

The logo is contained within a square frame with a blue-to-magenta gradient border. The text 'YOUNG FUTURES FUND' is stacked vertically in a bold, sans-serif font. 'YOUNG' is blue, 'FUTURES' is dark blue, and 'FUND' is magenta.

**YOUNG
FUTURES
FUND**

The background features several large, thick, diagonal lines in blue, magenta, and dark blue, creating a dynamic, geometric pattern.

2025

Annual Report

Our board



Tom
(Chair)



Peter



Pippa



Lauren



Sharleene



James



Hasan



Sasha



Tiyanina



Stacey



Mikhail



About

Young Futures is a partnership of local organisations and people, dedicated to funding the aspirations and dreams of young individuals across Buckinghamshire.

We believe in the power of young minds and the incredible potential they hold. By co-designing and collaborating directly with young people through participatory charitable funding and grant-making opportunities, we nurture talent, encourage innovation, and create a brighter future for Buckinghamshire's next generation.

At Young Futures, we envision a Buckinghamshire where every young person has the opportunity to thrive and succeed. We understand that young people face unique challenges and require support to overcome barriers, unlock their potential, and achieve their dreams. Our mission is to bridge the gap by providing vital funding and resources to empower young people and the organisations dedicated to their growth.

Together, we can invest in the future of Buckinghamshire's young people, creating a generation of leaders, innovators, and change-makers who will shape our community for years to come.

Message from Tom (Chair)



We've now completed our second year of the Young Futures Fund and it has, once again, been a fantastic year! We have continued to make a difference to the lives of young people in Buckinghamshire, awarding nearly £132,000 in grants and bursaries.

We have also grown and developed as a board and a group of young people ourselves. It has been a pleasure, especially from my end of the table, to watch the board grow closer and more confident in their individual decisions, often making our agreements faster but also our disagreements more nuanced. We have all become more

able to thoroughly and accurately assess applications, meaning we are all more passionate about the opinions we hold, leading to great discussions and debates.

As we move into the next year of the Young Futures Fund, we are looking forward to hopefully increasing the frequency of our meetings, allowing for more money to be dispersed and so more lives to be positively impacted. We are also excited to welcome new members into the group, giving us fresh ideas and perspectives, whilst also thanking those who are no longer able to commit to Young Futures for all their hard work and fantastic contributions over the past two years.

Once again, my massive thanks to the Heart of Bucks team for facilitating this opportunity, and to the rest of the board for giving their time and effort to make a difference in Buckinghamshire.

Message from Grace (Programme Manager)



Young Futures continues to go from strength to strength, building on our first year; the momentum has continued with ongoing success in expanding our reach and impact to youth organisations in the county.

Our support for young people in further education has remained a priority through our bursary programmes, with significant assistance provided to those undertaking apprenticeships through our most recent awards.

Whilst we were sad to say goodbye to several Youth Board members as they moved on to the next chapter of their lives, we are delighted to welcome two new members who bring a wealth of enthusiasm, commitment, and fresh perspective.

It has been another truly exceptional year working alongside our inspiring Youth Board and I remain very honoured to do so. Once again, we are reminded that the Young Futures Fund would not be possible without the generosity of our dedicated donors and fundholders. Your invaluable support through both time and financial commitment enables us to respond to growing local needs and make a meaningful difference in the lives of young people. We are immensely grateful for all that you make possible.

What have we funded?

28 grants

Totalling
£109,860

4,849
beneficiaries

Some examples:

Action 4 Youth

£4,835



Group mentoring sessions for young people aged 11-18 (up to 25 with SEND), focusing on topics such as alcohol and drugs, gang and knife crime and healthy relationships.

Forever Colours Children's Hospice

£4,500



Peer support, resilience workshops, and life skills sessions for children and young people with life-limiting conditions.

One-Eighty

£5,000



'Kick Start' - a 7-week early intervention mental health project that addresses factors affecting readiness to learn and engage in school.

The Honeypot Children's charity

£5,000



A three-day residential respite break for young carers, providing opportunities to enjoy various activities, socialise, and interact with supportive adults.

Foodrise

£4,820



'Plate Up!' - a food education and community inspired project. Working with groups to learn basic cooking skills to ultimately prepare and host community meals.

The Theatre Shed

£5,000



Inclusive workshops for up to 60 young people that build self-compassion through the arts and social circus.

Impact story:

The MoneyHeave Community Project

Project: Financial education workshops and events

Grant: £10,000 (two grants)

The MoneyHeave Community Project focuses on improving financial literacy among young adults, addressing the fact that 67% feel unprepared to manage their long-term finances.

With support from the Young Futures Fund, MoneyHeave delivered community events and online workshops to improve young people's financial wellbeing. The Can't Afford to be Broke event combined expert talks, interactive learning, and networking in a relaxed setting, with four speakers covering topics such as property, pay negotiation, retirement planning, and everyday money management.



Community connection was a key focus, with structured networking to reduce isolation and build relationships. Local organisations, including Aylesbury Women's Centre, Thames Valley Police, Helping Hands, and Buckinghamshire Adult Learning, attended to showcase services and highlight ongoing support.



"We want to give as many young adults as possible the skills and tools to navigate adulthood. With buy now, pay later and short-term debt everywhere, knowing how to manage money has never mattered more."

