

Young Somerset Board of Trustees

2026

The logo for Young Somerset is centered in the lower right quadrant. It features the text "Young Somerset" in a white, sans-serif font. The word "Young" is on the top line and "Somerset" is on the bottom line. A small white icon of a person with arms raised is positioned between the two words. The text is enclosed within a circular graphic composed of two overlapping brushstrokes: a dark blue one in the background and a lime green one in the foreground, creating a sense of motion and energy.

Young
Somerset

Helping young people in Somerset thrive

Putting Young People First

Young Somerset is the largest youth and community support charity in Somerset, providing a range of bespoke services for young people and their families.

Founded in 1997 as Somerset Rural Youth Project, we moved away from open access, universal services during the pandemic (2020), and now provide targeted support for young people which includes:

- Alternative education provision, for those struggling with mainstream education – focused on “learning by doing” with accredited outcomes
- Mental health provision as the largest NHS commissioned provider of low intensity cognitive behaviour therapy for young people in the South West in community and education settings
- An Enterprise provision, which includes a café and shop, where young people can engage in supported internships or work-based learning opportunities for their development
- Youth workers operating within health care and the community in support of statutory partners



Young Somerset Today

Since 2020, Young Somerset has moved from being primarily an open-access youth work provider to becoming a targeted, countywide organisation delivering early help, alternative education and NHS-commissioned mental health therapy and wellbeing support. That shift has enabled significant growth in both scale and reach: annual income has more than doubled from £1.74m (year end March 2021) to £3.64m (year end March 2025), underpinned by long-term contracts and strong partnerships, and strengthening our voice in local systems. The growth continues, with a projected expenditure of £4.3m for this financial year.

Our mental health provision has expanded rapidly. The Mental Health Support Team now operates in 34% of Somerset's primary and secondary schools-exceeding the national 25% coverage target - and provides whole-school support alongside direct interventions for children and young people aged 5-16. Alongside this, the Community Wellbeing Service delivers early help for mild-to-moderate needs in schools and community settings, and our Early Years team supports families of children aged 0-5.

Growth has also meant diversifying how we create opportunities. We have strengthened our Alternative Education provision for young people who struggle in mainstream settings, using practical "learning by doing" pathways. Our Bold & Brave social enterprise - shops and cafés - has created real work-based learning and is expanding into new locations across the county.

In the last year, we worked with 80 partners, received 5,000 referrals for direct work, and delivered thousands of contacts and sessions across youth support and wellbeing services. As we continue to expand our reach and deepen impact, we're seeking trustees who can help guide sustainable growth, champion quality, and keep young people at the heart of every decision. We have invested in our growth and development capacity and have bought our first building as part of a strategic move to increase our visibility across the county.

Our Trustees

How the Board makes a difference

The Board of Trustees is responsible for ensuring Young Somerset is well-governed, financially sound and always acting in the best interests of children and young people. Trustees set the overall vision and strategy, monitor performance and risks, and provide support and challenge to the Chief Executive and leadership team.

The trustees of Young Somerset play a vital role in ensuring the charity achieves its core purpose of improving the lives of children and young people across the county.

Trustees oversee the overall management and administration of the organisation, ensure that Young Somerset has a clear strategy, and verify that its work and goals align with its vision and mission.

Equally importantly, they provide support and constructive challenge to the executive team, enabling Young Somerset to grow and thrive.

Board members share a collective responsibility, meaning trustees act as a group rather than as individuals when making decisions.



Current Vacancies

The logo for Young Somerset, featuring the text "Young Somerset" in white, with a small house icon above the word "Somerset". The text is enclosed within a circular graphic composed of several overlapping, semi-transparent rings in shades of blue and green.

Young
Somerset

Young Somerset is currently looking for three new trustees; one with legal expertise, one with commercial expertise and one with human resources expertise.

- **Legal expertise** – someone with a broad legal experience to assist the board and SLT in all legal matters.
- **Commercial or business experience** – someone with a background in business planning, development and growth and will assist the board and SLT in developing the charity's commercial activities.
- **Human Resources** – someone with experience of strategic HR leadership and will assist the board and SLT in personnel matters

Personal skills and qualities

- Willingness and ability to understand and accept trustee responsibilities and liabilities, and to act in the best interests of Young Somerset.
- Ability to think creatively and strategically, exercise sound independent judgement and work effectively as a Board member.
- Strong communication skills and willingness to participate actively in discussion.
- A genuine commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion.
- Enthusiasm for Young Somerset's vision and mission.
- Willingness to lead in line with Young Somerset's values.
- Commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion

Could this be you?

Please contact Young Somerset's Chair, David Elstone, on:
DavidElstone@youngsomerset.org.uk

What being a Young Somerset trustee involves

Trustees are charity governors and company directors, with the legal duties set out in charity and company law. At Young Somerset this means:

- Attending Board meetings (and occasional away days) and preparing by reading papers in advance.
- Helping shape strategy, plans and budgets, and monitoring performance and risk.
- Ensuring safeguarding, equality, diversity and inclusion are at the heart of decisions.
- Acting as a “critical friend” to the leadership team, offering both support and constructive challenge.
- Using personal skills and networks to strengthen Young Somerset’s work and profile.
- Acting as an ambassador for Young Somerset, both internally and externally.

Terms of office

- Trustees are appointed for a three year term of office, which can be renewed for up to three further terms to a maximum of 12 years
- This is a voluntary position

Time commitment - Annually

- Attend four Board meetings
- Attend one strategy day
- Attend four sub-committee meetings

There are opportunities for board member to be involved in activities beyond the board meeting cycle, e.g. recruitment, staff away-days, events etc

Apply Now

If you are interested in becoming a trustee, please send your CV and a covering letter to Young Somerset's Chair, David Elstone (email details below). If you would like an informal chat or further information, please also email David.

**DavidElstone@youngsomerset.org.uk or visit
youngsomerset.org.uk**

We will be holding an Open Evening at Young Somerset's new headquarters: 3 Chartfield House, Castle Street, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4AS on **Thursday 21st May at 7:00pm.**

Closing date for applications: 29th May at midday



Young Somerset



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@youngsomerset

www.youngsomerset.org.uk



Help young people in Somerset thrive