Redthread

Organisational Strategy 2021-2026

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Foreword

This strategy is the result of the many inspiring conversations of the last few years with young people, clinical colleagues, funders and decision makers alike. It is also informed by reflecting on what we have achieved and learnt from Redthread's own growth and the acceptance of our work and Teachable Moment Interventions across the country. Furthermore, we cannot ignore that this strategy has been developed in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, where the challenges of ensuring the health of a dynamic workforce, the stability of a growing organisation and the safety of the young people needing support has at times appeared insurmountable. However, the last year has also provided opportunities to reassess how best to engage, communicate and grow ideas and impact within and outside of Redthread, and this will undoubtedly stand us in good stead for the strategy, as we embed what we have learned within our current and future NHS partnerships.

In this new phase of our journey we are dedicated to continually adapting and improving our work to ensure that young people get the gold standard support they deserve when they reach out and trust us in the midst of their crises. It is from this foundation that we are committed to scaling impact and in-turn to seek out opportunities for innovation that can amplify best practice in the partnership of trauma informed youth work with health approaches to reducing violence, exploitation and other adolescent adversities.

In seeking to scale impact, rather than grow for the sake of it, it is crucial that Redthread continue to engage in the conversations at every level to ensure that the young person's voice is heard in the decisions that are made about them at the local, regional and national level.

This is a strategy that pursues an ambitious trajectory

This is a strategy that pursues an ambitious trajectory to improve not only Redthread's part in the system but also to work with all partners and stakeholders to actively seek out the best opportunities to adapt and innovate so that the systems that serve young people are improved for all.

I would like to thank those who have inspired us in our thinking. To the young people who put their trust in us as we walk alongside them. To the doctors and nurses in the NHS on whose shoulders we are carried, thank you for the friendship you show us each day. To the funders, commissioners and decision-makers, thank you for the faith you have placed in us and the way we work and for the challenge you give us to think bigger, to relentlessly pursue the best ways to scale that impact which we all seek.

I think Ann Mei Chang says it best when she encourages charities to maintain a steadfast focus on the challenge ahead, as opposed to "fall[ing] in love with [their] solutions"; as we move forward with our strategy, we commit to being a generous and transparent organisation that is always willing to learn. Furthermore, this is why this strategy is an invitation to our stakeholders and partners to continue to walk alongside us on this journey, so that together we can ensure young people, and each sector that serves them, benefit from each of our own teachable moments to improve outcomes, and that in doing so we can create the wider systemic change needed to sustain that impact for future generations.

John Poyton

CEO

A note from our Chair

Redthread has come a long way in the past five years. The help we provide addresses a wide range of adverse issues affecting young people. Whilst our work has grown particularly dealing with the results of violence presenting in hospital major trauma and A&E units, Redthread started life in the community. We want to have an impact in both the health and social care contexts, working with partners where better outcomes can be achieved more efficiently. There are already long overdue moves to make more joined up the delivery of health and social care, which will be even more important in the years following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Whilst there has been much attention to the short term impact of the virus itself, the longer term effects are only now coming more into focus. The implications for deprived and disadvantaged young people are particularly worrying. To address the consequences of lost education, less social interaction, higher unemployment, delayed health care, domestic violence, mental illness etc will require a huge effort. Redthread's new strategy sets out how we will play our part, harnessing the passion and pride we have shown in getting here. Our ability to be successful is reinforced by the robust governance processes and strong financial position we have established.

Everyone in the organisation, trustees and staff, have played their part in developing the strategy and are excited by the opportunities it presents.

Thank you and thanks to all our many funders, partners and other stakeholders who help us make it possible.

Simon Charlick

Chair of Trustees

Redthread's new strategy sets out how we will play our part

OUR GOAL

A society
where all young people live healthy,
safe and happy lives





THOUGHT

To be an inclusive, diverse and empowering organisation in which staff can thrive

To develop and deliver expert training to our staff and partners

INNOVATION

To build productive relationships with key stakeholders and partners which will allow us to develop our work on thought leadership

To be a gold standard service provider for young people through our work across integrated care systems To effectively expand our work across integrated care systems, building on our previous experience within both primary and secondary care

To lead a strong and influential network through our Hospitals Interrupting Violence Exchange (HIVE) which collectively works to improve outcomes for young people.

