



Young Minds Strategy

2025 – 2029

"Education has no boundaries"



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1. Introduction

At Young Minders – The Home Education Hub, we are committed to fostering an inclusive, empowering, and safe environment where young people, particularly those from underrepresented communities, SEND students, and neurodiverse learners, can thrive. Since our founding in 2019 and official registration in 2023, we have positively impacted over 500 families by providing tailored educational programs, well-being support, and community-driven initiatives.

Our vision for the next five years, from 2025 to 2029, is to expand our impact, creating a vibrant, forest-led Youth Hub that serves as a dynamic space for home-educated teens, especially those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), including autism.

Our mission is rooted in the belief that every young person deserves access to high-quality, inclusive education, and mental health support. We aim to break down the barriers to education and mental well-being by offering a nurturing space where youth can engage in creative, experiential learning, away from the constraints of traditional education systems.

Our holistic approach integrates both educational and mental health support, addressing the unique emotional and psychological challenges that SEND teens often face. We provide the tools and resources to help them build resilience, develop life skills, and gain the confidence they need to thrive in society. In alignment with our vision and mission, this strategic plan outlines our priorities and objectives for sustainable growth and impact.

We are driven by a deep commitment to inclusivity, community, empowerment, and mental well-being. By ensuring that our services are accessible and remain available at little or no cost, we empower young people from all backgrounds to explore their interests, enhance their skills, and build meaningful social connections. Our work focuses on creating a supportive, community-driven environment where young people, their families, and local organisations come together to reduce isolation, enhance mental well-being, and foster a sense of belonging.



2. About Us

Young Minders - The Home Education Hub is a community-driven charitable organisation that nurtures the strengths, talents, and aspirations of young people aged 11 to 18, with a particular focus on those with autism and other Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Founded in 2019 as a grassroots initiative, our mission has always been to create a supportive and enriching environment where home-educated teens can thrive socially, emotionally, and academically. Through weekly meetups, we provide opportunities for growth, fostering confidence, friendship, and well-being in a space where young people feel valued and empowered.

In 2020, when we lost access to our physical space, our community demonstrated resilience and determination, underscoring the deep need for continued connection and support. Understanding the importance of these spaces for the well-being and development of SEND youth, we worked collaboratively to rebuild and strengthen our services. By 2022, we had formalised our efforts, and in December 2023, we proudly achieved charitable status—a testament to the power and dedication of our community.

This milestone has enabled us to expand our reach, deepening our commitment to providing enriching educational experiences, fostering well-being, and ensuring every young person has the opportunity to flourish in an environment that celebrates their strengths and potential.



3. Our Mission, Vision and Goals

Mission

To create an inclusive and empowering hub for home-educated youth, particularly those with SEND and autism, offering tailored educational programs and mental health support to help them thrive socially, emotionally, and academically.

Vision

To build a dynamic, forest-led Youth Hub that provides a safe, nurturing space for home-educated teens to engage in creative, nature-based learning, promoting well-being, community, and independence.

Empowerment through Education and Mental Health Support

Equip SEND youth with the skills and emotional tools to thrive in society.

Community Building

Foster connections among teens, families, and local organisations to reduce isolation and enhance well-being.

Inclusivity and Accessibility

Ensure every young person, regardless of background or ability, has access to our programmes.

Family Support

Provide tailored advice, resources, and mental health support for families of SEND teens.

Nature-Centric Learning

Use nature-based education to enhance life skills and mental health

For more information about our work and how we are making a difference, visit our website: <http://www.youngminders.org>.



4. Our Core Values

Inclusivity

We ensure every child, regardless of background or abilities, has the opportunity to succeed, with tailored programmes that meet the needs of SEND and home-educated children.



Integrity

We operate transparently, ensuring the safe and responsible handling of all personal data in compliance with GDPR and ICO regulations.

Collaboration

By working with local organisations, volunteers, and families, we strengthen our community and amplify our impact.



Empowerment

We support families and children in navigating home education, offering the resources and tools to help them grow, reduce isolation, and thrive.

