BLACKBURNE HOUSE

England & Wales · Charity number 1010546

Details

Other names	BLACKBURNE HOUSE GROUP
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	02674432
Registered	1992-04-15
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Blackburne House Group Blackburne Place Liverpool L8 7PE
Phone	01517094356
Email	bh.wtec@blackburnehouse.co.uk
Website	www.blackburnehouse.co.uk

Activities

Objects: (1) TO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND TO RELIEVE NEED BY PROVIDING OR ASSISTING IN THE PROVISION OF VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN AND BY PROVIDING GUIDANCE FOR SUCH OF THEM AS ARE IN NEED, CALCULATED TO ENABLE THEM TO EARN THEIR OWN LIVING, WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON THE PROVISION OF THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING AND GUIDANCE FOR WOMEN; (2) TO PROMOTE ANY CHARITABLE PURPOSE AND IN PARTICULAR CHARITABLE PURPOSES DIRECTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE PROVISION OF TRAINING FACILITIES, WITH PARTICULAR FOCUS ON THE NEEDS OF WOMEN.

Activities: Principal activity of Blackburne House is to provide support structures to its sister organisation Women's Technology Training Ltd. Blackburne House has a range of social business areas which are: Cafe Bar Bistro, The Meeting House Cafe, Conference & Events, Nursery, Health Place Spa and Projects and Business Development.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Liverpool City

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£1,466,997	£1,749,959	£3,768,441	51
2024-07-31	£1,460,037	£1,719,373	£4,051,403	45
2023-07-31	£1,407,440	£1,480,004	£4,310,739	43
2022-07-31	£1,155,533	£1,316,019	£4,383,303	41
2021-07-31	£968,712	£1,090,509	£4,543,789	47
2020-07-31	£949,690	£1,070,494	£4,665,586	49

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ELIZABETH CROSS	Chair	2002-11-28
ANNETTE HAZEL HENNESSY OBE		2017-03-23
Alex Cousins		2026-04-24
Amina Ismail		2026-04-24
Dianne Brown		2025-03-27
Fiona Shaw		2026-04-24
Humaira Khan		2022-04-05
Jo Ann Whittingham		2025-03-22
Lynda Brady		2023-02-23
Nina Roberts		2020-07-29
Sally-Anne Watkiss		2014-01-23

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Linked charities

- BLACKBURNE HOUSE CHARITY (1010546-1)

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BLACKBURNE HOUSE

England & Wales - Charity number 1010546

Accounts

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

(Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended
31 July 2025

Company Registration Number 2674432
Charity Number 1010546

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Financial Statements
Year ended 31 July 2025

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BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Members of the Board and Professional Advisors
Year ended 31 July 2025

Registered Charity Name	Blackburne House
Company Number	2674432
Charity Number	1010546
The Board of Trustees	Elizabeth Cross (Chair) Sally-Anne Watkiss Annette Hennessy Nina Roberts Humaira Khan Ngunan Adamu (resigned 20/12/2024) Lynda Brady Jo Ann Whittingham (appointed 27/03/2025) Dianne Brown (appointed 27/03/2025)
Company Secretary	Jennifer Lawson
Chief Executive	Andrea Rushton
Registered Office	Blackburne House Blackburne Place Off Hope Street Liverpool L8 7PE
Statutory Auditor	Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited Accountants Registered Auditor Suites C, D, E & F 14th Floor, The Plaza 100 Old Hall Street Liverpool L3 9QJ
Bankers	National Westminster Bank Plc 2 - 8 Church Street Liverpool L1 3BG
Solicitors	MSB Solicitors Ltd Silkhouse Court Tithebarn Street Liverpool L2 2LZ

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 July 2025

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their annual report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2025. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland published October 2019".

Trustees

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Elizabeth Cross (Chair)	Humaira Khan
Sally-Anne Watkiss	Nina Roberts
Lynda Brady	Ngunan Adamu (resigned 20/12/2024)
Annette Hennessy	Dianne Brown (appointed 27/03/2025)
Jo Ann Whittingham (appointed 27/03/2025)	

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

None of the trustees receive remuneration or other benefits for their work as trustees of the charity. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity with a company must be disclosed to the full Board of Trustees in the same way as any contractual relationship with a related party.

