



SOCIAL IMPACT REPORT 2017/18



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2017/18 Tall Ships Impact Report. I am delighted to report another exciting year for the trust in which we have empowered and enabled over 1,200 young people through our ocean-going sail training experiences.

This is the Tall Ships Youth Trust's first Social Impact Report. It demonstrates the various ways that our voyages help to reverse decline in young people's welfare, improve their engagement and educational performance, and bridge the gap between academic skills and work place skills.

The report is self-explanatory, and I hope has an impact on you! In austere times, with increasing demand for our services, we need supporters, partners, and donors, like never before. If you are inspired to help us, please contact us on [02392 832055](tel:02392832055), at info@tallships.org or by writing to us at:

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I look forward to hearing from you!

Richard

Richard Leaman-Grey CB OBE
Chief Executive Officer



OUR VISION

A society where all young people have the opportunity to fulfil their life potential

OUR MISSION

To enable young people to fulfil their life potential through experiences at sea, and by breaking down the barriers they face in society

OUR VALUES

Inclusion

Adventure

Excellence

“Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, Dream, Discover.”

This famous saying by Mark Twain always comes to mind when we think about the work of the Tall Ships Youth Trust, our social impact and our ability to measure and demonstrate the value of our work to the outside world.



WHO WE SUPPORT

The Tall Ships Youth Trust operates nationally, providing voyages which offer young people aged 12-25 years the chance to develop life skills, build self-esteem, embrace a healthier more active lifestyle and get involved in volunteering. The skills that they develop play a pivotal role in how they navigate the challenges of adolescence, early adulthood and employment: helping them to flourish and thrive in many different ways throughout their lives.

The majority of the young people who sail with the Trust are aged 12 -15 and access our residential voyages through schools, uniformed youth groups, dedicated youth work projects and independently. We also provide opportunities for individuals to join transatlantic voyages and sail much further afield.

We have provided bursaries for 78% of our participants – ensuring that we are inclusive, not exclusive

Over the last 60 years, 117,000 trainees have sailed more than 2 million nautical miles with us

1,200

young people sailed with us in 2017/18

83%

of the young people sailing with us were disadvantaged

**We work with 2,500 volunteers nationally on shore and at sea
Over 37,400 volunteer hours have been donated to the Trust**

THE CHALLENGES YOUNG PEOPLE FACE

A troubled adolescence can have significant and lasting consequences for the life chances, earnings and health of a young person. Throughout their early teens, young people can become less confident and less resilient than when they were children; in those cases their well-being declines and during periods of transition when they can lose confidence in their abilities, experience anxiety, and disengage with learning. Low well-being is known to predict a wide range of negative outcomes later in life.

- Evidence shows that young people aged 12-25 years have the highest incidence and prevalence of mental illness.

(Youth mental health: appropriate service response to emerging evidence, 2013)

- 18.8% of pupils in England did not achieve 5 A* to C grades at GCSE.

(Department for Education, 2017)

When young people enter into employment, many find that they are unprepared for the demands of working life, and employers report significant gaps in their skills. Those who find themselves not in education, employment or training (NEET) face multiple barriers to re-entry and the stigma of being NEET can be hard to recover from.

- 11.5% of young people (808,000) aged 12 - 24 are NEET in the UK

(Office for National Statistics, 2018)

These issues are even more prominent for young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Studies have shown that deprivation has profound effects on health and emotional well-being and researchers describe “an aspiration-attainment gap” for young people from underprivileged backgrounds, who have high aspirations that they do not achieve.

- Pupils eligible for free school meals perform less well in school than their peers, are less likely to continue into education, employment or training at age 16, and are therefore more likely to be categorised as NEET.

(Department for Education, 2018)

Nearly 4 million children are living in poverty in the UK and there is a clear link between childhood poverty and reduced employment opportunities. The costs to society are significant: it has been estimated that an individual who becomes NEET between the ages of 16 and 18 costs the state an additional £56,000 over the course of their lifetime, and poor mental health costs the economy an estimated £26.1 billion a year, due to the thousands of people unable to work due to mental illness. (Joseph Rowntree Foundation)

According to the Children’s Commissioner for England, there are 3.7m young people living in poverty in the UK, and 800,000 young people who are NEET. If we fail to fight their corner, yet another generation of disadvantaged and disabled young people will find themselves adrift, with no prospect of fulfilling their true potential in life. When these young people get the right support, and they believe in themselves, they get jobs and lead fulfilled lives. We want to play a crucial role in that transformation.

