



Fusion Family and Youth Projects

Annual Report 2024–2025

‘Building Brighter Futures Together’

Introduction

Fusion Family and Youth Projects continues to grow as a trusted community organization at the heart of Huntingdon North. Our mission is simple but powerful; to provide a safe, supportive, and inspiring space where young people can belong, build confidence, and believe in their future.

This year has been both busy and rewarding. We've expanded our reach, strengthened partnerships, and adapted to meet the complex needs of children, young people, and families experiencing disadvantages, poverty, and social isolation. We applied for Dept for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport funding that may allow us to have a building of our own so we can further increase our reach and the youth offer that we can deliver.



Summer fun at Fusion's holiday session

Chairperson Report

We have had a great year but there is still much to do, and we are ready for the challenge. As always, I am very proud of everything the team have achieved this year. The ongoing uncertainty surrounding our new building continues to keep us on our toes, but I remain immensely grateful to Angie and all the trustees for the way they have adapted and remained resilient throughout these challenges.

This year has been one of remarkable impact and continued growth for Fusion. More than 250 young people regularly attended our sessions, a clear sign of how vital our work has become in the community. Staff have seen real change, with 73% reporting noticeable improvements in young people's behaviour. We also celebrated a significant professional milestone as a member of staff successfully achieved a Level 3 Youth Work qualification—strengthening our capacity and expertise.

The positive outcomes speak for themselves: 95% of young people told us they feel happier and more confident after attending Fusion, and 88% said they have made new friends or strengthened their relationships. By extending our reach we have been able to offer more young people a safe, supportive space.

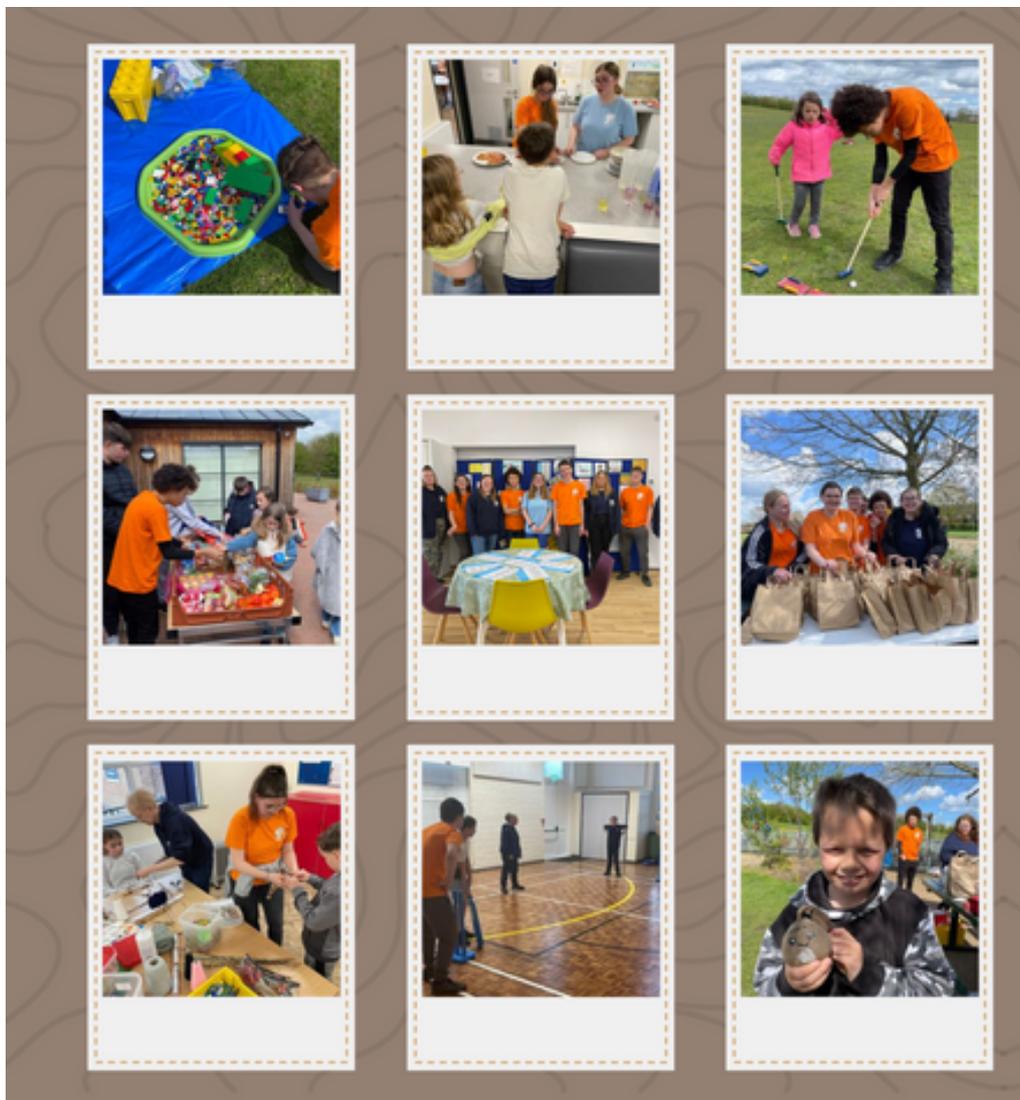
Alongside this, we continued to support families with more than 1,500 hot meals served during weekly clubs and holiday projects—ensuring young people not only have companionship and encouragement, but also nourishment. Our young people are a true inspiration.

