



**CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES**

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date: From 1st April 2024

Period end date: March 31st 2025

Charity name: Learning Library

Charity registration number: 1000589

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document

Our main aim and objectives are to support children, young people and adults with additional needs by providing a free loan service of specialist resources to promote their holistic wellbeing and physical development.

Our service provides items which are often expensive and may fall outside the average the family budget. All the items we provide are aimed at learning new skills, providing greater opportunity to interact with others, improving confidence and self-esteem, supporting sensory regulation, well-being and developing new interests and hobbies whilst having fun.

Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.

Our service is provided by means of Outreach Workers who visit members' homes, taking out equipment which will best benefit and support our members specific needs thereby encouraging physical and emotional development. We continue to ensure that resources are cleaned and sanitised to ensure that the items are totally safe to loan out to families.

Our visits are always flexible to accommodate any circumstances. Outreach workers visit approximately 6 weekly and consult with members wherever possible to ensure that all of our children/young people and adults have a voice and are able make their own decisions as to the items they would like to borrow and also give their views on items they have loaned.

Additionally, we provide sensory pop up sessions throughout County Durham, to bring larger resources to families. We find this brings together our members and their families in an inclusive, non-judgmental environment.

Travel can be a challenge for many of our members, and having the opportunity to have resources brought to the safety and comfort of their home is an invaluable part of our service.

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

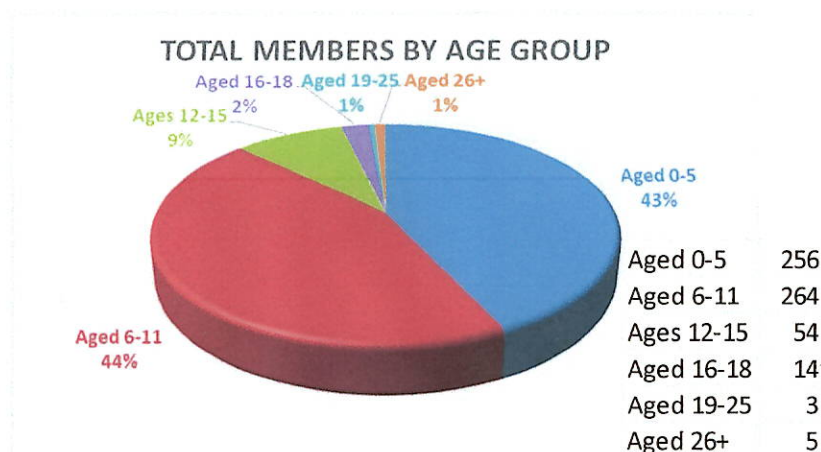
All Trustees are aware of their responsibilities as laid down by the Charity Commissioners.

Achievements and Performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.

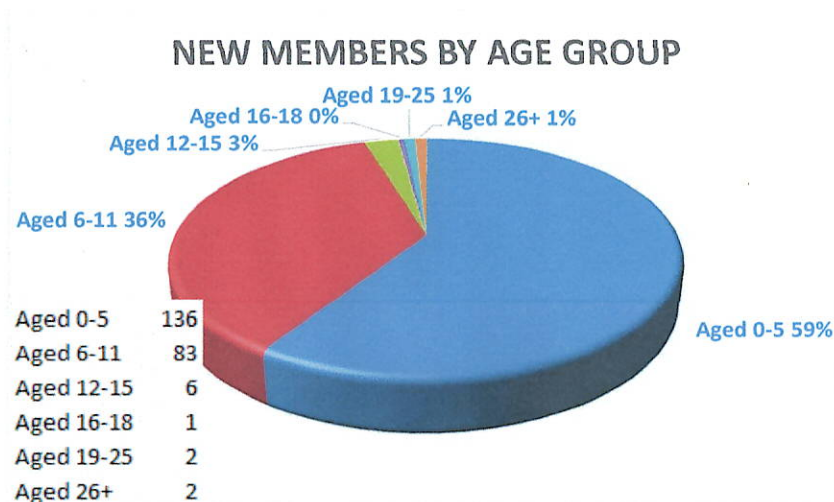
As of 31/03/2025 the Learning Library had a total of 596 Individual members.

