



hyzone annual report  
2008 - 2009



## Vision & Values



## Report from the Chair



## Partnership



## Youth Work



## Finances



## People



## Co-ordinator's Report

Hyzone is a relational youth project, committed to responding to the needs of young people who chose to engage with us.

We have concern for development of the whole person, and seek to encourage young people to reach their physical, emotional, mental and spiritual potential so that they may find life in all its fullness, whatever form that might take for them.

*Hyzone holds strongly to:*

- A 'whole person' approach, equally valuing physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellbeing
- Symbiotic relationships at the heart of all that we do
- Process being as important as product
- Building individual & community capacity
- Exemplifying reflective practice at all organisational levels, and fostering a culture of learning
- Young people having ownership and taking on responsibility at all organisational levels
- The value of partnership work
- Inclusivity

# Vision & Values



# Partnerships

**At Hyzone we are very aware of the truth that a three-stranded chord is not easily broken: without our partner agencies and supporters, we would be in a much less productive place than we are. This year we have continued to work closely with our 5 supporting churches, as well as having developed our hugely important relationship with South Lanarkshire Council's Youth Learning Service. We have also worked closely with Hamilton Churches Together, Chem 19, Scripture Union Scotland, Hamilton Presbytery and have built up networks with many local and national agencies. We hope to continue to contribute to the network of agencies and services available to young people in Hamilton in our next year of operation.**

**It's been another very successful year for the Hyzone and Youth Learning Service's partnership. There have been various highlights, however, the performance of the Hyzone song writing group at the Hamilton Universal Connections area awards night was a very poignant success. Their song highlighted inequalities in the world and was inspired by the current situation in Sao Paulo, Brazil where there are clear and distinct physical and social boundaries between the affluent suburbs and the shanty towns. The song was performed acoustically and was very well received by the audience and dignitaries alike.**

**The Hyzone Sunday Evening Drop In continues to be a real success with numbers remaining high and the additional service provision means that the Hamilton Universal Connections is open seven days per week. The feedback is always very positive and the Hyzone team are highly valued and respected amongst the partners and all of the young people. The recent success in the HMIe Inspection of the Hamilton Grammar area learning community rated services provided by the Youth Learning Service and partners including Hamilton Information Project for Youth, Hyzone and the Princes Trust volunteers as excellent and sector leading. This accolade further strengthens our partnership and is mainly down to the huge effort that all the teams as a whole put into their youth work in the Hamilton area.**

**This collaborative approach makes projects like the senior citizens Christmas lunch, our holiday programmes and outreach work an ongoing or yearly success. The additional support that Graeme and his team provide for the young people of Hamilton is helping bridge the gap between those who are marginalised or in need. We would like to thank Graeme, Derek and all the Hyzone volunteers for their huge contribution in our *journey to excellence*.**

**Mark Brotherton  
Hamilton Area Co-ordinator**

I am pleased to introduce our annual report with a few words of reflection and encouragement. The 2nd year of any new and innovative project like Hyzone is the opportunity to review our purposes. Are we doing what we said we would do? If we are, then those who support us and work with us will hopefully continue and encourage others to do the same.

Well, yes we have had a good year and Hyzone's annual report describes the work in more detail.

I would like to thank our coordinator Graeme, workers; Derek, Cara and Allan, and all the volunteers for the excellent progress made in 2008. We work in partnership with South Lanarkshire Youth services and five local town centre churches and I thank their leadership teams for their invaluable support. The Board of Directors has also shown a real commitment to our purpose and I thank the members for their joint contribution.

The Sunday Drop-in began in Dec 2007 and is now attracting regularly over 40 young people weekly; and not the same 40 each week.

Detached street work is also a key component of our work. Both allow an introduction to Hyzone and space for young people to express themselves fully. And they do!

Relationships with young people take time but trust is developing, and their ease of expression is now being channelled into creative and imaginative ideas. As well as trips to the theatre and football grounds, weekends away and band nights, there's been time for poetry and astronomy workshops, and song writing. And of course, there's always time for pool and the Wii, as well.

