

SKYLIGHT CIRCUS IN EDUCATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1001570

Details

Other names	SKYLIGHT CIRCUS ARTS - SKYLIGHT - SKYLIGHT CIRCUS
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	02567143
Registered	1991-01-18
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Skylight Circus Arts St. Chads Fold Sparrow Hill Rochdale Lancashire OL16 1QT
Phone	01706 650 676
Email	info@skylightcircusarts.com
Website	www.skylightcircusarts.com

Activities

Objects: 1) TO PROMOTE MAINTAIN IMPROVE AND ADVANCE EDUCATION FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT BY THE DEMONSTRATION AND TEACHING OF HUMAN CIRCUS SKILLS 2) TO PROMOTE THE NEEDS OF DISABLED PERSONS BY THE DEMONSTRATION AND TEACHING OF HUMAN CIRCUS SKILLS TO SUCH PERSONS

Activities: Life-changing social circus projects improve health and well-being. Collaborations: professionals and members create productions. Fully accessible circus school/studio theatre, Rochdale. Regular classes: circus, aerial, performance. Outreach. Specialisms: circus with disability, mental health, challenging young people, diversity. Address challenges in communities with multiple deprivation.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, The Advancement Of Health Or Saving Of Lives, Disability, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Recreation
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£227,108	£229,082	-	-
2024-03-31	£240,055	£261,037	-	-
2023-03-31	£210,328	£243,484	-	-
2022-03-31	£147,571	£213,281	-	-
2021-03-31	£167,522	£152,019	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Jim Riley	Chair	
Adele Navesey Hall		2024-10-17
Bushra Sultana		2024-10-17
EIRA LOUISE SHORT		
James Macpherson		2015-09-08
Martin Lee		2017-06-14
NOREEN WHITE		2012-01-16

Accounts



SKYLIGHT CIRCUS IN EDUCATION T/A SKYLIGHT CIRCUS ARTS
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

REGISTERED CHARITY 1001570
COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE 02567143

SKYLIGHT CIRCUS IN EDUCATION

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**SKYLIGHT CIRCUS IN EDUCATION
ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31 2025**

CHARITY NAME	Skylight Circus in Education Also known as Skylight Circus Arts and Skylight
COMPANY NUMBER	02567143
CHARITY NUMBER	1001570
REGISTERED OFFICE AND OPERATIONAL ADDRESS	St Chads Fold Sparrow Hill Rochdale OL16 1QT
TRUSTEES Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:	J. Riley - Chair E. Short - Secretary N. White - Appointed 16 January 2012 J. Macpherson - Appointed 8th September 2015 M. Lee - Appointed 14th June 2017 M. Ramsdale - Appointed 23rd December 2021 J. Hurn, Treasurer - Resigned 31st March 2024 A.Navesy Hall - Appointed 17th October 2024 B.Sultana - Appointed 17th October 2024
KEY MANAGEMENT	Martine Bradford - Director
BANK	Co-operative Bank P.L.C 1 Balloon Street Manchester M60 4E
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER & ACCOUNTANTS	Angelika Gacek Pennine Accounting Limited 109a Church St Littleborough OL15 8AA

SKYLIGHT CIRCUS IN EDUCATION

Trading as: Skylight Circus Arts

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT 31ST MARCH 2025

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025. Included within the trustees' report is the directors' report required by company law.

Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Purposes, Aims, Objectives and Skylight Activities

Purposes and aims in Skylight's original governing document:

'To promote, maintain, improve and advance education for the public benefit by the demonstration and teaching of human circus skills. To relieve the needs of disabled persons by the demonstration and teaching of human circus skills to such persons' (1990)

Charity Commission Activities Overview 2020

Life-changing social circus projects to improve health and well-being. Collaborations: professionals and members to create productions. Specialisms: circus with disability, diversity, mental health, challenging young people. Address challenges in communities with multiple deprivation.

Purposes 2020 Summary. 'Benefiting individuals and communities through circus arts training, performance and workshops. Skylight's base in central Rochdale is in an area of multiple deprivation and activities extend across the region.

Aims, objectives and activities are reviewed by the trustees each year. The trustees ensure the charity remains focused on its stated purpose. This report looks at the achievements of the charity and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period from April 2024 to March 2025.

FOREWORD

A year of circus magic, bold ideas, big leaps (literally!) and a fair share of hurdles too. Through it all, Skylight Circus Arts has kept moving forward, adapting and continuing to bring the joy of circus in ways that deepen connections and enrich experiences.

We've secured income from grant makers and commissioners, no small feat in a challenging funding climate. Despite this, we've continued to innovate, expand our reach, increase global majority participation to 29.05% and keep people and purpose at the heart of what we do.

Although we ended the year with an unplanned operating loss that affected our free reserves, plans are already in place to build resilience. We won't let challenges overshadow what has been an incredible year. We welcomed over 9,000 people into the world of circus through our studio, in schools, community centres and at festivals across Greater Manchester and the North West England.

Our brilliant (and tiny) team delivered over 570 workshops and more than 11,000 people experienced Skylight performances, a highlight being SKY FI, co-created and performed by our re-established youth performing troupe SPOTLIGHT.

We've grown our work in special schools, dementia care homes and community spaces, reaching children and young people who might not otherwise access the arts. We partnered with Proud and Loud to run a summer programme for adults with disabilities in Manchester and brought the magic of circus to the Children's Adventure Farm Trust at their three-day festival for families with disabled children.

I'm proud of our team's creative response to the impact of young people's mental health. With partners like Create Rochdale and Rochdale Early Help and Schools team we've delivered vital school projects that combine circus, care and creativity to help children reconnect, rebuild confidence and have fun.

Thanks to our partnership with Culture Coop in Rochdale we launched Fireflies, our dazzling new community fire project. There's something magical and mischievous about using flame as a tool for creative expression. Our youth and community performers helped bring the fire to the Ignite Fire Festival.

Thank you for being right there with us. Your support and belief in what we do means the world.

Martine Bradford, Director

YEAR IN FOCUS: 2024 - 2025

- Secured Arts Council England National Lottery funding to relaunch SPOTLIGHT, our youth performance troupe, who co-created SKY FI, a circus and aerial show exploring the vastness of space.
- Grew outreach work across Rochdale, Greater Manchester and beyond and continued to support our local communities working with organisations such as YourTrust, Rochdale Connections Trust and Kirkholt Million
- Stayed active in local support networks such as the Refugee and Asylum Forum and delivered our Circus Globe project for asylum and refugee families with support from Action Together
- Launched our FIREFLIES project, funded by Culture Co Op and in partnership with Traveling Light Circus who trained our community adult group and upskilled our staff team. We took both groups to perform at Rochdale's IGNITE FIRE FESTIVAL.
- Expanded our education programme with CIRCUS SPARKS training in primary schools, our new Book of Games resource and contributions to Create Rochdale Network and the Rochdale Education Awards.
- Performed at the Rochdale Borough Culture Network Conference and took staff, freelancers and participants on an inspiration trip to see Gorilla Circus at The Lowry
- Secured National Lottery 'Awards for All England' funding to grow our SILVER CIRCUS project for people living with dementia
- Improved our venue with support from Rochdale Development Agency bringing new stage mats, lighting, equipment and our landlord St Chads Church Trust, funded new double glazed windows and doors to support sustainability
- Awarded with the Quality in Action Award from Action Together, demonstrating our commitment to safeguarding, quality assurance and continuous improvement.

CIRCUS FOR WELLBEING

'Circus For Wellbeing' is our strand of work which specifically supports physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Skylight is inclusive. Projects this year covered people with a variety of needs and disadvantages:

- Young people and adults with special educational needs and disabilities and neurodiversity
- Young people and families that are seeking asylum, refugee families and new arrivals, some having English as an additional language.
- Elders at risk of isolation, with disabilities / living with dementia
- Young and vulnerable: trauma, mental health, in care

Project Work Highlights

CIRCUS GLOBE

Supported by Action Together, our Circus Globe project for refugees and asylum seekers (including young people from Ukraine, Eritrea, Syria and Iraq) have grown far beyond expectations. Working with trauma-informed specialists, these sessions provided a safe, creative outlet for new arrivals in crisis. We provided circus activities for the families, with some participants performing with us at Rochdale's Feel Good Family Picnics.

SIDE BY SIDE CIRCUS

Supported by NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership funding, our SIDE BY SIDE project uses circus to support the mental and physical wellbeing of young people aged 4 to 18 and their families. Many of the children and families we work with face significant social and emotional challenges. The project provides a supportive and welcoming space where they can build confidence, strengthen relationships and develop self-belief. Some participants are living with the impact of trauma, neurodiversity, low mental wellbeing or emotional and behavioural challenges. This year we saw far more families taking part than expected with over 220 participants this year. Sessions included participants from self-referrals to Skylight Circus Arts Saturday Morning Sessions, children from Broadfield Community Primary School and young people from Barnardo's Youth Group.

MIDDLETON HOLIDAYS AT HOME

Middleton Holidays at Home funding from Your Trust's, Middleton Township Fund, provided summer circus fun sessions and healthy food at the Burnside Centre, for young people 6 - 12 years in socially disadvantaged areas.

SILVER CIRCUS

For over 60's, continues to flourish. In addition to their regular sessions, members of the group performed their circus skills at local events and shared the tales from our SPARROW HILL project in a mini tour of our Pop Up Book. We further developed the SILVER CIRCUS project by taking circus skills into care homes for those living with dementia at Apna Ghah, Beechwood Lodge and Belvoir.

BBC CHILDREN IN NEED FUNDED SPRING 3

30 June 2024 saw our beautiful 3 year project for children with SEND conclude, It culminated with animated afterschool circus activities and performance at Newlands Primary School. The first iteration of Spring 1 began ten years ago

CIRCUS JOY

'Circus Joy' is our strand of work focused on circus activities for leisure and entertainment.

Projects, Classes & Commissions Highlights

We run up to eight regular weekly sessions for different ages and abilities. These include four youth circus and youth aerial classes, circus for adults, SILVER CIRCUS and 'Ropes' – our innovative session for adults with profound and additional needs. Harnesses and hoists are used alongside circus equipment to offer unique experiences. This year, 213 participants attended our classes.

Our annual Show Ho Ho, performed over two nights, brings together all participants from our classes and projects to share the joys of circus performance with family and friends.

Skylight's ambition is to increase the quality and quantity of circus and aerial performance. Thanks to Arts Council England funding, we re-established our SPOTLIGHT Youth Performance Troupe and co-created with the young people their debut show Sky Fi, performed at Skylight's venue in March 2025. The group includes 15 local young people aged 11 to 20 years who have a desire to push their circus and performance skills further. Many are neurodivergent and some experience anxiety, low mood and confidence. Skylight provides a space where they can be themselves, express their individuality and build confidence and self belief through high-quality training with industry professionals in circus, aerial and performance. 91.67% of members said their confidence improved after they'd co-created SKY-FI.

We were commissioned by Rochdale Borough Council to deliver circus and aerial taster workshops and performances at the 'Feel Good Family Picnics'. Skylight's Youth Circus and SILVER CIRCUS seniors groups performed in four parks across the Borough.

We also shared the joys of circus at Darnhill Festival, led by Cartwheel Arts. Participants from Youth Circus joined the community parade and provided 'Have-A-Go' circus workshops for the local community.

Additionally, we attended the Rochdale Borough Culture Network Conference at Rochdale Town Hall, where participants from SILVER CIRCUS and SPOTLIGHT performed.

Outreach Work

Our outreach work took circus joy across Rochdale Borough, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and West Yorkshire. Sessions included workshops and performances in the community, youth and education settings, and small outdoor events.

Highlights include:

- HOME Manchester – 'Have-A-Go' circus workshop at the family event LITTLE HOME
- St. Elphin's Park – 'Have-A-Go' circus workshop at a community day in Warrington.
- Have-A-Go Circus workshops for children and their families at the Children's Adventure Farm Trust 3 day family festival.
- Sensory Circus 'Have-A-Go' sessions in as part of 'THE DEN' at Kingsway High School commissioned by The Royle Exchange

CIRCUS PATHWAYS

Our Pathways strand brings together our education and career development work. This year we expanded our education offer, forming new partnerships to support teachers' creative development. Co-produced delivery has helped us measure the impact of circus on wellbeing and a whole-person approach to learning.

Research into the barriers schools face when embedding creative wellbeing, in collaboration with Comino Foundation, Curious Minds and Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), is shaping the future direction of our work.

Our CIRCUS SPARKS 'Train the Trainer' programme with Rochdale Borough Council Early Help and Schools team ran on a smaller scale this year due to limited funds but still delivered strong results, supporting primary school children who missed key learning opportunities during lockdown.

We strengthened our partnerships with local schools and remain an active member of Create Rochdale, the town's Local Cultural Education Partnership (LCEP).

Highlights included:

- Attending the Northern Cultural Education Awards with Curious Minds at The Edge Arena in Wigan
- Contributing to the Creative Careers event at Rochdale Town Hall and sponsoring an award at the Rochdale Education Awards

- Delivering sessions for students at Bolton University, The Loyne Specialist School and Rochdale Virtual School
- We brought circus into educational community events, including open Have-A-Go circus workshops at the Rochdale Literature Festival.

We continued to provide opportunities for our youth circus participants to gain hands-on experience within the creative industry. This included supporting young volunteers to assist in teaching circus and aerial skills in our regular classes and at outreach events. Participants also gained practical technical experience, helping with stage lighting and preparing our space for performances.

Over the year, we supported three secondary school students, each completing a week-long work placement with us. In a further step forward, a member of our youth circus has joined the staff team, now paid as a trainee circus teacher on some projects and outreach activities, demonstrating the real career pathways our programmes can create.

BENEFICIARY FEEDBACK

"Skylight has long been one of Rochdale's most distinctive and inspiring cultural organisations. Your commitment to inclusive, imaginative work that brings people together - across generations and abilities - is something our borough can be proud of. Whether it's circus arts in education, outreach work or simply creating joy in unexpected places, Skylight continues to make a remarkable contribution to the life of our community."

- **Paul Waugh MP, Member of Parliament for Rochdale**

"I had such an amazing evening! I feel so lucky to have met you all and been able to share this experience with you. What a wonderful performance from everyone this evening!"

- **'Fireflies' participant & community performer.**

"We left feeling as though we'd been taken on a journey - not to outer space, but to an inner space where we learnt a lesson about what young people can achieve when they're given a community to form for themselves, with the slightest of outside forces. In this case, it was a force of nature called Creative Expression."

- **James Doyle Roberts, Citrus Arts. Section of peer review of Sky Fi March 2025**

"Just a handful of the 20 odd family members that showed up to support my daughter (name removed) this weekend & watch her circus show & I actually felt quite emotional seeing her perform. Those that have known her a long time will remember it wasn't that long ago that she never left her bedroom & wasn't able to talk unless it was someone she knew really really well & has always hated being touched but this weekend she has performed in front of 100s of people doing something she really loves (also scares she shizzle out of me!) Skylight Circus Arts has allowed her to be her authentic self & be accepted for who she is with kids who just champion each other. No more masking & being exhausted from trying to fit in. She's found 'her people' & added bonus she gets that

adrenaline sensory need met! There was a time I wondered if she would ever be able to live independently & now I think she may well end up my most independent child. We are so proud of you"

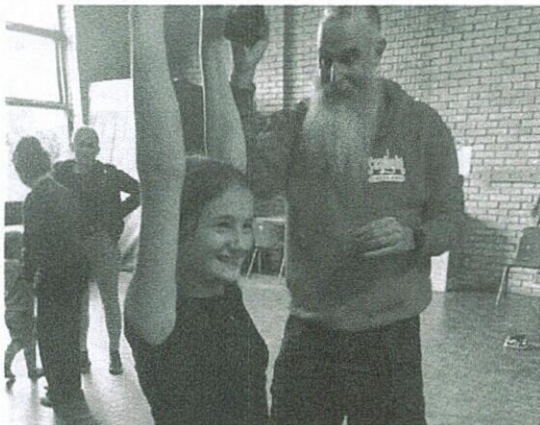
- Parent of Youth Circus & Spotlight Participant

"I met a friend in town who said come to Skylight Silver Circus. It took 2 months to pluck up courage but I finally made it. Staff and people are so friendly and made me feel at home right away. I was taught how to learn to juggle to start with, which gave me coordination and also exercise. Everyone was encouraging and supportive. I slowly started learning other skills. I look forward to going to Skylight Silver Circus, as I am on my own and get to mix with other people. I don't go out much and it's nice to be able to chat as well, my family are overseas and they know that I enjoy myself going to Silver Circus. I have found a new lease of life at 81 and look forward to Mondays, brilliant!"

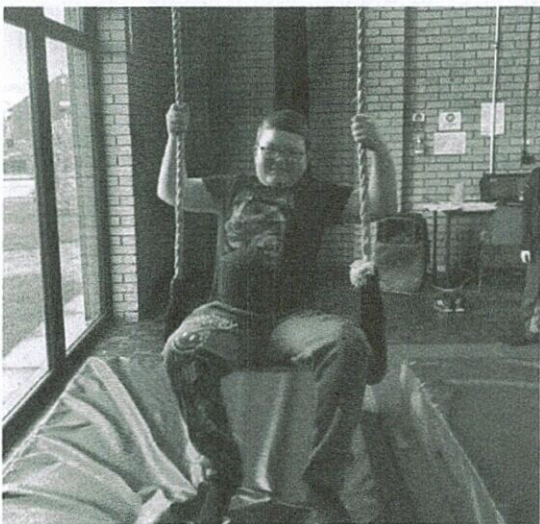
- Silver Circus (for over 55's) Participant

"Sessions were thoroughly enjoyed by the ladies group. They said it was the best fun exercise they've ever participated in & would love for these sessions to take place again. A great way of reducing isolation & getting the ladies to get out & about; it's really helped them to relax as well as helping to ease their depression."

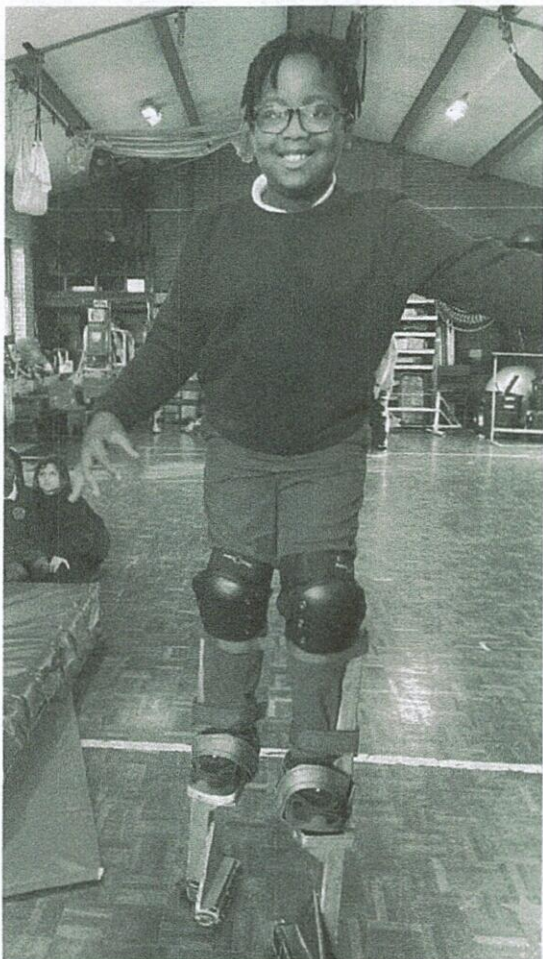
- Staff Member, Deepish Elderly Ladies Group



Circus Globe Project
Asylum Seeker & Refugee Families Circus Sessions and
performance at Rochdale's Feel Good Family Picnics
June - July 2024



Side by Side Families
Saturday Morning Sessions
ICB Funded Project
Autumn 2024



Broadfield Community Primary School
Side by Side
ICB Funded Project
January 2025



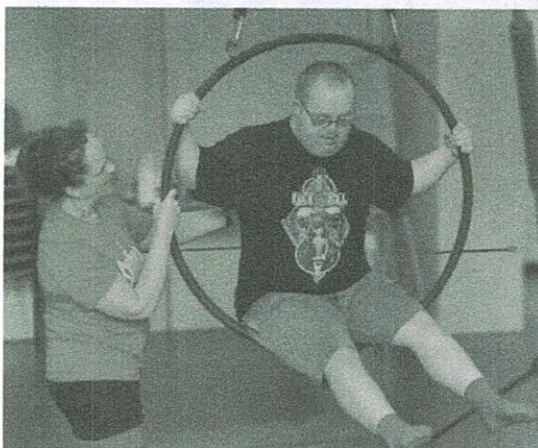
Burnside Centre Summer Circus
Middleton Holiday At Home
August 2024



Silver Circus Project
Apna Ghah Mens Group
 Awards For All Funded | January 2025



Silver Circus Project
Beechwood Lodge & Belvoir Care Home
 Awards For All Funded | January 2025



Proud and Loud | Contact Theatre
Circus summer programme for adults with disabilities
 August 2024



Weekly Rope Swing Session
Adults with Disabilities



Rochdale Town Hall | Have-A-Go Circus Workshop
Families experiencing the joys of circus
March 2025



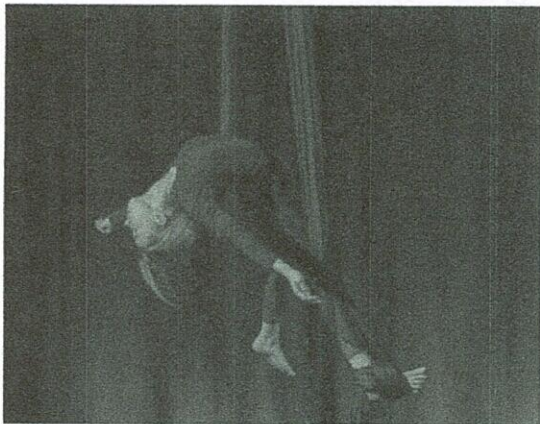
Have-A-Go Circus Workshop | Rochdale Carers Hub
Milnrow Cricket Club
June 2024



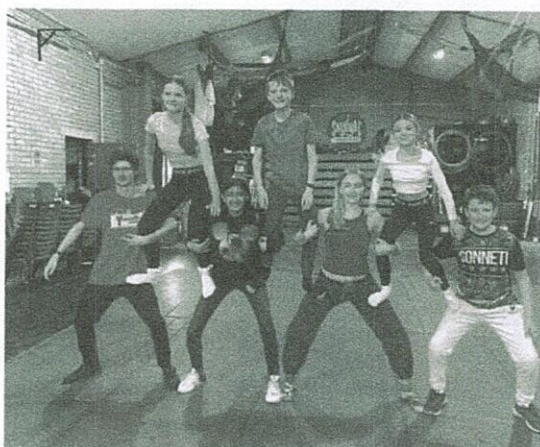
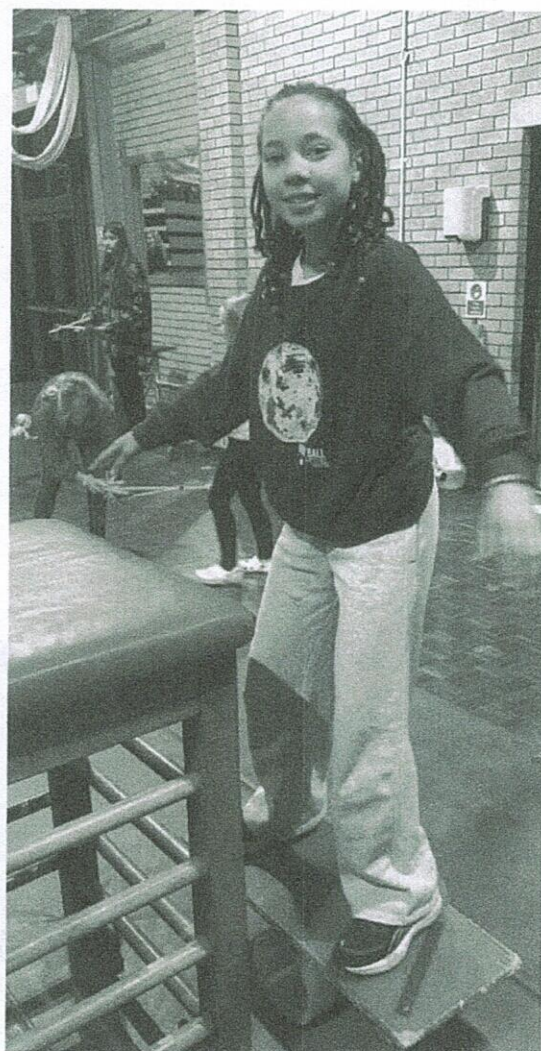
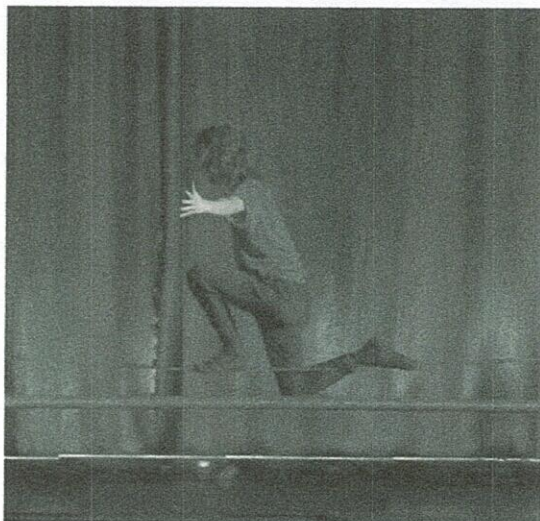
FestiDale | Circus Skills Workshop
Partnership with The Royal Exchange | August 2025
Photography: Joel C Fields