Tall Ships Solution: Empowering young people to make their own choices

Tall Ships believes that developing skills and behaviours in young people will lay the foundation for positive attitudes and behaviours throughout adolescence and into adulthood. By focusing on processes that enable participation, enhance control through shared decision making and create opportunities to learn, practice, and develop skills, responsibilities, and confidence necessary to become productive and healthy adults. The residential sailing experience use adventure on the ocean to expose young people to new and challenging experiences and at the same time equip them with the skills they need to face them head on and overcome them. Studies have shown that social and emotional skills developed in childhood help to predict many outcomes later in life, from mental and physical health to educational achievement and job prospects.

By evaluating our work with young people and analysing the feedback we receive from third-party youth groups, we have found that young people become more confident and resilient individuals, able to interact more positively with others and work more effectively to achieve their goals, not just in the short term but in the months and years that follow.

HOW WE WORK

The Tall Ships Youth Trust provides residential voyages which enable young people to develop invaluable social and emotional skills which play a vital role in the challenges of adolescence and transition to adulthood. The skills that young people develop help them prosper in many different ways throughout their lives. Tall Ships Youth Trust has an excellent reputation amongst educational professionals and youth workers alike.

The Trust achieves these outcomes by breaking the pattern of conventional behaviour and encouraging team participation and interaction under challenging and sometimes arduous conditions. During their voyage, young people will learn how to work as part of a team and will also develop leadership and decision-making skills too.

The research that has been done into the lasting impact of sail training indicates that aspects of the experience such as the quality of their relationship with their Skipper, Mates and Watch Leaders, the experience of being challenged and the support they receive from their teachers, youth workers or youth mentors after their voyages are crucial drivers of impact. These findings are echoed in other independent studies, and this critical information will help us to better design our courses for impact in the future.

So, in the coming years, we intend to evolve our evaluation methodology even further to understand the optimal conditions for impact. We hope to work more closely alongside research institutions and plan to continue with our lasting impact research to investigate some of the many factors that both enhance and inhibit change, so that at every stage of our work with young people, we are creating experiences that challenge, inspire and transform them – permanently.



THE OUTCOME OF A 2 YEAR
PROJECT FOR UNEMPLOYED
YOUNG PEOPLE SAW

95%
OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE GOING
INTO EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION
OR TRAINING WITHIN 6
MONTHS.



AS A RESULT OF THEIR VOYAGE
THE YOUNG PEOPLE TELL US

95% Now have better team working skills

93% Are now able to manage their feelings better

91% improved their communication skills

89% Increased their confidence and self-esteem

88% improved their problem solving skills

99% Enjoyed the voyage and had fun!

THE SKILLS YOUNG PEOPLE LEARN ON BOARD HELP THEM TO FLOURISH THROUGHOUT LIFE AND OFTEN LEAD TO FURTHER EDUCATION, APPRENTICESHIPS AND EMPLOYMENT