However, the work of Hyzone is not just about activities, it is also about the individual growth and development of the young person. We are trying to encourage young people to have a full and active part in the community. We encourage them to reflect on their self development.

Our Values and Purposes stem from the phrase **life in all its fullness** and our new Business Plan for 2009-2012 develops this further. To those of the Christian faith this phrase will be well known, but our purpose is not to proselytise but actively engage with young people to make this phrase meaningful for them; so that the complexities and traumas of fast and modern life experienced by young people can be transformed by an appreciation of their potential and possibility. I am especially pleased that we are developing Hyzone's services with other partner agencies to improve the scope of many young people's lives. Sometimes the work can be really challenging. Workers can

feel let down when progress is not being made. This is the moment when the constancy of relationship and trust is really needed. It is hard work being faithful. It requires patience, resilience and determination. Yet the future of our civic society, including the churches, rests on our mutual ability to be faithful to one another and treat each other with respect, dignity, and integrity. If our young people, who visit Hyzone, sense this atmosphere then maybe they will understand its value and ultimately their value to all our futures.

My grateful thanks to all who have displayed this act of faith in Hyzone in 2008, especially the young people we serve.

**Ian Barcroft  
Chair of Hyzone Board of Directors**

Report from the Chair...

Hyzone's work with the young people of Hamilton has been consistently growing since our last report, and we have continued to strive to be varied and driven by young people. We have had specialist programmes for school holidays including increased drop-in hours; trips ('Fleeto' theatre trip, stadium tours, YoungScot Burn's Resurrection Event) and held two murder mystery afternoons. We have also had special events including a Euro 2008 final night and a battle of the bands with the winning band 'Punktuation' receiving recording time. Our Sunday drop-ins have grown to regularly having 50 young people in on a Sunday evening. There has been the opportunity to offer 'Introduction to...' sessions on a Sunday evening, and these will continue in the coming months. We have been able this year to buy some new equipment for the centre, which has been well received by the young people. Our street work in Hamilton continues, and we have developed group work (including song-writing & anti-sectarianism workshops) as well as having offered one-to-one support to a number of young people. We were also able to take a group of young people to Ardeonaig on Loch Tay for a weekend of outdoor activities and very little sleep! With a slightly reduced staff team we have still managed to focus on provision for young people and will seek to continue to increase our provision as we move into our third year of operation.

**"We think Hyzone is great, it is well attended and is a good place for young people to meet new people and gain more skills such as pool, air hockey, table tennis and table football. And the banter-ous moments with Graeme, Derek and Hyzone volunteers are great!"**  
Connor & Craig

**"'Fleeto' was brilliant :-)) It taught us a lot about violence in the community and how to prevent this. It was great actors as well and I would go back anytime."**  
Jamie-Lee

**"Song-writing helps bring out the creative side of me and the group which makes us come together and write some great songs."**  
Jamie

**"The Stadium Tour was a great opportunity because it let me see each club's history, what their original purpose was and what the fans think the purpose is now. Getting to see Hampden was amazing - one of the best trips I have done!"**  
Stephen C

# Youth Work





# Song Writing

It's been a real joy working with the young people, sharing their enthusiasms and discovering their talents. Their energy is contagious, especially on Sunday nights at Hyzone. Whether it's pool, Guitar Hero, or good old fashioned board games, there's always a great sense of humour and fun to be had. I've thoroughly enjoyed helping a couple of the girls write a poem for a Duke Of Edinburgh awards ceremony, and been involved in a wonderful series of songwriting workshops with Graeme and some of the boys. This has been a real treat! Every week one of the guys came up with a great piece of music or an idea for a lyric which really blew us away. They've written and recorded songs which are worthy of anyone's radio airtime. If such talent and energy can be nurtured and steered in the right direction, the young people of Hamilton have a fantastic future ahead of them, and the wider community has a group of young people it can be proud of. Many thanks and best wishes to everyone involved!

