh, relevant and engaging.

Man Up is a play about being a boy and becoming a man for young people of all genders in year 9 and above from playwright Nina Lemon (Masking, Hidden, Losing It, The Forest in Between). It comes with comprehensive teachers' pack.

In light of growing evidence showing a notable increase in misogynistic attitudes among young people, we developed this new play aimed at empowering and uplifting young men, as well as their communities and people of all genders who support them.

Man Up tells the story of childhood friends Lottie and Ogan as they navigate growing up together and try to work out how to act and how to be in an increasingly confusing world where no one knows the rules any more.

The Matrix Trust

We have provided a lifeline for vulnerable young people across Guildford Borough for 25 years, helping to catalyse change for them by nurturing, inspiring, connecting and empowering them. Growing as local need has increased, we've worked closely with young people as this has happened, listening to them in order to discern their needs and launching or adapting projects to provide the support requested.

Our Monthly Hubs provide an essential safe space for young people, where they can meet with their peers, have fun and find robust mental health support. By engaging young people in fun, meaningful activity they are encouraged away from anti-social behaviour which often presents a risk to the young person as well as to others. Furthermore, the early intervention wellbeing support offered helps prevent young people's mental health from further decline. We supported 47 young people in this way last year.

Research into the number of Surrey children living in low-income families is 22,377 for 2020/21. This figure has risen 11% since 2019/20. Such young people are uniquely vulnerable, often lacking basic needs and not having access to constructive distractions. This puts such young people at high risk of harm or causing harm to others, with anti-social behaviour being adopted as a cure for boredom. Our service is free at point of use and therefore provides these young people with access to a constructive means of spending their time outside of education. This protects them and the wider community, as well as helping to relinquish the pressure on families struggling with the increased cost of living.

South West Surrey Domestic Abuse Service

We provide free, confidential, independent, and impartial advice to anyone aged 16 or above affected by domestic abuse living in the boroughs of Waverley and Guildford. We offer skilled practical help, ongoing emotional support, and information and advice on issues such as safety planning, housing rights, relationships and separation, and civil and criminal court proceedings. We have a specialist Children's team that supports children and young people who have been exposed to domestic abuse.

The impact of domestic abuse on young people is considerable and in Covid-19 times domestic abuse levels are rising. Sadly, research has revealed an overlap between young people affected by domestic abuse and future criminality. There are a number of protective factors which can build resilience in children and there are support programmes and interventions that are known to help children to cope and recover from experiencing domestic abuse. Our YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME is one such project that aims to provide protection for young people currently facing domestic abuse.

Our YOUTH AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME has a number of components:

- 1** A quarterly 'Hear the child's voice' forum/meeting where we hear from young people about their concerns about how domestic abuse has affected their life and what is lacking in preventative work to support young people
- 2** 'Ambassador in the community' - Where possible and with the support and guidance of our team, our Ambassadors will be encouraged to help other young people to understand the dangers of abusive relationships and provide signposts for practical help to keep themselves and their friends safe
- 3** We like our Ambassadors to become case study profiles on our website.

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 17 July 2025. The statutory accounts are available on request to the Administrator. Please email: admin@surreyhighsheriff.org

for the year to 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Incoming resources		
Donations	52,026	56,089
Interest	71	313
	<u>52,097</u>	<u>56,402</u>
Charitable expenditure		
Grants, awards and costs	52,971	53,571
Management and administration	3,528	2,929
	<u>56,499</u>	<u>56,500</u>
Increase (decrease) in funds	(4,402)	(98)
Balance brought forward from previous years	17,028	17,126
Balance available for future years	<u>12,626</u>	<u>17,028</u>
Represented by:		
Balance at bank	12,626	19,128
Debtors less creditors	-	(2,100)
	<u>12,626</u>	<u>17,028</u>

*Linda M. Bryant FCA,
Bryant & Co,
3 Burcott Gardens,
Addlestone,
Surrey KT15 2DE

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MBE DL appointed 13 May 2025

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Richard Whittington DL FCA
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Police Liaison

PS Emmie Harris

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Funders and Supporters

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

Surrey Boroughs and Districts

Surrey County Council

Elmbridge Borough Council

Epsom and Ewell Borough
Council

Guildford Borough Council

Mole Valley District Council

Reigate and Banstead
Borough Council

Runnymede Borough Council

Spelthorne Borough Council

Surrey Heath Borough Council

Tandridge District Council

Waverley Borough Council

Other Funders

Richard Whittington DL FCA

Individual Donations



High Sheriff Youth Awards

The High Sheriff Youth Awards makes grants for any amount from £500 up to £4,000.

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