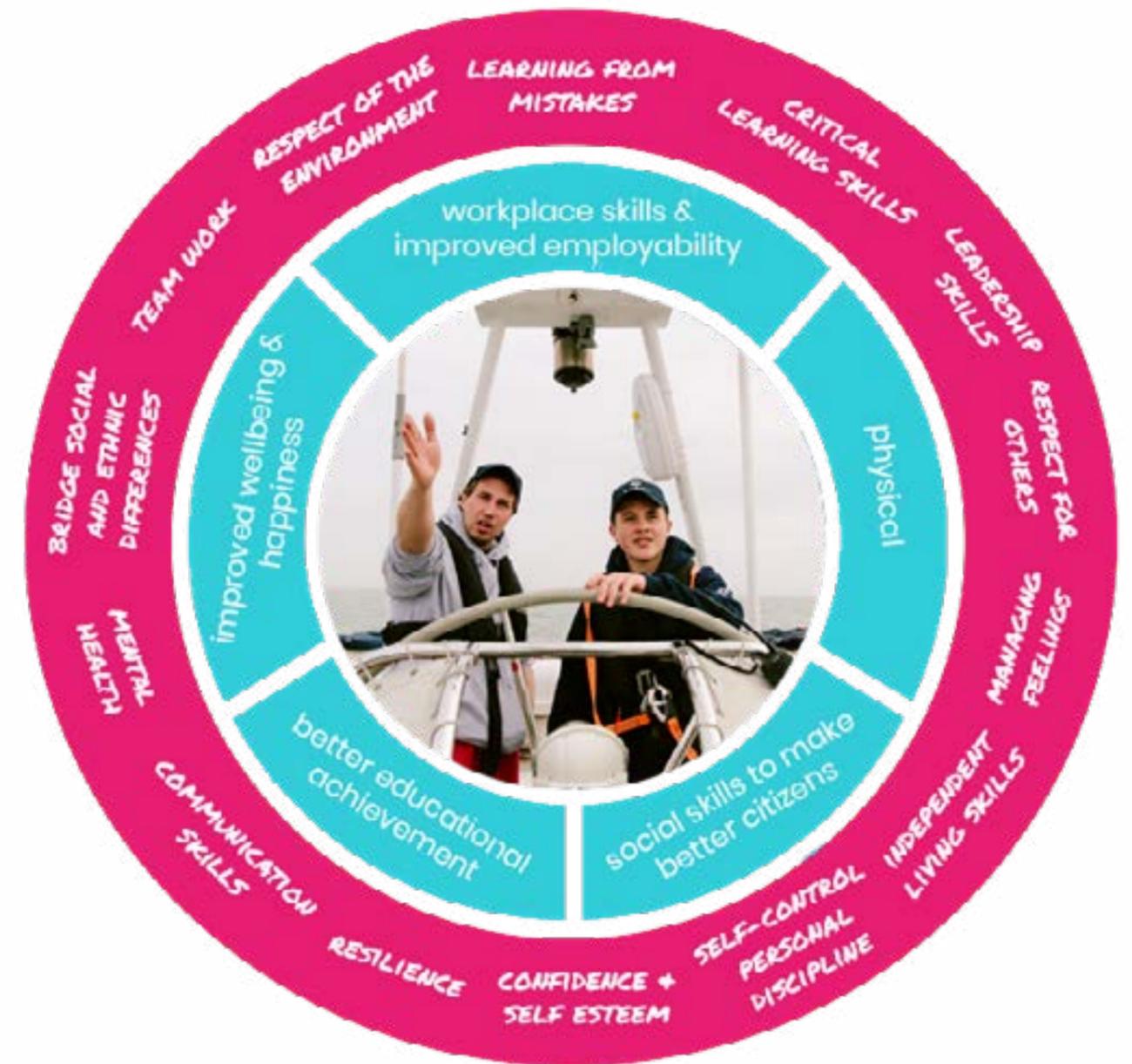
A VISUAL MODEL OF OUR APPROACH

Since 1956, we have provided young people with vital opportunities to develop skills and qualities that unlock their potential to thrive in life. We aim to change how young people think and feel about themselves by building their personal, social and emotional skills at critical transition times in their lives and education, and on into employment. Whilst the immediate goal is that they can become more effective in their learning or at work, we believe the skills developed during our voyages enable them to continue to thrive throughout their lives.

Research conducted over many years has shown that our approach is highly effective in developing young people. Learning in a residential marine environment provides direct and practical experiences that cannot be achieved within a traditional classroom, outward-bound or workplace setting, and learning through adventure provides experience of risk-taking in a safe environment. The social dimension and the element of challenge have been shown to be particularly important, but it is a complex interaction of experiences that influence the outcomes that are achieved.

Our experience tells us that changing young people's behaviour is complex and that learning in our environment is not always direct. Young people gain in different ways and at different times, depending on their motivation and readiness to learn and how prepared they are for the experience.

For this reason, we work in partnership with schools, employers and youth projects to understand the particular needs of their young people, and we tailor our voyages to meet those needs. Throughout each voyage we focus on how skills and experiences can be transferred into the home, school or work environment and in doing so, our programmes are able to address specific issues, from supporting effective transition and raising aspirations through to developing effective citizens. We also work with funders to provide financial support so that all young people can access the experience, whatever their circumstances. Seen visually, this table produces an 'outcomes wheel':



TESTIMONIALS

But why take our word for it. Let our youth development partners provide their perspective:

Head of Year 9

Attitude to learning seems better, the way the students interact with others around school is better, for some individuals it has given them confidence and skills they never knew they had. Feed-back from parents say they have become more independent at home. All students have commented on how it was the best trip they have ever done. All students have had aspirations to sail again.