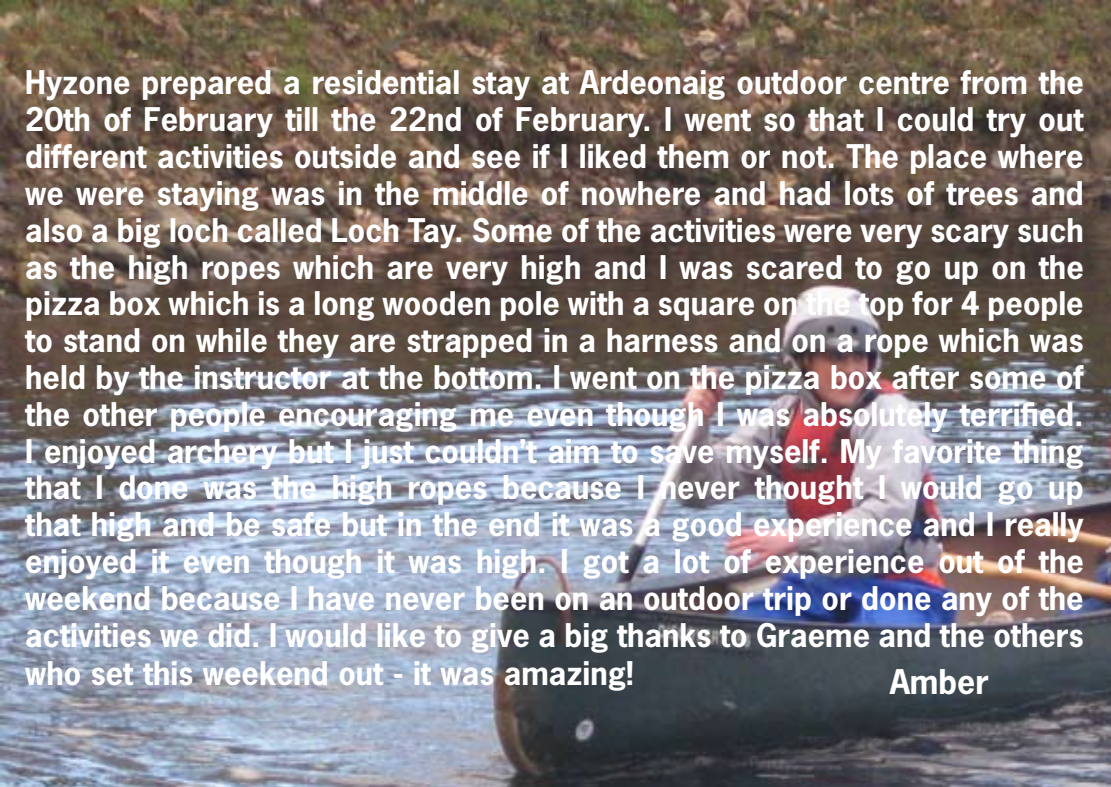
**Stephen (Volunteer)**

Song writing has been a great experience for us, and from our point of view it's the best thing Hyzone has to offer. It has been well planned by Graeme and has taught us a lot about the instruments we play and the song writing process and the help that Yvonne Lyon and Stephen gave us proved vital in the several songs we have written. Song writing has also built our confidence up for writing songs and also improvising to make the music for them.

We have got better at the instruments that we play because of the group, we have learnt new techniques on the ways to play and to project your voice and different style of music. Our song-writing journey culminated in an amazing gig performed at a young peoples' award ceremony in January when we 'rocked' the show.