There is much to do, but we are ready for the challenge.

Natalie – Chair of Trustees

Our Impact 2024–2025

- Over 250 young people attended regular Fusion sessions.
- 73% of staff observed improved behaviour in young people.
- A staff member achieved a Level 3 Youth Work qualification.
- New youth club launched at Alconbury Weald.
- 95% of young people reported feeling happier and more confident after attending Fusion.
- 88% said they had made new friends or improved relationships.
- 1,500+ hot meals provided during weekly clubs and holiday projects.
- 4 of the orange t-shirts, having turned 17 have attended interviews and have now become paid members of holiday staff.



Organizational Overview

Fusion supports young people aged 8–17 (and up to 25 with additional needs) through weekly youth sessions, school-based groups, one-to-one mentoring, family day trips, and holiday programmes.

Our focus areas include:

- **Youth Support & Development** – Providing safe, supportive spaces for young people aged 8–17 (and up to 25 for those with additional needs) to build confidence, resilience, and life skills.
- **Reducing Anti-Social Behaviour** – Offering positive alternatives through structured activities and mentoring to steer young people away from crime, gangs, and county lines.
- **Mental Health & Wellbeing** – Promoting emotional resilience, self-esteem, and access to early mental health support.
- **Food & Basic Needs Support** – Ensuring no young person goes hungry at sessions by providing fruit, drinks, and hot snacks.



Volunteering at Community Events

- **Education & Aspirations** – Running homework clubs, school-aged groups, and volunteer opportunities to raise aspirations and improve learning outcomes.
- **Community Engagement** – Building stronger, safer communities by fostering respect, belonging, and inclusion among young people.
- **Volunteer Development** – Training and mentoring young volunteers aged 14–17 to become positive role models and future leaders.
- **Holiday & Enrichment Projects** – Providing free activities during school holidays to reduce isolation and support working parents.
- **Safeguarding & Early Intervention** – Identifying and responding early to safeguarding concerns to keep children and families safe.

Quote from a young person aged 10: “I love coming to the youth club! I didn’t have many friends before, but now I’ve got loads of new friends. We play games, make lovely crafts, and it’s really fun! ”

Our Projects

Throughout 2024–2025, Fusion delivered a diverse range of projects to meet local needs:

Youth Clubs – Termtime

Fusion Seniors (Volunteers) – Mondays 6pm-8pm

Fusion Seniors are supported sessions aimed at developing skills in youth work, teamwork, risk issues, and leadership. Sessions focus on confidence, leadership, and wellbeing through creative projects, volunteering, and open discussions. Members help shape the sessions and act as positive role models for younger groups. The club offers a friendly space to explore life's challenges, build resilience, and plan for the future while feeling supported, understood, and part of the Fusion community.

Fusion Gateway – Tuesdays 6pm-8pm

Fusion Gateway supports young people aged 12–25 with additional needs, offering a calm, inclusive space to learn and grow. Activities focus on life skills, confidence building, and teamwork, through cooking, games, and creative projects. The group celebrates individuality and progress, ensuring everyone can join in at their own pace. Gateway helps members feel valued, make friends, and develop independence in a warm, understanding environment that promotes belonging and inclusion.

Fusion Juniors - Wednesdays 6pm-8pm

Fusion Juniors offers a fun and supportive space for young people in school Years 7–11 (11-16 year olds) to make friends, build confidence, and learn new skills. Each week includes games, creative activities, and open discussions about topics that matter to them. The club helps members develop teamwork, resilience, and positive relationships while enjoying a safe environment where they can relax, be themselves, and feel valued as part of the Fusion community.

Homework Club – Wednesdays 3:30pm-5pm

Fusion's Homework Club offers a quiet, supportive space for young people to complete schoolwork with guidance from friendly staff and volunteers.

The club helps improve learning, build confidence, and develop good study

habits, while also providing a positive environment where students can ask questions, have a warm snack, and feel supported.