HOME Manchester | Little Home Event
Family Open Have-a-Go Circus Workshop
August 2024

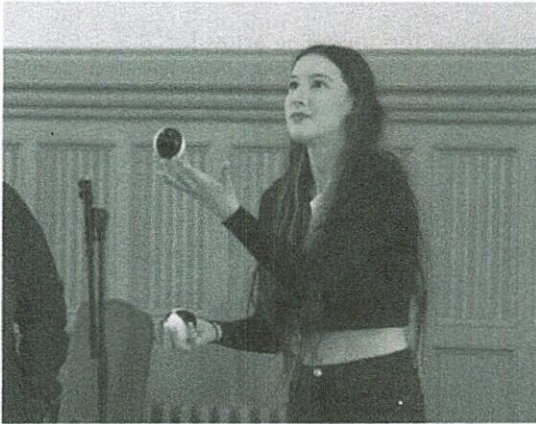


Arts Council Funded | Sky Fi Circus Show | Spotlight Youth Performing Troupe
 Skylight Circus Arts
 March 2024
 Photography: Ian Hodgeson



Weekly Teen Youth Circus
 Group Acro Pyramids
 Skylight Circus Arts

Weekly Midi Youth Circus
 Rolla Bolla Practise
 Skylight Circus Arts



Spotlight Youth Troupe Performer & Silver Circus
Performance and Talk
Rochdale Borough Culture Network Conference
February 2025



Giant Puppet Masterclass
Global Grooves
July 2024



Fireflies Community Fire Spinning
In partnership Culture Coop and Traveling Light Circus
November 2024

PERFORMANCE AGAINST OBJECTIVES

At the end of the previous reporting period the Trustees set out the following areas for development:

Artistic Development

Artistic development has flourished in our ambition to achieve quality performance. Our co-creation model development has enabled our young performers to achieve remarkable standards. Our working processes are now fully embedded with our talented staff team.

Skylight reaffirmed our commitment to working with sector-leading talent for staff and freelance worker's CPD and to inspire participants. The ACE Project Grant included involvement with director, performer and choreographer Gil Burns who mentored Skylight's Charma Force in her own development as a director.

Thanks to our partnership with Rochdale Borough Culture Network, we hosted and took part in a Giant Puppet Masterclass by Global Grooves which led to Skylight parading at Rochdale's Feel Good Family Picnics.

Thanks to Culture Co-Op we partnered with Traveling Light Circus, who trained two Skylight staff members in teaching and performing fire spinning.

Programme Development

We consolidated working relationships with major arts centres such as HOME, Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester and long time supporter The Lowry in Salford. This led to commissions and fee-paid work.

Environmental Sustainability

With funding from our landlords St Chad's Trust, windows and doors were upgraded improving comfort, security and energy efficiency within our building.

Our aim to purchase an electric or hybrid vehicle was not fulfilled without funding secured.

Financial Sustainability

We have made some progress in the move towards financial sustainability in a difficult funding climate.

STAFFING AND EMPLOYMENT

Employment

This past year has been one of significant transition. While we continued to grow creatively and deepen our impact, we faced a series of challenges in an increasingly competitive funding landscape resulting in a decrease in annual turnover.

In Dec 2024 we said farewell to our CEO, David Allen whose leadership helped guide us through important phases of our evolution. Dawn Pierson, in mid December 2024 Skylight's Funding and Development Manager made the difficult decision to leave her full time role to move to working freelance one day per week. At the same time, our Creative Director stepped forward to take on a new, expanded role as Director, bringing a renewed artistic vision and deep commitment to our mission. This leadership marks the beginning of a new chapter, grounded in resilience and sustainability.

Expansion & Diversification Of Delivery Workforce

Youth circus participants who are keen to take their circus and aerial skills further are nurtured and offered employment opportunities. Long-standing youth circus member Jemima Qureshi joined our staff team in February 2025. More young people will step into similar roles in the year ahead.

Summary:

2 Full Time Staff Creative Director/Director, Arts Administrator/Circus Tutor

4 Part Time Staff Finance, Building Manager/Tutor, Trainee Circus Tutor, Cleaner

Equivalent 3.4 full time posts

Freelance Team

Artists ranging from aerial to music & choreography. We contract additional specialists as needed.

- Fundraising Freelance Workers x 2 - Dawn Pierson, Karen Metcalfe
- Circus and Aerial Freelance Workers x10 - Annette Force, Gil Burns, Martin Degnan, Pete Dunstan, Steve Broomhead, Danni Hall, Cath Le Monnier, Winston Plough, Martin Moor.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Skylight continued its efforts to support our staff team, volunteers and freelance team in skills development. By paying freelance workers to train with us, we ensure that professionals continue to be available to support the sector in general.

Safeguarding

All Staff, Volunteers And Trustees

First Aid At Work

Charma Force, Martine Bradford,
Mick Chapman

Fire Marshall

Mick Chapman

Chaperone Training

Charma Force, Martine Bradford,
Mick Chapman, Flw Danni Hall,
Trustees Adele Navesey Hall, Eira
Short, Martin James Lee

Suicide Awareness Training

Mick Chapman

Leadership Training

Martine Bradford

Facilitation Workshop Action

Together - Levelling Up Fund

David Allen

Marketing And Social Media

Charma Force

Google Ads

Charma Force, Dawn Pierson,
David Allen

Fundraising - Dawn Pierson

Fire Performance Training

Charma Force, Martine Bradford

Carnival Puppet Animation

Global Grooves

Staff Team And Participants

Rope Splicing

Martine Bradford & Mick
Chapman

Introduction To Directing:

Breaking Barriers

Charma Force

OUTPUTS

	2024 - 2025	2023 - 2024
Total Sessions Delivered	574	527
Individual participants	9,645	9,304
Total % Global majority participants	2,802 (29.05%)	2,424 (26.1%)
Project participants with SEND	316	287
Number of Interventions	11555	12581
Classes	2,491	2,183
Projects	2,573	3,089
Outreach	6,491	7,309
Total Interventions	11,555	12,581
Audiences	11,203	14,182

FINANCIAL REVIEW 2024/5

Overall results this year were an improvement on the previous year with the deficit much reduced, partially due to reduced expenditure from employment restructuring in the third quarter. Income and expenditure were both lower.

Income £227,108

Expenditure £229,703

Deficit £2,595

Donations were increased to £6,303 compared to £1,051 the year before. £4000 was donated by two trustees and £566 was from the Glennis Brierley Memorial Fund for Spotlight equipment used in Sky-Fi

Earned income from commissions, fees for classes, workshops, performance was a very healthy £112,821, over 50% of total income. Grant income was not as high, with a mix of successes and near misses reflecting increased competition for funding:

£44800 Henry Smith Charity final year of Strengthening Communities core funding

£14,930 Art Council Lottery Project Fund for Sky-Fi production

£19,575 Awards for All for Silver Circus

£25,000 Garfield Weston Fund for core costs

£4,110 Action Together for Circus Globe

£2760 Rochdale Visitor Attraction and Venues Improvement Scheme (RDA) for equipment*

*This equipment gave Sky-Fi a more professional feel, reinforcing the need to continue developing Skylight's facilities to unlock participant potential and provide high-quality cultural engagement opportunities

Hall hire was only £820. There is still no regular client.

Expenditure for the premises has been reduced with lower insurance and heating costs.

THE NEW FINANCIAL YEAR (FY 25/6)

Financial Outlook

As 25/6 began, the Board and Executive Team anticipated a challenging year. A series of successful bids in the first quarter greatly improved the financial outlook. At the same time, the small, hardworking staff team increased outputs in the community, generating additional income and new commissions. The year is expected to end with a surplus and reserves rebuilt.

Workforce reductions and consequent restructure have reduced staffing costs to a viable level for 2025/26. Staff wage increases do not fully compensate for additional responsibilities, trustees recognise that another part-time post is necessary to prevent burnout. Provision for this post is included in all budgets and bids, with the aim of recruiting by the final quarter once core funds are secured.

A regular venue hire client to contribute towards lease and utility costs has not yet been secured, although some hire income is being achieved at times.

Core Funding

Core funding remains a concern, as several multi-year funds have ended and the Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) programme is on hold. Rochdale BC did not provide core funding last year, and expectations are uncertain for 25/26. The Executive Team continues to lobby for additional financial support and to adapt our offer to meet local authority funder priorities.

Key updates on core funding:

- Henry Smith Charity (HSC): Flex funding of £44,800 supports core costs in 25/6, though changes in HSC criteria currently prevent Skylight applying for further funding.
- Postcode Lottery: £20,000 unrestricted funding provides additional core support for 25/6.
- BBC Children In Need funds ended June 2024. A bid for continuation was not successful. We hope to make a bid to support the core aspects of work with SEND young people from 2026/7.
- Paul Hamlyn Foundation: Initial success in a bid to develop our education offer was not ultimately secured; an amended submission is planned and underway
- Garfield Weston Foundation: a multiyear bid for core funding 26/29 will be submitted
- GMCA Spirit Fund core application for 26/9 is submitted

- Reaching Communities: Potential core funding multi year bid scheduled to be completed Jan 26.

Project bids for 25/26 have been very successful, including True Colours for our SKY HI Project, Hays Travel Foundation and Foyle Foundation for SPOTLIGHT. Results are awaited from the Arts Council for Flight Paths, a Spotlight performance project.

Funding of £17,535 from NHS Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership is commissioned for the next two years for Side by Side, making nine years of continuous NHS commissioning for this valued project

Full cost recovery is the aim for project bids.

Earned income, mainly for work in Education and the Community, will probably be even higher in 25/6 than 24/5. Staff are working hard to replace grant income and achieve financial sustainability whilst maintaining the high level of support for our beneficiaries. The post pandemic level of need is still apparent, especially for young people.

Capital Development

An Expression of Interest for the Creative Foundations Fund was successful, with a full bid submitted 31 October 2025. It includes new sustainable ASHP heating system, new seating, security, and an ev van. If successful, there will be savings in expenditure and new opportunities for income improving financial sustainability.

The landlord has agreed a lease extension that supports ACE eligibility for capital funds.

Artistic Excellence and Development

We are committed to maximising opportunities for the development of performance, with a particular focus on supporting our thriving Youth Circus troupes, showcasing talent to wider audiences and improving access in this area of high deprivation and low participation in arts.

Rochdale has been awarded the Greater Manchester Town Of Culture Award 2025-26 opening up further opportunities. Our partnership with Culture Coop and the Fireflies Community Project will continue, building on our shared commitment to community engagement and creative development. The excitement of performing at Ignite Festival has attracted many new participants from the community.

Apprenticeship and Work Placements

Skylight will continue supporting much valued work experience placements for local schools. Meanwhile our commitment to apprenticeships remains strong. We need to train young people as trainers and they need opportunities. Finance is the barrier. For the last five years we have been unable to take on apprentices as in earlier years. Sources of funding in this area are a high priority.

Circus Pathways

Commissions continue with Shine Bright Schools project in partnership with Create Rochdale (LCEP) with a focus on wellbeing. Working with local schools and the early help and schools team to reach young people currently experiencing or who have experienced the care system and improve wellbeing through engaging in the arts.

Alongside this we will continue to nurture our own young creatives, providing volunteer, training and employment opportunities to further develop their creative industry skills.

Circus for All

Our focus continues to be on engaging diverse sectors of the community, as demonstrated through our expanded work with Sky Hi, supporting young people with disabilities and additional needs; Silver Circus, which serves elders and those living with dementia; and Side By Side, a programme promoting positive mental health through circus activities. All these will remain priorities for project funding.

RESERVES POLICY

TAR reserves had been depleted due to unplanned losses in FY 23-24 and 24-25, although they are currently improving somewhat. Special care continues to be paid to cash flow.

At the end March 2025 the total funds of the charity were £ 46,307. Of this £2,023 was restricted, £44,284 unrestricted funds less fixed assets of £1,714.

Trustees have agreed the designated reserve figure should be returned to about £60,000 APAS to cover redundancy costs, a minimum 2 month's core costs and liabilities should the charity become financially unviable.

The approved budget forecasts a return to acceptable levels of reserves by the end of the calendar year.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Skylight was registered as a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity in December 1990.

The company has a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and it is governed under its Articles of Association.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 10 to the accounts.

Trustees who are related parties this year: The Chair, J C Riley, is married to Noreen White.

The Board does not currently have a Treasurer. We operate a Finance Sub Group (see 'RISK MANAGEMENT').

This is deemed within acceptable risk as the bank account and formal accountancy services are managed by an external certified management accountancy practice.

Prospective trustees receive induction materials and are voted onto the board. No other person or external body is entitled to appoint trustees.

Five of our eight trustees are female. Trustees' lived experience reflects many communities we serve, including disability and access issues & working class backgrounds.

To diversify our Board of Trustees, we welcomed Adele Navesy-Hall whose experience in education and SEND is invaluable. Bushra Sultana also joined, with an impressive background as a visual artist and creative leader rooted in the heart of Rochdale. Vacancies exist for treasurer, input from young people, local diversity groups

RISK MANAGEMENT

Trustees monitor financial and other risks at quarterly meetings so they can take prompt action when needed.

Safeguarding is a standing agenda point at Board meetings. A financial risk policy reflects established practices and strategic approach to income. A financial processes policy reflects the move to outsourced bookkeeping services.

Meetings take place in a hybrid format with attendance in person and online depending on availability. Attendance from all trustees was strong. Trustees monitor risks in the subgroups set up at times to address specific needs in addition to full trustee meetings. Usually, these are: Employment Sub Group, Finance Sub group and Creative Sub group.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees:

The trustees (who are also directors of Skylight Circus in Education for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation
- The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.
- The Board are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

- The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 12th December 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

J. Riley

J. Riley 16/12/25

Chair of Board of Trustees

CREDITS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our Landlord - St Chad's Educational Trust

Our Funders & Commissioners

Arts Council England
Henry Smith Charity
Garfield Weston
BBC Children In Need
Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership (Previously CCG)
Rochdale Public Health
Your Trust
Link 4 Life
Awards for All - Peoples Postcode Lottery
Rochdale Development Agency - Rochdale Venues & Visitor Attraction Fund
Rochdale Borough Council
Rochdale Culture Co-Op
JD Foundation

Our Partners & Commissioners

Action Together
Lowry
HOME Manchester
Children's Adventure Farm Trust
Rochdale Borough Culture Network
Proud and Loud
Create Rochdale
Cartwheel Arts
M6 Theatre
Touchstones Gallery & Museum
Citrus Arts
Glennis Brierley Memorial Fund

Our friends and supporters

Janet Emsley

Last but not least,

Our participants, families and friends of Skylight Circus Arts



SKYLIGHT CIRCUS IN EDUCATION

Independent Examiners Report

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of SKYLIGHT CIRCUS IN EDUCATION

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the financial statements of SKYLIGHT CIRCUS IN EDUCATION for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the financial statements of the Charity are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your charity's financial statements as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5) (b) of the 2011 Act.

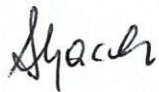
As examiner, I am a member of the Association of Accounting Technicians who have adopted the provisions of the Revised Ethical Standards 2016 issued by the Financial Reporting Council (FRC)

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I can confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the 2006 Act ; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the accounting requirements under section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the financial statements give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- the financial statements have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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 financial statements to be reached.



17.12.2025

Angelika Gacek MAAT
Pennine Accounting Limited
109A Church Street
Littleborough

Lancashire
OL15 8AA
12 December 2025

SKYLIGHT CIRCUS IN EDUCATION
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2025

		Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Notes					
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	4	5,879	424	6,303	1,051
Charitable activities	5	167,824	52,981	220,805	239,004
Total		173,703	53,405	227,108	240,055
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	499	-	499	1,051
Charitable activities	7	39,625	12,696	52,321	74,212
Other	8	119,639	57,244	176,883	185,774
Total		159,763	69,940	229,703	261,037
Net gains on investments		-	-	-	-
Net expenditure	9	13,940	(16,535)	(2,595)	(20,982)
Transfers between funds		5,396	(5,396)	-	-
Net expenditure before other gains/(losses)		19,336	(21,931)	(2,595)	(20,982)
Other gains and losses					
Net movement in funds		19,336	(21,931)	(2,595)	(20,982)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		24,948	23,954	48,902	69,884
Total funds carried forward		44,284	2,023	46,307	48,902

SKYLIGHT CIRCUS IN EDUCATION
Summary Income and Expenditure Account
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
Income	227,108	240,055
Gross income for the year	227,108	240,055
Expenditure	229,082	260,416
Depreciation and charges for impairment of fixed assets	621	621
Total expenditure for the year	229,703	261,037
Net expenditure before tax for the year	(2,595)	(20,982)
Net expenditure for the year	(2,595)	(20,982)

SKYLIGHT CIRCUS IN EDUCATION

Balance Sheet

at 31 March 2025

Company No. 02567143	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	11	1,714	2,335
		<u>1,714</u>	<u>2,335</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	12	43,028	26,114
Cash at bank and in hand		37,632	34,375
		<u>80,660</u>	<u>60,489</u>
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	13	(36,067)	(13,922)
Net current assets		<u>44,593</u>	<u>46,567</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>46,307</u>	<u>48,902</u>
Net assets excluding pension asset or liability		<u>46,307</u>	<u>48,902</u>
Total net assets		<u>46,307</u>	<u>48,902</u>
The funds of the charity			
Restricted funds	15		
Restricted income funds		2,023	23,954
		<u>2,023</u>	<u>23,954</u>
Unrestricted funds	15		
General funds		44,284	24,948
		<u>44,284</u>	<u>24,948</u>
Reserves	15		
Total funds		<u>46,307</u>	<u>48,902</u>

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

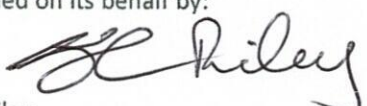
For the year ended 31 March 2025 the company was entitled to exemption under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

Approved by the board on 12 December 2025

And signed on its behalf by:

 16/12/25
James Riley
Trustee
12 December 2025

SKYLIGHT CIRCUS IN EDUCATION

Notes to the Accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Change in basis of accounting or to previous accounts

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and method of accounting) since last year and no changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds	These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.
Designated funds	These are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.
Revaluation funds	These are unrestricted funds which include a revaluation reserve representing the restatement of investment assets at their market values.
Restricted funds	These are available for use subject to restrictions imposed by the donor or through terms of an appeal.

Income

Recognition of income	Income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity becomes entitled to, and virtually certain to receive, the income and the amount of the income can be measured with sufficient reliability.
-----------------------	---

Income with related expenditure	Where income has related expenditure the income and related expenditure is reported gross in the SoFA.
---------------------------------	--

Donations and legacies	Voluntary income received by way of grants, donations and gifts is included in the the SoFA when receivable and only when the Charity has unconditional entitlement to the income.
------------------------	--

Tax reclaims on donations and gifts	Income from tax reclaims is included in the SoFA at the same time as the gift/donation to which it relates.
-------------------------------------	---

Donated services and facilities	These are only included in income (with an equivalent amount in expenditure) where the benefit to the Charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material.
---------------------------------	--

Volunteer help	The value of any volunteer help received is not included in the accounts.
----------------	---

Investment income	This is included in the accounts when receivable.
-------------------	---

Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	This includes any gain or loss resulting from revaluing investments to market value at the end of the year.
---	---

Gains/(losses) on investment assets	This includes any gain or loss on the sale of investments.
-------------------------------------	--

SKYLIGHT CIRCUS IN EDUCATION

Notes to the Accounts

Expenditure

Recognition of expenditure	Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates.
Expenditure on raising funds	These comprise the costs associated with attracting voluntary income, fundraising trading costs and investment management costs.
Expenditure on charitable activities	These comprise the costs incurred by the Charity in the delivery of its activities and services in the furtherance of its objects, including the making of grants and governance costs.
Grants payable	All grant expenditure is accounted for on an actual paid basis plus an accrual for grants that have been approved by the trustees at the end of the year but not yet paid.
Governance costs	These include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the Charity, including any audit/independent examination fees, costs linked to the strategic management of the Charity, together with a share of other administration costs.
Other expenditure	These are support costs not allocated to a particular activity.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life:

Leasehold Improvements	10% Straight Line
Circus Equipment	25% Straight Line
Office Equipment	20% Straight Line
Fixtures & Fittings	20% Straight Line

Trade and other debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and on hand, demand deposits with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less and bank overdrafts. In the statement of financial position, bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings or current liabilities. In the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the company's cash management.

Trade and other creditors

Short term creditors are measured at the transaction price. Other creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Leased assets

Where the charity enters into a lease which entails taking substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of an asset, the lease is treated as a finance lease.

Leases which do not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership to charity are classified as operating leases.

Assets held under finance leases are initially recognised as assets of the charity at their fair value at the inception of the lease or, if lower, at the present value of the minimum lease payments. The corresponding liability to the lessor is included in the balance sheet date as a finance lease obligation.

Lease payments are apportioned between finance expenses and reduction of the lease obligation so as to achieve a constant rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability. Finance expenses are recognised immediately, unless they are directly attributable to qualifying assets, in which case they are capitalised in accordance with the charity's policy on borrowing costs.

Assets held under finance leases are depreciated in the same way as owned assets.

Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

In the event that lease incentives are received to enter into operating leases, such incentives are recognised as a liability. The aggregate benefit of incentives is recognised as a reduction of rental expense on a straight-line basis.

Pension costs

The charity operates a defined contribution plan for its employees. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the company pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. Once the contributions have been paid the company has no further payments obligations. The contributions are recognised as expenses when they fall due. Amounts not paid are shown in accruals in the balance sheet. The assets of the plan are held separately from the company in independently administered funds.

Receipt of donated goods, facilities and services

All donated goods, facilities and services received are recognised within incoming resources and expenditure at an estimate of the value to the charity.

2 Company status

The company is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital.