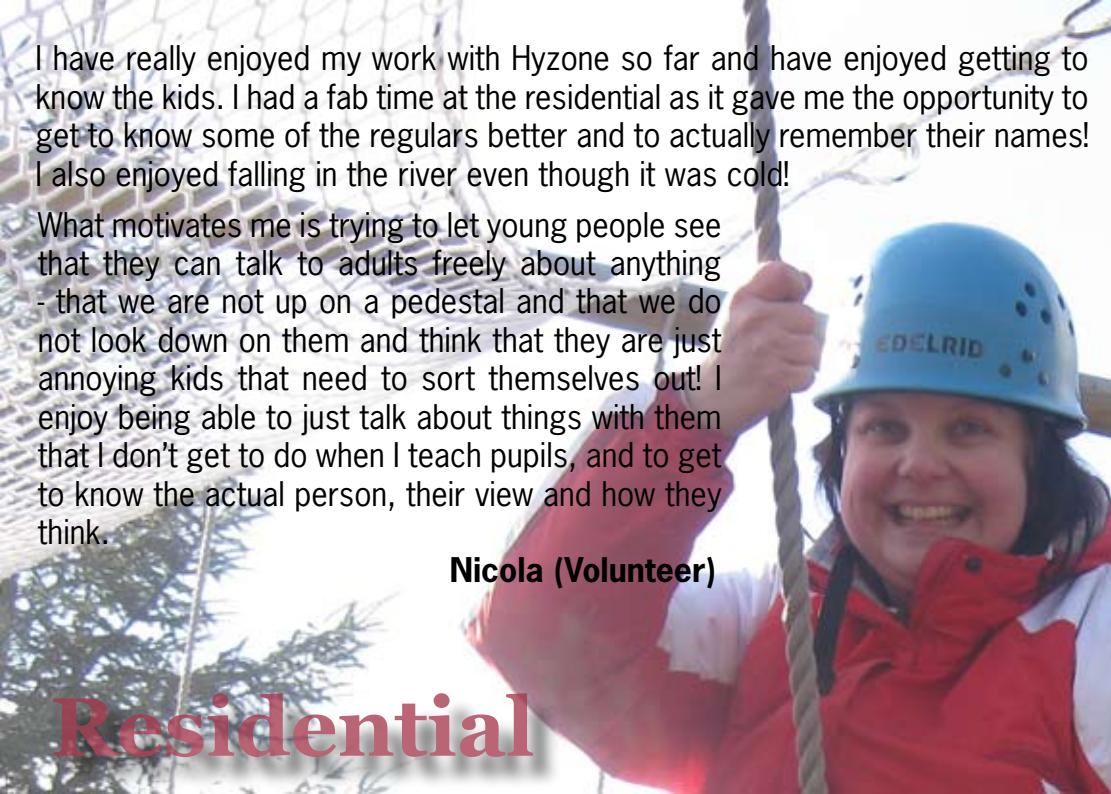
We hope that in the future that our song writing group shall go on to better things such as a recording residential to record an album/EP. We would also like to try to perform some amazing gigs again and become well known in our area and possibly get a recording contract.

**Connor & Craig**



Hyzone prepared a residential stay at Ardeonaig outdoor centre from the 20th of February till the 22nd of February. I went so that I could try out different activities outside and see if I liked them or not. The place where we were staying was in the middle of nowhere and had lots of trees and also a big loch called Loch Tay. Some of the activities were very scary such as the high ropes which are very high and I was scared to go up on the pizza box which is a long wooden pole with a square on the top for 4 people to stand on while they are strapped in a harness and on a rope which was held by the instructor at the bottom. I went on the pizza box after some of the other people encouraging me even though I was absolutely terrified. I enjoyed archery but I just couldn't aim to save myself. My favorite thing that I done was the high ropes because I never thought I would go up that high and be safe but in the end it was a good experience and I really enjoyed it even though it was high. I got a lot of experience out of the weekend because I have never been on an outdoor trip or done any of the activities we did. I would like to give a big thanks to Graeme and the others who set this weekend out - it was amazing!

**Amber**



I have really enjoyed my work with Hyzone so far and have enjoyed getting to know the kids. I had a fab time at the residential as it gave me the opportunity to get to know some of the regulars better and to actually remember their names! I also enjoyed falling in the river even though it was cold!

What motivates me is trying to let young people see that they can talk to adults freely about anything - that we are not up on a pedestal and that we do not look down on them and think that they are just annoying kids that need to sort themselves out! I enjoy being able to just talk about things with them that I don't get to do when I teach pupils, and to get to know the actual person, their view and how they think.

**Nicola (Volunteer)**

# Residential

## Key Financial Indicators

Balance at the start of the year	£37037
Income for the year	£66354
Expenditure for the year	£49991
(Of which personnel Cost)	£39926

**Closing balance for the year** **£53400**

### Income

Hyzone income is derived from 3 main sources who have committed to support the project for the first three years. They are The big Lottery, Church of Scotland Parish Development Fund and the local churches of St Mary's Episcopal, Cadzow Parish Church, St Andrew's Parish Church, St John's Hamilton and The Old Parish Church of Hamilton It is these grants that sustain the work of the Hyzone project.