Fusion Funky Monkeys – Thursdays 5pm-7pm

Fusion Funky Monkeys welcomes children ages 8–11 to enjoy fun, friendship, and creativity. Sessions include games, arts and crafts, and themed activities that promote teamwork and kindness. The club supports children's confidence, social skills, and emotional well-being, youth work, helping them build friendships and feel a sense of belonging before moving on to Fusion Juniors with confidence.

Alconbury Weald Club – 2nd Friday of every month

The Alconbury Weald Club provides a welcoming place for local young people to meet, make friends, and have fun. Each session features games, sports, arts, and wellbeing activities that build confidence and encourage teamwork. This club has a team of local adult volunteers that support the group. The club offers a safe space where everyone is included and supported. It plays a key role in strengthening community connections and giving young people opportunities to learn, laugh, and grow together.

Quote from a parent: “The Homework Club makes our weekends so much less stressful! My son can get his homework done on a Wednesday, which means he can relax at the weekend. I don't have to keep reminding him, and it really helps as it can be hard to split my time between him and his younger brother.”

Other Projects

Cookery Project

Fusion's Cookery Project teaches young people practical cooking skills while promoting healthy eating and teamwork. Participants prepare meals and snacks, learning about nutrition, hygiene, and creativity in the kitchen. The project boosts confidence, independence, and life skills, while providing a fun, hands-on way to enjoy food and make friends. The young people are then given all the ingredients (minus the protein) to replicate the meal for their families.



Cookery project - learning healthy meal prep

School and One-to-One Support

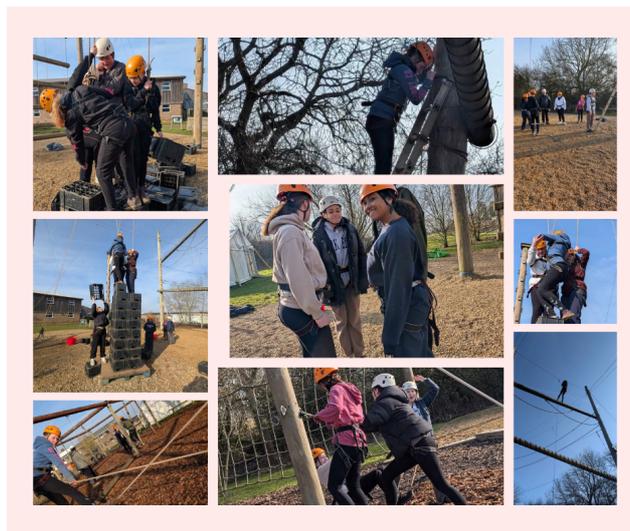
Fusion's in-school support groups provide a safe space for students to talk, reflect, and build confidence during the school day. Sessions focus on wellbeing, friendships, behaviour, and emotional regulation through discussion and creative activities. Working closely with schools, Fusion helps young people develop resilience, manage challenges, and improve their engagement in learning. The groups offer consistent support, helping students feel heard, valued, and better equipped to make positive choices both in and out of school.

Holiday Activities and Family Projects

Fusion's holiday activities provide fun, safe, and engaging opportunities for children and young people during school breaks. Sessions include sports, cooking, arts and crafts, and themed workshops that promote teamwork, creativity, and wellbeing. Each day includes healthy snacks and hot meals to ensure no one goes hungry. The programme offers positive experiences for families who may struggle during holidays, helping young people stay active, build friendships, and create lasting memories in a supportive environment.

Residential Trips

The Fusion's residential trip in October gave young people the chance to experience new adventures away from home in a supportive environment. Running from Monday to Wednesday, fourteen young people were able to participate in activities such as team challenges, outdoor pursuits, and shared mealtimes help build confidence, independence, and strong friendships. For many, it's their first time away from family, offering valuable life skills and memorable experiences. These trips encourage teamwork, resilience, and self-belief while strengthening the bond between young people and Fusion's supportive staff team.



Grafham Residential with the Orange T-shirts

Quote from an Orange T-shirt volunteer “The residential is a fun and cool place to have a good time doing activities and learning new skills in.”



Grafham Residential with the Orange T-shirts

Challenges

The community continues to face high levels of deprivation, overcrowded housing, and mental health challenges. Demand for Fusion's services has grown especially around emotional wellbeing and food provision. Rising costs, limited funding, and the complexity of family needs mean sustainability and partnership working remain vital.

Partnerships and Collaboration

This year, Fusion worked closely with:

- Local schools and academies
- Huntingdon Town Council and District Council
- Cambridgeshire County Council
- Community safety and early help teams
- Other youth and voluntary organisations

These collaborations helped tackle community priorities such as youth violence prevention, mental health, and family wellbeing.