To empower young people to participate in decisions that impact their lives, by amplifying their voices and opinions both within Redthread and on external platforms To increase our ability to demonstrate the impact of our work in order to continually improve our delivery and support partners in achieving the best outcomes for young people

To use our experience to influence national and regional policy makers and commissioners to ensure that young people's needs are met

ROBUST FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

What we will do

Ensure we're an excellent employer by implementing a people strategy and employee engagement programme

Nurture our current service delivery in the pursuit of excellence

Develop our research and evaluation function to better demonstrate our impact

Implement a meaningful Youth Participation Strategy to amplify the voices of our young people

What we will do

Secure accreditation for our in-hous training

Develop a costed business plan to deliver training to external organisations

Review, support and develop existing integrated care pathways between primary and secondary settings

Establish research partnerships with academic institutions

Support local grass roots organisations through sharing best practice

What we will do

Invest in additional resource to support our ambitions to grow our policy and lobbying function

Participate in local and national conversations in order to support the way in which services are designed.

Create a stronger and more sustainable professional network through our Hospitals Interrupting Violence Exchange (HIVE)

About Redthread

Redthread empowers young people to thrive as they navigate the challenging transition to adulthood by integrating trauma-informed youth work into the health sector. We have experienced significant development since our inception in 1995, moving from a small, local youth charity to a national organisation operating across multiple locations.



Our Purpose

Redthread's purpose is to be present where young people need us most. We amplify their voices so that systems and services are better able to meet their needs and support them towards leading healthy, safe, and happy lives.



Our Vision

A society where all young people live healthy, safe and happy lives.



Our Mission

To empower young people to thrive as they navigate the challenging transition to adulthoodby integrating traumainformed youth work into the health sector.

Our values



Empowering

We equip young people to be agents in their own lives.



Collaborative

We share knowledge, learning and best practice to ensure we can provide the best support for young people.



Dynamic

We are continually learning, being reflective and responding to the need in front of us.



Courageous

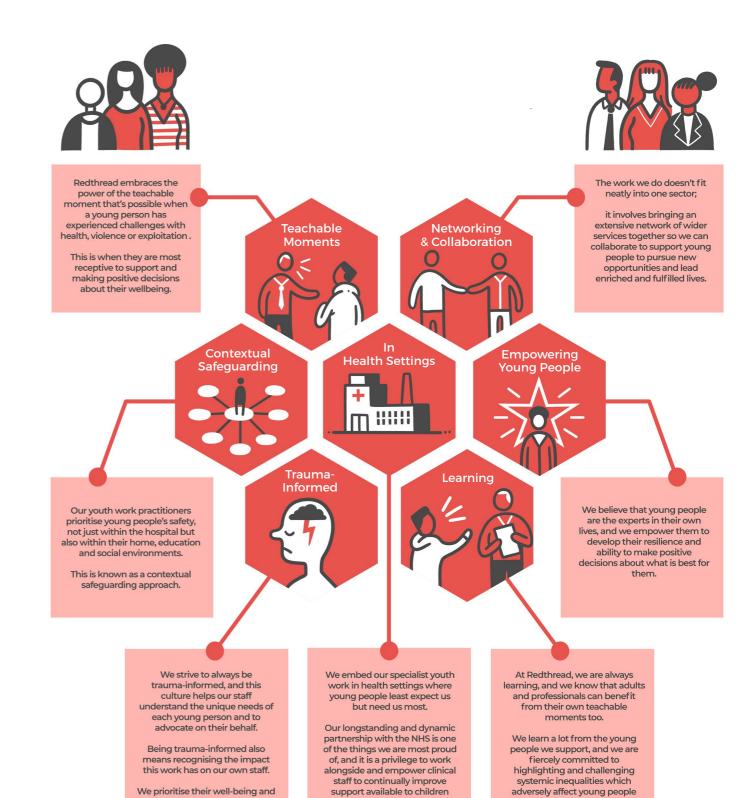
We go beyond our comfort zone to get young people the help they need. We continue to be creative in the sphere of young people's health.



Compassionate

We walk with young people who have experienced trauma and stand alongside them, treating them with kindness and understanding.

How we work



and young people.

ensure they have the training

and support they need to thrive

in their roles.

Our programmes



Who we support

We support any young person aged 11-25 who presents to our services because of challenges with health, violence or exploitation.