### Expenditure

The expenditure for Hyzone is predominantly Personnel costs and for this year those personnel costs represented 80% of our total expenditure. During the year there were some movements in our personnel levels. One of our employees left the company in May and was replaced in July. However that employee left the company in October and was not replaced. During the gap period and till the end of the financial year we made use of sessional workers to fulfil our personnel requirements. These variations in our planned personnel were the principal reason for our personnel cost being £7000 lower than the budget.

### Future

The management have set out their plan to meet our need for personnel resources and budgets for the coming year have been prepared on that basis. Income for the coming financial year, i.e. till January 2010, is secure. Cash flows and budgets have been prepared for the next three years. We know that we will need new streams of income to be flowing by early 2010 before we reach our reserve fund position, which is calculated as 3 months average expenditure. The Board have prepared a business plan that will allow us to seek new funding for the next period of our development and we are confident that the necessary funding will be established.



Personnel

### Staff

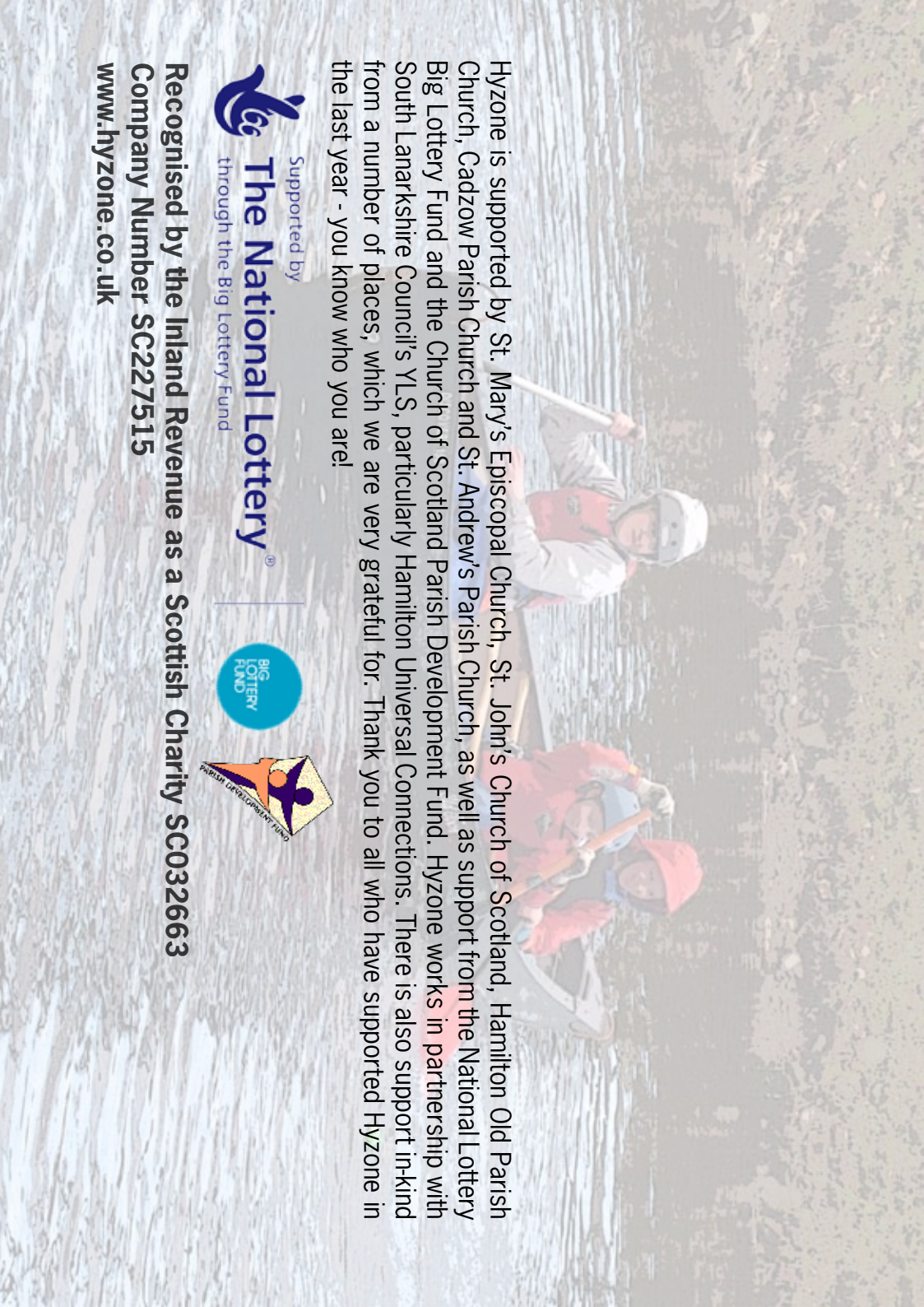
- Graeme McKerracher\*  
*Project Co-ordinator*
- Derek Scott  
*Youth Worker*
- Cara McKinlay  
*Sessional Youth Worker*
- Allan McWilliams  
*Sessional Youth Worker*