SKYLIGHT CIRCUS IN EDUCATION

Notes to the Accounts

3 Statement of Financial Activities - prior year

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income and endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	1,051	-	1,051
Charitable activities	85,989	153,015	239,004
Total	87,040	153,015	240,055
Expenditure on:			
Raising funds	1,051	-	1,051
Charitable activities	114,250	145,736	259,986
Total	115,301	145,736	261,037
Net income	(28,261)	7,279	(20,982)
Transfers between funds	(5,136)	5,136	-
Net income before other gains/(losses)	(33,397)	12,415	(20,982)
Other gains and losses:			
Net movement in funds	(33,397)	12,415	(20,982)
Reconciliation of funds:			
Total funds brought forward	58,345	11,539	69,884
Total funds carried forward	24,948	23,954	48,902

4 Income from donations and legacies

Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
£	£	£	£
5,879	424	6,303	1,051
<u>5,879</u>	<u>424</u>	<u>6,303</u>	<u>1,051</u>

5 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Grants	60,875	51,641	112,516	151,986
Contracts	23,091	-	23,091	39,860
Fees	43,445	-	43,445	33,986
Other Income	40,413	1,340	41,753	13,172
	<u>167,824</u>	<u>52,981</u>	<u>220,805</u>	<u>239,004</u>

SKYLIGHT CIRCUS IN EDUCATION

Notes to the Accounts

6 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£
<i>Fundraising trading costs</i>	499	499	1,051
	<u>499</u>	<u>499</u>	<u>1,051</u>

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
<i>Expenditure on charitable activities</i>				
Grants	38,991	12,696	51,687	73,299
<i>Governance costs</i>	634	-	634	913
	<u>39,625</u>	<u>12,696</u>	<u>52,321</u>	<u>74,212</u>

8 Other expenditure

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Employee costs	92,678	53,025	145,703	144,213
Premises costs	14,669	4,160	18,829	23,751
Amortisation, depreciation, impairment, profit/loss on disposal of fixed assets	621	-	621	621
General administrative costs	5,896	59	5,955	10,224
Legal and professional costs	5,775	-	5,775	6,965
	<u>119,639</u>	<u>57,244</u>	<u>176,883</u>	<u>185,774</u>

9 Net expenditure before transfers

	2025	2024
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation of owned fixed assets	621	621
Independent Examiner's fee	600	750

SKYLIGHT CIRCUS IN EDUCATION

Notes to the Accounts

10 Staff costs

	2025	2024
Salaries and wages	134,996	131,389
Social security costs	7,069	6,521
Pension costs	6,018	5,658
	<u>148,083</u>	<u>143,568</u>

No employee received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

The average monthly number of full time equivalent employees during the year was as follows:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
	7	8
	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>

11 Tangible fixed assets

	Land and buildings £	Circus Equipment £	Office Equipment £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £
Cost or revaluation					
At 1 April 2024	7,997	38,739	18,317	5,165	70,218
At 31 March 2025	<u>7,997</u>	<u>38,739</u>	<u>18,317</u>	<u>5,165</u>	<u>70,218</u>
Depreciation and impairment					
At 1 April 2024	7,997	38,739	18,317	2,830	67,883
Depreciation charge for the year	-	-	-	621	621
At 31 March 2025	<u>7,997</u>	<u>38,739</u>	<u>18,317</u>	<u>3,451</u>	<u>68,504</u>
Net book values					
At 31 March 2025	-	-	-	1,714	1,714
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,335</u>	<u>2,335</u>

12 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	13,939	17,457
Other debtors	-	750
Prepayments and accrued income	29,089	7,907
	<u>43,028</u>	<u>26,114</u>

13 Creditors:

amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	4,408	7,178
Other taxes and social security	1,688	2,974
Accruals	6,374	3,770
Deferred income	23,597	-
	<u>36,067</u>	<u>13,922</u>

SKYLIGHT CIRCUS IN EDUCATION

Notes to the Accounts

14 Deferred Income

Movement of the deferred income shown in Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Deferred in current year	23,597	-
At 31 March	<u>23,597</u>	<u>-</u>

15 Movement in funds

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources (including other gains/losses) £	Resources expended £	Gross transfers £	At 31 March 2025 £
Restricted funds:					
Restricted income funds:					
Action Together	4,110	-	(2,400)	(1,710)	-
Arts Council	39	19,453	(19,776)	284	-
National Lottery Awards4All	-	17,128	(15,105)	-	2,023
Greater Manchester					
Integrated Care Partnership	1,501	16,824	(14,514)	(3,811)	-
Children in Need	5,989	-	(5,830)	(159)	-
Henry Smith	12,315	-	(12,315)	-	-
Total	<u>23,954</u>	<u>53,405</u>	<u>(69,940)</u>	<u>(5,396)</u>	<u>2,023</u>
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	24,948	173,703	(159,763)	5,396	44,284
Total funds	<u>48,902</u>	<u>227,108</u>	<u>(229,703)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>46,307</u>

16 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Fixed assets	1,714	-	1,714
Net current assets	42,570	2,023	44,593
	<u>44,284</u>	<u>2,023</u>	<u>46,307</u>

17 Reconciliation of net debt

	At 1 April 2024 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2025 £
Cash and cash equivalents	34,375	3,257	37,632
	<u>34,375</u>	<u>3,257</u>	<u>37,632</u>
Net debt	<u>34,375</u>	<u>3,257</u>	<u>37,632</u>

SKYLIGHT CIRCUS IN EDUCATION

Notes to the Accounts

18 Commitments

Operating lease commitments

Annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	2025	2025	2024	2024
	Land and	Other	Land and	Other
	buildings		buildings	
	£	£	£	£
Operating leases with expiry date:				
Within one year	11,050	-	-	-
	<u>11,050</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

Pension commitments

	2025	2024
	£	£
The pension cost charge to the company		
amounted to:	<u>3,009</u>	<u>2,829</u>

19 Related party disclosures

Controlling party

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital; thus no single party controls the company.

SKYLIGHT CIRCUS IN EDUCATION
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Income and endowments from:				
Donations and legacies	5,879	424	6,303	1,051
	<u>5,879</u>	<u>424</u>	<u>6,303</u>	<u>1,051</u>
Charitable activities				
Grants	60,875	51,641	112,516	151,986
Contracts	23,091	-	23,091	39,860
Fees	43,445	-	43,445	33,986
Other Income	40,413	1,340	41,753	13,172
	<u>167,824</u>	<u>52,981</u>	<u>220,805</u>	<u>239,004</u>
Total income and endowments	173,703	53,405	227,108	240,055
Expenditure on:				
Costs of other trading activities	499	-	499	1,051
	<u>499</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>499</u>	<u>1,051</u>
Total of expenditure on raising funds	499	-	499	1,051
Charitable activities				
Grants	38,991	12,696	51,687	73,299
	<u>38,991</u>	<u>12,696</u>	<u>51,687</u>	<u>73,299</u>
Governance costs	634	-	634	913
	<u>634</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>634</u>	<u>913</u>
Total of expenditure on charitable activities	39,625	12,696	52,321	74,212
Employee costs				
Salaries/wages	81,971	53,025	134,996	131,389
Employer's NIC	7,069	-	7,069	6,521
Pension costs	3,009	-	3,009	2,829
Staff recruitment	233	-	233	318
Staff training	396	-	396	3,156
	<u>92,678</u>	<u>53,025</u>	<u>145,703</u>	<u>144,213</u>
Premises costs				
Rent	7,100	4,160	11,260	11,050
Light, heat and power	4,136	-	4,136	7,880
Premises cleaning	1,756	-	1,756	1,631
Premises repairs and maintenance	1,677	-	1,677	3,190
	<u>14,669</u>	<u>4,160</u>	<u>18,829</u>	<u>23,751</u>

SKYLIGHT CIRCUS IN EDUCATION

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

General administrative costs,
including depreciation and
amortisation

Depreciation of Circus Equipment	-	-	-	-
Depreciation of Office Equipment	-	-	-	-
Depreciation of Fixtures & Fittings	621	-	621	621
Bank charges	-	-	-	161
Equipment expensed	51	-	51	1,093
General insurances	2,018	-	2,018	5,033
Software, IT support and related costs	946	-	946	586
Subscriptions	592	-	592	259
Sundry expenses	1,536	59	1,595	1,928
Telephone, fax and broadband	753	-	753	1,164
	<u>6,517</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>6,576</u>	<u>10,845</u>
Legal and professional costs				
Audit/Independent examination fees	600	-	600	750
Accountancy and bookkeeping	4,595	-	4,595	5,635
Consultancy fees	580	-	580	580
	<u>5,775</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,775</u>	<u>6,965</u>
Total of expenditure of other costs	<u>119,639</u>	<u>57,244</u>	<u>176,883</u>	<u>185,774</u>
Total expenditure	<u>159,763</u>	<u>69,940</u>	<u>229,703</u>	<u>261,037</u>
Net gains on investments	-	-	-	-
	<u>13,940</u>	<u>(16,535)</u>	<u>(2,595)</u>	<u>(20,982)</u>
Net expenditure	<u>13,940</u>	<u>(16,535)</u>	<u>(2,595)</u>	<u>(20,982)</u>
Transfers between funds	5,396	(5,396)	-	-
Net expenditure before other gains/(losses)	<u>19,336</u>	<u>(21,931)</u>	<u>(2,595)</u>	<u>(20,982)</u>
Other Gains	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	<u>19,336</u>	<u>(21,931)</u>	<u>(2,595)</u>	<u>(20,982)</u>
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	24,948	23,954	48,902	69,884
Total funds carried forward	<u>44,284</u>	<u>2,023</u>	<u>46,307</u>	<u>48,902</u>

Accounts



Skylight Circus in Education

T/A Skylight Circus Arts

Report and financial statements

For the year ended 31st March 2024

Registered Charity 1001570

Company Limited by Guarantee 2567143

Skylight Circus in Education

Reference and administrative information for the year ended 31st March 2024

Charity name Skylight Circus in Education

also known as Skylight Circus Arts and Skylight

Company number 2567143

Charity number 1001570

Registered office and operational address: St Chads Fold, Sparrow Hill, Rochdale OL16 1QT

Trustees

Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

J. Riley, Chair

E. Short, Secretary

N. White

J. Macpherson

M. Lee

M. Ramsdale

J. Hurn, Treasurer- resigned 31st March 2024

Key management: David Allen, CEO. Martine Bradford, Creative Director.

Bank: Co-operative Bank plc, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M60 4E

Independent Examiner: Teresa Fennell, It Doesn't Have To Cost The Earth Ltd

YEAR IN FOCUS: 2023 - 2024

- The year began with an increase in participation in our classes and projects.
- We completed our project in partnership with The Lowry and Extraordinary Bodies. 'Gallery of Yes' engaged a group of adults with disabilities.
- Outreach (fee paid work) grew steadily over the summer months - in Rochdale, Greater Manchester and beyond.
- Skylight played a role in supporting our local communities through working with organisations like Rochdale Public Health and YourTrust.
- We continued with our active involvement in local support and activity networks such as our local Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) support organisation's Children, Young People & Families Network, Refugee and Asylum Forum.
- We recruited a new Arts Administrator & Circus Trainer.
- We took a trip with staff, freelance workers and participants to see a delivery partner, Extraordinary Bodies, perform 'Waldos' at The Lowry Theatre.
- We successfully gained National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and Arts Council England National Lottery (ACE) funding which enabled us to research and create our largest show to date. 'Sparrow Hill' Circus Show explored 1,000 years of local history, performed at St Chad's Parish Church.
- Skylight was commissioned to perform and deliver have-a-go and performance sessions at Rochdale Borough Council's new Feelgood Family Picnic events.
- We worked with new partners such as Salford University.
- We continued to work with Rochdale Borough Council's Early Help and Schools Team to deliver our 'Circus Sparks' train the trainer' programme in local primary schools.
- We were commissioned by Rochdale Borough Council's Early Help and Schools Team to deliver our 'Circus Globe' project for Ukrainian families.
- We worked in partnership with Curious Minds to develop and deliver #BeeWell circus sessions in local secondary schools.



Arts Council, National Lottery Heritage Fund and Rochdale Public Health funded
'Sparrow Hill' circus show cast

St.Chad's Church, Rochdale, March 2024

“It’s all about community and trust. This organisation has it by the bucketload”

Councillor Janet Emsley

Deputy Civic Mayor

Rochdale Borough Council

FOREWORD

Skylight has gone from strength to strength this year- again.

We increased our income from grant makers and our earned income from project commissioners and bookings. However, we made an unplanned operating loss which has had an impact on our free reserves as we go into a new financial year.

Yet, we've delivered some big numbers. HUGE rises in beneficiaries and audiences alike.

Over 9,300 people found their own bit of circus joy at our studio, in schools, at community centres and at events and festivals around Greater Manchester and the North West. A staggering 500 plus workshops from our tiny dedicated team of staff and freelancers led by Skylight's Creative Director, Martine Bradford. More than 14,180 attended a Skylight performance of some sort.

We've also done great work in schools around the impact of COVID - an increasingly urgent need - with fantastic partners like Curious Minds and the amazing Early Help and Schools team at Rochdale Borough Council.

There have been some incredible creative highlights. 'Sparrow Hill'- named for our locale- saw over 80 multi-generational performers take their circus skills to the spectacular St.Chad's Church, thanks to funding from Arts Council England, National Lottery Heritage and lastly, but by no means least, the inspired team at Rochdale Public Health.

There are smaller stories too. Stories of individual joy found in equally valuable projects like Children In Need supported sessions, Holiday At Home and NHS funded workshops in community centres, pupil referral units and special schools.

[It's all there in our latest impact video.](#) A heart-warming, soul-feeding 5 minute reminder of why we all do what we do to support people through life affirming, changing and enriching arts and culture.

Thanks to all who helped us along the way. Funders, commissioners, contractors, partners, freelance workers, volunteers and of course all our participants.

Finally, we said goodbye with gratitude to Board member Jane Hurn who has served Skylight for over a decade. Her support will be missed.

David Allen

Chief Executive Officer

Skylight in numbers...

...527 circus sessions

...9,304 participants

...14,182 audience members

...26.1% Global Majority participation

SKYLIGHT CIRCUS IN EDUCATION

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024. Included within the trustees' report is the directors' report as required by company law. Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Purposes, Aims, Objectives and Skylight Activities

Purposes and aims in Skylight's original governing document:

'To promote, maintain, improve and advance education for the public benefit by the demonstration and teaching of human circus skills. To relieve the needs of disabled persons by the demonstration and teaching of human circus skills to such persons' (1990)

Charity Commission Activities Overview 2020

Life-changing social circus projects to improve health and well-being. Collaborations: professionals and members to create productions. Specialisms: circus with disability, diversity, mental health, challenging young people. Address challenges in communities with multiple deprivation.

Purposes 2020 Summary. 'Benefiting individuals and communities through circus arts training, performance and workshops. Skylight's base in central Rochdale is in an area of multiple deprivation and activities extend across the region.

Aims, objectives and activities are reviewed by the trustees each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period to March 2024. The trustees ensure the charity remains focused on its stated purposes.



Skylight Freelance Team member, Gil, entertains at Aviva Studios, Manchester

October 2023

Skylight Activities April 2023 to March 2024

A year of ambition, trust and deep connections in our local community.

- We continued to address the urgent needs of children, young people and vulnerable adults. Many participants are negatively affected by pandemic, e.g. our classes have had a large increase in SEND participants. Our Henry Smith Strengthening Communities grant supported us to address local needs.

Highlights included

- NLHF project to research, create & perform with a giant local history book
- Sparrow Hill Circus Show
- Feelgood Family Picnic circus performance and free 'Have-a go'
- Circus Globe for Ukrainian asylum refugee young people
- Circus Sparks train the trainer programme in Rochdale Primary Schools



Youth Circus members with Motionhouse team in a masterclass session at Skylight

May 2023

CIRCUS JOY

'Circus Joy' is our strand of work focussed on circus activities for leisure and entertainment

Skylight's ambition to increase the quality and quantity of performance was taken to the next level with 'Sparrow Hill Circus Show'. Our members took part in a local history research/making project and created a giant pop up book with Artist Kerith Ogden. Prior to the show, storytelling sessions took place in the local community, performed by Skylight's Staff.

'Sparrow Hill Circus Show' had a multi generational cast of community and professional performers. The show enabled Skylight to gain new skills and work with new and established partners eg Salford University, Broadfield Primary School. Three performances took place in the spectacular setting of St Chad's Parish Church.

We were commissioned to deliver performances and 'Have-A-Go' workshops- including aerial circus- at Rochdale Borough Council's 'Feel Good Family Picnics'. Skylight's Youth Circus and Silver Circus seniors groups performed in 4 parks across the Borough.

Darnhill Festival - led by Cartwheel Arts. Youth Circus took part in the parade and we provided 'Have-A-Go' workshop activities.

Middleton Arena - Silver Circus performed as part of Action Together's celebration event for VCSE sector members.

Christmas Show Ho Ho -The Christmas Shows by regular classes/projects were performed over 2 nights.

Outreach Work

Outreach took across Rochdale Borough, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and West Yorkshire.

Sessions included workshops and performance in the community, youth and education and small outdoor events. Highlights include:

Rochdale Culture Coop - 'Have-A-Go' sessions in Middleton

St. Elphin's Park - 'Have-A-Go' workshop at community day in Warrington

Piece Hall- 'Have-A-Go' workshop at public event in Halifax

“I love coming to Skylight. My circus family.”

‘Silver Circus’ for over 60s Participant

CIRCUS FOR WELLBEING

‘Circus For Wellbeing’ is our strand of work which specifically supports physical and mental health and wellbeing

Skylight is inclusive. Projects this year covered people with a variety of needs and disadvantages:

- Registered with physical disabilities and learning disabilities
- Attending special schools and Pupil Referral Units
- Young people from asylum seeker, refugee Roma families
- Elders at risk of isolation, with disabilities
- Young and vulnerable: trauma, mental health
- Adults/children with additional needs and conditions

Circus Globe project for refugee/asylum families was re-commissioned. Circus Friends, for Ukrainian families, took place at Skylight.

Middleton Holidays at Home Funding from HAF for young people 6 -12 years in socially disadvantaged areas. Skylight provided circus activities and healthy food at Burnside Community Centre.

Waldos Gallery of Yes project for adults with disabilities, concluded with a very special celebration of the group's clowning photoshoot which is now displayed in our foyer.

Extraordinary Bodies continued their partnership work with Skylight. ‘Waldos Circus of Magic and Terror’ inspired participants on our ‘Gallery of Yes’ project. Our members took a trip to see the Extraordinary Bodies production at The Lowry. Martine Bradford, Creative Director, also continued her training as an ‘Unexpected Leader’ in developing inclusive creative projects for neurodiverse and disability engagement.

Seniors Silver Circus for over 60’s, continues to flourish. In addition to their regular sessions, members of the group performed in Sparrow Hill Circus Show and at local events. Members of the group also made a huge contribution to local history research and the making of our pop up book and show costumes.



Children in Need “Spring Into Circus”

Throughout the year

BBC Children in Need funded SPRING 3. A 3 year project in partnership with Special Education Schools. Activities were with:

Springside School

Brownhill School

Broadfield Primary School

CCG Projects (Side-by-Side) Family Sessions for young people aged 11-16 with physical, emotional wellbeing and social needs resumed. Some are in Care or living in poverty. Some are affected by trauma, Autism, ADHD, or behavioural disorders and mental health issues. They are often socially isolated through bullying, anxiety, poor communication skills or financial circumstances. Rochdale Connections Trust and other organisations refer young people. Side-by-Side attracted many more young people than expected this year.

CIRCUS PATHWAYS ACTIVITIES

'Pathways' is our strand of work which encompasses education and career development work

Our work in schools finally returned to normality? following the lengthy impact on delivery in-situ due to COVID. We worked in 40 schools in this period.

Circus Sparks, Skylight's 'train the trainer' programme developed with Rochdale Council's Early Help & Schools team was slightly curtailed this year due to a lack of funds. However, the project continued to deliver stellar results in supporting primary school children deprived of key learning development opportunities due to lockdown in the schools that did participate.

Curious Minds #BeeWelll Youth Health Champions project helped us develop the 'train the trainer' idea further with a micro commission by local secondary school, Falinge Park High School. We provided training, learning resources and equipment to a targeted group of Year 10 'Youth Health Champion' students who then successfully cascaded skills to their peers.

Other highlights included a Circus Taster session for students at Bolton University. We are hopeful of further commissions.



Curious Minds' #BeeWell Youth Health Champions' participant

St.Cuthbert's High School, Rochdale

September 2023

PERFORMANCE AGAINST OBJECTIVES

At the end of the previous reporting period the Trustees set out the following areas for development:

- Artistic Development

Skylight reaffirmed our commitment to working with sector-leading talent for staff and freelance worker's CPD and to inspire participants. The ACE Project Grant bid included involvement with director and performer Grania Pickard and Artist Kerith Ogden.

Thanks to our partnership with HOME Manchester and world-renowned circus dance company, Motion House, we provided an acrobatic and movement masterclass for participants involved with the 'Sparrow Hill' project at our Circus Studio.

- Programme development: quality projects and performance to meet need in GM

We consolidated working relationships with major arts centres such as HOME, Factory International in Manchester and long time supporter The Lowry Centre in Salford. This led to commissions and fee-paid work.

Skylight's CEO took a role on the Steering Committee for Children & Young People in Greater Manchester Council & NHS funded Creative Health network. The objective is to bring our Circus For Wellbeing work to a wider audience.

- Funding and Financial sustainability

We successfully consolidated our foundational grant making support with larger grants from fewer organisations. Arts Council England became our biggest funder which reflected the Board and Executive Team's desire to place artistic endeavour at the core of what we do.

We successfully increased earned income from booking and project commissions to the level where our income split created less reliance on the increasingly competitive grant bidding process.

An unforeseen downside of this was the unexpected loss of some expected commissions which led to an unplanned operating loss of £20,992.

- Brand Development and Marketing

On the back of the roll out of our new, contemporary brand identity in the previous period we invested focus and funds in improving our presentation both at our circus studio and at events and festivals. Small changes with significant impact were made to our foyer with the help of volunteers.

We purchased new event equipment such as , bunting and branded flags in our 'corporate' colours to augment the high quality branded marquee we purchased in the previous period.

- Building Development

Thanks to Arts Council England funding we purchased new DMX lighting equipment. Which was used as part of our Sparrow Hill show. Following training for staff and freelance workers, these new assets will improve the production presentation of future in-house performances.

- Environmental sustainability

Our stated aim was to purchase an electric or hybrid vehicle to facilitate outreach (fee paid) work while minimising our impact on the environment. However, we have not been able to secure funding and nor is it currently viable to find this much needed asset from income.



Local folk musicians 'Chords & Fiddles' playing live during 'Sparrow Hill' circus show

St.Chad's Church, March 2024

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

We made efforts to augment our existing pool of freelance delivery workers and we were successful in finding three new people with varying levels of experience.

We were able to fill the much needed Arts Administrator position which will enable the Delivery Team to focus on working with participants, spending less time on the admin necessary to facilitate sessions. The new recruit- who came through our Youth Circus programme- returned to Skylight from a career as a teacher in a local primary school. Her advanced circus tutoring skills are a welcome addition to the DeliveryTeam which will give us flexibility in peak outreach periods.

Full Time Staff x 3

Creative Director, Funding Development Manager, Arts Administrator

Part Time Staff x 4

CEO, Finance, Project Coordinator/Circus Tutor, cleaner

Freelance Team x 9

Artists ranging from aerial to music & choreography. We contract additional specialists as needed

TRAINING

Skylight continued its efforts to support our staff team, volunteers and freelance team in skills development. By paying freelance workers to train with us, we ensure that professionals continue to be available to support the sector in general.

Safeguarding - all staff, volunteers and trustees

First aid at work - Charma Force, Martine Bradford, Mick Chapman

National Arts Fundraising School - Dawn Pierson

Marketing and social media - Charma Force

Fire Marshall - Mick Chapman

Fire Performance Training - Charma Force, Martine Bradford

Circus and the brain with psychologist Louise Mansell - All staff and core freelancers

Circus rigging - Martine Bradford

Media training (ongoing-) Dawn Pierson

OUTPUTS

The number of outputs and beneficiaries increased dramatically compared with the previous financial period:

Total Sessions Delivered 527

Individual participants 9,304

Total global majority participants 2,424 (26.1%)

Project participants with Special Educational Needs 287

Number of Interventions

Classes 2,183

Projects 3,089

Outreach 7,309

Total Interventions 12,581

Audiences 14,182



Aerial Circus Have-A-Go with Freelance Team member, Annette

Rochdale Feel Good Family Picnics, July 202

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During the period the charity increased its income through a mixture of improved grant fundraising, commissioned projects and earned income. Income increased compared with the previous financial period by nearly by just over 14% to £240,056

Expenditures increased by just over 7% to £261,037

The operating loss of £20,982 was unplanned and as noted elsewhere was largely the result of the cancellation of some expected schools activity late in the financial year.