Of these members their age groups were:-



During the financial year the Learning Library has continued to welcome new members. Totalling 230 over the 12 month period.

Of these new members their age groups were:-



During the financial year the Learning Library has continued to welcome new members, totalling 230 over the 12 month period. During the same period we have had 183 members journey with us come to an end. Therefore during this period the Learning Library had a growth of membership by 8.56% which was met head-on.

Over recent years there has been a much broader knowledge and a shifting focus with regards to sensory regulation for our members. As our members can either have no sensory issues, or be over or under sensitive to some sensory input, it is essential that we support our members and their careers with regards to regulating their sensory needs. This is quite a complex process as individuals needs can change on an hour by hour basis, and we really work to try and help members identify when their sensory regulation may be impacted, and to try and put steps in place as soon as practicable to do so.

A common example we get from families is that their child copes well at school, but as soon as they are home they are easily overwhelmed, or enter a crisis. A high proportion of our members are Primary Schools aged, and it is those families who most commonly report this.

We find that by supporting the individual to meet their needs, there is a positive effect on the entire household as there is a lower likelihood of a child reaching crisis point as we are able to intervene and recommend strategies to assist with this depending on the individual needs of the member. It is certainly not the case that every child that presents with masking behaviours at school, and then returns to their safe space requires the same intervention, it must be tailored to the individual.

As an organisation we receive regular and high volumes of referrals each and every month. In the previous financial year 50% of our new referrals were in the 0-5 age bracket. We often find that parents/guardians come to us really unsure about what to do for the best for their child. Sadly, we are in a time where there are substantial waiting lists for services for children with additional needs in this area, with families being quoted as much as 5 years for diagnosis/intervention.

As we are able to act so swiftly, we are able to work with families from the earliest chance, and work with and support families into their time of need. Some of the outcomes we measure within the organisation include learning a new skill, interaction with others and improved confidence. You can see from the numbers highlighted that we are able to quickly see positive outcome for our members. However one of the biggest pieces of feedback we receive is the benefit of having someone to turn to who will come out to their home and offer information and advice around any difficulties the family is facing and essentially to be a shoulder to lean on whilst learning about and navigating the challenges of having a child with additional needs.

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period

For this period our income and expenditure totalled
£145,052 Income

£122,749 Expenditure

INCOME APRIL 2024 – MARCH 2025

Grants

We received £109,741.70 in restricted grants and £10,536.70 in unrestricted grants totalling £120,277.85

Other income

Income from bank interest, sales products and sales services totaled £3,083.09

Own Fundraising

Our own fundraising totaled £1,331.50

Subscriptions

Income from Subscriptions totalled £6,440.94

Donations

Donations to the Learning Library from individuals and organisations brought in £14,131.40

Totals

The total funds into the Learning Library was £145,264.78

EXPENDITURE APRIL 2024 – MARCH 2025

Vehicle Costs

The vehicle costs for this financial year to include, fuel, insurance and maintenance etc was £6,989.98 which was a 33% increase on the previous year.

Staff Costs

Staff costs totalled £146, which was a 87% decrease on the previous year.

Running Costs

This cost includes accountancy, repairs, stationery, postage, telephone, HR charges etc totalled £4,455.64 which was a 19% reduction on the previous year.

Premises Costs

This cost includes building maintenance including, heating and lighting, buildings insurance etc totalled £10,342.78, a 9% reduction on the previous year.

Equipment

The cost this year for resources/equipment was £13,540.83 with an additional £22,000.00 to purchase a new van.

Wages

Wages for financial year 2024-2025 were £68,419.24, an decrease on 5%

Totals

Total running costs for the year came to £122,748.51.

Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held

The Learning Library holds a separate high interest account where we hold our unrestricted reserve funds. These funds are intended to support the organisation in a time of hardship. Should the Learning Library cease trading activities, it is expected that these reserves would fund any redundancy payments, prior to this the balance would fund approximately 3 months running costs. These funds can only be accessed with authorisation from the board of Trustees.