Andrew Cheshire was employed by Hyzone between July and November 2008.

### Board of Directors

- Ian Barcroft\*  
*(Chair)*
- James Craig  
*(Director of Finance/Company Secretary)*
- Bob Kent
- Norman Macleod
- Alison Plummer\*
- Alan Adamson \*
- Janette Cruickshank
- Joyce Brain
- New during 2008/2009:*
- Sam McHarg
- Resigned 2008:* John Thomson

\*Indicates part of the management group. Lindsey McLatchie represents Youth Learning Services on this group.

A background image showing two people in kayaks on a river. The kayakers are wearing life jackets and helmets. The water is calm and reflects the surrounding environment.

Hyzone is supported by St. Mary's Episcopal Church, St. John's Church of Scotland, Hamilton Old Parish Church, Cadzow Parish Church and St. Andrew's Parish Church, as well as support from the National Lottery Big Lottery Fund and the Church of Scotland Parish Development Fund. Hyzone works in partnership with South Lanarkshire Council's YLS, particularly Hamilton Universal Connections. There is also support in-kind from a number of places, which we are very grateful for. Thank you to all who have supported Hyzone in the last year - you know who you are!



Supported by

**The National Lottery**  
through the Big Lottery Fund



**Recognised by the Inland Revenue as a Scottish Charity SC032663**  
**Company Number SC227515**  
**www.hyzone.co.uk**

## Co-ordinator's Report

We've had a busy year at Hyzone – staff have come and gone; new volunteers have joined us; new youth work ventures have taken place; Sunday drop-ins have grown and grown...I could keep the list going, but you probably get the picture. We're still a young organisation, but I'm confident that we are heading in the right direction to establish ourselves as a worthwhile partner agency for South Lanarkshire Council and – more importantly – a resource for the young people of Hamilton.

Our staff team is currently small, but the dedication of Derek and our sessional staff is commendable. Without them it'd be a lonely and extremely difficult job for me! We continue to be encouraged by the support of the churches in Hamilton – their financial support is greatly appreciated, but the real value they bring is found in the congregations. Our volunteers bring with them compassion and concern for young people, as well as specialist skills to pass on through Sunday nights or through specific groups. My sincere thanks go to Derek, sessional staff and volunteers for their continued commitment to the work of Hyzone and the young people we serve.

As we move into the last year of our initial funding, we've taken some time to reflect on Hyzone, what we're about and where we're headed. As we worked to pull together a business plan for the next few years and to clarify our visions and values (as found at the front of this report), we reflected on the following question: 'What do we want for young people?' The answer we kept coming back to was 'life in all its fullness'. As we move into the next year of Hyzone's journey, our hope is that young people will continue to allow us the privilege of being part of their journeys, and that we will honour that privilege by giving of ourselves fully, so that they might find that 'full life'.

**Graeme McKerracher**