FUNDRAISING PERFORMANCE

A strong year with grant income increasing over the previous period, despite a very competitive bidding environment. Highlights include:

- Arts Council England National Lottery "Sparrow Hill" Project Grant (Secured in FY 21/22 for this financial period)	£48,150
- Henry Smith Charity 'Strengthening Communities' (Continuation funding- 2nd round) Year 2 of 3	£45,000
- We were re-commissioned by NHS' Integrated Care Partnership (Formerly CCG) Year 2 of 3	£16,063
-BBC Children In Need Year 2 of 3	£15,577
Rochdale Public Health	£10,000
National Lottery Heritage Fund	£9,949
Total grants	£151,986
Total project commissions	£39,860



Middleton Holiday At Home circus activities
Burnside Community Centre, Middleton, August 2023

GOING FORWARD INTO THE NEW FINANCIAL YEAR (FY 24-25)

The Board and Executive Team anticipate a challenging year with reduced reserves.

While significant investment in arts and culture is being made in Rochdale, Skylight is currently in receipt of less support than in the previous year from these public funds. The Executive Team are taking steps to redress this by lobbying for more financial support and by adapting our offer to meet funder goals.

A long time venue hire client has decided to cease using the venue for weekly support sessions due to financial constraints. This revenue made a significant contribution to Skylight's venue lease costs which will be difficult to replace.

Additionally, we enter the final year of our BBC Children In Need, Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership (formerly CCG) and Henry Smith Charity multi-year funding. We seek to secure more future funding from these sources but we must have one eye on alternative funds for future sustainability of the charity.

As reserves have been depleted due to the unplanned loss in FY 23-24 special care has been paid to cash flow. The Executive Team presented a budget to the Board which reflects the need to reinstate reserves. This approved plan anticipates reserves returned to normal by the end of the calendar year.

Skylight's Trustees and Executive Team have identified the following areas for progress:

- Continue to explore development of Skylight's facilities. We have had positive initial discussions with our landlord about extending the lease so that we would be eligible for capital funds. The landlord has agreed to invest in new external windows and doors which will reduce energy costs and ?
- Develop the school's 'Train The Trainer' programme as a blueprint for further commissions from Local Authority education service providers. The Executive Team are currently working on a large multi-year bid to develop this work with partners in Rochdale and one additional Greater Manchester borough.
- Expand geographical reach, specifically targeting outreach work and commissions in Greater Manchester boroughs.
- Continued employment of sector-leading artists to inspire staff and participants.
- Strengthening of the Board with new appointments which reflect our local communities and can agitate for support for Skylight in the local area.

RESERVES POLICY

At the end March 2024 the total funds of the charity were £48,902. Of this £23, 954 was restricted with the remainder being unrestricted funds -less fixed assets- of £22,613.

During 2024/25 the Trustees have agreed the designated reserve figure should be returned to £57,000. This figure covers redundancy costs, a minimum of 1 month's running costs and liabilities should the charity become financially unviable.

The approved budget forecasts a return to acceptable levels of reserves by the end of the calendar year.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Skylight was registered as a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity in December 1990.

The company has a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and it is governed under its Articles of Association.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 10 to the accounts.

Trustees who are related parties this year: The Chair, J C Riley, is married to Noreen White.

The Board does not currently have a Treasurer. We operate a Finance Sub Group (see 'RISK MANAGEMENT'). This is deemed within acceptable risk as the bank account and formal accountancy services are managed by an external certified management accountancy practice.

Prospective trustees receive induction materials and are voted onto the board. No other person or external body is entitled to appoint trustees.

Trustees' lived experience reflects many communities we serve, including disability and access issues & working class backgrounds. Four of our six trustees are female.

Vacancies exist for artists, input from young people, local diversity groups.



A 'Team Wellbeing' session for staff of Depaul Charity who support young people with housing issues

HOME, Manchester, February 2024

RISK MANAGEMENT

Trustees monitor financial and other risks at quarterly meetings so they can take prompt action when needed.

- Safeguarding is a standing agenda point at Board meetings
- A financial risk policy reflects established practices and strategic approach to income.
- A financial processes policy reflects the move to outsourced bookkeeping services.

Meetings take place in a hybrid format with attendance in person and online via Zoom depending on availability. Attendance from all trustees was strong.

Trustees monitor risks in the subgroups set up at times to address specific needs in addition to full trustee meetings.

Usually, these are:

Employment Sub Group, Finance Sub group and Creative Sub group. Creative business was conducted by the full board.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees:

The trustees (who are also directors of Skylight Circus in Education for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent

- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation
- The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.
- The Board are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.
- The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 17th October 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Riley', is written over a horizontal line.

J. Riley

Chair of Board of Trustee



Youth Circus participants showcase skills at our 'Christmas Sho-Ho-Ho'

Skylight, December 2023

A BIG THANK YOU TO

All who have volunteered and helped us over the year, including our hard-working staff and the Trustees who contributed far more than their roles demanded.

We appreciate the dedication of the freelance workers who make it possible for Skylight to spread the circus joy far and wide.

Our landlord

St Chad's Educational Trust

Our funders & commissioners

Arts Council England

Henry Smith Charity

National Lottery Heritage Fund

Children In Need

Integrated Partnership (previously CCG)

Rochdale Public Health

Your Trust

Our partners (and sometimes commissioners)

Action Together

The Lowry

Salford University

HOME Manchester

Rochdale Development Agency

Extraordinary Bodies

Our fellow Rochdale Borough Culture Network members

Cartwheel Arts

English Folk Expo

M6

Rochdale Library Service

Touchstones Gallery & Museum

Our friends and supporters

Jamie Moran

Janet Emsley

John McLoughlin

And, last but not least, our participants



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

yourtrust





Skylight staff and freelance team with Extraordinary Bodies' "Gallery Of Yes' Project

May 2023

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE SKYLIGHT CHARITABLE COMPANY ('THE COMPANY') FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Company's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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.

Teresa Fennell

Date: 31/10/2024

Teresa Fennell, ACMA CGMA

It Doesn't Have to Cost the Earth Ltd

47 St Dunstons Close, Worcester, WR5 2AJ

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Note	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	TOTAL 2024 £	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	TOTAL 2023 £
INCOME FROM:							
Donations and legacies	2	1,051	-	1,051	2,284	-	2,284
Charitable activities	3	85,989	153,015	239,004	114,627	93,417	208,044
TOTAL INCOME		87,040	153,015	240,055	116,911	93,417	210,328
EXPENDITURE ON:							
Raising Funds		1,051	-	1,051	340	-	340
Charitable activities	4	114,250	145,736	259,986	144,497	98,647	243,144
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		115,301	145,736	261,037	144,837	98,647	243,484
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME		(28,261)	7,279	(20,982)	(27,926)	(5,230)	(33,156)
Transfer between funds		(5,136)	5,136	-	(13,526)	13,526	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(33,397)	12,415	(20,982)	(41,452)	8,296	(33,156)
Fund balances brought forward		58,345	11,539	69,884	99,797	3,243	103,040
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		24,948	23,954	48,902	58,345	11,539	69,884

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

BALANCE SHEET
at 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	8		2,335		2,956
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	26,114		10,590	
Cash at bank and in hand	10	34,375		65,541	
		<u>60,489</u>		<u>76,131</u>	
CREDITORS : amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(13,922)</u>		<u>(9,203)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			<u>46,567</u>		<u>66,928</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>48,902</u>		<u>69,884</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted			24,948		58,345
Restricted			23,954		11,539
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>48,902</u>		<u>69,884</u>

The company was entitled to exemption from audit under s477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies but as this company is a charity, it is subject to independent examination under the

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies regime and in accordance with SORP FRS102.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 17/10/2024 and signed on its behalf by:



Trustee

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are follows:

a. Basis of Preparing Financial Statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)second edition - October 2019 - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Skylight Circus in Education meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b. Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The trustees have made no key judgments which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

c. Income recognition

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

Income received in advance of a provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

d. Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised; refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

e. Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

f. Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise the Costs of commercial trading including running of the café and their associated support costs.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

g. Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 6.

h. Operating leases

Operating leases are leases in which the title to the assets, and the risks and rewards of ownership, remain with the lessor. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

i. Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Leasehold improvement	10% straight line method
Circus equipment	25% straight line method
Fixtures and fittings	20% straight line method
Office equipment	20% straight line method
Computer Equipment	33% straight line method
Motor Vehicles	25% straight line method

j. Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

k. Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

l. Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

m. Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

n. Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution 'money purchase' scheme. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 7. There were no outstanding contributions at the year end.

o. Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	TOTAL 2024 £	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Donations	1,051	-	1,051	2,284	-	2,284
	<u>1,051</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,051</u>	<u>2,284</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,284</u>

3. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted 2024 £	Restricted 2024 £	TOTAL 2024 £
Grants and Contracts			
Action Together	-	4,740	4,740
Children in Need	-	15,577	15,577
Greater Manchester Integrated Care	-	16,063	16,063
Henry Smith	-	45,000	45,000
National Heritage Lottery Fund	-	9,949	9,949
Arts Council England National Lottery	-	48,150	48,150
NHS	-	761	761
Rochdale Council	-	12,000	12,000
Commission			
s	39,860	-	39,860
Other	-	(254)	(254)
	39,860	151,986	191,846
Fees and Other Income			
Circus Skills Workshops	21,761	-	21,761
Circus Skills Classes	12,225	-	12,225
Other	12,143	1,029	13,172
	46,129	1,029	47,158
	85,989	153,015	239,004
<i>Previous reporting period</i>			
	Unrestricted 2023 £	Restricted 2023 £	TOTAL 2023 £
Grants and Contracts			
Action Together	-	2,180	2,180
Arts Council	-	32,475	32,475
Children in Need	-	15,762	15,762
Henry Smith	-	43,000	43,000
Your Trust	20,000	-	20,000
The Work Company	12,447	-	12,447
Commissions	30,708	-	30,708
Other	460	-	460
	63,615	93,417	157,032
Fees and Other Income			-
Circus Skills Workshops	31,205	-	31,205
Circus Skills Classes	16,720	-	16,720
Other	3,087	-	3,087
	51,012	-	51,012
	114,627	93,417	208,044

4. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	Total	Total
	£	£
Staff costs	115,731	110,904
Freelancers	48,498	53,649
Costs of Arts, Activities & Workshops	22,664	20,466
Premises	19,980	12,554
Vehicle Costs	777	1,123
Insurance	5,033	2,691
Office Costs	2,970	3,493
Other Costs	1,308	79
Professional Fees	580	515
Volunteer costs	427	735
Bad debts	180	1,820
Depreciation	621	150
Governance costs (see note 5)	913	713
Support costs (see note 5)	40,305	34,253
	<u>259,987</u>	<u>243,145</u>
	<u><u>259,987</u></u>	<u><u>243,145</u></u>
Restricted expenditure	145,736	98,647
Unrestricted expenditure	114,250	144,497
	<u>259,986</u>	<u>243,144</u>
	<u><u>259,986</u></u>	<u><u>243,144</u></u>

5. ANALYSIS OF GOVERNANCE AND SUPPORT COSTS

	Basis of apportionment	Support £	Governance £	Total 2024 £
Staff costs	Time spent	28,933	-	28,933
Premises	Floor area	4,995	-	4,995
Office costs	Floor area	742	-	742
Accountancy services	Time spent	5,635	750	6,385
Other Governance costs	Governance	-	163	163
		<u>40,305</u>	<u>913</u>	<u>41,218</u>

Previous reporting period

	Basis of apportionment	Support £	Governance £	Total 2023 £
Staff costs	Time spent	27,726	-	27,726
Premises	Floor area	3,138	-	3,138
Office costs	Floor area	873	-	873
Accountancy services	Time spent	2,516	650	3,166
Other Governance costs	Governance	-	63	63
		<u>34,253</u>	<u>713</u>	<u>34,966</u>

6. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation	621	150
Other Accountancy fees	5,635	3,166
Independent examiners fee	750	650
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

7. STAFF COSTS AND KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	131,389	128,943
Social security costs	6,521	6,081
Employer's pension costs	2,829	2,439
Staff training and other staff costs	3,925	1,167
	<u>144,664</u>	<u>138,630</u>
Allocated as follows:		
Charitable activities	115,731	110,904
Support costs	28,933	27,726
	<u>144,664</u>	<u>138,630</u>

No employee received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000.

The average number of staff employed during the period was 7.8 (2023: 8.5)

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the Trustees , the CEO, Creative Director and Business Development Manager. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £101,014 (2023: 95,942)

8. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Leasehold Improvements £	Circus Equipment £	Office Equipment £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Total £
Cost :					
At 1 April 2023	7,997	38,739	18,317	3,106	68,159
Additions					-
Disposals					-
At 31 March 2024	<u>7,997</u>	<u>38,739</u>	<u>18,317</u>	<u>3,106</u>	<u>68,159</u>
Depreciation :					
At 1 April 2023	7,997	38,739	18,317	150	65,203
Charge for the year				621	621
Disposals	-	-	-		-
At 31 March 2024	<u>7,997</u>	<u>38,739</u>	<u>18,317</u>	<u>771</u>	<u>65,824</u>
NBV at 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,335</u>	<u>2,335</u>
NBV at 31 March 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,956</u>	<u>2,956</u>

Net book value at 31 March 2024 represents fixed assets used for charitable purposes.

9. DEBTORS

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	17,456	5,832
Prepayments & accrued income	7,908	4,008
Other current assets	750	750
	<u>26,114</u>	<u>10,590</u>

10. CASH AT BANK AND IN HAND

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	34,375	65,541
	<u>34,375</u>	<u>65,541</u>

11. CREDITORS : Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	7,178	8,625
Social security and other taxes	2,974	(72)
Other creditors and accruals	3,770	650
	13,922	9,203

Deferred income

Balance at 1 April 2023	-
Movement in the year	-
Balance at 31 March 2024	-

12. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	Balance at 1 Apr 23 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 Mar 2024 £
Restricted Funds					
Action Together	-	4,740	(630)		4,110
Arts Council	-	49,179	(51,593)	2,453	39
Rochdale Council	-	12,000	(12,000)		-
National Lottery Heritage Fund	-	9,949	(12,632)	2,683	-
Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership	-	16,824	(15,323)		1,501
Children in Need	3,210	15,577	(12,798)		5,989
Henry Smith	8,328	44,746	(40,759)		12,315
Total Restricted Funds	11,539	153,015	(145,735)	5,136	23,955
Unrestricted Funds	58,345	87,040	(115,301)	(5,136)	24,948
Total Funds	69,884	240,055	(261,036)	-	48,903

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Net current assets/(liabilities)	3,619	-	34,725	38,344
	3,619	-	34,725	38,344

Previous reporting period

	Balance at 1 Apr 22 £	Incoming Resources £	Resources Expended £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 Mar 2023 £
Restricted Funds					
Action Together	1,161	2,180	(3,341)		-
Skyspark	-	32,475	(46,689)	14,214	-
CCG	699	-	-	(699)	-
Children in Need	-	15,762	(12,552)	-	3,210
Henry Smith	1,383	43,000	(36,055)	-	8,328
Kirkholt Millions	(1)	-	(10)	11	-
Total Restricted Funds	3,243	93,417	(98,647)	13,526	11,539
Unrestricted Funds	99,797	116,911	(144,837)	(13,526)	58,345
Total Funds	103,040	210,328	(243,484)	-	69,884

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Net current assets/(liabilities)	6,095	52,250	11,539	69,884
	6,095	52,250	11,539	69,884

Description of restricted funds

Action Together: Circus Rainbow

Series of 'circus social' sessions creating a safe space for Rochdale's LGBTQIA+ teens.

Action Together: Globe Refugee	Rochdale Communities Resettlement funding for a series of circus activities for refugee, asylum seeker and immigrants and their families.
Arts Council: Sparrow Hill	Project grant to develop and perform a multi-generational circus show featuring local history stories.
National Lottery Heritage Fund	Project grant to research and animate local history with storytelling events; supports Arts Council Sparrow Hill project
Greater Manchester Integrated Care Partnership	Series of circus sessions for young people who need additional support and their families to learn skills together
Children in Need	Spring 3' Project for young people with disadvantages, disabilities and special educational needs schools.
Henry Smith	Contribution to core costs specifically for work with communities in Rochdale.

Accounts



Skylight Circus in Education

T/A Skylight Circus Arts

Report and financial statements

For the year ended 31st March 2023

Registered Charity 1001570

Company Limited by Guarantee 2567143

Skylight Circus in Education

Reference and administrative information for the year ended 31st March 2023

Charity name Skylight Circus in Education

also known as Skylight Circus Arts and Skylight

Company number 2567143

Charity number 1001570

Registered office and operational address: St Chads Fold, Sparrow Hill, Rochdale OL16 1QT

Trustees

Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

J. Riley, Chair

E. Short, Secretary

J. Hurn, Treasurer

N. White

J. Macpherson

M. Lee

M. Ramsdale

Key management: David Allen, CEO. Martine Bradford, Creative Director.

Bank: Co-operative Bank plc, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M60 4E

Independent Examiner: Teresa Fennell, It Doesn't Have To Cost The Earth Ltd



'SPARK!' parade, Falinge Park, Rochdale, Aug 2022

“Wonderfully different, diverse and inclusive, bringing people together and enriching their lives”

Sebastian Boppert

Director of International Communications

Eventbrite

FOREWORD

We began the year with a bang as we rolled out our new brand identity. Skylight's fresh new look came with a branding styleguide tool kit enabling us to create marketing materials which appeal to a wide variety of target audiences while still having a clear identity.

A strategic review and a business review consolidated our work strands and identified new areas of earned income including larger scale commissions in education projects. These are already yielding success.

Consequently income has increased as have outputs, participation and audience numbers. A small selection of key activities can be seen in [Skylight's FY 22/23 Impact Video](#) on our YouTube channel.

We were disappointed our bid to become an Arts Council England (ACE) National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) was unsuccessful; especially after the great success of our ACE funded SPARK! performance. However, the work which went into this bid accelerated our artistic and operational plans. We will continue to reap the benefit of this as we move into the next financial year and those beyond.

Investment in arts and culture in Rochdale Borough began to flood. The team played a key role in a number of new initiatives including Create Rochdale - the borough's new Local Cultural Education Partnership which connects educators and arts providers; and The Culture Co-Op - Rochdale's ACE funded Creative People and Places project.

Finally, it would be remiss to not mention Skylight's success in live ticketing company Eventbrite's competition to find the country's 'Most Curious and Colourful Event.' Our first place in the competition made local, regional and national news!

David Allen

Chief Executive Officer

Skylight in numbers...

...523 circus sessions

...5,180 participants

...4,055 audience members

...43% Global Majority participation

SKYLIGHT CIRCUS IN EDUCATION

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2023. Included within the trustees' report is the directors' report as required by company law. Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Purposes, Aims, Objectives and Skylight Activities

Purposes and aims in Skylight's original governing document:

'To promote, maintain, improve and advance education for the public benefit by the demonstration and teaching of human circus skills. To relieve the needs of disabled persons by the demonstration and teaching of human circus skills to such persons' (1990)

Charity Commission Activities Overview 2020

Life-changing social circus projects to improve health and well-being. Collaborations: professionals and members to create productions. Specialisms: circus with disability, diversity, mental health, challenging young people. Address challenges in communities with multiple deprivation.

Purposes 2020 Summary. 'Benefiting individuals and communities through circus arts training, performance and workshops. Skylight's base in central Rochdale is in an area of multiple deprivation and activities extend across the region. This report outlines how our purposes were achieved over this very different year of Covid-19.

Aims, objectives and activities are reviewed by the trustees each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period to March 2023. The trustees ensure the charity remains focused on its stated purposes.



Staff, freelance team, volunteers and trustees with our new logo

April 2023

Skylight Activities April 2022 to March 2023

While some of the post-pandemic challenges remained, as we moved into FY 22-23 Skylight was able to make great progress in our artistic development ambitions.

We delivered a phenomenal number of circus sessions- 523 in just 365 days! Over 5,000 people took part in circus activities and more than 4,000 people saw us and our participants perform.

Outreach bookings soared as communities shook off post-pandemic nervousness. Classes began to fill to pre-pandemic levels.

The crown jewel of our year was the ACE-funded SPARK! Show with two public performances including a large scale outdoor event we staged in partnership with Vintage Worx Community Development Trust.

Our partnerships with local arts and culture organisations, VCFSE groups and service providers such as Rochdale Borough Council (RBC) strengthened. We developed new partnerships, not least with HOME - Manchester's arts hub and we worked with more renowned practitioners such as Gandini Juggling and Handmade Parade to great effect,

Earned income increased as did grant funding with significant support from ACE through the Project Grant scheme and we were delighted to secure a big increase in core funding from Henry Smith Charity, helping us support the local community.

Skylight continued to support young people in pursuing creative careers. We provided a work experience placement for one young person from a local secondary school. We extended contracts for our Kickstart Scheme trainees. We also progressed an ex Youth Circus class participant into a paid circus tutor role.

We improved facilities for staff and participants in our circus studio in central Rochdale by refurbishing the kitchen, which also doubles as a meeting space and working space for our expanded team.

Highlights Included:

- Seven weekly classes for participants of all ages and abilities with ground-based and aerial circus classes; including 'ROPE' our ground-breaking aerial sessions for adults with disabilities. Attendance numbers improved and waiting lists were re-introduced for our most popular classes.
- A full programme of outreach activities in community settings, at school, events and festivals in Rochdale, Greater Manchester and the North West.
- The re-emergence of much-needed performance opportunities for participants previously not available due to the pandemic lockdown.
- Circus Globe expanded with the Circus Friends programme to include activities for recently displaced Ukrainian families. This work was supported by Rochdale Borough Council.
- A successful pilot of Circus Rainbow- a circus social event for LGBT teens in Rochdale Borough devised and delivered by one Kickstart Trainee and supported by Action Together, Rochdale's infrastructure organisation for the VCSFE sector.
- Inspiration trip for staff & participants to nearby Lowry Theatre to see long-time partner Extraordinary Bodies 'Delicate' Show.
- Inspiration & project evaluation trip for staff & participants to Blackpool Tower Circus show.

- Masterclass sessions for staff and participants from internationally renowned Gandini Juggling.

- We completed a strategic review with the support of an experienced arts engagement and learning consultant working with the staff team. This led to us consolidating work into three main areas:

 - Circus Joy - circus as a pastime and entertainment purposes

 - Circus Wellbeing - specifically for health and wellbeing outcomes

 - Circus Pathways - education, training and career development

- Pilot commission of the Circus Sparks! train-the-trainer programme for educators. The project was developed with Rochdale Borough Council's Early Years and Schools Team to improve learning development in Primary School children affected by COVID. External evaluation showed phenomenal results.

- Our work supported 17 freelance artists including paying regular freelance contractors to attend training sessions to upskill them and to improve their employability within the sector.

- We produced a high-quality [Our FY 22/23 impact video](#) with a small flavour of some of the highlights from our three main strands of work.



Silver Circus participants perform at SPARK!

Falinge Park, Rochdale, August 2022

CIRCUS JOY PERFORMANCES

Performance is our creative lifeblood. Participants are the stars of our shows.

Having fully emerged from the pandemic lockdown it was almost business as usual with respect to staging performances for our participants to show off their circus skills.

However, many public events in our calendar were not fully up and running but thanks to significant ACE funding we were able to stage an event which enabled us to further realise our artistic development plan...