Friendship and teamwork at Fusion.

Finance Overview

Fusion remains committed to transparency and value for money. Funding in 2024–25 came from grants, local trusts, local authority support, charitable foundations, and community donations.

Funds were primarily used for:

- Staff salaries
- Staff and volunteer training and supervision
- Venue and equipment costs
- Food provision and activity resources
- Trips, transport, and enrichment opportunities



Fusion Family and Youth Projects		Charity No	1159563
Annual accounts for the period			
Period start date	01/04/2024	To	Period end date 31/03/2025

Section A Statement of financial activities

Recommended categories by activity	Guidance Note				
	Unrestricted funds £ F01	Restricted income funds £ F02	Endowment funds £ F03	Total funds £ F04	Prior year funds £ F05
Incoming resources					
Income and endowments from:					
Grants for Services	S01 14,516	44,521	-	59,037	76,515
Donations & Gifts	S02 6,731	1,918	-	8,649	3,020
Fundraising	S03	146	-	146	63
Facilitation & Training	S04				
Interest	S05				
Other	S06	154	-	154	-
Total	S07 21,247	46,739	-	67,986	79,598
Resources expended					
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	S08	-	-	-	-
Activity Costs	S09 84	4,250	-	4,334	9,793
Salaries & Associated Costs	S10 33,306	35,534	-	68,840	69,050
IT & Communication Costs	S11 897	177	-	1,074	1,192
Property & Office Costs	S11 2,976	80	-	3,056	3,223
Governance Costs	S11 605	1,203	-	1,808	350
Total	S12 37,868	41,244	-	79,112	83,608
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)	S13 - 16,621	5,495	-	- 11,126	- 4,010
Net gains/(losses) on investments	S14	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)	S15 - 16,621	5,495	-	- 11,126	- 4,010
Extraordinary items	S16 2,151	- 2,151	-	-	-
Transfers between funds	S17				
Other recognised gains/(losses):					
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use	S18	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)	S19	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	S20 - 14,470	3,344	-	- 11,126	- 4,010
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	S21 23,433	18,153	-	41,586	45,596
Total funds carried forward	S22 8,963	21,497	-	30,460	41,586

Finance Report

During the year, Fusion has worked with over 250 different young people aged 8-25. The opportunities offered have helped young people to socialise and provided a safe place for them to talk about issues they may be facing. As well as running term time clubs, Fusion has been able to access funding from HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) to provide school holiday activities. The funding is for children who access free school meals but Fusion uses funding from other sources to open this up to other local children who may not have free school meals but still face many issues. One week was organised for the Easter break and four weeks in the Summer when an extra 20 young people, not on free school meals, were able to attend. A total of 78 young people enjoyed these activities, spending their summer engaged and happy under the sunshine. It has been shown that accessing positive activities like this contributes to crime reduction by reducing engagement in antisocial and/or criminal behaviour.

We are very grateful to all our funders. The commitment of our funders has meant that Fusion has been able to continue to help young people learn new skills, raise their aspirations, become active members of their community, and make friends.

Fusion was in a sound position at the end of March 2025. Although some reserves had been used in year, funding of £30,460 was carried forward, largely from Awards for All and Clarion Futures. Notification had been received from Cambridgeshire Community Fund of a successful bid for £5464 and other bids were in process.

Looking Ahead: 2025–2026 Priorities

- Expand one-to-one and group mental health support
 - Develop Fusion’s young volunteer pathway with accredited training
 - Strengthen partnerships with local schools and health services
 - Increase family engagement and intergenerational projects
 - Secure sustainable funding to meet growing demand
- Continue providing safe, inclusive spaces for all young people in Huntingdon North and beyond

Quote from Orange t-shirt volunteer aged 16

“Volunteering boosts my mood as I know I’m doing something good helping other young people, Fusion and the community. Volunteering has helped to build my friendships and resilience, taught me new skills and allowed me to give something back to the people that have helped me!”



Group games at Fusion

Funders



THE WOODWARD
CHARITABLE TRUST



Urban&Civic

Franklin Family



**Cambridgeshire
Community
Foundation**

FOUNDATION OF HINCHINGBROOKE SCHOOL



Huntingdon Freeman's Trust

Supporting the residents of Huntingdon since 1993



Police and Crime Commissioner
CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH
Darryl Preston

Thank You

We couldn't do it without you! A huge thank-you to everyone who has supported Fusion Family & Youth Projects throughout 2024–2025 our funders, trustees, volunteers, staff, schools, community partners, and most importantly, the young people and families who make Fusion such a special place.

Together, we are building brighter futures and stronger communities.

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