Innovation

We embrace creativity, continuously adapting our programs to keep learning engaging, relevant, and fun for every child.



5. Governance and Leadership

At Young Minders, we are committed to maintaining robust governance structures to ensure transparency, accountability, and effective delivery of our mission.

5.1 Governance structure

Young Minders operates as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with a foundation model, officially registered on 15 December 2023. Our governance structure includes a Board of Trustees responsible for strategic oversight and ensuring that our activities align with our charitable objectives. The Board meets regularly to review our programmes, financial performance, and compliance with regulatory requirements.

5.2 Accountability and Compliance

We adhere to the highest standards of accountability and compliance. Our financial activities are transparent, with annual reports and financial statements submitted to the Charity Commission in a timely manner. For the financial period ending 31 October 2024, we reported a total gross income of £33,360 and total expenditure of £24,810.

We are committed to safeguarding personal data and comply fully with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Our registration with the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) reflects our dedication to responsible data management.

5.3 Advisory Roles & Partners

Advisory Roles and Partnerships Collaboration is central to our approach. We partner with local organisations, volunteers, and experts to enhance our programmes and services.

These partnerships enable us to address the diverse needs of our community effectively. Additionally, we engage advisors with expertise in education, mental health, and community development to inform our strategies and ensure that our initiatives are evidence-based and impactful.



5.4 Board of Trustees

- Elizabeth Njenga - Chair
- Shernette May - Treasurer
- Maxwell Awudzah – Fundraising

For more detailed information about our governance practices and partnerships, please visit our website at www.youngminders.org.



6. Our Team

At Young Minders, our dedicated staff and volunteers play a crucial role in delivering our mission. Our team consists of passionate educators, mentors, and support staff who work closely with families to provide engaging learning experiences, mental health support, and community-building activities.

Our volunteers support our programs, events, and outreach efforts, helping us make a lasting impact. Meanwhile, our staff team ensures the smooth operation of our initiatives, from program coordination to finance and marketing.

6.1 Team Values and Culture

At Young Minders, our team is guided by a shared commitment of:

- **Collaboration** – We work together to create meaningful learning experiences and foster strong community connections.
- **Inclusivity** – Every team member, volunteer, and family we serve is valued and supported.
- **Empowerment** – We encourage creativity, leadership, and personal growth in both our young learners and our team.
- **Passion for Impact** – We believe in making a real difference, providing opportunities for children to thrive in education and beyond.

Our team culture is one of support, innovation, and dedication. We celebrate the successes of every child and family we work with, and we are always looking for new ways to grow and improve.

6.2 Volunteering and How to Get Involved

Volunteers are at the heart of what we do. They support our programmes, events, and outreach efforts, helping us expand our impact in the home education community. Whether you're passionate about education, mental health advocacy, or community engagement, there's a place for you at Young Minders.



6.2.1 Ways you can Get Involved

- Assist in delivering workshops and activities
- Support families through peer mentoring and guidance
- Help with event planning and coordination
- Contribute skills in marketing, fundraising, or administration

You can find out more about joining our team by visiting our website at www.youngminders.org.



7. The Growing Need for Support

The landscape of home education in the UK is rapidly evolving, with a significant increase in the number of families choosing to educate their children outside of mainstream schools.

According to the Department for Education, the number of home-educated children in England has surged from 126,100 in 2022/23 to 153,300 in 2023/24, reflecting a growing demand for alternative education pathways.

This increase is driven by multiple factors, including concerns over mental health, inadequate SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) provision, and a lack of flexibility within the traditional school system.

Many families are seeking more personalised learning environments where their children can thrive, yet they often face challenges such as isolation, limited access to structured educational resources, and gaps in social and emotional development support.



At Young Minders, we are committed to addressing these challenges by creating inclusive, empowering, and community-driven learning opportunities.

Since our formal registration as a charity in December 2023, we have already:

- **Supported over 100 home-educating families in our community**, providing tailored educational resources, social meet-ups, and mental health support.
- **Facilitated weekly teen sessions**, with an average of 25 young people per meet-up, offering them a safe and supportive space to learn, connect, and develop essential life skills.