Where we do our work

Redthread works within the health system. We have worked in primary care and extensively in hospitals and have considerable expertise in using the teachable moment across multiple settings. This experience continues to inspire our ambitions to ensure that Redthread is placed where young people need us most.



This is why I called you - because you taught me that it's safe to say 'I need help"

Hospital-based Youth Violence Intervention Programme (YVIP)

Redthread's flagship programme currently operates in 13 hospitals across London and the Midlands. We embed specially-trained Youth Intervention Practitioners within the Emergency Departments of hospitals to be present when young people need us most.

King's Adolescent Outreach Service (KAOS)

KAOS seeks to improve the care of adolescents in hospital. We currently support young people aged 13-25 who are admitted to adult and paediatric wards at King's College Hospital, London.

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Young Women's Service

Our dedicated Young Women's Service employs specialist professionals who are able to provide longer-term, intensive interventions. Redthread's VAWG lead works strategically both across the organisation and with external partners to ensure that we are contributing to the collective response to violence against women and girls.

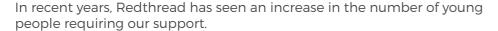
Social Switch

The Social Switch Project is switching the narrative on how social media's relationship to youth violence is understood, tackled and solved. Initially funded by Google.org, it is codelivered by social business Catch22 and Redthread. Recognising our impact, the Mayor of London and its Violence Reduction Unit is now supporting our next phase, backing our work to divert at-risk youth towards fulfilling digital careers.

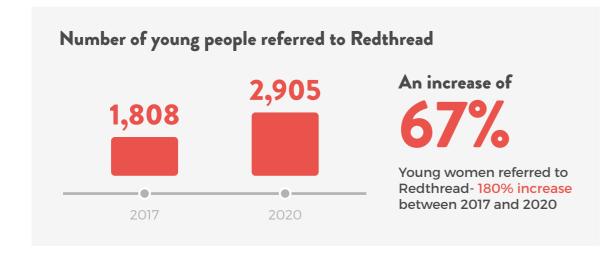
The Well Centre

Between 2011 and 2020, we partnered with Herne Hill Group Practice in running The Well Centre which provided young people, aged 13-20, with drop-in access to GPs, CAMHS counsellors and Redthread's experienced team of specialist youth workers. Whether in crisis or wanting to chat over a hot chocolate, young people have a safe space to raise their concerns and receive helpful and appropriate support and advice. The Well Centre continues to be run by Herne Hill Group Practice.





From January 2018 to December 2020, Redthread has engaged 5045 young people and supported them through our programmes of work.



Despite this increase in need, Redthread has achieved significant growth and continued impact; this has latterly been supported by the invaluable inception of regional Violence Reduction Units and an increased emphasis on a public health approach to reducing violence.

Growth in impact

- In response to increased demand, Redthread has expanded its remit.
 We are now able to support young people facing adversity related to mental health, domestic violence, sexual violence and exploitation as well as those who continue to be caught up in assault or weaponenabled youth violence.
- In 2020, Redthread worked with external consultants to undertake
 a detailed Cost Benefit Analysis of our work and they were able to
 conclude that for every £1 spent on our YVIP programmes, the social and
 economic cost saved as a result of our intervention is £4.90.
- We have continued to grow our HIVE network membership across both the voluntary and statutory sectors. In 2019, around 200 colleagues and partners attended our annual HIVE conference. In 2020, due to the transition to online webinars throughout the year, we were able to engage 600 colleagues across the network.

"The Redthread team have integrated seamlessly into the department and have become an invaluable resource in how we manage our children and young people in the paediatric emergency department"



Tony Hemeson Emergency Medicine Consultant, University Hospital Lewisham



Growth in service

- Since 2015, we have expanded our delivery from four London Major Trauma Centres (including a subcontracted service provided by St Giles Trust in the Royal London Hospital) to 13 hospital sites across the capital and the Midlands.
- Included in this are seven local Emergency Departments, moving us further towards providing early intervention to young people, before they are as seriously hurt.
- Our Young Women's service has continued to develop, again reflective of the changing needs of our young people.
- Between 2017/18 and 2020/21, Redthread's staff body has increased by 125%- from 36 employees to 81. This has been across both our frontline services and central infrastructure.

