

Minutes of the
Annual General Meeting
Held on Thursday 27th November 2025
In the Gibb Rooms, Bleachingfield Centre

1 Welcome from Nick Archer, Chair of Trustees and

Opening Prayers led by Anne Harvey, Chair of the Management Committee.

2 Present:

Trustees and Management Committee: Nick Archer (Chair), Neil Black, Jodie Boardman, Fiona Fleming, Tim Greene, Anne Harvey, Dorothy Hilsley, Alison Murray (minutes), Fionna Payton, Bill Stevenson, Richard Taylor, Alan Willoughby

Public: Bronwyn Brodie, John Bruce, David Campbell, William Fleming, Mike Ling, Diana Mackie, Gareth Morgan, David Phillips, Sharon Phillips, Alastair Stark, Emma Taylor (total attendance of 23)

Apologies:

Trustees and Management Committee: Moira Cockburn, Suzie Fletcher

Public: Ruth Archer, Alan Dickerson, Hazel Gray, Diana Greene, Douglas Hamilton, Ben Johnson, Jo Ramage

3 Approval of the minutes of the AGM held on 14th November 2024.

Proposed by Anne Harvey, seconded by Alan Willoughby, and agreed to by the meeting.

4 Trustees' Report: Presented by Nick Archer

Being involved in DACYP is a privilege and the 20 year celebration showed the history, the present and the potential ahead for continuing to serve through DACYP. Richard is our key worker, for us and for the young people of Dunbar.

Volunteer Management Committee members and Trustees all contribute greatly. Dorothy Hilsley is not seeking reappointment to the Management Committee and was thanked for all her contributions including being the Safeguarding Lead. Dorothy will continue to liaise with Dunbar Primary and all our volunteers working there.

During the last year we have welcomed Jodie Boardman to the Management Committee and Alan Willoughby as a Trustee.

Thanks were given to Alison Murray for her administration work and creativity which is evident in the renewed website.

All were encouraged to continue to volunteer, to give and to pray.

5 Youth Worker's Report: Presented by Richard Taylor

Without repeating all that was said at our 20 year celebration, Richard spoke of the privilege of being in the same job and still enjoying doing that job which is not often the case with youth work. Nick and Neil were both absent from the meeting last year. There was a lot of prayer and a lot of trust and much thanks that things have worked out for them to be with us this year.

Referring to the Annual Report, Richard explained that RME Classes are down in number, not because some children are missing out, but because the school roll for this year group has reduced. Richard is confident the numbers on the roll will rise again. But of course, it is not all about numbers. Richard spoke of the joy of working with individual young people; of the mother asking where to buy a new bible for her son; of a young lad facing many challenges in life gradually finding his voice in the safe space of the Lad's Group.

The Annual Report was distributed. Richard answered a question about the Girls' Group by saying that the Dunbar Grammar School staff changes mean they are not providing anyone to lead the group. If you know of anyone who could lead every week, please speak with Richard.

6 Treasurer's Report: presented by Fiona Fleming

The Annual Report contains a summary of the annual accounts. The deficit is being met from reserves. The grant income is down, but the individual donors are giving more. With a focus on new donors being part of our 20 year anniversary, we have thirteen new donors and some existing donors have increased their giving.

During the year grants have been received from Paristamen, Baird Trust and the Local Area Partnership.

In response to questions, Fiona confirmed the reserves are sitting at around thirty-five thousand pounds. When the project started, there were three year grants which helped build up a surplus. The minimum reserve which was previously set by the Trustees is twenty-five thousand pounds.

The Accounts and Annual Report will be used for new grant applications.

The meeting received the accounts. Gareth Morgan commended the Treasurer and Trustees on their good, efficient work in producing the accounts so quickly after the year end. Accounts can be put publicly on our website and within the next two years OSCR will include them on their website.

The meeting received the accounts and thanked Fiona for them.

Caroline Bald has indicated that she is happy to continue as Independent Examiner of Accounts. The meeting agreed that she should continue in this role.

7 Safeguarding and PVG update: presented by Dorothy Hilsley

Thanks were expressed to Alison for her practical support.

Nationally, on 1 April this year, changes came in to the Disclosure system. PVG membership is now a legal requirement for Regulated Roles done regularly. Starting 1 April 2026, five year reviews will be carried out.

In DACYP we have three yearly revision of safeguarding training, using material from East Lothian Council. Currently we have 42 volunteers, 40 with PVG and seven needing safeguarding training now or soon.

The upper part of Dunbar Primary School have 19 DACYP volunteers in classes. There are a couple of non-DACYP volunteers also and this means all the classes on that campus have a volunteer. Dorothy is grateful that there are so many volunteers. Can we find more volunteers to provide one in every P1-P3 class?

Questions were answered about the cost of PVGs. We do not pay anything, as we apply through the SCVO (Scottish Council of Volunteer Organisations).

Fiona Fleming reminded us all that working with the children is good fun!

8 Reappointment of Management Committee Members:

Management Committee Members are appointed by the Trustees and reviewed every three years. As previously mentioned, Dorothy Hilsley is not continuing to serve with the committee. Fionna Payton and Anne Harvey are both happy to continue, with Anne continuing as Chair of the committee. The meeting were all in agreement with this.

Currently there are five Trustees and seven on the Management Committee and more would be welcome. A new initiative this year is that two Trustees attend each Management meeting and Anne (as Chair of Management) attends each meeting of the Trustees.

9 Discussions: About fifteen minutes was given to discussion in smaller groups before feedback to the whole meeting.

Why do you volunteer for DACYP (if you do)?

What appeals particularly to you about DACYP and the activities we do?

- We gain something ourselves
- Seeing young people growing and developing
- Some like one-to-one sessions, some like working in the school
- Shocked by the general ignorance of young people in regard to the Christian Faith.
- Passion and enthusiasm for young people
- Seeing lives changed
- Fun
- So many ways to opt in
- Wanted to be involved with a Christian organisation
- We all get a lot out of interactions with young people

How could you use your hopefully positive view of DACYP to encourage friends to get involved in our work by praying, volunteering and giving?

- Use Annual Report
- Commending pastries at the prayer breakfast
- Telling stories
- Currently all activities are daytime which means mostly retired folk available. Are there any options for evening events?
- Always talking about DACYP and encouraging other to get involved.
- There are short term options and long term
- Can Management Committee and other volunteers generally mentor other volunteers?
- Giving ideas: Dress Down Day; Quiz Night; Sponsorship of events with details going out in prayer breakfast emails; have a "shopping list" for donations on website.

10 Any Other Competent Business:

Christmas Cards are available to raise funds for DACYP.

In this milestone year, the Chair acknowledged and thanked the people who have been involved since the beginning, notably, Richard Taylor, Neil Black, Fiona Fleming and Diana Mackie.

11 Closing prayers were led by Neil Black, Trustee.

Refreshments were served.