Amount of reserves held

£33,582.94

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:

Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)

Constitution

How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)

The Management group comprising of 7 Trustees make up the registered charity

Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees

The Management Group

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Learning Library
Registered charity number	1000589
Charity's principal address	45-47 North Street Spennymoor Co. Durham DL16 6AP

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Victoria Ross	Chairperson		
2	Denise Hickson	Vice Chairperson		
3	Esther Chinchin			
4	Stephen Heslop	Treasurer		
5	Elaine William	Secretary		
6	Ray Heslop			
7	Rebecca Calder			

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

The Learning Library does not have a Custodian Trustee

Exemptions from disclosure


Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

Not applicable

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Victoria Ross	
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	20 th January 2026	

THE LEARNING LIBRARY

45 – 47 NORTH STREET,
SPENNYMOOR,
COUNTY DURHAM

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR TO THE 31ST MARCH 2025

T. & A. Dixon Accountancy Services
The Old Doctors Surgery,
High Etherley,
Bishop Auckland,
Co. Durham
DL14 0HS

THE LEARNING LIBRARY

1. Independent Examiners Report
2. Accounting Statement
3. Statement of Assets and Liabilities



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Learning Library

On accounts for the year
ended

31 March 2025

Charity no
(if any)

1000589

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2023

Responsibilities and
basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

22/10/2025

Name:

Mr Alan Dixon

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

ICPA

Address: Church View, High Etherley
Bishop Auckland
County Durham DL14 0HS

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

THE LEARNING LIBRARY

Receipts and Payments Account for the year to the 31st March 2025

The information on the following pages does not form part of the statutory financial statements.

THE LEARNING LIBRARY
Receipts and Payments Basis
For the Year to 31st March, 2025

Receipts

Donations 14,131.40

Grants

Co-operative Community Fund	1,616.70	
Grants	33,775.60	
Children in Need	37,038.55	
Durham County Council	<u>47,847.00</u>	120,277.85

Other Income

Bank Interest	367.90	
Crowdfunder	147.56	
Sale of van	1,259.89	
Lost items	962.49	
Sales Services	<u>345.25</u>	3,083.09

Own Fundraising

Raffle	1,275.00	
Tombola	<u>56.50</u>	1,331.50

Subscriptions

Nursery	490.00	
Schools	5,830.94	
Day Care	<u>120.00</u>	6,440.94
		145,264.78

Bank Balance as at 1st April, 2024

Current Account Balance as at 31st March 2024	39,562.13	
Deposit Account Balance as at 31st March 2024	33,215.04	
Opening Cash in Hand	<u>224.17</u>	73,001.34
		218,266.12

Payments

Equipment

Toys & Equipment	13,540.83	
Motor Vehicle	<u>22,000.00</u>	35,540.83

Premises Costs

Building Maintenance / Repairs / Keys	2,043.89	
Heat & Light	2,738.79	
Rent Tudhoe Unit	2,986.56	
Water Rates	416.69	
Building Insurance	<u>2,156.85</u>	10,342.78

Running Costs

Accountancy	601.60	
HR	1,414.68	
Bank Charges	289.77	
Lottery Licence	20.00	
Stationery	622.32	
Cleaning	59.06	
Sundries	316.61	
Telephone & Internet	908.40	
Delivery Costs	<u>223.20</u>	4,455.64

Staff Costs

Staff Costs	116.00	
Flowers	<u>30.00</u>	146.00

Wages & On Costs

Employee wages	23,441.87	
HMRC Payment	3,406.40	
Pension	2,409.97	
CIN	<u>39,161.00</u>	68,419.24

Vehicle Costs

Service / Maintenance	619.26	
Insurance	3,003.78	
Miscellaneous	16.19	
Road Tax	660.00	
Fuel	<u>2,687.75</u>	6,986.98

Miscellaneous

Subscriptions	35.00	
Event	<u>175.00</u>	<u>210.00</u>
		126,101.47
PY Creditors	1,331.86	
CY Creditors	<u>4,684.82</u>	<u>- 3,352.96</u>
		122,748.51
PY Debtors	141.70	
CY Debtors	<u>354.73</u>	213.03