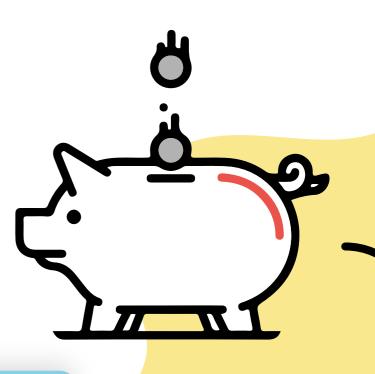
The Redthread team are amazing. The Safeguarding team and Redthread practitioners work very closely together. It works so well as the young person is aware they have an advocate for them and a safe space.



Nicci Wotton, Consultant Nurse for Safeguarding / Head of Safeguarding at St Mary's

Growth in income

- Between 2017/18 and 2020/21, Redthread's turnover has increased by 265%. Our average annual turnover increase in this period has been 41%.
- We have worked hard to diversify our funding streams to allow for greater creativity and innovation in our practice; being accountable to multiple funders with varying agenda has encouraged us to broaden our response to the needs of young people and to be more courageous in speaking truth to power about what needs to change.
- We have prioritised securing unrestricted funding which has allowed us to not only be successful in growing our frontline provision but also developing our core organisational infrastructure.



"Thank you for bringing me calmness in the time where I felt numbness."





Growth in partnerships

- Whilst all of Redthread's work is based on strong partnerships, we have in recent years expanded our delivery to encompass an increasing number of projects which rely directly on partnerships with other organisations.
- Redthread has developed a strong and enduring partnership with Solace Women's Aid which embeds Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs) within our hospital-teams specifically to support young people who experience domestic violence.
- We have become a founding partner in the Social Switch Project (a collaboration between Google.org, Catch22 and Redthread) which focuses on the relationship between social media and youth violence.
- Our King's Adolescent Outreach Service (KAOS) is a relatively new partnership which aims to support young people aged 13-25 who are admitted to King's College Hospital and may require additional youth work support.

"Thank you for what you do. I don't know how I would have coped had I not had the support of Redthread at that time."



This partnership is crucial in the provision of early intervention after minimal harm has occurred, but crucially prior to serious injury occurring. Furthermore the expertise of the Redthread team has informed clinician's practice, deepened the understanding of our staff in all these areas and empowered them to better recognise, advocate for and safeguard at-risk young people."



Niamh Ni Longain, Lead Clinician at Homerton Hospital

Amplifying young people's voices

As our journey of growth has progressed, we have become increasingly dedicated to amplifying the voices of the young people we serve; we have learned from our experience that their stories are the most powerful catalyst for change. We have further developed our youth participation framework which creates space for young people to express their opinions on the challenges they face and the services we deliver. We still have so much to learn from our young people and we will ensure they are active participants in Redthread's future.

Future challenges

Challenges for young people



Cycles of harm

20% of young people aged 11-25 who came into contact with Redthread at one of the five hospitals with a YVIP service across London (including three Major Trauma Centres) in 2019/20 had previously presented at hospital Emergency Departments as a result of serious violent or sexually violent incidents. The social, political and economic challenges which will continue to arise from the COVID-19 pandemic will only seek to further entrench these cycles of violence as positive opportunities for young people become even more scarce and inaccessible.



Structural inequalities

The impact of structural inequalities, in particular racism and discrimination, continue to affect the young people with whom we work, as 67% of this cohort with whom Redthread interacted were from Black British, African. White and Black African and White and Black Caribbean backgrounds. We know that young people also face discrimination because of their sexuality, gender identity, disability and other protected characteristics. Redthread is committed to ensuring that young people receive culturally-informed and appropriate services and to challenging the structures which perpetuate disadvantage and lack of opportunity.



Domestic and sexual violence

Across the same five hospital programmes in 2019/20, 34% of presentations were young women; 26% of all presentations were attributable to domestic violence, (child) sexual exploitation, sexual violence or honour-based violence. Looking specifically at the period affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a 7% increase of domestic violence incidents from the same period in 2019 and an 18% increase from 2018¹. As we move forward, Redthread anticipates that we will continue to see a rise in young women caught in cycles of harm and violence, and are committed to growing our young VAWG provision to help tackle this.



Educational and economic impact

In 2019/20, 45% of over 18-year olds presenting to Redthread across five hospitals in London were not in education, employment or training (NEET). We also recognise challenges around intergenerational poverty and disadvantage which perpetuate societal inequalities for young people. According to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, around 14 million people are living in poverty in the UK, and four million of these are children.² Redthread will strive to increase our understanding of this issue through improved data collection and more detailed analysis of the economic disadvantage young people face.