- Skylight's SPARK! show was a full scale co-created performance which explored environmental themes. Over 80 regular Skylight participants of all ages and community performers were supported by our full team and external practitioners to devise the show. The project included a development performance at Rochdale Folk Festival followed by a fully evolved show featuring costumes created with Handmade Parade and on-the-fly live music creation with We Are Stems. The event was staged in partnership with Vintage Worx Community Trust at Falinge Park in the centre of Rochdale. Over 1,700 people attended.

- The Christmas Sho-Ho-Ho saw unprecedented levels of participation with 75 participants of all ages from our regular class attendees. Performances took place in front of a friends and family audiences on two packed nights at Skylight's circus studio. Santa himself paid a visit. On stilts.

- Silver Circus participants were invited to perform at Action Together's Annual Celebration for VCFSE organisations event at Middleton Arena. The performance included a juggling routine from their Can Droppies troupe and aerial routines.



Master and apprentice, Children In Need funded project, June 22

CIRCUS WELLBEING PROJECTS

Skylight is inclusive, supporting people with a variety of needs::

- Registered with physical disabilities and learning disabilities.
- Attending special schools and Pupil Referral Units.
- Unaccompanied minors, asylum-seekers and refugee families.
- The LGBT community including teens in Rochdale Borough
- Adults/children with additional needs.
- Elders at risk of isolation and with disabilities.

Social Prescribing Pilot activity for elders with dementia took place in care settings. The project delivered sessions on the nearby Kirkholt Estate and Kingsway Dementia Hub.

Circus Globe was re-commissioned. This time by RBC who asked us to develop the programme to support Ukrainian families displaced by the conflict. We called this **Circus Friends**. There were thirty nine participants, some of whom have become regular class participants and have attended some of our 'inspiration trips to see professional circus shows outside of the Borough.

Organisational Wellbeing We delivered staff team building workshops to a small number of organisations with shared community focussed values. These included a local housing association, a collective of volunteer dementia carers and a major national funder. We hope to be able to develop this earned income strand in the coming financial year.



A ROPE class participant gets ready to take flight under the watchful eye of Martine Bradford, Creative Director, Skylight Circus Arts

Middleton Holidays at Home Funding from Rochdale Borough Council Township Fund for twenty five young people 6 -12 years in socially disadvantaged areas. Skylight provided circus activities and healthy food sessions in partnership with Burnside Community Centre, Middleton once again. Similar projects with Army of Kindness took place in Rochdale town centre attended by forty young people.

BBC Children in Need Funded SPRING 3. The second year of our three year project, making a difference in the lives of young people with disabilities and additional needs. We delivered 37 sessions with participants drawn from local schools including in partnership with Special Education Schools. Activities were delivered with the following partners:

Springside School

Broadfield Primary School

Redwood Secondary School

Brownhill Learning Community

Integrated Care Partnership (formerly CCG) Funded Side-by-Side

Family sessions for young people aged 11-16 4-19 with physical, emotional wellbeing and social needs resumed. Some are in care or living in poverty. Some are affected by trauma, neurodiversity, autism, ADHD, or behavioural disorders and mental health issues. They are often socially isolated through bullying, anxiety, poor communication skills or financial circumstances. Rochdale Connections Trust and other organisations refer young people. Side-by-Side attracted many more young people than expected this year with 228 participants.

CIRCUS PATHWAYS ACTIVITIES

Schools Outreach We were finally able to return to school settings to provide much needed respite. We provided circus workshops to 29 schools around the borough and the Greater Manchester and surrounding area.

Career Development We continued to provide opportunities for two young people from Rochdale who came to us via the Kickstart Trainee scheme. This included retaining both as employees while enabling our first Kickstart Trainee to develop their own project for the LGBT community while pursuing other social-value employment outside of Skylight.

We were delighted to welcome one ex Youth Circus participant onto the team as an employee in a circus tutor role.

Circus Sparks was without doubt the highlight of the year in terms of circus delivery in our Pathways strand. The train-the-trainer project was developed with RBC's Early Help and Schools team as a response to COVID for primary school children deprived of key learning development opportunities due to lockdown.

Ten primary schools from the Borough participated. Teachers were invited to Skylight to learn circus skills and gained the skills to teach their colleagues and pupils within their schools. Each school was provided with circus equipment, a support visit from Skylight's circus trainers and support materials including simple to understand skill flash cards and videos.

The results were phenomenal! Over 80% of pupils who then participated in school-run circus sessions with the trained staff member saw an improvement in communication development (WellComm score) equivalent to one year.

The project has been re-commissioned by RBC for a further three programmes. We hope to begin working with education teams in other boroughs around Greater Manchester in the next financial year.



“Every school needs Skylight”
Primary school teachers at the
Circus Sparks train-the-trainer
pilot

Circus Sparks skill flash cards
were provided to all the pilot
schools along with tutorial
videos and ‘circus in a box’
equipment for use in school



The class of 22
The first graduates from the
inaugural Circus Sparks
programme

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Ad hoc sessions and events away from our studio cut across the three main work strands- Circus Joy, Circus Wellbeing & Circus Pathways- previously highlighted. There was an appetite for communities to experience what had been denied by lockdown. We had a bumper year with a particularly busy summer period. These are just a few of the highlights:

Darnhill Festival The well established community run street festival was back to full strength. We performed and delivered a Have-a-Go workshops in the full-to-the-brim streets of the Darnhill Estate in the Heywood borough of Rochdale.

Pride In The Park The inaugural Pride event staged at next door Broadfield Park saw Skylight provide free circus Have-A-Go workshops for attendees. As part of our commitment to the Borough's LGBT network, Skylight staff oversaw event evaluation including developing surveys and supporting Rochdale Sixth Form students in collecting data on the day. We also made our building available for those with disability access issues and rehearsal space with green room for event performers.

Events & Community Workshops were numerous across a wide variety of bookers, event types and locations. We performed and provided Have-A-Go circus workshops at, among many others, Littleborough Arts Festival, The Queen's Jubilee Celebration at Bowlee Park & Community Centre, Wythenshawe Park Real Food Project fun day, Princess Park Festival in Irlam, Salford, the Nelson Town Council Event and- further afield- Warrington Scout Group's event.

NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Skylight partners strengthen the delivery of our work in supporting our local communities, improving the quality of our outputs and the artistic ambition of the shows we create with our participants.

Extraordinary Bodies continued their partnership work with Sklylight. We visited their 'Delicate' touring show at The Lowry and a new group came together to build community connections with 19 people creating land art and poetry based on themes in the show.

Networks Sklylight continued to be active in Borough-wide support networks for example Rochdale Borough Culture Network (RBCN), Children and Young People's Forum, LGBT/ Rochdale in Rainbows Steering Committee and the Social Prescribing Steering Committee. We also took on new roles in Rochdale's new LCEP- Create Rochdale- and CPP projects- The Culture Co-Op.

Partnerships We continued to pursue a partnership approach to develop our skills and strengthen the quality of our work and opportunities for participants.

Notably we engaged arts practitioners of renown and were also able to provide access to complementary arts activities through a new partnership with HOME MCR.



Silver Circus participants featured in The Telegraph,

November 2021

PERFORMANCE AGAINST OBJECTIVES

At the end of the previous reporting period the Trustees set out the following areas for development:

- ACE Project Grant Bid

In the wake of a rejected bid in the previous financial period it was strategically important to successfully bid and execute an ACE funded project in order to further our Artistic Development plan and re-affirm a commitment to creative excellence. The SPARK! Project was the outcome of this vision.

- ACE National Portfolio Organisation Programme Application

We submitted an application which was judged to “align strongly with the strategic ambition of Let’s Create particularly in Priority Place.” Our proposed Activity Plans scored as “Strong Contribution” and “Good Contribution” to ACE Outcomes. Our commitment to ACE Investment Principles were all scored as “Likely To Progress.” However, as noted elsewhere, our bid was unsuccessful.

- Funding and Financial sustainability

The strategy outlined in the previous Trustee Report came to fruition in this financial period. We were, largely, successful in managing fewer, larger grants & commissions which aligned more closely with our vision.

We were successful in attracting re-commissions for strategically important work such as the Circus Sparks schools programme.

Our earned income improved as planned, diversifying our income, thereby mitigating risk associated with a very competitive funding process..

- Brand Development and Marketing

Skylight's new brand - developed in consultation with staff, freelance workers, trustees, volunteers and participants - was successfully rolled. A re-branded and refreshed website with a more contemporary feel was launched and continues to be developed.

- Employment

The employment of an arts administrator, staff member was put on hold until the completion of the previously mentioned Skylight Vision project. Recruitment was expected to take place in the following financial period (FY 23/24).

- Vehicle

It had been agreed a liveried vehicle would be beneficial to outreach operations. Unfortunately two funding bids submitted which allowed for capital investment in a vehicle to support project delivery were unsuccessful. We remain committed to acquiring a vehicle with a low environmental impact. The Executive Team will continue to monitor funding opportunities.

- Building Development

As a result of unsuccessful bids to fund the development of a much needed extension to our circus studio space, the board had agreed to refurbish the kitchen. In addition to improving facilities for staff and participants, this would create additional meeting facilities and an office overflow working space. The kitchen was completed as planned with minimum disruption.



Middleton Holiday At Home circus activities
Burnside Community Centre, Middleton, August 2022

FINANCIAL REVIEW

During the period the charity increased its income through a mixture of improved grant fundraising, commissioned projects and earned income. Income increased compared with the previous financial period by nearly 43% to £210,328.

However, expenditures increased by just over 12% thanks to prudent financial management.

FUNDRAISING PERFORMANCE

Inline with the stated funding strategy we consolidated grants to a fewer, larger grants:

- Henry Smith Charity 'Strengthening Communities' (Continuation funding- 2nd round) Year 1 of 3	£43,000
- Arts Council England 'Skyspark' Project Grant (Secured in FY 21/22 for this financial period)	£29,975
- We were re-commissioned by NHS' Integrated Care Partnership (Formerly CCG) Year 1 of 3	£16,084
- Total grants & commissions income	£157,032
- Outreach (paid for work) classes & other income	£51,012

EMPLOYMENT

The charity currently employs 9 staff. Two of these are full time. 5 staff members are on a fixed hours part-time basis. 2 members are employed on a variable hours part-time basis.

5 staff have delivery responsibilities connected directly to Skylight's charitable activities and purposes. 4 staff have operational responsibilities which support Skylight's charitable activities and purposes.

Staff Breakdown:

- Full Time Staff (x 2)

Creative Director

Funding and Development Manager

- Part Time Staff (x7)

CEO

Project Coordinator/Circus Tutor

Circus Tutor Trainees (x3)

Bookkeeper

Cleaner

- Freelance Team (x6)

Artists ranging from aerial to music & choreography. We also contract additional specialists.



'Circus Friends' participants

Skylight Circus Arts, November 2022

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The following training activities took place during FY 21/22:

Safeguarding training staff, freelance workers, trustees & volunteers	APR 22
Paediatric first-aid training staff & freelance workers	APR 22
Gandini Juggling Masterclass staff & freelance workers	MAY 22
Arts Council England Artsmark Programme DA	OCT 22
Circusworks Inclusion Training staff & freelance workers	FEB 23
RBC Safeguarding Training MB	MAR 23
Refresher First Aid Top Up MB, MC	MAR 23
RBC Sociocracy organisational training DA	MAR 23
Create Growth Programme DA, DP	MAR 23
DP Media Production Training	Throughout Year
MB Extraordinary Bodies Unexpected Leaders	Throughout Year

Skylight was provided with a training support package by Rochdale Development Agency to pay for staff time and costs in attending tailored training programmes.

Skylight continued its policy of paying regular freelance workers to attend key training sessions to ensure a high standard of work and to assist in their employability elsewhere.



Skylight staff, volunteers and performers

Rochdale Folk Festival, June 2022

OUTPUTS & BENEFICIARIES

A strong year of delivery with participants and audiences keen to shake off the effects of COVID lockdowns saw a small improvement in the number of participants and interventions.

Audiences grew strongly - by 17%- with more opportunities to engage available. The success of our own SPARK! Event was key to this increase.

The diversity of our participants increased dramatically- Over 41% identified as part of the global majority.

Total Sessions Delivered 523

Individual participants 5,180

Total global majority participants 2,138

Number of Interventions

Classes 2,019

Projects 1,997

Outreach 3,334

Total Interventions 7,350

Audiences 4,055

Project participants with Special Educational Needs 294

GOING FORWARD INTO THE NEW FINANCIAL YEAR (FY 23/24)

Skylight is in a stable financial position, though with reduced reserves compared with FY 22/23. This is as a result of planned investment. Free reserves were used to fund investment in salaries, building facilities and Skylight's artistic development.

However, the strategic development and business planning process we have completed should see income increase through new work streams and a price increase for outreach work in line with the sector.

In the new financial period (FY 23/24) Skylight's Trustees and Executive Team have identified the following areas for progress:

- Continue to explore development of Skylight's facilities.
- Execute Skylight's Artistic Development Plan with an additional focus on production value and aesthetic.
- Consolidate existing partnerships and capitalise on new partnerships and networks to develop income and outputs through commissions.
- Develop the school's 'Train The Trainer' programme as a blueprint for further commissions from Local Authority education service providers.
- Expand geographical reach, specifically targeting outreach work and commissions in Greater Manchester boroughs.
- Continued employment of sector-leading artists to inspire staff and participants.
- Recruit for the postponed Arts Administrator position. This post will improve Skylight's operations and free Delivery Team members to deliver more outputs.

RESERVES POLICY

At the end March 2023 the total funds of the charity were £68,384. Of this £11,539 was restricted with the remainder being unrestricted (£4,595) and designated funds (£52,250).

In the 2022/23 financial year the Trustees have determined that unrestricted funds of the charity should be sufficient to cover the running costs of the charity for 2 to 3 months.

Since this time the Board has decided that a designated fund should be created to cover the redundancy costs or other associated costs that the charity would be required to pay if the charity were to close due to it becoming financially unsustainable. At the start of the financial year the Trustees determined that this amount would be £52,250.

During 2023/24 the Trustees have decided that they will increase the designated reserve figure to £57,000. This figure covers redundancy costs and a minimum of 1 month's running costs.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Skylight was registered as a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity in December 1990.

The company has a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and it is governed under its Articles of Association.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31st March 2019 was seven (in 2016: it was seven). The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 10 to the accounts.

Trustees who are related parties this year: The Chair, J C Riley, is married to Noreen White.

Prospective trustees receive induction materials and are voted onto the board. No other person or external body is entitled to appoint trustees.

Trustees' lived experience reflects many communities we serve, including disability and access issues & working class backgrounds. Four of our seven trustees are female.

Vacancies exist for artists, input from young people, local diversity groups.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Trustees monitor financial and other risks at quarterly meetings so they can take prompt action when needed.

The following actions were taken:

- Safeguarding was added as a standing agenda point to the Board meetings
- A financial risk policy was created which reflected established practices and strategic approach to income.
- A new financial processes policy was created reflecting the move to outsourced bookkeeping services.

Meetings took place in a hybrid format with attendance in person and online via Zoom depending on availability. Attendance from all trustees was strong.

Trustees monitor risks in the subgroups set up at times to address specific needs in addition to full trustee meetings.

Usually, these are:

Employment Sub Group, Finance Sub group and Creative Sub group. Only the Finance Sub group met this year. All employment and creative business was conducted by the full board.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees:

The trustees (who are also directors of Skylight Circus in Education for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently

- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation
- The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.
- The Board are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.
- The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 19th December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



J. Riley

Chair of Board of Trustee

A BIG THANK YOU TO

All who have volunteered and helped us over the year, including our hard-working staff and the Trustees who contributed far more than their roles demanded.

We appreciate the dedication of the freelance workers who make it possible for Skylight to spread the circus joy far and wide.

Our landlord

St Chad's Educational Trust

Our funders & commissioners

Arts Council England

Children In Need

Henry Smith Charity

Integrated Partnership (previously CCG)

Your Trust

Our partners (and sometimes commissioners)

Action Together

Beyond Psychology

Extraordinary Bodies

HOME Manchester

The Lowry

Rochdale Borough Council

Rochdale Development Agency

Our fellow Rochdale Borough Culture Network members

Cartwheel Arts

English Folk Expo

M6

Rochdale Library Service

Touchstones Gallery & Museum

Our friends and supporters

Claire Minett

Darren Grice

Jamie Moran

Janet Emsley

John McLoughlin

And, last but not least, our participants



Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

yourtrust



**ROCHDALE
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE SKYLIGHT CHARITABLE COMPANY ('THE COMPANY') FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the Company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of the Company's accounts carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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.

Date: *Teresa Fennell*

Teresa Fennell, ACMA CGMA

It Doesn't Have to Cost the Earth Ltd

47 St Dunstons Close, Worcester, WR5 2AJ

Skylight Circus in Education
Statement of Financial Activities
(including Income and Expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	2,284	-	2,284	38,963	-	38,963
Charitable activities	4	114,627	93,417	208,044	74,267	34,341	108,608
Total income		116,911	93,417	210,328	113,230	34,341	147,571
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds		340	-	340	480	-	480
Charitable activities	5	144,497	98,647	243,144	132,473	80,328	212,801
Total expenditure		144,837	98,647	243,484	132,953	80,328	213,281
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	7	(27,926)	(5,230)	(33,156)	(19,723)	(45,987)	(65,710)
Transfer between funds		(13,526)	13,526	-	1,405	(1,405)	-
Net movement in funds for the year		(41,452)	8,296	(33,156)	(18,318)	(47,392)	(65,710)
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		99,797	3,243	103,040	118,115	50,635	168,750
Total funds carried forward	19	58,345	11,539	69,884	99,797	3,243	103,040

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Skylight Circus in Education
Company number 2567143
Balance sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023	2022
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	2,956	-
Total fixed assets		2,956	-
Current assets			
Debtors	13	10,590	5,650
Cash at bank and in hand	15	65,541	103,529
Total current assets		76,130	109,179
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	14	(9,203)	(6,139)
Net current assets		66,928	103,040
Total assets less current liabilities		69,884	103,040
Net assets		69,884	103,040
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds	16	11,539	3,243
Unrestricted income funds	17	58,345	99,797
Total charity funds		69,884	103,040

For the year in question, the company was entitled to exemption from an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476,
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime (of the Companies Act 2006).

The notes on pages 14 to 27 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 19th December 2023 and signed on their behalf by:



J. Riley (Chair)

Skylight Circus in Education

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) second edition - October 2019 - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Skylight Circus in Education meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

No key judgments which the trustees have made which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

c Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Income received in advance of a provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

d Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised; refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

e Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

f Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

g Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

h Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 6.

i Operating leases

Operating leases are leases in which the title to the assets, and the risks and rewards of ownership, remain with the lessor. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

j Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Leasehold improvement	10% straight line method
Circus equipment	25% straight line method
Fixtures and fittings	20% straight line method
Office equipment	20% straight line method
Computer Equipment	33% straight line method
Motor Vehicles	25% straight line method

k Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

l Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

m Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

n Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

o Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution 'money purchase' scheme. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 8. There were no outstanding contributions at the year end.

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The registered office address is disclosed on page 1.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Rochdale MBC	-	38,336
Donations	2,284	627
Total	2,284	38,963

All income from donations and legacies is unrestricted.

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2023 £
Grants and contracts			
Action Together		2,180	2,180
Arts Council		32,475	32,475
Children in Need		15,762	15,762
Henry Smith		43,000	43,000
Your Trust	20,000		20,000
The Work Company	12,447		12,447
Commissions	30,708		30,708
Other	460		460
	63,615	93,417	157,032
Fees and Other Income			
Circus Skills Workshops	31,205	-	31,205
Circus Skills Classes	16,720	-	16,720
Other	3,087	-	3,087
	51,012	-	51,012
Total	114,627	93,417	208,044

Income from charitable activities (Cont.)

Previous reporting period

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £
Grants and contracts			
Action Together	-	5,500	5,500
BBC Children In Need	-	14,966	14,966
Henry Smith Charity	-	13,625	13,625
Kirkholt Millions		250	250
Link 4 Life	20,000	-	20,000
The Work Company	11,657	-	11,657
Growth Company	1,011	-	1,011
	32,668	34,341	67,009
Fees and Other Income			
Circus Skills Workshops	27,044	-	27,044
Circus Skills Classes	6,800	-	6,800
Other	7,755	-	7,755
	41,599	-	41,599
Total	74,267	34,341	108,608

5 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Staff costs	110,904	105,847
Freelancers	53,649	28,965
Costs of Arts, Activities & Workshops	20,466	7,312
Premises	12,554	24,628
Vehicle Costs	1,123	326
Insurance	2,691	5,164
Office Costs	3,493	2,666
Other Costs	79	-
Professional Fees	515	1,881
Volunteer costs	735	36
Bad debts	1,820	-
Depreciation	150	-
Governance costs (see note 6)	713	2,690
Support costs (see note 6)	34,253	33,286
	243,144	212,801
	2023 £	2022 £
Restricted expenditure	98,647	80,328
Unrestricted expenditure	144,497	132,473
	243,144	212,801

6 Analysis of governance and support costs

	Basis of apportionment	Support £	Governance £	Total 2023 £
Staff costs	Time spent	27,726	-	27,726
Premises	Floor area	3,138	-	3,138
Office costs	Floor area	873	-	873
Accountancy services	Time spent	2,516	650	3,166
Other Governance costs	Governance	-	63	63
		34,253	713	34,966

Previous reporting

	Basis of apportionment	Support £	Governance £	Total 2022 £
Staff costs	Time spent	26,462	-	26,462
Premises	Floor area	6,157	-	6,157
Office costs	Floor area	667	-	667
Accountancy services	Governance	-	2,690	2,690
		33,286	2,690	35,976

7 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging/(crediting):	2023 £	2022 £
Depreciation	150	-
Operating lease rentals:		
Property		
Accountancy Fees:		
Accountancy & payroll bureau fees (inc. accounts preparation)	3,166	1,556
Accounts preparation	-	537
Independent examination	650	597

8 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	128,943	123,135
Social security costs	6,080	5,680
Pensions	2,439	2,469
Other staff costs	1,167	1,025
	138,630	132,309
Allocated as follows:		
Charitable activities	110,904	105,847
Support costs	27,726	26,462
	138,630	132,309

No employees has employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2022: Nil).

The average number of staff employed during the period was 8.5 (2022: 7).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees, the Creative Director and the Business and Development Manager and the CEO. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £95,942 (2022: £84,990).

9 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

No trustees received remuneration during the year (2022:£nil).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

During the year no trustees were reimbursed for expenses incurred on behalf of Skylight Circus.(2022:£1,165).

The Trustee do not have Trustee Indemnity Insurance

10 Government grants

The government grants recognised in the accounts were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Rochdale MBC	-	38,336
Coronavirus job retention scheme	-	-
Kick Starter	12,667	12,667
	12,667	51,003

There were no unfulfilled conditions and contingencies attaching to the grants.

11 Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

12 Fixed assets: tangible assets

Cost	Leasehold improvements £	Circus equipment £	Office equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £	Total £
At 1 April 2022	7,997	38,739	18,317	-	65,053
Additions	-	-	-	3,107	3,107
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	7,997	38,739	18,317	3,107	68,160
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2022	7,997	38,739	18,317	-	65,053
Charge for the year	-	-	-	150	150
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2023	7,997	38,739	18,317	150	65,203
Net book value					
At 31 March 2023	-	-	-	2,956	2,956
At 31 March 2022	-	-	-	-	-

13 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	5,832	3,100
Other current assets	750	-
Prepayments and accrued income	4,008	2,550
	10,590	5,650

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	8,625	1,148
Other creditors and accruals	650	2,914
Taxation and social security costs	(72)	2,077
	9,203	6,139

15 Cash at bank and in hand

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash at bank and on hand	65,541	103,529
	65,541	103,529

16 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Action Together	1,161	2,180	(3,341)	-	-
Skyspark	-	32,475	(46,689)	14,214	-
CCG	699	-	-	(699)	-
Children in Need	-	15,762	(12,552)	-	3,210
Henry Smith	1,383	43,000	(36,055)	-	8,328
Kirkholt Millions	(1)	-	(10)	11	-
Skelton Charity	-	-	-	-	-
	3,243	93,417	(98,647)	13,526	11,539
Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Action Together	-	5,500	(4,339)	-	1,161
Arts Council	412	-	-	(412)	-
CCG	17,585	-	(16,886)	-	699
Children in Need	3,648	14,966	(18,594)	(20)	-
D'oly Carte	622	-	-	(622)	-
Henry Smith	25,618	13,625	(37,860)	-	1,383
Ironmongers Charity	54	-	-	(54)	-
Kirkholt Millions	2,496	250	(2,649)	(97)	(1)
Skelton Charity	200	-	-	(200)	-
	50,635	34,341	(80,328)	(1,405)	3,243

Analysis of movements in restricted funds (Cont.)

