YouthBank Scotland was established to:

a) Support, sustain and develop YouthBanks in Scotland through the creation of learning and participation opportunities for young people to be activists, grant makers, decision makers and leaders in their own communities and in wider society.

b) Advance education and learning opportunities for young people through the provision of accredited and non-accredited training and other learning resources.

c) Promote the positive contributions young people make through YouthBank participation which creates the advancement of citizenship, community development, civic responsibility and volunteering as well as challenging the negative stereotype often held about young people.

d) Create local, national and international learning, information sharing and participation opportunities for young people involved in YouthBanks in Scotland and elsewhere.

e) Maintain and develop YouthBank as an innovative model of youth engagement and youth work by creating practice development and learning opportunities for youth workers and others who work with young people.

f) Establish, maintain and sustain a national grants programme.

g) Carry out all objects and activities of the company without prejudice in terms of race, colour, gender orientation, nationality, religion, ethnic or national origin, age, gender, gender reassignment or marital status, sexual orientation or disability.

YouthBank Scotland will work with local, regional and national organisations and to provide and initiate services and activities to meet identified needs and promote the sustainability of YouthBank Scotland and the model YouthBank in Scotland.

From YBS Memorandum and Articles of Association

YouthBank: A local YouthBank is a community enhancing youth led decision making model that involves young people working with partners to establish a grant fund that is distributed to other young people for community benefit.

Although local YouthBanks develop in a variety of ways to suit local needs, there are some principles of YouthBank that have to be followed by all. These are the 'YouthBank Golden Rules'.

YouthBank Golden Rules

1. YouthBank activity has to be **young people led** – at local, regional, and national levels. The role of adults in YouthBank is to support and advise young people.

2. YouthBank is **open to all young people**. We recognise that some young people may have barriers to overcome so that they can get involved – we will do our best to include these young people in YouthBank activity.

3. YouthBank offers young people the opportunity to find out about each other's lives, cultures and experiences in a supportive environment.   YouthBanks therefore must **respect the differences and talents** of all young people.

4. YouthBank activity **must be accountable**, monitoring and reporting on how and where money is spent.

5. YouthBanks should **communicate clearly**, using simple language (not jargon), to make sure young people have the greatest possible knowledge of YouthBank activity at all levels.

6. YouthBank activity must **add to the skills, knowledge and experience** of young people – using a range of training, new experiences and activity-based learning, gaining accreditation where possible.

7. YouthBanks need to make time to **learn from what they do** – to reflect on their activity at all levels and not be afraid to make changes to the way they operate.

8. YouthBanks need to **celebrate the achievements of young people**. YouthBank is a great way for young people to develop what they can do, we need to get this message across and have fun too!

9. YouthBanks must support young people to understand the YouthBank Scotland network, ensuring they are **aware of the local, regional and national progression opportunities** available.

10. YouthBank will work in partnership with other young people, groups or organisations where there are benefits for all to learn, develop and **advance a positive view of young people**.