Head Teacher Pupil Referral Unit

One of our voyages this year was aimed at a group of young men, all still in the school age but all not being able to engage with the mainstream school provision. All struggled with building and maintaining positive relationships with staff and other young people. The week voyage allowed staff to build on positivity's and engage on a completely different level to normal, out of this group every single one have moved onto our positive destination programme.

Senior Youth Manager

After 20 years in youth work, I thought I'd seen it all, but we built a level of trust and engagement with the young people during the voyage that would have taken 6 months to achieve on land. Within 4 months of the voyage 8 of the 9 had gone into jobs, apprenticeships or college

Head of School Pupil Premium Inclusion Programme

The Tall Ships experience could not be bettered as an educative means of forming aspirational ambition amongst young people. I have focused upon Pupil Premium Pupils as Tall Ships represents the most accessible and cost-effective means of delivering truly adventurous training in safety, to these pupils from otherwise impoverished homes. Moreover, the narrative of the experience has spread throughout school and its wider community as a really great thing to do... 'a little bit scary, unknown but I know I'll feel better for having done it.'

Parents have contacted the school to say what a great initiative it is and as the only school in the Forest of Dean to seek out this opportunity we are now forming alliances with partner schools to collaborate. A cohort of the pupils who attended the first voyage are now stalwarts of our DofE programme. Anticipating 2 voyages in March, we filled both Challengers with volunteer pupils within days.

Thank you to all Tall Ships staff for all their excellent support. We have witnessed an increased improvement in students in terms of their attitude to learning and a more engaged focus upon supporting others within school. From a pastoral perspective parents/carers have reported a more independent state of mind, greater self-determination and focus upon their studies both at school and home. The pupils now relate more openly to the challenge of the new and the greater opportunities available beyond their spheres of community and family. There have been some very positive behaviour development in SEN/in-care students, particularly in terms of self-confidence and self-reliance.

Pupil Referral Unit Head of Key Stage 3 Curriculum Leader

We have noticed that their focus has improved in school. some of our pupils have also gone back to mainstream after attending the tall ships week.

The experience is excellent, the staff are so adaptable to the challenges that our pupils bring, I am not sure that it could be improved due to this flexibility. Changes are made throughout the voyage dependant on how the pupils are coping so we are really happy with that and the support given to staff and pupils when on board.

SANTO'S STORY

As well as being autistic and having various other learning disabilities, Santo, aged 17, had an awful start in life and was taken into care at just 5 years old. His prospects looked dismal. He has found a phenomenal benefit in sailing with us and has been on many voyages since 2015. He won an award on his last voyage for showing outstanding promise against the odds. He is keen to volunteer with TSYT and would like a career at sea. He has recently been adopted by his foster parents and now has a really bright future ahead of him.

Lin, Santo's mum, said: "TSYT has changed Santo so much. Since his first voyage he has grown in maturity, confidence and self-esteem. He learnt that although he's autistic, it won't stop him achieving, he just has to work a little harder. Now he lives and breathes for the next voyage and is eager to learn how to one day skipper his own boat. His dream is to sail around the world! Thank you to the TSYT team for nurturing my son and giving him a positive future with a career in sailing."



AMELIA'S STORY

Amelia first sailed with us in 2011, aged just 14. She has severe dyslexia and gained a bursary for her learning disabilities, after showing a keen interest in sailing at home. She is now one of our full time Mates.

Amelia said: "Sail training formed an ideal frame, from which I have been able to learn, develop and form connections. Sailing on the Challengers I progressed to the role of Watch Leader, volunteering for an average of 10 weeks a year, working with TSYT's disadvantaged young people. TSYT supported me to gain funding for my Yacht Master Qualifications, which I completed as soon as I could have done at the age of 18. I now work on the Challengers as 1st Mate, while developing my teaching and racing skills."

Whilst on her first voyage Amelia's Grandfather sadly passed away but with the guidance of our team on board she was able to see out the remainder of the trip. "Sue and Steve gave me a really positive outlook and showed me that I didn't have to go home and cry."



Tall Ships Youth Trust



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