Name of restricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
Action Together Circus Rainbow	Series of 'circus social' sessions creating a safe space for Rochdale's LGBTQIA+ teens
Arts Council SkySpark	Multi-generational circus training, 'Spark!' show development and performance project. Arts Council England funding augmented by cash contributions from Rochdale Borough Culture Network, M6 Theatre and Skylight reserves by Board of Trustees prior consent.
Children in Need	Spring 3' Project for young people with disadvantages, disabilities and special
Henry Smith	

17 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2023 £
General fund	99,797	116,911	(144,837)	(13,526)	58,345
	<u>99,797</u>	<u>116,911</u>	<u>(144,837)</u>	<u>(13,526)</u>	<u>58,345</u>
Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2022 £
General fund	118,115	113,230	(132,953)	1,405	99,797
	<u>118,115</u>	<u>113,230</u>	<u>(132,953)</u>	<u>1,405</u>	<u>99,797</u>

Name of	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
General fund	The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted funds	Total
	General fund £	Designated funds £	£	£
Net current assets/(liabilities)	6,095	52,250	11,539	69,884
Total	<u>6,095</u>	<u>52,250</u>	<u>11,539</u>	<u>69,884</u>
Previous reporting period	Unrestricted Funds General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Net current assets/(liabilities)	99,797	-	3,243	103,040
Total	<u>99,797</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,243</u>	<u>103,040</u>

1. Skylight Trustee Annual Report FY22-23

Final Audit Report

2023-12-20

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Accounts



Skylight Circus in Education
T/A Skylight Circus Arts

Report and financial statements
For the year ended 31st March 2022

Registered Charity 1001570

Company Limited by Guarantee 2567143

Skylight Circus in Education

Reference and administrative information for the year ended 31st March 2022

Charity name Skylight Circus in Education

also known as Skylight Circus Arts and Skylight

Company number 2567143

Charity number 1001570

Registered office and operational address: St Chads Fold, Sparrow Hill, Rochdale OL16 1QT

Trustees

Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

J. Riley, Chair

E. Short, Secretary

J. Hurn, Treasurer

N. White

J. Macpherson

M. Lee

M. Ramsdale

Advisor Legal: D Yazdi

Key management: David Allen, CEO. Martine Bradford, Creative Director.

Bank: Co-operative Bank plc, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M60 4E

Independent Examiner: Emma Willder, Beyond Profit Ltd. appointed in 2021



'Circus Globe' participant performs under 'Gaia' installation, Dec 2021

"A blessing to Rochdale and its communities. The last few years have been the most difficult and Skylight's work is valued and needed more than ever within the Borough"

Mohammed 'Shiri' Sheraz

Army of Kindness

YEAR IN FOCUS: 2021 - 2022

- The year began as we emerged from government regulated Lockdown. Skylight Circus Arts were quickly up and running with face-to-face sessions at our circus studio in Rochdale, Greater Manchester.
- The Executive Team and Staff began an Artistic Development Plan and Brand Development process.
- Outreach (fee paid work) grew steadily over the summer months - in Rochdale, Greater Manchester and beyond - as people, communities and organisations emerged from Lockdown more readily. Although large-scale public events were affected.
- Skylight played a role in supporting our local communities through working with organisations like Public Health and ARCON Housing Association.
- Henry Smith Charity's 'Community Match Challenge' enabled us to support participants, particularly those at risk of isolation, during the challenges of Lockdown with online sessions for elders. We were able to bring people face to face as restrictions were lifted.
- Skylight was featured in Rochdale Public Health's report - *'How Our Creativity Got Us Through Lockdown.'*
- We cemented our place in Rochdale Borough with increased involvement in local support and activity networks such as our local Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) support organisation's Children, Young People & Families Network, LGBT Network and Social Prescribing Pilot Project Steering Committee.
- The Department of Employment's Kickstart Scheme enabled us to give employment opportunities to two young unemployed people from Rochdale Borough.
- We took a trip with staff, freelance workers and participants to see a delivery partner, Extraordinary Bodies, perform 'Human' at The Lowry Theatre.
- Skylight completed some of the projects deferred due to Lockdown such as the 'Three Intriguing Fossils' project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) which enabled us to open up our building to people from Rochdale and Greater Manchester.

- Skylight were invited to animate Little Amal's visit to Rochdale ahead of the Manchester finale of 'The Walk'- the giant puppet's 5,000 mile journey designed to highlight the plight of refugees and asylum seekers.
- We developed connections with new partners such as Depaul, a UK wide charity supporting young people facing issues around homelessness. Our project involved unaccompanied minors.
- We worked with Rochdale Borough Council's Early Help and Schools Team to develop 'Circus Globe' with young international new arrivals culminating in a performance at the Gaia installation.
- Skylight strengthened its board with the recruitment of one new trustee with experience of arts in the theatre sector.
- The building lease extension, agreed in the previous financial period, was executed and Skylight's home was secured on favourable terms for a further 15 years.
- COVID related support grants such as RESTART and Creative Industries Grant played a key role in supporting Skylight.
- Skylight secured further commissions to provide delivery projects for Rochdale Borough Council's Short Breaks, NHS Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the National Association of Social Prescribing (NASP),sponsored Rochdale Social Prescribing Pilot Project.
- We continued to be funded by charitable sources and grantmakers such as Henry Smith Charity, Children In Need as well local health and wellbeing charity, Link4Life (now YourTrust).

FOREWORD

Just as Skylight played a key role in supporting participants, staff, freelance workers and volunteers in our communities during the Lockdown, we played a key role as we all emerged from pandemic imposed restrictions.

From a standing-start, we went from operating activities online to opening the building for classes and projects to the public within two weeks of restrictions being lifted- albeit with the first regard for everybody's safety.

We quickly responded to the opportunity to take circus out to new participants and audiences again. We had a bumper summer of outreach work in schools, community groups and at festivals and events. Workshops and performances were delivered by our staff and regular participants.

We also started to look further ahead, planning and executing more ambitious projects with an array of partners. Some with health and wellbeing objectives and some with creative outcomes.

Looking back, the Skylight Team has achieved so much in this stutter-start year with an incredible number of outputs and an incredible array of beneficiaries. The feedback- some of which peppers this report- has been heartwarming. We look forward to more of the same with more beneficiaries in more communities and locations, with more partners in the next year.

David Allen

CEO

Skylight Circus Arts

SKYLIGHT CIRCUS IN EDUCATION

TRUSTEES' AND DIRECTORS' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2022. Included within the trustees' report is the directors' report as required by company law. Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the Memorandum and Articles of Association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

PURPOSES, AIMS, OBJECTIVES AND SKYLIGHT ACTIVITIES

Purposes and aims in Skylight's original governing document:

'To promote, maintain, improve and advance education for the public benefit by the demonstration and teaching of human circus skills. To relieve the needs of disabled persons by the demonstration and teaching of human circus skills to such persons' (1990)

Charity Commission Activities Overview 2020

Life-changing social circus projects to improve health and well-being. Collaborations: professionals and members to create productions. Specialisms: circus with disability, diversity, mental health, challenging young people. Address challenges in communities with multiple deprivation.

Purposes 2020 Summary. 'Benefiting individuals and communities through circus arts training, performance and workshops. Skylight's base in central Rochdale is in an area of multiple deprivation and activities extend across the region. This report outlines how our purposes were achieved over this very different year of Covid-19.

Aims, objectives and activities are reviewed by the trustees each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period to March 2022. The trustees ensure the charity remains focused on its stated purposes.



Skylight stilt walkers entertain the crowds with Little Amal, November 2021

SKYLIGHT ACTIVITIES APRIL 2021 TO MARCH 2022

A year of emergence and reconnection. We continued virtual and live delivery as COVID restrictions were eased and lifted in July. There was an overall growth in participation but numbers were lower than pre pandemic. Paused projects were rescheduled and delivered this year. Classes returned and we had a resurgence of bookings. Feedback from partners identified worrying statistics in child development, particularly in language and social engagement.

Local connections were formed to address the urgent needs of children, young people and vulnerable adults, negatively affected by the isolation of the pandemic. Henry Smith Community Match Challenge funding was secured for one year to address local needs.

HIGHLIGHTS IN FY 21/22

- 'Community Health Champions' doorstep circus engagement for Public Health consultation project.
- Little Amal's visit to Rochdale event animation with circus performance and free 'Have-a Go' workshop.
- Circus Globe for asylum refugee young people circus tasters and launch of new group.
- Re-established 'Rope' classes for adults with physical disabilities and 'Sky High' Short Breaks sessions for young people with disabilities and additional needs.
- Performances at Rochdale Feel Good Festival pop up event 'Picnic In The Park,' Falinge Park, Rochdale.
- Performance and 'Have-A-Go' workshop at Greater Manchester Combined Authority's 'Cap and Dove' project at Rochdale Feel Good Festival pop up event in Rochdale Town Centre.
- Theraplay-inspired circus activity for cared for young people and new adoptive families in care, delivered in partnership with Beyond Psychology.



Skylight team member and participant wowing the audience at Skylight's Youth Circus Christmas Show, December 2021

PERFORMANCES

Skylight's ambition to increase the quality and quantity of performance was again affected by restrictions. In addition, 'Circus Routes' performance and creative employment pathways funding bid, was unfortunately rejected by Arts Council England (ACE). In spite of the above, our groups performed the following highlights:

-Feelgood Festival Pop Up performances and 'Have-A-Go' workshops. Scaled down events took place in Falinge Park and Rochdale Town Centre. We worked in partnership with Rochdale Borough Council, Link4Life (now YourTrust) and Vintage Worx. Performances were outdoors with covid safety measures in place.

- Circus Globe group of young asylum seekers/refugees, performed beneath the Gaia installation in Number 1 Riverside, Rochdale Borough Council's public access building. Performance was enhanced with a soundtrack of their thoughts on the environment spoken in English and their native tongues. This was accompanied by a music composition from a freelance worker.

- The Christmas Shows by regular classes/projects were divided into two separate shows to create space and keep inline with government guidelines. These took place at our circus studio with invited guests of performers' and participants' family and friends.



Midi-Youth Aerial Class participant performing for friends and family at Skylight, December 2021

"This was so emotional for me to watch, they're back! She went in so nervous that she was going to mess up and she walked out filled with all of the confidence she lost over lockdown. Skylight Circus Arts are amazing and I'm so grateful for everything they do. The kids were awesome!"

Parent

Skylight Christmas Show Performer

SOCIAL CIRCUS PROJECTS

Skylight is inclusive. Projects this year covered people with a variety of needs and disadvantages:

- Registered with physical disabilities and learning disabilities.
- Attending special schools and Pupil Referral Units.
- Young people from asylum seeker, refugee Roma families.
- Elders at risk of isolation and with disabilities.
- Vulnerable yYoung people experiencing and vulnerable: trauma and poor mental health.
- Adults/children with additional needs.

Circus Wow returned to Kirkholt Estate following an 18 month delay. A hugely successful project for disadvantaged children. This brought new connections in the local community.

Sky High for children and young people with disabilities/additional needs returned! Rochdale Borough Council Short Breaks asked us to deliver sessions as part of the universal Short Breaks offer.

Circus Globe for refugee/asylum young people was launched. Taster sessions took place at Falinge High School. We partnered with Rochdale Borough Council Early Health and Schools Team to deliver trauma informed sessions for a group of young people from a variety of countries.



The Burnside Community Centre's post



The Burnside Community Centre

2 h ·



We have had a lovely circus skills activity session with some familiar faces and delighted to meet some new ones too!

Thanks so much to [Skylight Circus Arts](#) for a brilliant first summer circus skills session...more to come tomorrow 😊



Like



Comment



Share



11

Feedback from a Skylight social circus outreach session

Middleton Holidays at Home Funding from Rochdale Borough Council Township Fund for young people 6 -12 years in socially disadvantaged areas. Skylight provided circus activities and healthy food in partnership with Burnside Community Centre, Middleton.

Fossil Walks took place after being paused in the past year. The three walks were part of our NHLF 'Three intriguing fossils and the landscapes they came from' project which fed into our ACE funded show 'Mammoth'. 60 people took part in the walks with accompanying maps created by our members.

Social Prescribing has started to grow in the Borough. We delivered workshops at events at Kirkholt, Kingsway and Kashmir Youth Project and Petrus Incredible Edibles Rochdale (PIER). This was in conjunction with the National Association of Social Prescribing (NASP) sponsored Rochdale Social Prescribing Pilot Project managed by Petrus Housing Association.

Darnhill Festival A mini festival pop up led by Cartwheel Arts. A scaled down event due to social distancing. We performed outdoors and delivered a have-a-go workshop to compliment a beautiful art exhibition in the library window.

NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Skylight partners strengthen the delivery of our work for example ongoing training by clinical psychologists, Beyond Psychology, informing trainers' knowledge of children & young people trauma, attachment and neurodiversity; to inclusive circus companies advising on teaching staff and participants. We are proud to share the changes and achievements of children, our ways of working and our successes amongst our social and youth circus community partners.

Extraordinary Bodies continued their partnership work with Sklylight. The 'What am I worth' project was delivered with a hybrid approach, resulting in our performance film being shown at The Lowry alongside Extraordinary Bodies' performance of 'Human'. Participants took a trip to see the production and themselves on the big screen. Martine Bradford, Creative Director, also continued the 'Unexpected Leader' programme. She gained specialist training from Extraordinary Bodies in developing inclusive creative projects for neurodiverse and disability engagement and developing co-evaluation processes.

NHS Community Health Champions We worked in partnership to provide creative arts interventions in areas of low vaccine uptake. Their aim was to create 'something out of the ordinary' in order to gather feedback, connect and help people to make informed decisions about their health. We worked in Langley, taking circus to doorsteps and streets.

Networks Sklylight attends several cycles of meetings, for example Rochdale Borough Culture Network, Children and Young People's Forum, LGBT/ Rochdale in Rainbows Steering Committee and the Social Prescribing Steering Committee.

Partnerships Sklylight is committed to working in partnership on projects. Other organisations publicise our projects and refer people to us . For example, #Thrive, Mind, Rochdale Children and Adults Social Services, Rochdale Connections Trust,

Services for Children with Disabilities, Barnardos, Parent and Carer Voice, CAMHS, Rochdale Youth Service, Your Trust, Short Break providers Network, Voluntary Arts Sector organisations, health professionals (Occupation Health, Children's Nurses etc) Social Prescribing, Petrus Housing Association and Blue Pits Housing Action.

The Elderly Silver Circus for over 60's, ran throughout covid restrictions. The group were supported with pastoral care, attended live sessions and took part in Extraordinary Bodies 'What am I worth?' performance project. They visited the Lowry where their performance was included in the film.

Elders Sessions were also delivered at Deeplish Community Centre. We've previously worked with Deeplish Elders, some of whom are living with dementia. This vulnerable group needed live sessions again and gave us a big welcome back.



Silver Circus 'Can Droppies' troupe rehearsing for a show, July 2021

"It was great to see us all on stage at the Lowry!"

Silver Circus participant

BBC Children in Need funded SPRING 3. A 3 year project using circus to make a difference in the lives of young people with disabilities and additional needs. Participants were drawn from local schools including in partnership with Special Education Schools. Activities were delivered with the following partners:

Springside School

Brownhill Learning Community

Broadfield Primary School

CCG Projects (Side-by-Side)

Family sessions for young people aged 11-16 4-19 with physical, emotional wellbeing and social needs resumed. Some are in cCare or living in poverty. Some are affected by trauma, neurodiversity Autism, ADHD, or behavioural disorders and mental health issues. They are often socially isolated through bullying, anxiety, poor communication skills or financial circumstances. Rochdale Connections Trust and other organisations refer young people. Side-by-Side attracted many more young people than expected this year.

Targeted Youth Circus Sessions:

Young carers mixture of live and zoom workshops.

Summer School at Skylight - 8 to 18 yrs

Rochdale Additional Needs Service Visually-Impaired Team worked with young people who are visually impaired both primary and secondary.

Targeted Parent and Child sessions within schools were paused due to the impact of COVID.



Participants at Skylight at an during outreach 'Have-a-Go' session

"The staff are so friendly & made us all feel at ease no one felt left out I genuinely enjoyed every minute of it"

Participant. Deeplish Community Centre

Outreach Work (Fee Paid)

Outreach took across Rochdale Borough plus Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire. A surge of bookings occurred as restrictions were lifted. Sessions covered workshops and performance in the community, youth and education and small outdoor events. A few highlights include:

- The Lowry - Salford Parks 'Have-a-Go' workshop sessions for young people.
- Touchstones Gallery & Museum - Summer School circus sessions for young people.
- Oldham Youth Service, Sholver & Moorside Community Centre - Circus taster sessions for young people.
- Fireground, Museum of Greater Manchester Fire Service- Family fun day 'Have-a-Go' workshop sessions.
- Hopwood Hall College - Fresher taster sessions for young people in higher education.
- Rochdale Connections Trust- Workshops for young people needing support.
- The Piece Hall, Halifax - 'Have-a-Go' workshop for Christmas event and Santa's grotto visitors.
- St. Elphin's Park, Warrington - 'Have-a-Go' workshop sessions for young people.

PERFORMANCE AGAINST OBJECTIVES

At the end of the previous reporting period the Trustees set out the following areas for development:

- Programme development: quality projects and performance to meet need in Greater Manchester.

This was hampered by the impact of the pandemic reducing the number of participants focussed on performance related projects and many of our dedicated performance group, Spotlight, moving out of the Borough for education.

Performance opportunities were also limited by available funding, See 'Funding and Financial Sustainability' note below.

- Funding and Financial sustainability

Skylight developed a funding plan with aims to attract grantmakers with larger funds which closely aligned with our strategic and creative objectives; to consolidate existing revenues streams from paid for work such as community and education work by working with service providers rather than just ad hoc service users; to develop partnerships with like-minded organisations to secure more commissions as project delivery partners and to try to develop individual giving.

We made the decision to apply for an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) award in the following financial period (FY 22/23).

- Brand Development and Marketing

We began a brand development project with a professional designer with experience in circus and entertainment to re-invigorate appeal among the public, partners and funders. The project involved consultation with trustees, staff, freelance workers, volunteers and participants. The project was completed and a new brand identity readied for launch in the following financial period.

- Employment

It was noted that to ensure a viable staff and workforce, Skylight needs to create development pathways and career opportunities to ensure access to talent in the future.

We employed two young people with no previous professional experience of circus or working with communities. This was thanks to the government's Kickstart Scheme. The trainees were provided with a mix of vocational off-site training, in-house training and mentoring.

We made efforts to augment our existing pool of freelance delivery workers and were successful in finding three new people with varying levels of experience.

- Building development

We aimed to create a multi-purpose extension for meetings, office space, and training.

Due to staff expansion and the desire to improve the flexibility of facilities at our circus studio, a building extension would enable us to accommodate multiple projects and support visiting practitioners.. Funding was applied for this work to take place in the following financial period (FY 22/23) but was unsuccessful.

- Environmental sustainability

Skylight's environmental policy was ratified. This includes policies on avoiding single use plastic through to minimising travel eg attend meetings where online options are available.

With the advent of the Clean Air Zone in Greater Manchester our stated aim was to purchase an electric or hybrid vehicle to facilitate outreach (fee paid) work while minimising our impact on the environment. However, this is currently on hold due to the delay to the Clean Air Zone and the expected change in policy and support for organisations in meeting its requirements.

Skylight staff attended several environmental impact workshops including a Rochdale Borough Council's Climate Emergency Team-led session. The knowledge gained in these sessions has helped inform our policies and behaviours.

- Spotlight Troupe

We were unable to re-establish Spotlight, Skylight's elite performance troupe for young people interested in careers in the sector. This was due to availability of funding and staff capacity. We included Spotlight in our Arts Council England (ACE) National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) Activity Plan and we remain committed to re-establishing the group funds depending.

- Visiting Trainers

Skylight reaffirmed our commitment to working with sector leading talent for staff and freelance worker's CPD and to inspire participants. We worked with renowned artists such as Steve Royle and Martin Mor. The ACE Project Grant bid submitted includes involvement with director and performer Grania Pickard, parade makers Handmade Parade and the world-renowned Gandini Juggling. (See 'Fundraising Performance'.)



Skylight Team Member and Midi Youth Circus participants at
'Picnic In The Park,' August 2021

FUNDRAISING PERFORMANCE

Inline with the state objectives in our funding plan:

We ran a campaign to encourage digital donations via our website and fundraising partner around 'National Giving Day' in November. However, this was ultimately unsuccessful.

We sought to attract larger funding from Arts Council England but were unsuccessful with the 'Circus Routes' project. A subsequent smaller, re-developed bid for the

following financial period (FY 22/23) was made. The funding was awarded shortly after the start of the next financial period. (See note below.)

We were awarded a contribution to core costs thanks to COVID-related Business Grants. We were able to use some of this for our charitable aims and purposes. £35,667

Despite a very competitive environment in FY 21/22 we bid for (and ultimately secured funds) for the following financial period (FY 22/23) as follows:

- Henry Smith Charity 'Strengthening Communities' Continuation funding for a further 3 years for a total of £134,500
- Arts Council England 'Skyspark' Project Grant £29,975
- We were commissioned by Rochdale Short Breaks team to deliver projects to the value of £12,600
- We were commissioned by Rochdale Early Years Team to develop a 'train the trainer' pilot project for primary school teachers in the Borough to the value of £5,443.

(Though we are in receipt of the funds this will be deferred until the following financial period (FY 22/23) due to school schedule issues created by COVID absences.)

- Outreach (paid for work) generated income £18,195
- Commissions (paid for work) generated income £13,698
- Classes generated income £6,800

EMPLOYMENT

The charity currently employs 9 staff. Two of these are full time. 5 staff members are on a fixed hours part-time basis. 2 members are employed on a variable hours part-time basis.

5 staff have delivery responsibilities connected directly to Skylight's charitable activities and purposes. 4 staff have operational responsibilities which support Skylight's charitable activities and purposes.

Staff Breakdown:

- Full Time Staff (x 2)

Creative Director

Funding and Development Manager

- Part Time Staff (x7)

CEO

Project Coordinator/Circus Tutor

Circus Tutor Trainees (x3)

Bookkeeper

Cleaner

- Freelance Team (x9)

Artists ranging from aerial to music & choreography. We also contract additional specialists.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Staff were able to access the following training during FY 21/22:

MB	First Aid Training, re qualified	Jan 22
	Unexpected Leaders Programme	Throughout Year
	Mentoring - See earlier note 'Extraordinary Bodies'	
MC	Refresher First Aid Top Up	Jan 22
HM	Kickstart Employability & UK Year Of Service	Throughout Year
	Employability and Vocational Qualification	
GMc	Kickstart Employability & UK Year Of Service	Throughout Year
	Employability and Vocational Qualification	
DA	Digital Marketing & Social Media Seminar	Apr 21
	Apprenticeships Training	Feb 22
DP	Media Production Training	Throughout Year

A safeguarding training day for trustees, staff, volunteers and regular freelance workers was organised for early in the next financial period.



'Horses' standby at 'Cap & Dove' Rochdale Feel Good pop up, August 2021

OUTPUTS & BENEFICIARIES

The number of outputs and beneficiaries increased dramatically compared with the previous financial period. However, in line with other arts and culture organisations our reach did not return to pre pandemic levels.