- **Delivered specialised programmes**, including skills-building workshops, social events, and SEND-focused support, designed to enhance both academic and emotional well-being.
- **Partnered with local organisations and education providers**, ensuring home-educated children have access to diverse learning opportunities beyond the traditional classroom.



8. Strategy Priorities 2025 – 2029

To achieve our mission, Young Minders has identified key strategic priorities that will guide our work from 2025 to 2029. These priorities ensure that we continue to support home-educated children, particularly those with SEND, while expanding our reach and impact. Our focus remains on fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for both the children and families we serve.

8.1 Enhancing Support for Home-Educating Families

We will continue to provide resources, mentorship, and practical support to families navigating home education, with a particular focus on those facing challenges related to mental health and well-being. This includes expanding our Holistic Support Programme for thriving Home-Educating Families, providing regular workshops, and offering personal development opportunities for parents and carers.

8.2 Expanding Access to Specialised Educational Services

We aim to build upon our partnerships with local organisations and experts to offer specialised programmes for children with SEND. This will include adapting learning environments, training more educators, and providing tailored resources that meet the diverse needs of these students.

8.3 Growing Community Engagement and Partnerships

By cultivating new and strengthening existing partnerships, Young Minders will broaden its impact. Collaborating with local schools, businesses, charities, and community organisations will help us reach more families, offer new opportunities, and strengthen our collective capacity to support young people's education and well-being. Additionally, we aim to support and collaborate with other small grassroots home-education led organisations to foster a united network of support, sharing resources, ideas, and strategies for mutual benefit.

8.4 Promoting Diversity, Inclusion, and Representation

We are committed to ensuring that all children, regardless of background, have access to the educational support and resources they deserve. Over the next five years, we will actively work to foster a culture of inclusivity, ensuring our programmes and activities are accessible to families from diverse backgrounds and those facing specific challenges, including autism, mental health issues, and economic disadvantage.

8.5 Developing Sustainable Funding Models

To support our growing services, we will focus on securing sustainable funding through grant applications, fundraising campaigns, and corporate partnerships. This will ensure we can continue providing high-quality programs and services for the children and families who need them most.

8.6 Promoting Diversity, Inclusion, and Representation

We are committed to ensuring that all children, regardless of background, have access to the educational support and resources they deserve. Over the next five years, we will actively work to foster a culture of inclusivity, ensuring our programmes and activities are accessible to families from diverse backgrounds and those facing specific challenges, including autism, mental health issues, and economic disadvantage.



9. Focus on Home-Educating Families

At Young Minders, we are deeply committed to ensuring that our support and programs are focused on the needs of home-educating families, particularly those with children who have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Below are the key strategies we've implemented to effectively target and serve these families while expanding our impact.

9.1 Tailored Programmes and Services

9.1.1 Needs Assessments

We regularly conduct surveys and interviews with home-educating families to understand their specific challenges and needs. This enables us to design programs that are directly relevant and responsive to their experiences.

9.1.2 Customisable Support

Our resources, workshops, and mentorship programmes are designed to be flexible and adaptable, allowing us to support the diverse learning styles and needs of home-educated children, especially those with SEND.

9.2 Targeted Support for SEND

9.2.1 Specialised Resources

We provide specialised educational resources, social-emotional support materials, and skill development opportunities tailored to the needs of children with SEND. These resources are flexible and individualised to meet their unique learning requirements.

9.2.2 Staff Training

Our team undergoes regular training to understand the unique needs of SEND students within a home education context. This ensures that our staff can offer appropriate guidance, support, and tailored programming for SEND children.

9.3 Clear Outreach and Communication Channels

9.3.1 Direct Outreach

We maintain clear communication with home-educating families via email newsletters, social media groups, and a dedicated helpline. This helps families stay informed about our programs, access resources, and reach out for personalised support.

9.3.2 Collaborations with Local Networks

We partner with home education groups, online forums, and community organisations to ensure we are connecting with families who are actively engaged in home education, particularly those in marginalised or underserved communities.

