# THE CUBE: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD ON 15th JANUARY 2026
# TRUSTEES' REPORT

2025 was a significant year for The Cube as we celebrated 20 years since the charity, **Harborough Youth and Community Trust (HYACT)** was established in June 2005. The Cube, (HYACT's working name), has come a long way in 20 years and in many ways, it is a very different charity to how it was in 2005, (as we would expect it to be), especially in the scope of its work, but with its historically rooted values remaining firmly Christian.

A year ago, at our 2025 AGM, our outgoing Chair, Dawn O' Connell highlighted some of the opportunities that had presented themselves to the charity, which during 2025 we have endeavoured to enable to become reality.

We still have a great building, and we continue to discuss how we can maximise its use to benefit the young people of Market Harborough and the staff and volunteers, for whom this building is their work base.

We have continued to build upon the partnerships, successfully established over some years with our local secondary schools, where our youth workers continue to run weekly groups, mentoring sessions and meeting young people, as well as running open access groups after school at The Cube. The provision of subsidised access to counselling went from strength to strength in 2025. Between March and December, professional counsellors delivered 678 sessions, (339 of which were in schools), to young people.

2025 has seen HYACT's Trustee Board reviewing how the charity is governed and in consultation with a solicitor the charity has updated its Articles of Association to reflect more realistically the charity it is today. The Trustee Board has been engaged for much of the year in aiming to recruit more trustees, after recognising the need for a bigger, more diverse Trustee Board, and is successfully recruiting new trustees, who bring with them skills and experience that complement the existing board. There are continuing opportunities for more, and our Trustee Recruitment Pack is available on the charity's website for anyone wanting to find out more about this important role. The charity continues to look to appoint a new Chair who will take the charity forward.

Part of this important review included a decision by the Trustee Board early in 2025 to appoint the Cranfield Trust, who provide charities like HYACT with pro-bono support, enabling them to thrive. Overseen by Adam, one of the Trust's Regional Managers, a volunteer consultant was appointed to work with us, on a feasibility study looking at the various options available. Part of the support involved us completing a 'Journey to Excellence,' which measured HYACT's progress, growth and success in four core business areas – namely, **Leadership and Strategic Direction, People Management, Financial Management and Sustainability and Performance and Impact** at the beginning and end of the project. After seven months of working with the Cranfield Trust, a personalised 'Journey to Excellence Client Report' was produced. Overall, this proved to be a positive experience, enabling the trustees to think critically and strategically about the onward direction of the charity.

Whilst we remain ever open to new opportunities, it is important to HYACT that the work we do continues to make a difference to and in the lives of local young people and that they remain at the centre of any decisions made regarding the direction of the charity. New ventures this year have been the establishing of an after school Youth Café and a Youth Forum where young people's voices are heard loudly and clearly.

As always, we thank all of you who have supported HYACT in so many imaginative ways during this last year, whether as individuals or as part of the organisations in which you have a role. As we take stock of the last year and look back over the way the charity has transitioned over the past 20 years,

we look forward to a future that continues to put young people first, enabling them to thrive in themselves, their relationships and their world. Thank you.

**TRUSTEE BOARD, HARBOROUGH YOUTH AND COMMUNITY TRUST.**
**January 2026**