Mental health

The rise in young people presenting to our services who are experiencing mental health difficulties has been steadily increasing in recent years. In July 2020, the NHS Digital Mental Health of Children and Young People in England surveyfound that one in six young people (16%) aged 5-15 were at probable risk of experiencing some form of mental health issue or disorder. This represents an increase from 2017, when the figure was one in nine (10.8%). It can reasonably be assumed that this increase is at least in part attributable to the pandemic and that the future implications thereof will only serve to exacerbate the problem.

- 1 'Domestic abuse during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, England and Wales, November 2020', Office for National Statistics (ONS)
- $2\,$ 'UK Poverty 2019/20: The leading independent report', published by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation
- 3 'NHS Digital's Mental Health of Children and Young People Survey, July 2020

Organisational challenges



Political and economic

While Redthread welcomed government adoption of this methodology and the establishment of 18 violence reduction units in 2019, it is essential that there continues to be policy attention on violence reduction and early intervention rather than reverting to a more criminal justice-focused approach. Inevitably, at times of national crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic, political focus pivots to directly managing the immediate risk. This could mean that future policy may take a different approach and current funding sources may be diluted or diverted.

In addition, given that our key partner is the NHS, we cannot underestimate the impact that the pandemic will have on the way in which healthcare is delivered. Redthread will ensure that it is adaptable and responsive over the next five years, applying the lessons learnt during the COVID-19 pandemic, with a sustained focus on supporting vulnerable young people.



Organisational infrastructure and demonstrating impact

In order to adequately address the challenges ahead, we must ensure that all of our teams are adequately resourced.

Whilst we know our interventions work and provide value for money, ensuring secure long-term funding for Redthread requires a comprehensive evidence base which demonstrates the impact of our work to multiple funders and commissioners. Looking forward, our challenge is to continue to build up our evidence of impact and our wider practice research.

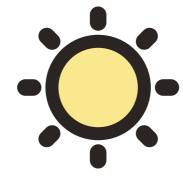


Promoting equality, diversity and inclusion

Whilst the pandemic and the fallout thereof have dominated the last year, we must also acknowledge the social and political events of 2020 that have ignited fresh and much-needed discussions about equity, diversity and inclusion.

Our everyday work brings us face to face with health inequalities caused by entrenched systems of oppression, exploitation, power and privilege, and we remain committed to supporting young people to overcome barriers put in place by these systems.

We don't yet have all the answers, but we renew our commitment to being a diverse and inclusive organisation where all staff feel valued, respected and empowered to be who they are at work. We are enriched by the diversity of our team and by the different experience, skills and perspectives that enable us to better support young people. We commit to being teachable as we go through this journey, and to upholding our values of compassion, collaboration, courage, empowerment and dynamism.



The foreword to this strategy highlighted the challenges we currently face as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and how this has affected and will continue to affect our work. As we look ahead to the next five years, the world we face is one of uncertainty and change; we will continue to learn lessons and the impact of the pandemic will long be felt on both a microcosmic and a macrocosmic level. We therefore need to ensure that Redthread can not only survive but thrive in these difficult times in order to continue to be where young people need us most.

It's easy to judge or misunderstand young people but Redthread works amazingly as an advocate for them to give them a safe space to be vulnerable and reflect upon their lives. Without services like Redthread many young people would slip through the system abandoned and unseen, only to continue to make destructive life decisions.



Our strategic priorities for 2021-2026

As Redthread sets out its plan for development over the next five years, it is crucial that we consider the need to balance maintaining our current work with our ambition to innovate and grow our impact.

Underpinning our strategic ambitions is a commitment to building a resilient funding base from a diverse range of income streams and ensuring we have robust governance processes in place. These building blocks are essential to create stability for the future and will be a foundational principle over the next five years, alongside our three strategic priorities.



Gold standard

Becoming an excellent employer and service provider for our young people.



Innovation

Investing in new areas of work to create sustainability for our core work and to develop best practice, ensuring that the needs of young people are met.



Thought leadership

Using our experience and expertise to influence and lead change in the development of policy affecting young people and the delivery of best practice.