9.4 Monitoring and Feedback Mechanisms

9.4.1 Continuous Feedback

We conduct regular check-ins with families to assess the effectiveness of our programs. This feedback loop allows us to continuously improve our services and ensures that we are meeting the evolving needs of the families we support.

9.4.2 Impact Evaluation

We track the progress of home-educated children, including those with SEND, through assessments, surveys, and observations. This data helps us refine and enhance our programs, ensuring that we are delivering measurable impact.

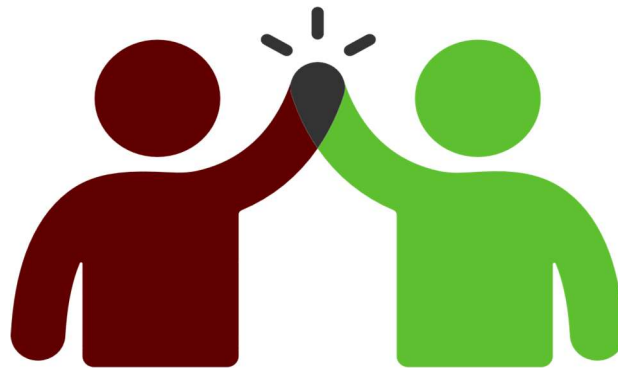
10. Inclusive, Diverse Representation

10.1 Inclusive Programme Design

Our programmes are intentionally designed to reflect the diversity within the home-education community. We recognise the unique challenges faced by home-educating families with SEND, those from diverse cultural backgrounds, and those experiencing economic challenges.

10.2 Representation in Outreach

We share stories, testimonials, and case studies of families, particularly those with SEND, to ensure that every family feels seen and heard. This helps build trust and encourages engagement within our community.



11. Building a Strong Support Network

11.1 Partnerships with Other Home Education Organisations

We collaborate with other grassroots organisations supporting home-educating families, particularly those focused on SEND children. These partnerships create a broad support network, offering families additional resources and connections.

11.2 Mentoring and Peer Support

We offer mentoring programs that connect more experienced home-educating families with those who are newer to the journey, especially those with SEND students. This peer-led support fosters a sense of community and encourages shared learning.

By continuously focusing on these strategies, Young Minders ensures that we are meeting the specific needs of home-educating families, particularly those with SEND, while expanding our reach and making a lasting impact.



12. Expanding Our Reach and Strengthening Partnerships

As home education continues to grow, so does the need for stronger support networks and collaboration within the home-educating community. Over the next four years, our focus is on scaling our impact, supporting other home-educating organisations, and building strong, lasting partnerships to ensure that families have access to diverse, high-quality resources. Our key areas of development include:

- **Collaborating with home education organisations and community groups** – By working together, we can enhance support systems, share best practices, and create a more connected and resourceful home education network.
- **Expanding our Try Sports, Mental Health & Well-being Sessions** – Physical and emotional well-being is crucial for young people. We aim to provide more structured sports activities and mental well-being programs to help home-educated children develop resilience, confidence, and a healthy lifestyle.
- **Enhancing our CREST Award Science Sessions** – We are committed to expanding our STEM-focused initiatives, allowing more home-educated children to engage in hands-on, inquiry-based science and engineering experiences.
- **Developing a Nature-Led Learning Hub** – We are actively working on securing funding to create a forest-inspired, outdoor learning hub, designed specifically for home-educated teens. This space will provide opportunities for experiential learning, creativity, and social interaction in a natural setting.
- **Building Stronger Partnerships with Educational and Corporate Organisations** – By forging new partnerships, we aim to create sustainable funding streams, offer more enriching programs, and provide greater opportunities for home-educated young people to connect with the wider world.

Our vision is to ensure that every home-educated child, regardless of background or ability, has access to the resources, experiences, and support they need to thrive. By growing our network, collaborating with like-minded organisations, and strengthening our programs, we can continue shaping a more inclusive, supportive, and dynamic home education landscape.