It should be noted, restrictions were not fully lifted until July. This impacted both our outputs in the early part of the year and saw large scale public events such as The Rochdale Feel Good Festival- which we would normally appear at- cancelled.

Total Sessions Delivered 502

Individual participants 4,710

Total global majority participants 963

Number of Interventions

Classes 1,659

Projects 1,855

Outreach 3,493

Total Interventions 7,007

Audiences 3,470

Project participants with Special Educational Needs 294

GOING FORWARD

Skylight is in a strong financial position and a strong position to benefit from the organisational developments we have seen in this financial period.

There is significant investment expected in arts and culture in Rochdale through investment via ACE Creative People and Places, Cultural Development Fund and Priority Place. It is hoped Skylight, with its key role in the Borough, can benefit directly and indirectly from this funding.

In the following financial period (FY 22/23) Skylight's Trustees and staff have identified the following areas for progress:

- Apply for significant core funding support to the next phase of ACE National Portfolio Organisation programme commencing FY 24/25.
- Rollout Skylight's new brand identity across all marketing channels and materials.
- Improve Skylight's building facilities by re-developing the kitchen for meeting and hot desking space.
- Execute Skylight's expanded Artistic Development Plan.
- Consolidate existing partnerships and capitalise on new partnerships and networks to ensure strong revenues and outputs through project commissions and outreach work.
- Maintain project focus on Rochdale Borough to take advantage of the aforementioned investment and partnerships and continue to develop our model.
- Develop the School's 'Train The Trainer' programme commissioned by Rochdale Borough Council's Early Years Team as a blueprint for further commissions from Local Authority education service providers.
- Continued employment of sector-leading artists to inspire staff and participants.
- Develop more career pathways for young people and recruit an experienced Arts Administrator. This post will improve Skylight's operations and free up Delivery Team members to deliver more outputs.

Confirmed in the short term:

Children In Need Project funding for a further two years.

Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) Project funding for Side by Side sessions for a further year.

Confirmed shortly after the commencement of the new financial period (FY 23/24):

ACE Project Grant The 'Skyspark' project bid was approved. This will involve working with world renowned practitioners to create a multi-generational co-created performance with staff, freelancers and participants. The show will feature at Rochdale Folk Festival and we'll create our own free event in Falinge Park in the summer.

Henry Smith Charity 'Strengthening Communities' Skylight applied for a continuation of this core funding programme at a significantly higher level. This was confirmed as successful in July.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Despite some disappointments with key funding bids, the availability of healthy designated reserves from the previous financial period ensured Skylight was able to operate effectively and meet increased overhead due to the employment of new staff.

The availability of COVID-related business support grants, strong revenues from commissioned (paid for) work from partners and healthy outreach (paid for) work meant not all these designated funds were needed to meet the gap between revenue and expenditure.

Additionally, Skylight was able to undertake key development projects such as re-brand and expenditure on outsourced professional HR services.

RESERVES POLICY

A fund is set aside to cover staff redundancies, with a minimum of two to three months running costs.

The company has no liabilities other than to St Chad's Educational Trust, to restore the building to its original condition if we leave. Money is held in a separate trust for this purpose.

At the year-end (Apr 2022) total reserves were £103,040 of which £3,243 were restricted funds.

The General fund was £99,797 (unrestricted funds). From the General fund several amounts are set aside for liabilities or designated expenditure:

- Three months running costs, redundancy and lease liability	£52,250
- Creative development for match bidding and creative excellence	£10,000
- Building refurbishment	£14,500
- Staff salary support if core funding bids are unsuccessful	£15,000
Free unrestricted reserves on 1 April 2022 were	£8,047

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Skylight was registered as a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity in December 1990.

The company has a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and it is governed under its articles of Association.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31st March

2019 was 7 (in 2016: it was 7). The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 10 to the accounts.

Trustees who are related parties this year: The Chair, J C Riley, is married to Noreen White.

Prospective trustees receive induction materials and are voted onto the board. No other person or external body is entitled to appoint trustees. The Trustee recruitment campaign began recently.

Vacancies exist for treasurer, legal adviser, artists, input from young people, local diversity groups.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Trustees monitor financial and other risks at quarterly meetings so they can take prompt action when needed.

Meetings took place in a hybrid format with attendance in person and online via Zoom depending on availability. Attendance from all trustees was strong.

Trustees monitor risks in the subgroups set up at times to address specific needs in addition to full trustee meetings.

Usually, these are:

Employment Sub Group, Finance Sub group and Creative Sub group. Only the Finance Sub group met this year.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of Skylight Circus in Education for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements

- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

- The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006.

They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

- The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 14 December 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



J. Riley

Chair of Board of Trustee

A BIG THANK YOU TO

All who have volunteered and helped us over the year, including our hard-working staff and the Trustees who contributed far more than their roles demanded.

We appreciate the dedication of the freelance workers who make it possible for Skylight to spread the circus joy far and wide.

Our landlord

St Chad's Educational Trust

Our funders & commissioners

Children In Need

Henry Smith Charity

Integrated Partnership (previously CCG)

Rochdale Short Breaks

Your Trust (previously Link4life)

Our partners (and sometimes commissioners)

Action Together

ARCON Housing Association

BBC Children In Need

Beyond Psychology

Depaul Charity

Extraordinary Bodies

The Lowry

Rochdale Borough Council

Rochdale Development Agency

Walk the Plank

Our fellow Rochdale Borough Culture Network members

Cartwheel Arts

English Folk Expo

Rochdale Library Service

M6

Touchstones Gallery & Museum

Our friends and supporters

Claire Minett

Danni Hall

Darren Grice

Jamie Moran

Janet Emsley

John McLoughlin

And, last but not least

All our participants and audiences



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



yourtrust



Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Skylight Circus in Education for the year ended 31 March 2022

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2022 which are set out on pages 40 - 55.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.



Emma Willder, FCMA, CGMA, CG(Affiliated)

Beyond Profit Ltd
G104 Bolton Arena
Arena Approach
Horwich
Bolton
BL6 6LB

Date: 16 December 2022

Skylight Circus in Education
Statement of Financial Activities
(including Income and Expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2022 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	38,963	-	38,963	19,952	-	19,952
Charitable activities	4	74,267	34,341	108,608	31,681	115,049	146,730
Total income		113,230	34,341	147,571	51,633	115,049	166,682
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds		480	-	480	-	-	-
Charitable activities	5	132,473	80,328	212,801	25,681	109,094	134,775
Total expenditure		132,953	80,328	213,281	25,681	109,094	134,775
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	7	(19,723)	(45,987)	(65,710)	25,953	5,956	31,907
Transfer between funds		1,405	(1,405)	-	174	(174)	-
Net movement in funds for the year		(18,318)	(47,392)	(65,710)	26,127	5,782	31,907
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		118,115	50,635	168,750	91,988	44,853	136,841
Total funds carried forward	16	99,797	3,243	103,040	118,115	50,635	168,748

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Skylight Circus in Education
Company number 2567143
Balance sheet as at 31 March 2022

	Note	2022	2021
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	-	-
Total fixed assets		-	-
Current assets			
Debtors	13	5,650	4,093
Cash at bank and in hand	15	103,529	173,691
Total current assets		109,179	177,784
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	14	(6,139)	(9,035)
Net current assets		103,040	168,749
Total assets less current liabilities		103,040	168,749
Net assets		103,040	168,749
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds	16	3,243	50,635
Unrestricted income funds	17	99,797	118,115
Total charity funds		103,040	168,749

For the year in question, the company was entitled to exemption from an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476,
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime (of the Companies Act 2006).

The notes on pages 14 to 27 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 14th December 2022 and signed on their behalf by:



J. Riley (Chair)

Skylight Circus in Education

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 (as updated through Update Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Skylight Circus in Education meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

No key judgments which the trustees have made which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

c Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Income received in advance of a provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

d Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised; refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

e Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

f Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

g Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

h Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 7.

i Operating leases

Operating leases are leases in which the title to the assets, and the risks and rewards of ownership, remain with the lessor. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

j Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Leasehold improvement	10% straight line method
Circus equipment	25% straight line method
Office equipment	20% straight line method
Computer Equipment	33% straight line method
Motor Vehicles	25% straight line method

k Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

l Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

m Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

m Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

n Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution 'money purchase' scheme. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 9. There were no outstanding contributions at the year end.

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The registered office address is disclosed on page 1.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Rochdale MBC	38,336	19,669
Donations	627	283
Total	38,963	19,952

All income from donations and legacies is unrestricted.

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2022 £
Grants and contracts			
Action Together	-	5,500	5,500
BBC Children In Need	-	14,966	14,966
Henry Smith Charity	-	13,625	13,625
Kirkholt Millions		250	250
Link 4 Life	20,000	-	20,000
The Work Company	11,657	-	11,657
Growth Company	1,011	-	1,011
	32,668	34,341	67,009
Fees and Other Income			
Circus Skills Workshops	27,044	-	27,044
Circus Skills Classes	6,800	-	6,800
Other	7,755	-	7,755
	41,599	-	41,599
Total	74,267	34,341	108,608

Income from charitable activities (Cont.)**Previous reporting period**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £
Grants and contracts			
Arts Council	-	21,491	21,491
BBC Children In Need	-	6,620	6,620
CCG	-	16,063	16,063
D'Oly Carte	-	3,000	3,000
Henry Smith Charity	-	66,875	66,875
Skelton Charity	-	1,000	1,000
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	22,009	-	22,009
	22,009	115,049	137,058
Fees and Other Income			
Circus Skills Workshops	8,326	-	8,326
Circus Skills Classes	523	-	523
Other	823	-	823
	9,672	-	9,672
Total	31,681	115,049	146,730

5 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Staff costs	105,847	69,613
Freelancers	28,965	12,351
Costs of Arts, Activities & Workshops	7,312	6,375
Premises	24,628	10,761
Vehicle Costs	326	511
Insurance	5,164	4,113
Office Costs	2,666	7,007
Professional Fees	1,881	-
Volunteer costs	36	-
Governance costs (see note 6)	2,690	2,198
Support costs (see note 6)	33,286	21,845
	212,801	134,774
	2022 £	2021 £
Restricted expenditure	80,328	109,094
Unrestricted expenditure	132,473	25,681
	212,801	134,774

6 Analysis of governance and support costs

	Basis of apportionment	Support £	Governance £	Total 2022 £
Staff costs	Time spent	26,462	-	26,462
Premises	Floor area	6,157	-	6,157
Office costs	Floor area	667	-	667
Accountancy services	Governance	-	2,690	2,690
		33,286	2,690	35,976

7 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging/(crediting):	2022	2021
	£	£
Depreciation	-	-
Operating lease rentals:		
Property		7,500
Accountancy Fees:		
Accountancy & payroll bureau fees	1,556	518
Accounts preparation	537	1,140
Independent examination	597	540

8 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	123,135	81,762
Social security costs	5,680	3,570
Pensions	2,469	1,684
Other staff costs	1,025	-
	132,309	87,016
Allocated as follows:		
Charitable activities	105,847	69,613
Support costs	26,462	17,403
	132,309	87,016

No employees has employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2021: Nil).

The average number of staff employed during the period was 7 (2021: 4.8).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees, the Creative Director and the Business and Development Manager and the new CEO. The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £84,990(2021: £54,184).

9 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

No trustees received travel and subsistence expenses during the year (2021:£nil).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

Jim Riley (trustee) received reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of Skylight Circus totalling £1,165 (2021:£7,512) relating to purchases of equipment, office costs and repairs and maintenance.

The Trustee do not have Trustee Indemnity Insurance

10 Government grants

The government grants recognised in the accounts were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Rochdale MBC	38,336	19,669
Coronavirus job retention scheme	-	22,009
Kick Starter	12,667	-
	51,003	41,678

There were no unfulfilled conditions and contingencies attaching to the grants.

11 Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

12 Fixed assets: tangible assets

	Leasehold improvements £	Circus equipment £	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 April 2021	7,997	38,739	18,317	65,053
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2022	7,997	38,739	18,317	65,053
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2021	7,997	38,739	18,317	65,053
Charge for the year	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2022	7,997	38,739	18,317	65,053
Net book value				
At 31 March 2022	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2021	-	-	-	-

13 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	3,100	2,496
Prepayments and accrued income	2,550	1,597
	5,650	4,093

14 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Trade creditors	1,148	3,140
Other creditors and accruals	2,914	2,948
Taxation and social security costs	2,077	2,947
	6,139	9,035

15 Cash at bank and in hand

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash at bank and on hand	103,529	173,691
	103,529	173,691

16 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Action Together	-	5,500	(4,339)	-	1,161
Arts Council	412	-	-	(412)	-
CCG	17,585	-	(16,886)	-	699
Children in Need	3,648	14,966	(18,594)	(20)	-
D'oly Carte	622	-	-	(622)	-
Henry Smith	25,618	13,625	(37,860)	-	1,383
Ironmongers Charity	54	-	-	(54)	-
Kirkholt Millions	2,496	250	(2,649)	(97)	(1)
Skelton Charity	200	-	-	(200)	-
	<u>50,635</u>	<u>34,341</u>	<u>(80,328)</u>	<u>(1,405)</u>	<u>3,243</u>
Previous reporting period					
	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Arts Council	3,837	21,491	(24,916)	-	412
CCG	16,064	16,063	(14,542)	-	17,585
Children in Need	3,648	6,620	(6,620)	-	3,648
D'oly Carte	-	3,000	(2,378)	-	622
Foyle Foundation	4,000	-	(4,000)	-	-
Henry Smith	6,500	66,875	(47,757)	-	25,618
Heritage Lottery	4,672	-	(4,635)	(37)	-
Ironmongers Charity	1,004	-	(950)	-	54
Kirkholt Millions	4,991	-	(2,496)	-	2,496
Rochdale Boroughwide Housing	137	-	-	(137)	-
Skelton Charity	-	1,000	(800)	-	200
	<u>44,853</u>	<u>115,049</u>	<u>(109,094)</u>	<u>(174)</u>	<u>50,635</u>

Analysis of movements in restricted funds (Cont.)

Name of restricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
Action Together	
a) Volunteer Celebration Fund	For the purpose of small gifts in recognition of the support volunteers provide the organisation.
b) Innovation Programme	For the purpose of consultation with young people experiencing racial inequalities.
Arts Council	
a) Lottery Grant 'Extinct' 2019-20	'Mammoth' production & film with young people examining climate change
b) Emergency Response Fund	COVID relief funding
CCG	'Side by Side'' circus sessions for vulnerable children
Children in Need	
a) Spring 2 Project 2017-20	Circus for young people with disadvantages, disabilities and special educational needs schools
b) Booster Grant	COVID provision, equipment and activities
D'oly Carte	Silver Circus sessions for elders
Henry Smith	
a) Strengthening Communities 2018-21	Specified running costs, circus activities for disadvantaged
b) Community Challenge	COVID response activities, equipment and running costs
Ironmongers Charity	'Time to Shine' project with PRU and special school
Kirkholt Milloins	'Circus Wow 2', holiday activities for disadvantaged young people
Rochdale Boroughwide Housing	'Circus Wow 1' project for disadvantaged young people in Kirkholt.
Skelton Charity	COVID response; equipment for remote delivery and home packs for elders and those with disabilities

17 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2022 £
General fund	118,115	113,230	(132,953)	1,405	99,797
	118,115	113,230	(132,953)	1,405	99,797
Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2021 £
General fund	91,988	51,633	(25,681)	174	118,115
	91,988	51,633	(25,681)	174	118,115

Name of

Description, nature and purposes of the fund

General fund

The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Net current assets/(liabilities)	99,797	-	3,243	103,040
Total	99,797	-	3,243	103,040
Previous reporting period				
	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Net current assets/(liabilities)	118,115	-	50,635	168,750
Total	118,115	-	50,635	168,750

Accounts



Skylight Circus in Education

T/A Skylight Circus Arts

Report and financial statements

For the year ended 31st March 2021

Registered Charity 1001570

Company limited by Guarantee 2567143

Skylight Circus in Education

Reference and administrative information for the year ended 31st March 2021

Charity name Skylight Circus in Education

also known as Skylight Circus Arts and Skylight

Company number 2567143

Charity number 1001570

Registered office and operational address St Chads Fold, Sparrow Hill, Rochdale OL16 1QT

Trustees

Trustees, who are also directors under company law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

J. Riley, Chair

E. Short, Secretary

J. Hurn, appointed Treasurer Feb 2021

N. White

J. Macpherson

M. Lee

Advisor Legal and Employment; D Yazdi

Key management: David Allen CEO, Martine Bradford, Creative Director FT

Bankers Co-operative Bank plc, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester, M60 4E

Independent Examiner: Emma Willder, Beyond Profit Ltd. appointed in 2020

Skylight Circus in Education 2020 - 2021

- **Pandemic**, delivery goes virtual with blended services
- Emergency or Recovery funding from the local authority, Arts Council, Children in Need Booster and Henry Smith Challenge funds
- Extraordinary Bodies work with Skyclight on a virtual project
- CCG Side by Side for vulnerable young people, virtual and live in year 6
- Children in Need project Spring 2, final year completed with great post lockdown 1 projects for a Pupil Referral Unit and disadvantaged young people. Continuation funding secured for three more years
- 'Bubble up' - Nature in Danger project with Cartwheel and Jamboree Arts for young people from asylum seekers, refugees, Roma families
- Skyclight's 30th anniversary trip down memory lane - virtual event in Dec
- CEO appointed in Jan 2021

David Allen, Skyclight CEO

The year was one of incredible, unforeseeable and unplannable change. Skyclight's Team rose to the challenge in every way possible ensuring we continued to serve our participants and our community. Doing so safely amidst constant change.

Finances presented a major challenge, given the obvious lack of trading income but Skyclight managed to emerge with a healthy position. There were some enforced disappointments but also too many highlights to mention here.

As CEO my thanks go to the team and those supporting them, for their unstinting efforts to maintain, even develop Skyclight in testing circumstances. Looking ahead, we are nicely poised to move forward and meet operational and artistic objectives set by the board.

Skylight Circus in Education

Trustees' and Directors' Annual Report for the year ended 31st March 2021

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2021. Included within the trustees' report is the directors' report as required by company law. Reference and administrative information set out on page 1 forms part of this report. The financial statements comply with current statutory requirements, the memorandum and articles of association and the Statement of Recommended Practice - Accounting and Reporting by Charities: SORP applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102.

Purposes, Aims, Objectives and Skylight Activities

Purposes and aims in Skylight's original governing document:

'To promote, maintain, improve and advance education for the public benefit by the demonstration and teaching of human circus skills. To relieve the needs of disabled persons by the demonstration and teaching of human circus skills to such persons' (1990).

Charity Commission Activities Overview 2020

Life-changing social circus projects to improve health and well-being. Collaborations: professionals and members to create productions. Specialisms: circus with disability, diversity, mental health, challenging young people. Address challenges in communities with multiple deprivation.

Purposes 2020 Summary. 'Benefiting individuals and communities through circus arts training, performance and workshops. Diversity.' Skylight's base in central Rochdale is in an area of multiple deprivation and activities extend across the region. This report outlines how our purposes were achieved over this very different year of Covid-19.

Aims, objectives and activities are reviewed by the trustees each year. This report looks at what the charity has achieved and the outcomes of its work in the reporting period to Mar 2021. The trustees ensure the charity remained focused on its stated purposes. The company is currently looking at all aspects of its operation and finances post pandemic. It fits with a process of development that might lead to becoming an Arts Council NPO.

COVID-19

The trustees have referred to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the charity and planning its future activities. They considered how activities contribute to the aims and objectives that have been set. They have looked at how to support the company, staff and beneficiaries in response to Covid -19. Board and management are fully committed to the implementation and monitoring of all safety procedures. Our venue is Covid secure. Since Lockdown 1, all trustee meetings and the AGM have been held on Zoom.

Trustees keep a close eye on the financial situation. Across the sector there is increased competition for diminishing funds, while need for projects will increase from disadvantaged beneficiaries disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Skylight increased its reserves.

Staff rose to the challenges of virtual delivery and reaching some isolated, depressed and unfit participants. Creative programmes had more media and film. Developing sustainable impacts has been given new impetus. Stresses of the year were offset by some positives e.g. availability of more freelancers. Employment of a CEO was implemented by trustees at the end of 2020.

Below is a description of activities undertaken in this very different year, summarising achievements, beneficiaries, and outcomes where possible. All activities focus on the aims and objectives listed above and further our charitable purposes for the public benefit.

Skylight Circus in Education

Trustees' and Directors' Annual Report

Skylight Activities 2020-21

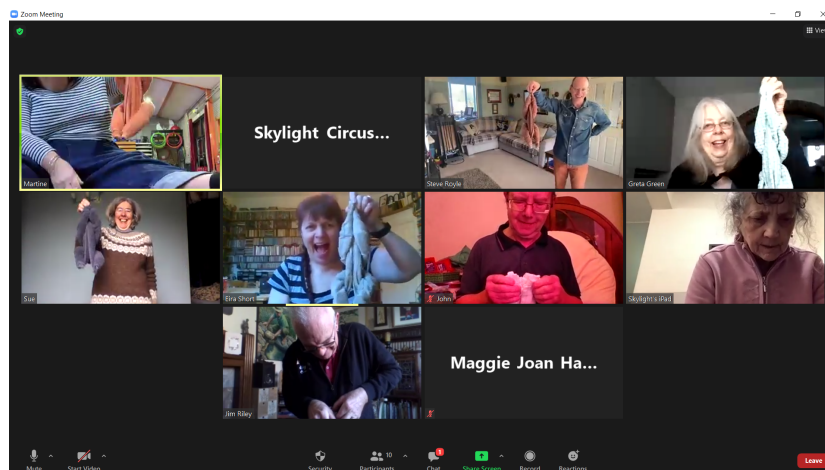
C-19 brought a complete close down, then sustained responses: responses to new needs from disadvantaged communities, changes in operations, administrative and employment - all are continuing. Lockdown 1 was spent keeping up contacts and spirits, then:

- Virtual sessions, equipment deliveries - even phone calls playing a part for older members.
- Juggling film for schools commission
- Online sessions delivered for youth service and Rochdale Connections
- Huge overhaul of space, equipment, protocols, sanitation routines for C-19 security, made possible by Arts Council Emergency funding additional equipment, technology, training

2020 Summer projects were live with reduced numbers participating for social distancing. By August C-19 in Rochdale increased and stayed higher than the UK average. Whenever possible, activities resumed with restricted numbers. Otherwise throughout Winter and early Spring, sessions were virtual with home-delivered equipment.

There were some positives by year end March 2021: staff had gained skills in virtual delivery and had found some excellent new freelance trainers. Kickstart trainees were in the pipeline and Henry Smith Community Match Challenge was funding developments. The building, equipment and storage had been thoroughly overhauled, with extra equipment and technology provided by the emergency funding. Efficiency benefitted as well as hygiene. Skylight was in a strong position to expand services once more.





1. Performance

Skylight's aim to increase the quality and quantity of performance was stalled by Covid this year. Young people were a week or two away from the premiere of 'Mammoth' when it had to be abandoned at lockdown 1. A short film was created by Dawn Pierson, combining:

- Recordings of our young people voicing concerns for Nature
- Research into the Rochdale fossils for the walk guides
- Rehearsal footage

It has been well received and screened as part of Manchester Climate Change Annual Conference 2020 [View Mammoth film on Skylight's YouTube channel.](#)

The NHLF funded guides/maps that complement 'Mammoth', were finished and printed by August 2020. Distribution could only begin after year end due to Covid. The guides illustrate and map 3 local walks created from research into the sites of three Rochdale fossils. They aim to interest more people in our heritage whilst improving well-being. *'Beautiful and very interesting'* verdict of Rosie Hill, 64. They were introduced to the general public at our circus walk event in June 2021. [A news post with Research and access to the maps is on Skylight's website.](#)

The planned 30th Anniversary Event in December was scaled down to an online evening of memories.