Strategic Priority

1

Gold standard

Be an inclusive, diverse and empowering organisation in which staff can thrive

We will do this by:

Developing and publishing a People Strategy which sets out new approaches to staff recruitment, development, engagement and retention to ensure that staff wellbeing and growth remain at the heart of what we do.

Ensuring our governance structures are fit for purpose by undertaking a formal governance review in response to our growth and ensuring that we have a diverse and skilled board.

Achieving accredited standards for people management and ensuring that our human resources practices are robust and fit for purpose.

Implementing an internal communications plan to ensure that the organisation is inclusive and well-connected.

Publishing and delivering an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan which sets out our approach to tackling disproportionality and discrimination and holds us accountable to our staff, our funders and our young people.

Delivering a formal COVID-19 review which reflects on the ways in which the pandemic has affected the lives of our young people and our working practices.

Developing our understanding of environmental sustainability and how it impacts our work and young people.

What success will look like in 2026:

We will be an organisation which lives its values and is a positive and fulfilling place to work

Our recruitment and retention policies will be inclusive, empowering and transparent and staff will be proud to work for Redthread. We will have increased staff retention rates and found ways to measure how attractive we are as an employer.

Staff will feel listened to, engaged and supported, all of which will ensure that they are able to deliver the best outcomes for our young people.

All staff will have been trained according to the standards outlined in the People Strategy, supported by a clear training plan that will allow us to track our progress.

Strategic Priority

Gold standard

To be a gold standard service provider for young people through our work across integrated care systems

We will do this by:

Maintaining and nurturing our current service delivery, to continue to establish ourselves as a centre of excellence in this field.

Committing to developing and improving our practices around safeguarding, governance and contract management.

Utilising our organisational skills, capacity and experience to enhance and improve clinicians' response to young people at risk of harm through training, shared learning and onsite collaboration.

Collaboratively designing Quality Standards for health-based youth work which can be nationally recognised as an indispensable aspect of service provision.

Continuing to develop our commitment to the Violence Against Women and Girls agenda to ensure that our programmes provide the best support for the young people we meet.

Developing our impact, evaluation and research function to ensure that we can demonstrate the difference we make to young people, which will then lead to increased financial security in the delivery of our work and contribute to an international evidence base for teachable moment interventions.

What success will look like in 2026:

Redthread will have engaged and supported more young people across all of our delivery sites.

We will have developed a resilient and secure funding base for our core service delivery.

National Quality Standards for the provision of gold standard healthbased youth work will be widely recognised and will help to eliminate discrepancies in the quality of service provision in our sector.

Clinical colleagues will feel empowered and supported by the training they receive from Redthread and the care that young people receive in health settings will be improved as a result.

Redthread will have a track record of successful delivery against contracts and will be able to provide clear examples of quality improvement in practice. This will be supported by a strong evidence base which highlights the needs of young people and the outcomes which we have achieved in addressing these.

Strategic Priority 3

Gold standard

To empower young people to participate in decisions that impact their lives, by amplifying their voices and opinions both within Redthread and on external platforms

We will do this by:

Successfully implementing our Youth Participation Strategy, ensuring that we amplify the voices of young people and empower them to participate in decisions which directly affect their lives. This means developing clear targets and measurable outcome indicators that will enable us to map our progress against our Youth Participation Strategy.

Establishing a Youth Board which will work alongside the Board of Trustees, allowing young people to partake in the business of developing the organisation as well as providing them with the opportunity to gain valuable skills and experience.

Growing our Youth Ambassadors Programme in a way that reflects the diversity of our young people and the geographical coverage we have as an organisation.

What success will look like in 2026:

Redthread will be an organisation that puts the voices and opinions of young people first and holds them in mind in all decision-making processes.

More young people will have had the opportunity to participate in engagement activities within the organisation.

Young people will have opportunities to participate in local and national discussions which will directly affect their lives.

⁴ Quality Improvement is defined by the King's Fund, in collaboration with the NHS and The Health Foundation, as "the use of methods and tools to continuously improve quality of care and outcomes for patients".



Innovation

Investing in new areas of work to create sustainability for our core work and to develop best practice, ensuring that the needs of young people are met.

Strategic Priority



Innovation

To develop and deliver expert training to our staff and partners

We will do this by:

Devising a comprehensive Business Plan which will outline our proposed Training and Technical Assistance model, potential customers, risk management approach and income generation targets.