13. Measuring Impact and Future Growth

13.1 Key Metrics and Evaluation

13.1.1 Engagement Metrics

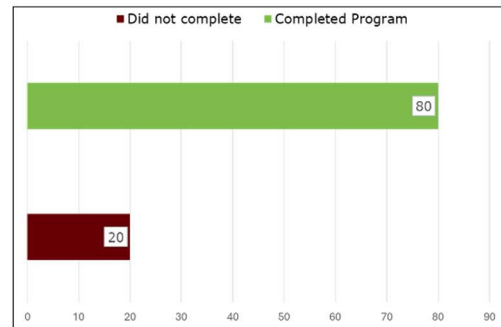
Participant Reach: Over 500 families engaged through educational events, workshops, and community outreach.

Demographics of Participants: 65% of participants are from the Black Asian Minority Ethnic BAME backgrounds, with strong representation from neurodiverse communities.

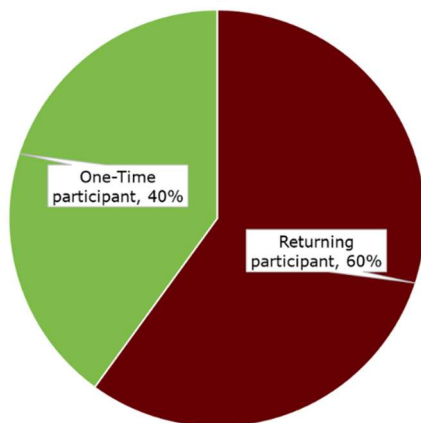
Programme Completion Rate: 80% completion rate in our 12-week STEAM initiative in 2023.

Volunteer Participation: Over 200 volunteer hours contributed.

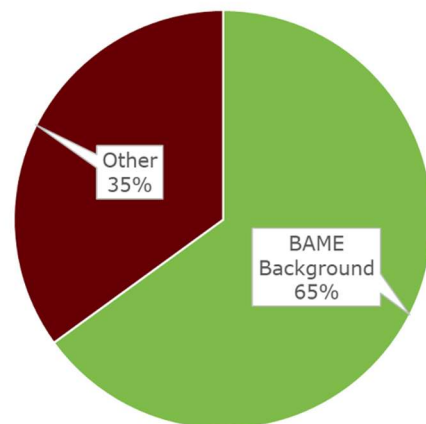
Programme Completion Rate



Participation



Participant Demographics



Behavioural Changes	Skill Development and Learning Outcomes	Community and Social Impact
• <i>Long-Term Impact Surveys</i> - 60% of families who attended mental health workshops continued attending Young Minders events for further support. • <i>Follow-Up Engagement</i> - Re-engagement metrics suggest strong retention.	• <i>Pre- and Post-Assessment Results</i> - 70% of participants in STEAM programmes reported increased confidence in science-based learning. • <i>Progress Tracking</i> - Individual progress tracked via assessments, quizzes, and portfolios. • <i>Participant Feedback on Learning</i> - 85% of families in the Holistic Support Programme reported reduced anxiety and increased well-being.	• <i>Community Engagement Metrics</i> - Partnership with Croydon Rugby CRFC enabled 30+ home-educated children to access sports and well-being sessions. • <i>Community Satisfaction</i> - Positive feedback from events such as 'Pumpkin Magic,' supported by in-kind donations like pumpkins. • <i>Financial and Resource Contributions</i> - Contributions from local businesses and donations.

14. Roadmap to Increasing Impact (2025-2029)

14.1 Expanding Participant Reach

Goal	• Increase the number of families engaged in our programs by 50% (from 500 to 750).
Action Plan	• Increase outreach to new communities through partnerships with local schools and other grassroots organisations. • Develop a targeted digital marketing campaign to increase awareness. • Expand the volunteer network to include more community members.
Metric	• Track number of new families engaged monthly, targeting a steady growth trajectory.

14.2 Fostering Skill Development

Goal	• Ensure 80% of participants report increased confidence in their learning and skills.
Action Plan	• Develop more personalised learning experiences for participants based on their individual needs. • Use pre- and post-programme assessments to identify skill gaps and adjust the curriculum accordingly.
Metric	• Use surveys, quizzes, pre- post evaluation forms to measure skill development and participant self-reports on confidence levels.