2. Social Circus Projects

Skylight is inclusive. Projects this year for people with different needs and disadvantage:

- Registered with physical disabilities and learning disabilities
- Attending special schools or Pupil Referral Units
- Young people from asylum seeker, refugee and Roma families
- Elders at risk of isolation, with disabilities
- Young and vulnerable: trauma, mental health
- Adults/children with additional needs and conditions (Gateway)

Although staff worked very hard, virtual delivery with equipment delivered to homes could not fully replace effective live delivery. Participants tell us how much they enjoy coming to Skylight, how we are able to make circus reach even those with the most complex needs.



Participation was much lower than usual and whenever possible live projects resumed, with social distancing reducing numbers. **Highlights:**

- Brownhill's Learning Community primary group, the first project after lockdown 1, completed the final year of Children in Need funded Spring 2 project. Skylight has been commissioned with a further 3 years funding
- Children in Need's Booster Grant paid for 2 summer schools for disadvantaged children
- Theraplay Circus for vulnerable young people in Beyond Psychology Groups
- Extraordinary Bodies second partnership with Skylight - a virtual film project.
- Silver Circus, continued with live and virtual sessions and exciting new trainers
- 'Bubble up' collaborative project with Cartwheel Arts and Jamboree Arts, a circus, arts and film project for young people from asylum seeker, refugee and Roma families
- CCG Projects, (Side-by-Side) for vulnerable young people and their families. Virtual sessions had only limited success with this group. Live sessions were resumed ASAP- recommissioned for 2021/2

Regular Classes. A reduced programme ran live whenever possible. Numbers and activities were limited to maintain social distancing. Many valuable activities were not possible without close contact e.g. acrobatic balances and pyramids. Social distancing and sanitising routines increased costs and reduced income. **Home Educated Group** will be a priority as restrictions are removed.



3. Workshops and Outreach work

C-19 restrictions meant very little outreach took place. **Highlights:**

- St Ann's Academy, Langley school workshops for young people transferring to secondary. Commended Skylight for our Covid protocols
- St.Stephen's Primary School, Bury
- Adoptive Families' Workshops with Beyond Psychology

4. Hiring out Equipment and Space:

Newbarn cancelled when C-19 prevented art activities with groups who have a variety of needs. Resume from July 2021. Much small equipment, including Ipads has been loaned to members. None has been hired out.

Networks and Partnerships - strengthen the delivery of our work.

Your Trust (was Link4life) and Rochdale BC have supported our work this year

Action Together is providing a focus for arts and voluntary organisations: training, funding opportunities and advocacy.

Beyond Psychology's ongoing training is informing our trainers' knowledge of trauma, attachment and neurodiversity. Beyond Psychology now employ us to deliver Theraplay to their clients.

The Lowry and Salford schools project - *Stage Directions project* was paused.

Extraordinary Bodies extended their relationship with Skylight, providing CPD for our Creative Director and advice on funding bids in addition to a virtual film project.

New - Skylight is on Rochdale's Social Prescribing Pilot Project Steering Committee - a pilot for Arts for Health prescriptions.

Other networks include: Touchstones, Rochdale, Circus Works and various forums. Covid reduced most meetings to Zoom.

Employment

Significant changes in the employment structure began when Charma Force, Project Coordinator left in August 2020 to train as a teacher. She is now freelance, when available from teaching FT in a nearby school.

The appointment of David Allen as CEO in Feb 2021 began a new era for the organisation.

The recruitment process for artform trainees, initially funded by Kickstart, began in Dec 2020. Skylight is committed to training young people as trainer-performers to develop quality circus arts for the region and continue our work.

CPD - Training for Staff and Freelance Trainers

Training	Number	Participants	Hours
Filming for Virtual delivery, Dawn Pierson	2	MB, MC	3x 2 hr
Leadership Training Extraordinary Bodies	1	MB	1 month
Beyond Psychology x 6 sessions	6	Skylight Team	Throughout year
Online Training "4 'D's' of Distress	8	Skylight Team	1x 1½ hr ; February
Mental health first aid	1	MB	4x ½ day session; March
First Aid at Work	1	MC	March
Digital Delivery Tech Workshop with YourTrust	4	DA, MB, MC, DC	4hr; March

Skylight Outputs and Beneficiaries 2020/21

Outputs

98 Classes

18 Outreach

69 Project Sessions

185 Total Outputs

Approx 33% were Remote Sessions

826 Individual Participants

160 approx Global Majority:

170 approx with Disabilities; Additional Needs:

1,704 Interventions

373,026 Audiences None were live. Mammoth film, the 30th Anniversary

Going Forward

Most arts organizations are facing challenges and an uncertain future. Even before C-19 arrived Skylight was making operational change for sustainability. The appointment of CEO, David Allen has given this a new impetus. His dynamism is inspiring staff, trustees and partner organisations.

Priority Areas Reviewed include:

- Programme development: quality projects and performance to meet need in GM
- Funding and Financial sustainability
- Brand Development and Marketing
- Employment
- Building development -multi purpose extension for meeting, office, training
- Environmental sustainability

Confirmed in the short term

BBC Children in Need Spring 3 is secured for a further three years with disadvantaged, disabled young people.

Silver Circus ongoing group will continue until at least January, 2022 with funding from D'Oyly Carte, Skelton Trust and Henry Smith Challenge

Henry Smith Strengthening Communities Continuation application has been submitted for a further 3years of unrestricted funding.

Circus Globe: BAME project with asylum seekers, refugees and Roma young people Autumn 2021, event for Gaia installation in Riverside - funded by Henry Smith Challenge.

CCG funding of Side by Side for vulnerable young people was recommissioned for 21/22. The project's sixth year.

Arts Council Lottery, Skylight recent bid for **Circus Routes** with organisational development met all criteria, but was declined. It is being revised with a stronger quality emphasis and the first part will soon be submitted for **The Patch** (name tbc).

Spotlight troupe for young people who want a career in circus/social circus will be re-launched during 2022.

Visiting trainers from national companies. Skylight continues to be committed to working with nationally recognised companies and practitioners to improve team and participant's circus performance and creativity. Discussions will resume with practitioners such as Grania Pickard, Oddly Moving, Atlas, Mimbire and Citrus Arts,

Cotton Famine Road Project A large scale multi-arts, multi-organisation project is in planning for September 2022. Sponsored by YourTrust, Skylight began discussions around being a partner on a theatre-led event celebrating the Cotton Famine Road story. We expect further developments in 2021.

Several tried and tested projects with great outcomes for disadvantaged people will be introduced into the programmes over the next three years when funding is secured. For example:

Inclusive Collaborative Performance, professionals and participants work together!

Young Carers, respite, training and performance, Rochdale and Greater Manchester

Ropes: regular sessions for adults with profound disabilities, additional conditions

Time to Shine, for challenging, excluded young people in PRUs (Pupil Referral Units)

Building Project - corner extension

There are pressures on both training and meeting/office space in Skylight's venue. The Building Funding Programme was about to be launched in 2019, after planning consents had been granted and the quotes came in at an achievable £30-35k. Landlords, St Chad's Educational Trust, agreed to a 15 year lease. The pandemic has made extra space even more necessary. The capital funding campaign resumed during 2021. Preliminary groundwork surveys are scheduled for Dec 21 to ensure a start date within the planning consent period.

Financial review 2020/21

March 2021 ended in surplus with healthy reserves. Skylight Board had prioritised increasing reserves in response to losing local authority revenue and as a match for leveraging funding, not foreseeing a disastrous pandemic! The organisation is in a stronger position than it might have been and is grateful for the extra Covid support from government and other funders; Job Retention Scheme, Local Authority Business grants, Arts Council Emergency Funds, BBC Children in Need Booster, Henry Smith 'Challenge. Rochdale BC funding for 2021/22 is confirmed to be £10,000.

Venue and running costs were lower in 2020. Staff costs reduced when CF resigned and increased when DA was appointed. An improved staffing structure will increase future costs but there is no uncertainty about the charity being able to continue to operate.

Reserves policy

A fund is set aside to cover staff redundancies, with a minimum of 2/3 months running costs. The company has no liabilities other than to St Chad's Educational Trust, to restore the building to its original condition if we leave. Money is held in a separate trust for this purpose, to be increased by **£2500** for the lease extension.

At the year-end 2021 total reserves were £168,749, of which £50,653 were restricted funds. The General fund was £118,115 (unrestricted funds). From the General fund several amounts are set aside for liabilities or designated expenditure:

£2,500 extra deposit for 15 year lease from St Chad's

£50,760 for 3 months running costs, redundancy and lease liability

£16,860 towards building extension, refurbishment, signage

£20,000 to develop creative programme

£20,000 to subsidise key development posts, if funding bids are declined

£110,120 Total Designated from unrestricted reserves

Free (unrestricted) reserves on 1 April 2021 were £7,995

Structure, governance and management

Skylight was registered as a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity in December 1990. The company has a memorandum of association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and it is governed under its articles of Association.

Members of the charity guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charity in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31st March 2019 was 7 (in 2016: it was 7). The trustees are members of the charity but this entitles them only to voting rights. The trustees have no beneficial interest in the charity.

All trustees give their time voluntarily and receive no benefits from the charity. Any expenses reclaimed from the charity are set out in note 10 to the accounts.

Trustees who are related parties this year: The Chair, J C Riley, is married to Noreen White.

Prospective trustees receive induction materials and are voted onto the board. No other person or external body is entitled to appoint trustees. The Trustee recruitment campaign began recently. Vacancies exist for treasurer, legal adviser, artists, input from young people, local diversity groups.

Risk management

Trustees monitor financial and other risks at quarterly meetings so they can take prompt action when needed. Over this year all were via Zoom. Trustees monitor risks in the subgroups set up at times to address specific needs in addition to full trustee meetings. Usually, these are: Employment Sub Group, Finance Sub group and Creative Sub group. Only the Employment group met this year.

Statement of responsibilities of the trustees

The trustees (who are also directors of Skylight Circus in Education for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether applicable UK Accounting Standards and statements of recommended practice have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation

- The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities
- The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions

This report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees' annual report has been approved by the trustees on 9 December 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

J. Riley

Chair of Board of Trustee

A big thank you to

All who have volunteered and helped us over the year, including our hard-working staff and the trustees who contributed far more than their roles demanded.

St Chad's Educational Trust (landlords gave a quarter lease holiday during lockdown)

David Yazdi for legal advice

M6 for all their help and advice

The Lowry for great support and training

Action Together - too much to list

Frank Hogan for ongoing donation

Gemma Wheatley

James Roberts, Citrus Arts

Your Trust (was Link4life) and Rochdale BC

Walk the Plank

Extraordinary Bodies

Cartwheel Arts

Jamboree Arts

Janet Emsley

Claire Minett

Linda Kean

Maggie

Greta

Liam

Danni

A special thank you to Eira Short and Smuzz for lovely maps, drawings, cartoons in the guides

And the three Mums from Home Education!

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Skylight Circus in Education for the year ended 31 March 2021

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2021 which are set out on pages 15 to 29.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 (the 2006 Act).

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act 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; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

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.



Emma Willder, FCMA, CGMA, CG(Affiliated)

Beyond Profit Ltd
G104 Bolton Arena
Arena Approach
Horwich
Bolton
BL6 6LB

Date: 15-Dec-21

Skylight Circus in Education
Statement of Financial Activities
(including Income and Expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2021 £	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2020 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	19,952	-	19,952	7,990	-	7,990
Charitable activities	4	31,681	115,049	146,730	63,198	96,334	159,532
Investments	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total income		51,633	115,049	166,682	71,188	96,334	167,522
Expenditure on:							
Charitable activities	6	25,681	109,094	134,774	43,359	108,660	152,019
Total expenditure		25,681	109,094	134,774	43,359	108,660	152,019
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	8	25,953	5,956	31,908	27,829	(12,326)	15,503
Transfer between funds		174	(174)	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds for the year		26,127	5,782	31,908	27,829	(12,326)	15,503
Reconciliation of funds							
Total funds brought forward		91,988	44,853	136,841	64,159	57,179	121,338
Total funds carried forward	17	118,115	50,635	168,749	91,988	44,853	136,841

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

Skylight Circus in Education
Company number 2567143
Balance sheet as at 31 March 2021

	Note	2021	2020
		£	£
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	13	-	-
Total fixed assets		-	-
Current assets			
Debtors	14	4,093	8,895
Cash at bank and in hand	16	173,691	134,199
Total current assets		177,784	143,094
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due in less than one year	15	(9,035)	(6,253)
Net current assets		168,749	136,841
Total assets less current liabilities		168,749	136,841
Net assets		168,749	136,841
The funds of the charity:			
Restricted income funds	17	50,635	44,853
Unrestricted income funds	18	118,115	91,988
Total charity funds		168,749	136,841

For the year in question, the company was entitled to exemption from an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476,
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime (of the Companies Act 2006).

The notes on pages 14 to 27 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the trustees on 9th December 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



J. Riley (Chair)

Skylight Circus in Education
Statement of Cash Flows
for the year ending 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	20	39,492	14,799
<i>Cash flows from investing activities:</i>			
Dividends, interest, and rents from investments		-	-
Cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		-	-
Increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		39,492	14,799
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		134,199	119,400
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		173,691	134,199

Skylight Circus in Education

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted, judgments and key sources of estimation uncertainty in the preparation of the financial statements are as follows:

a Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 (as updated through Update Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Skylight Circus in Education meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

b Preparation of the accounts on a going concern basis

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern.

No key judgments which the trustees have made which have a significant effect on the accounts.

The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

c Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the item(s) of income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

For legacies, entitlement is taken as the earlier of the date on which either: the charity is aware that probate has been granted, the estate has been finalised and notification has been made by the executor(s) to the charity that a distribution will be made, or when a distribution is received from the estate. Receipt of a legacy, in whole or in part, is only considered probable when the amount can be measured reliably and the charity has been notified of the executor's intention to make a distribution. Where legacies have been notified to the charity, or the charity is aware of the granting of probate, and the criteria for income recognition have not been met, then the legacy is treated as a contingent asset and disclosed if material.

Income received in advance of a provision of a specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

d Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised; refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

e Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

f Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds of the charity which the trustees have decided at their discretion to set aside to use for a specific purpose.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

g Expenditure and irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

h Allocation of support costs

Support costs are those functions that assist the work of the charity but do not directly undertake charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charity's programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated between cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities. The bases on which support costs have been allocated are set out in note 7.

i Operating leases

Operating leases are leases in which the title to the assets, and the risks and rewards of ownership, remain with the lessor. Rental charges are charged on a straight line basis over the term of the lease.

j Tangible fixed assets

Individual fixed assets costing £500 or more are capitalised at cost and are depreciated over their estimated useful economic lives on a straight line basis as follows:

Leasehold improvement	10% straight line method
Circus equipment	25% straight line method
Office equipment	20% straight line method
Computer Equipment	33% straight line method
Motor Vehicles	25% straight line method

k Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

l Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

m Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

m Financial instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

n Pensions

Employees of the charity are entitled to join a defined contribution 'money purchase' scheme. The charity's contribution is restricted to the contributions disclosed in note 9. There were no outstanding contributions at the year end.

2 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales and has no share capital. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The registered office address is disclosed on page 1.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Rochdale MBC	19,669	7,440
Donations	283	550
Total	19,952	7,990

All income from donations and legacies is unrestricted.

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2021 £
Grants and contracts			
Arts Council	-	21,491	21,491
BBC Children In Need	-	6,620	6,620
CCG	-	16,063	16,063
D'Oly Carte	-	3,000	3,000
Henry Smith Charity	-	66,875	66,875
Skelton Charity	-	1,000	1,000
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	22,009	-	22,009
	22,009	115,049	137,058
Fees and Other Income			
Circus Skills Workshops	8,326	-	8,326
Circus Skills Classes	523	-	523
Other	823	-	823
	9,672	-	9,672
Total	31,681	115,049	146,730

Income from charitable activities (Cont.)**Previous reporting period**

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total 2020 £
Grants and contracts			
Arts Council	-	13,415	13,415
BBC Children In Need	-	14,495	14,495
Burnley College	500	-	500
Cartwheel Arts	-	1,930	1,930
CCG	-	16,063	16,063
Henry Smith Charity	-	25,500	25,500
Heritage Lottery Fund	-	9,900	9,900
Ironmongers Charity	-	5,975	5,975
Kirkholt Circus Wow	-	4,991	4,991
Rochdale Boroughwide Housing	-	4,065	4,065
	500	96,334	96,834
Fees and Other Income			
Circus Skills Workshops	25,652	-	25,652
Circus Skills Classes	19,224	-	19,224
Other	17,822	-	17,822
	62,698	-	62,698
Total	63,198	96,334	159,532

5 Investment income

All of the charity's investment income arises from money held in interest bearing deposit accounts. All investment income is unrestricted.

6 Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Staff costs	69,613	66,326
Freelancers	12,351	32,815
Costs of Arts, Activities & Workshops	6,375	8,249
Premises	10,761	13,837
Vehicle Costs	511	634
Insurance	4,113	4,156
Office Costs	7,007	2,998
Professional Fees	-	-
Bad debts	-	-
Depreciation	-	515
Governance costs (see note 7)	2,198	1,699
Support costs (see note 7)	21,845	20,790
	134,774	152,019
	2021 £	2020 £
Restricted expenditure	109,094	108,660
Unrestricted expenditure	25,681	43,359
	134,774	152,019

7 Analysis of governance and support costs

	Basis of apportionment	Support £	Governance £	Total 2021 £
Staff costs	Time spent	17,403	-	17,403
Premises	Floor area	2,690	-	2,690
Office costs	Floor area	1,752	-	1,752
Accountancy services	Governance	-	2,198	2,198
		21,845	2,198	24,043

8 Net income/(expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging/(crediting):	2021 £	2020 £
Depreciation	-	517
Operating lease rentals:		
Property	7,500	10,000
Accountancy Fees:		
Accountancy & payroll bureau fees	518	559
Accounts preparation	1,140	600
Independent examination	540	540

9 Staff costs

Staff costs during the year were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	81,762	78,807
Social security costs	3,570	2,625
Pensions	1,684	1,476
	87,016	82,908
Allocated as follows:		
Charitable activities	69,613	66,326
Support costs	17,403	16,582
	87,016	82,908

No employees has employee benefits in excess of £60,000 (2020: Nil).

The average number of staff employed during the period was 4.8 (2020: 5.3).

The key management personnel of the charity comprise the trustees, the Creative Director and the Business and Development Manager and the new CEO (appointed Feb 2021). The total employee benefits of the key management personnel of the charity were £54,184 (2020: £44,162).

10 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

No trustees received travel and subsistence expenses during the year (2020: £nil).

There are no donations from related parties which are outside the normal course of business and no restricted donations from related parties.

Jim Riley (trustee) received no fees or the provision of circus workshops during the year (2020: £1,285). In addition he received reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of Skylight Circus totalling £7,512 (2020: £2,170) relating to purchases of IT equipment (£6,267), office costs and repairs and maintenance.

The Trustee do not have Trustee Indemnity Insurance

11 Government grants

The government grants recognised in the accounts were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Rochdale MBC	19,669	7,440
Coronavirus job retention scheme	22,009	-
	41,678	7,440

There were no unfulfilled conditions and contingencies attaching to the grants.

12 Corporation tax

The charity is exempt from tax on income and gains falling within Chapter 3 of Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 to the extent that these are applied to its charitable objects. No tax charges have arisen in the charity.

13 Fixed assets: tangible assets

	Leasehold improvements £	Circus equipment £	Office equipment £	Total £
Cost				
At 1 April 2020	7,997	38,739	18,317	65,053
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2021	7,997	38,739	18,317	65,053
Depreciation				
At 1 April 2020	7,997	38,739	18,317	65,053
Charge for the year	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2021	7,997	38,739	18,317	65,053
Net book value				
At 31 March 2021	-	-	-	-
At 31 March 2020	-	-	-	-

14 Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	2,496	4,140
Prepayments and accrued income	1,597	4,755
	4,093	8,895

15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	3,140	3,133
Other creditors and accruals	2,948	1,140
Taxation and social security costs	2,947	1,980
	9,035	6,253

16 Cash at bank and in hand

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash at bank and on hand	173,691	134,199
	173,691	134,199

17 Analysis of movements in restricted funds

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Arts Council	3,837	21,491	(24,916)	-	412
CCG	16,064	16,063	(14,542)	-	17,585
Children in Need	3,648	6,620	(6,620)	-	3,648
D'oly Carte	-	3,000	(2,378)	-	622
Foyle Foundation	4,000	-	(4,000)	-	-
Henry Smith	6,500	66,875	(47,757)	-	25,618
Heritage Lottery	4,672	-	(4,635)	(37)	-
Ironmongers Charity	1,004	-	(950)	-	54
Kirkholt Millions	4,991	-	(2,496)	-	2,496
Rochdale Boroughwide Housing	137	-	-	(137)	-
Skelton Charity	-	1,000	(800)	-	200
	44,853	115,049	(109,094)	(174)	50,635
Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2020 £
Short Breaks	4,808	-	(4,808)	-	-
Children in Need	2,072	14,495	(12,919)	-	3,648
CCG	25,315	16,063	(25,314)	-	16,064
Arts Council	2,921	13,415	(12,499)	-	3,837
Henry Smith	-	25,500	(19,000)	-	6,500
Garfield Weston Foundation	5,982	-	(5,982)	-	-
Postcode Lottery	3,581	-	(3,581)	-	-
Foyle Foundation	12,000	-	(8,000)	-	4,000
Heritage Lottery	-	9,900	(5,228)	-	4,672
Small grants	500	-	(500)	-	-
Ironmongers Charity	-	5,975	(4,971)	-	1,004
Rochdale Boroughwide Housing	-	4,065	(3,928)	-	137
Kirkholt Millions	-	4,991	-	-	4,991
Cartwheel Arts	-	1,930	(1,930)	-	-
	57,179	96,334	(108,660)	-	44,853

Analysis of movements in restricted funds (Cont.)

Name of restricted fund	Description, nature and purposes of the fund
Arts Council	
a) Lottery Grant 'Extinct' 2019-20	'Mammoth' production & film with young people examining climate change
b) Emergency Response Fund	COVID relief funding
CCG	
Children in Need	'Side by Side'' circus sessions for vulnerable children
a) Spring 2 Project 2017-20	Circus for young people with disadvantages, disabilities and special educational needs schools
b) Booster Grant	COVID provision, equipment and activities
D'oly Carte	Silver Circus sessions for elders
Foyle Foundation	Specified running costs for training/performance
Henry Smith	
a) Strengthening Communities 2018-21	Specified running costs, circus activities for disadvantaged
b) Community Challenge	COVID response activities, equipment and running costs
Heritage Lottery	'Three Fossils' project research and match for 'Mammoth' and fossil discovery walk guides
Ironmongers Charity	'Time to Shine' project with PRU and special school
Kirkholt Milloins	'Circus Wow 2', holiday activities for disadvantaged young people
Rochdale Boroughwide Housing	'Circus Wow 1' project for disadvantaged young people in Kirkholt.
Skelton Charity	COVID response; equipment for remote delivery and home packs for elders and those with disabilities

18 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2021 £
General fund	91,988	51,633	(25,681)	174	118,115
	91,988	51,633	(25,681)	174	118,115
Previous reporting period	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	As at 31 March 2020 £
General fund	64,159	71,188	(43,359)	-	91,988
	15,506	48,653	-	-	64,159

Name of

Description, nature and purposes of the fund

General fund

The free reserves after allowing for all designated funds

19 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Net current assets/(liabilities)	118,115	-	50,635	168,749
Total	118,115	-	50,635	168,749
Previous reporting period				
	General fund £	Designated funds £	Restricted funds £	Total £
Net current assets/(liabilities)	63,642	-	57,179	120,821
Total	63,642	-	57,179	120,821

20 Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2020 £	2019 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	31,908	56,519
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charge	-	514
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	-	(18)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	4,802	(1,854)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	2,782	988
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	39,492	56,149