Launching a new Learner Management System which will enable detailed mapping of each learner's progress and provide vital support to the delivery of the training programme.

Working with an external body to secure accreditation for our core training programme.

Piloting our training model in at least one regional location and evaluating the feasibility of developing this as an income-generating stream of the organisation.

What success will look like in 2026:

Redthread will have scaled its impact by delivering Training and Technical Assistance to external organisations aiming to implement new health-based youth work programmes.

We will have successfully generated income through this new scaling model which will then contribute to our unrestricted reserves, thus taking a step towards greater financial stability for the future.

Practitioners who undertake our training will be highly skilled and feel confident in their professional practice as a result of undertaking our accredited training programme.

Strategic Priority

2

Innovation

To effectively expand our work across integrated care systems, building on our previous experience within both primary and secondary care

We will do this by:

Developing and implementing a model of innovation across the health system which includes integrated pathways in primary healthcare settings to support the YVIP service.

What success will look like in 2026:

Redthread will have supported the development of integrated care pathways across both primary and secondary health settings which focus on supporting young people back out into the community.

At least one pilot location will have been established for an integrated primary and secondary health programme which will enable young people to access tailored, trauma-informed support in whichever health setting they present.

This programme will be delivered for a three year pilot period, allowing us to undertake a thorough evaluation of its outcomes and impact.

Redthread will be an organisation that specialises in providing youth work across the healthcare landscape, not just in hospital settings, and be seen as an expert in holistic support for young people.

Strategic Priority

3

Innovation

To increase our ability to demonstrate the impact of our work in order to continually improve our delivery and support partners in achieving the best outcomes for young people

We will do this by:

Forming a strategic research partnership with an academic institution to help create a united, national narrative around our work.

Developing our Outcomes Framework to ensure that we are measuring and recording the most important information which will allow us to demonstrate our impact.

Investing further in our Research and Evaluation functions to ensure that we have dedicated resource within our infrastructure.

What success will look like in 2026:

We will have increased investment into research and policy as a result of the academic partnership and have clearly defined outcomes which will allow us to test the efficacy of the partnership.

We will have transparent and useful ways of measuring our impact which place real value on the outcomes our young people need us to achieve.



Thought leadership

Using our experience and expertise to influence and lead change in the development of policy affecting young people and the delivery of best practice.

Strategic Priority



Thought leadership

To build productive relationships with key stakeholders and partners which will allow us to develop our work on thought leadership

We will do this by:

Continuing to develop our networks across health care, social care, policing and education to maximise opportunities to promote and share our expertise.

Proactively seeking to establish positive and productive cross-sector partnerships to increase our impact.

What success will look like in 2026:

We will have successfully engaged in responding to more opportunities which are aligned with our mission and widen our impact; this will be enabled by the proactive establishment of strong partnerships.

We will be known as a collaborative and generous leader in the sector that seeks to create mutually beneficial relationships with partners to grow our collective impact.

Strategic Priority

Thought leadership

To lead a strong and influential network through our Hospitals Interrupting Violence Exchange (HIVE) which collectively works to improve outcomes for young people

We will do this by:

Creating a stronger platform through increasing the membership and sustainability of HIVE, ensuring that a wide range of stakeholders and partners are engaged.

Investing in and formalising the governance of the network to allow the impact of HIVE to grow.

Contributing to and learning from our peers at the Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (HAVI) in the USA around how best to manage a growing network of stakeholders.

What success will look like in 2026:

Stakeholders, both local and national, will be engaged in discussions around youth violence and vulnerability, thus creating a more coordinated response and improving practice in supporting young people.

The HIVE network will be nationally recognised as an example of best practice in partnership working and information sharing.

A collective voice which amplifies young people's voices across all sectors will be developed and this will increase our ability to influence the way in which services are operated and commissioned.

Strategic Priority

3

Thought leadership

To use our experience to influence national and regional policy makers and commissioners to ensure that young people's needs are met

We will do this by:

Positively and constructively challenging funders and commissioners to ensure that good performance is encouraged through informed commissioning processes.

Ensuring that the voices of young people are heard in key forums.

Develop our policy arm so that we can influence policies impacting young people.

What success will look like in 2026:

Policy makers and government departments, both local and national, will be engaged in discussions around ensuring that health-based youth work continues to be a priority.

Young people will have opportunities to participate in local and national discussions which will directly affect their lives