14.3 Enhancing Programme Completion and Retention

Goal	• Increase programme completion rates to 90%.
Action Plan	• Provide additional support mechanisms such as peer mentoring or check-ins to encourage retention. • Introduce flexible scheduling or online participation options for families with varying needs.
Metric	• Track programme completion rates and participant feedback to identify areas for improvement.



14.4 Deepening Community and Social Impact

Goal	• Increase partnerships by 25%, including more local businesses and organisations.
Action Plan	• Foster partnerships that allow families to access services (e.g., sports, mental health support, educational resources). • Engage in corporate sponsorships to secure resources for the Holistic Support Programme and other initiatives.
Metric	• Track the number of new partnerships formed and the resources they contribute (e.g., donations, event support).

15. Evaluation and Metrics Dashboard

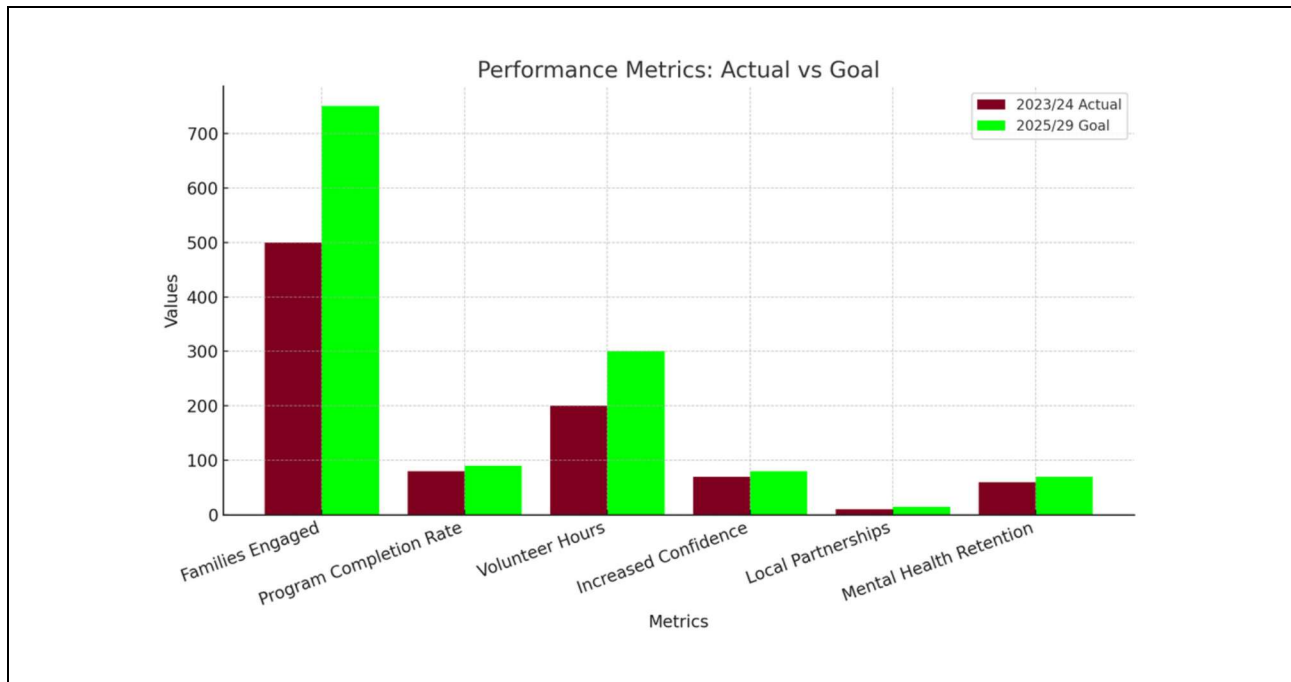
15.1 Future Goals for 2025-2029

Engagement Metrics	Behavioural Changes
• <i>Participant Reach Goal</i> - Increase engagement to 750 families. • <i>Programme Completion Rate Goal</i> - Increase completion rate to 90%. • <i>Volunteer Participation Goal</i> - Increase volunteer hours to 300 hours.	• <i>Long-Term Impact Surveys Goal</i> - Increase the percentage of families continuing support to 70%.