– Roneish Myers,
Finance Wellbeing Expert & Founder of MoneyHeave

Following the 'Can't Afford to be Broke' event, the group ran further in-person and online workshops to build young people's financial confidence. Partnering with Aylesbury Youth Action and Intentional Parenting, sessions covered budgeting, debt, saving, and tax for side hustles and small businesses. Delivered in small groups of up to 10, all participants reported the workshops were useful and they left with practical tools.

Thanks to funding from the Young Futures Fund, The MoneyHeave Community Project is creating lasting impact by increasing financial awareness, breaking down stigma, strengthening community connection, and empowering young people to take control of their financial futures.

Bursaries

During 2025 we awarded 25 bursaries totalling £21,754.

Some examples:



Tom

Tom is pursuing a career in Sound Design and received a bursary from the Beacon EVT fund, enabling him to purchase professional recording equipment which is essential for his studies.



Cara

Cara is studying to become a teacher in a special needs school. She received a Succeed bursary to help her explore CPD options that will support her chosen career.



Oscar

Oscar is studying to become a classical tenor. He received a Succeed bursary towards his Master of Music Performance.



Olivia

Olivia is a documentary filmmaker and is studying for a MA in Directing Documentary. She received a bursary from the Beacon EVT fund to support the purchase of a new laptop.

New bursary funds launched:

The William Harding Bursary



**William
Harding's
Charity**

Support for committed apprentices (18–30) in the Aylesbury area to help them build skills and succeed in their chosen careers.

The Kop Hill Climb Bursary



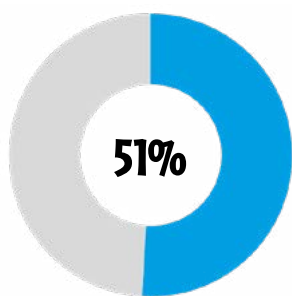
Support for students from the Kop Hill area who are studying STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects at university level or equivalent.

Report: The Vaping Generation

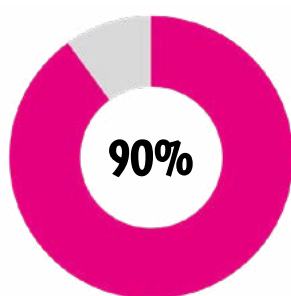
The Young Futures Board establishes its own criteria for funding. One key concern identified is the widespread use of vapes among young people in Buckinghamshire. Significant use has been observed firsthand - particularly in schools - and there is a strong sense that this issue is not being adequately addressed at a local level.

To investigate further, Heart of Bucks Community Foundation have published this Buckinghamshire: Uncovered report to help understand the nature of the issue on both a local and national level. The report highlights the available data, perspectives of some Bucks-based young people, and the views of local charity organisations working with young people.

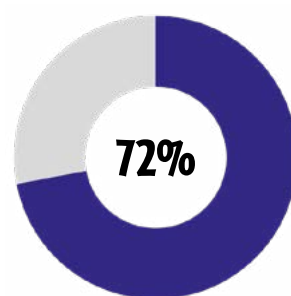
Key statistics from the report:



51% of Buckinghamshire's Year 12-13 students have at least tried vaping vs. 35% for smoking



90% of Bucks' youth charities actively engage with their service users on vaping



72% of 11-17s have been exposed to vape promotion



"Smoking is seen as old-fashioned by young people now, but vaping is cool and exciting."

- Action on Smoking and Health Survey participant

[Click here to read the report in full](#)

Buckinghamshire: Uncovered is a report series by Heart of Bucks which reveals the hidden challenges facing our county - issues often obscured by statistical averages and areas of extreme wealth. [Click here to view all of the reports in the series.](#)

Get involved



Support the fund

We welcome individuals, businesses, and organisations who share our vision to join us in investing in Buckinghamshire's next generation.

By supporting Young Futures, you can help create opportunities, inspire dreams, and transform the future of our community.



Apply for a grant

We offer funding opportunities for organisations and initiatives that positively impact young people's lives, such as youth clubs, mentoring programs, and grassroots community projects.



Apply for a bursary

Funding is also available for young individuals, providing support for educational pursuits, vocational training, entrepreneurial growth and personal development.



Spread the word!

Follow us on socials:

Instagram: @youngfuturesfund

LinkedIn: Young Futures Fund

Tell a friend or colleague:

We're always looking to expand our reach so if you know someone who could benefit from funding, please tell them about Young Futures!

For more information visit our website:

youngfuturesfund.org

Email:

Youngfutures@heartofbucks.org

Make a donation:

totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/young-futures

Acknowledgements

A heartfelt thank you to our 2025 partners for their support of the Young Futures Fund:

Heart of Bucks Community Foundation

Rothschild Foundation

SWEF

Youth Voice Bucks

The Savoy Educational Trust

Beacon EVT Bursary

William Harding's Charity

Seymour Taylor

The Young Futures Fund would also not be possible without a number of private donors who generously support the work we do.

A special thank you also goes to:

The Young Futures Board members
for their time and commitment.

All of the voluntary and community groups that
are working tirelessly to make Buckinghamshire a
better place for young people.



youngfuturesfund.org

Young Futures is a group of restricted charitable funds managed by Heart of Bucks.
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