Closing Cash Balance	204.83	
Current Account Balance as at 31st March 2025	61,516.81	
Deposit Account Balance as at 31st March 2025	<u>33,582.94</u>	<u>95,304.58</u>
		218,266.12

THE LEARNING LIBRARY


Accounting Statement

Receipts and Payments Basis
For the Year to 31st March, 2025

<u>Receipts</u>	2025
Gifts, donations and other voluntary receipts	134,557
Receipts from Trading activities	9,080
Receipts earned from assets	1,628
<u>Total Receipts</u>	<u>145,265</u>
<u>Payments</u>	
Payments directly for charitable purposes	
Payments for publicity and fundraising, management and administration	87,208
<u>Total payments</u>	<u>87,208</u>
<u>Net Receipts / (Payments)</u>	<u>58,057</u>
Cash funds Last Year End	<u>73,001</u>
Cash Funds This Year End	<u>95,305</u>

The Charity has restricted funds
The Charity has no endowment funds

Signed on behalf of the Trustees


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Approved by the board of Trustees on -

THE LEARNING LIBRARY

Statement of Assets and Liabilities
as at 31st March, 2025

Cash Funds

Cash in Hand	205
Bank Current Account	61,517
Bank Deposit Account	<u>33,583</u>
Total Cash Funds	95,305

Debtors

Invoices outstanding at year end	355
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Assets Retained for Charity's Own Use

General Account

	Bfwd	Bought	Sold	Depn	Cfwd
Office Furniture and Equipment	4,316		-	863	3,453
Fixtures, Fittings and Equipment - Cost	112,669	13,541	-	12,621	113,589
Motor vehicle - Cost	<u>6,469</u>	<u>22,000</u>	<u>1,260</u>	<u>5,442</u>	<u>21,767</u>
	<u>123,454</u>	<u>35,541</u>	<u>1,260</u>	<u>18,926</u>	<u>138,809</u>

Liabilities

General Account	4,685
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Signed on behalf of the Trustees


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Approved by the board of Trustees on -



Charity Name Learning Library	No (if any) 1000589
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Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date 01/04/2024	To	Period end date 31/03/2025
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	13,131	1,000	-	14,131	3,354
Grants	4,492	115,786	-	120,278	115,024
Other Income	1,455	-	-	1,455	99
Own Fundraising	1,332	-	-	1,332	522
Subscriptions	6,441	-	-	6,441	4,495
Debtors Adjustment	- 213	-	-	- 213	- 226
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	26,638	116,786	-	143,424	123,268
A2 Asset and investment sales, etc.					
	1,628	-	-	1,628	268
Total receipts	28,266	116,786	-	145,052	123,536
A3 Payments					
Miscellaneous	210	-	-	210	100
Premises Costs	8,082	2,261	-	10,343	11,360
Running Costs	2,357	2,099	-	4,456	5,301
Staff Costs	146	-	-	146	1,181
Vehicle Costs	5,862	1,125	-	6,987	7,806
Wages & ON Costs	11,225	57,194	-	68,419	72,079
Volunteer Costs	-	-	-	-	-
Subscription	-	-	-	-	125
	-	-	-	-	-
Creditors Adjustment	- 3,353	-	-	- 3,353	- 1,159
Sub total	24,529	62,678	-	87,208	96,792
A4 Asset and investment purchases, etc.					
	24,161	11,380	-	35,541	16,606
Total payments	48,690	74,058	-	122,749	113,398
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 20,424	42,727	-	22,303	10,138
A5 Transfers between funds					
	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end					
	73,001	-	-	73,001	62,862
Cash funds this year end	52,577	42,727	-	95,304	73,000

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank & Cash Accounts	52,577	42,727	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds (agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	52,577	42,727	-
B2 Other monetary assets	Debtors	355	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	Office Furniture & Equipment	3,453	-	-
	Fixtures, Fittings & Equipment	113,589	-	-
	Motor Vehicle	21,767	-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
	Creditors	4,685	-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees		Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
		Vicky Lee	24/11/25	