Skills Development and Learning Outcomes	Community and Social Impact
• <i>Pre- and Post-Assessment Results Goal</i> - Ensure 80% of participants report increased confidence in their learning.	• <i>Community Engagement Goal</i> - Increase partnerships with local organisations to 15. • <i>Resource Contributions Goal</i> - Secure additional in-kind donations to support events.

15.2 Performance Metrics

(2023/24 - 2025/29) The bar chart illustrates key performance metrics comparing the actual results from 2023/24 against the targets set for 2025/29. Each metric represents a crucial aspect of the program's impact, including family engagement, volunteer contributions, programme completion rates, and participant confidence. The burgundy bars represent the 2023/24 actual performance, while the bright green bars indicate the 2025/29 goals.

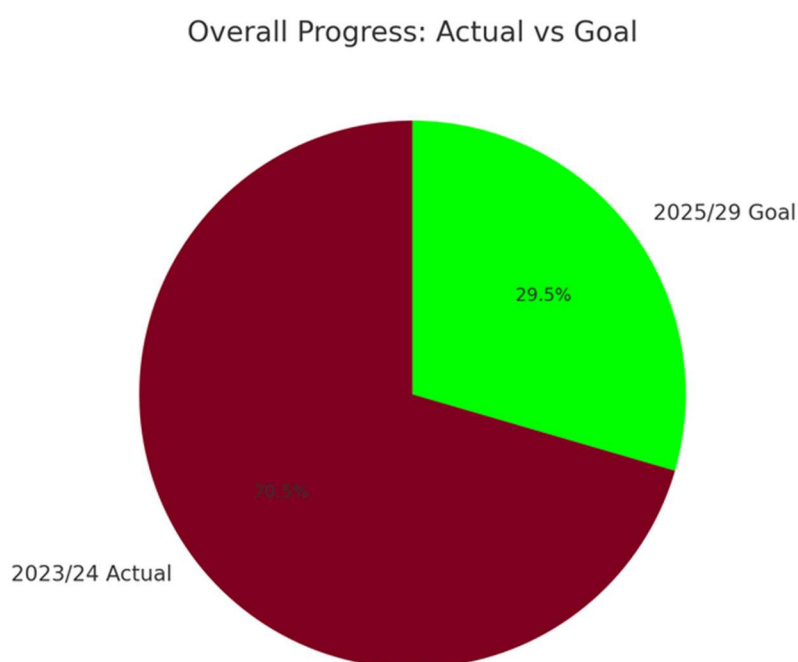


Key insights from the data

- Aiming to increase families engaged from 500 to 750.
- Improving programme completion rates from 80% to 90%.
- Expanding volunteer contributions from 200 to 300 hours.
- Enhancing participants' confidence levels from 70% to 80%.
- Strengthening partnerships with local organisations from 10 to 15.
- Increasing mental health programme retention from 60% to 70%.

15.3 Overall Progress

The pie chart provides a visual representation of the overall progress towards the 2025/29 goals. It shows the proportion of achievements made in 2023/24 (burgundy) versus the additional progress needed to meet the 2025/29 targets (bright green). This breakdown highlights the need for continued efforts in programme engagement, partnerships, and retention rates to fully achieve the organisations long-term vision.



16. Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) Commitment

As part of our long-term vision, Young Minders is committed to operating in an environmentally responsible, socially inclusive, and ethically governed manner. Our ESG goals for the next five years include:

Environmental: Minimising waste in our events and programmes, exploring green office practices, and educating children on sustainability.

Social: Ensuring equal access to our programmes for all families, particularly those in marginalised communities, and fostering a supportive, inclusive learning environment for SEND children.

Governance: Maintaining transparent governance practices, ensuring ethical fundraising and programme delivery, and aligning our efforts with best practices in nonprofit management.



17. Our Partners

17.1 Acknowledging our Supporters and Collaborators

We are deeply grateful for the support and collaboration of various organisations, businesses, and community groups that help us deliver enriching educational experiences and vital resources for home-educating families.

Our collaboration with [Hubbub](#) for the Pumpkin Magic Halloween event has been invaluable. Their support through the **#EatYourPumpkin** campaign has allowed us to bring together families and community members in a fun and meaningful way, promoting sustainability and community engagement.

We are also thrilled to partner with the [British Science Association](#), who are helping us create opportunities for home-educated children and families to engage in hands-on STEAM activities. Their partnership ensures that we can deliver inspiring workshops and talks that promote creativity and innovation.

Additionally, our ongoing collaboration with [Croydon Rugby](#) has been a fantastic opportunity for home-educated children. By offering weekly rugby sessions, we aim to promote physical health, teamwork, and social development in a supportive and inclusive environment.

We are also fortunate to work with [Sisters Three SW9](#), who provide soap-making workshops for both children and parents. These mindful sessions not only offer hands-on skills but also encourage relaxation and creativity, benefiting families in a unique and holistic way.

Finally, a special thank you goes out to our funders. Without their generous support, we would not be able to create the positive change we are striving for. Their commitment to our mission enables us to continue our work in improving the lives of the families we serve.

Together with these wonderful partners, we are creating lasting impact and fostering a sense of community, empowerment, and growth.

18. Testimonials and Stories

“

Thank you so much for today, what a fantastic initiative! It exceeded all of our expectations! So glad the rain predicted held off for most of the day too.

”

“

A wonderful experience overall. My child enjoyed the slime and airplane activities, and I appreciated the variety of hands-on projects. I'd love to know more about similar future events

”

“

The event was well-organised, and we felt very welcomed. My children really enjoyed the hands-on activities, especially the slime-making. Thank you for such a wonderful experience

”

“

Thank you, Young Minders, for allowing us to have such an amazing experience! My family and I thoroughly enjoyed every moment.

”

“

The activities were excellent and kept my child's attention all day. The setup was very family-friendly, and it was exciting to see my child so curious and interested in science and engineering.

”

“

I can't express how grateful I am for the support we've received. Each session we attend leaves us feeling inspired and better equipped to handle the challenges of home education

”



19. Conclusion – Looking Ahead

As we reflect on our journey at Young Minders, we are proud of the progress we've made and the lives we've impacted. Our mission remains clear – to create an inclusive and empowering environment for home-educated children, especially those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and to foster a sense of community, belonging, and personal well-being. With our eyes firmly set on the future, we are more committed than ever to realising our vision of a vibrant, dynamic, and forest-led youth hub that supports young people in their educational and personal growth.

Our strategic priorities for the next five years are built on a foundation of inclusivity, mental health support, and nature-based learning. We are confident that by focusing on these priorities, we can continue to expand our reach and deepen our impact. With the support of our dedicated volunteers, passionate staff, and the invaluable partnerships we've built, we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead. Together, we will break down barriers to education and mental health care, ensuring that every child has the tools to succeed – regardless of their background or abilities.

We are incredibly grateful for the hard work and dedication of our volunteers and staff, whose unwavering commitment drives the success of our programs. Their passion for making a difference is what truly sets Young Minders apart. Our partners, too, have been instrumental in helping us create a stronger, more connected community, and we look forward to continuing to work with them to achieve our shared goals.

As we move forward, we are inspired by the progress we've made so far, and the positive changes we have seen in the lives of those we support. However, we know there is still much work to be done. The needs of our community are constantly evolving, and we are committed to adapting our approach to ensure we remain responsive to the unique challenges faced by home-educating families, especially those navigating SEND and mental health challenges.

Looking to the future, we are excited by the possibilities and confident in our ability to make an even greater impact. We invite all our stakeholders – from families and volunteers to partners and supporters – to continue this journey



with us. Together, we can empower the next generation of home-educated young people, helping them develop the confidence, skills, and resilience they need to succeed as independent, responsible, and socially engaged individuals. Thank you for your continued trust and support. We look forward to creating a brighter, more inclusive future, one child at a time.



contact@youngminders.org



www.youngminders.org



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