Objectives of the Charity

The charity's objects and its principal activity continue to be to advance education and to relieve need by providing or assisting in the provision of vocational training for women and by providing guidance for such of them, as are in need, calculated to enable them to earn their own living. To promote any charitable purpose and in particular charitable purposes directed to the advancement of women's education and the provision of training facilities for women.

Public Benefit

When planning our activities for the year, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and in particular the specific guidance on charities with other purposes currently recognised as charitable and any new charitable purpose which are similar to other charitable purpose.

We are an equal opportunities organisation and are committed to a working environment that is free from any form of discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or disability.

It is a priority of the organisation that access to our services is not restricted to those who can afford our fees. Our concessionary fee policy contributes to the widening of access to the courses we offer and the facilities we provide.

The trustees have had due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit and in particular the supplementary guidance on public benefit and fee charging.

About Blackburne House

Blackburne House, the sister company of Women's Technology Training Limited (known as Blackburne House Education), was founded to advance women from disadvantaged backgrounds into technical professions—fields where women were significantly underrepresented in 1983, when the organisation was established. For over four decades, Blackburne House has remained a beacon of opportunity and empowerment for women, dedicated to providing holistic education and support structures.

Strategic Report

The organisation grew rapidly and, in 1991, moved into its iconic premises in Liverpool's Georgian Quarter. Over £4 million was raised to restore and revitalise Blackburne House, a beautiful Grade II-listed building that was once home to the first Girls' School in England. This remarkable building now serves as the vibrant hub of Blackburne House's activities.

After over 30 years of service, Blackburne House received local, national, and international recognition for its pioneering work in education and support for women. In June 2015, the organisation was awarded Freedom of the City of Liverpool, recognising its transformative contributions to education for women across the region and beyond.

Today, Blackburne House Education is thriving. Through Blackburne House, a diverse range of successful social enterprises has been established, each supporting the organisation's educational goals while providing tangible examples of how innovative solutions can address the needs of local communities. These enterprises not only generate income but also offer real-life work experience for learners, creating employment opportunities and fostering social impact.

Our facilities attract thousands of visitors annually and now include a bistro, café, wellness and counselling centre, conference and events facilities, a 52-place nursery, and a robust portfolio of projects. Blackburne House's activities are firmly rooted in its social purpose, ensuring that everything we do contributes to delivering exceptional educational and economic opportunities for women.

Feedback from learners and customers highlights the value of our wraparound educational opportunities, which empower women to access higher education and meaningful employment. Many of our learners become role models for their families and communities. Blackburne House remains integral to the economic empowerment of women, ensuring far-reaching social impact through its services.

Our Vision and Values

Our vision is to educate and upskill women so that they can pursue professions in every sector and at every level, to give confidence to the women we work with, so that they can go on to live independent lives, believe in their dreams and achieve their ambitions. We want to inspire our women to believe that anything is possible, to instil a culture of empathy and understanding; of inclusion and acceptance and to overcome racism, prejudice, discrimination, and adversity, creating a positive and holistic environment where women can share, learn, and grow.

Our social enterprises provide an enterprising approach to teaching and learning. Enterprise encourages people to learn and develop in a way that meets their needs and develops skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. The world is changing rapidly, and people need to be prepared. They need to have the skills and attitudes to cope with an unpredictable future, to be able to deal with setbacks and disappointments in a positive way and to continue to learn for the rest of their lives. Whenever possible, we utilise the resources across the whole of Blackburne House to provide our learners with real life opportunities to enhance their development and support them to become more influential in their own lives and that of others.

We have a core set of values that are embedded into everything that we do. Those values are integral to our organisation, helping to define our long-term aims and objectives and influence the way we work.

Inspiration

We provide the highest possible quality of inspirational education and development – and our teaching and working methods and our services and environment reflect this relentless commitment.

Transformation

We believe in using creative working methods to develop new and innovative ways of fulfilling and exceeding our financial, social, and environmental aims - renewing and transforming our business and helping us to touch and transform the lives of everyone who works with Blackburne House.

Equality

Blackburne House is and has always been about holistic approaches to improving the lives of women – all women. We constantly build on the diversity and range of our services including support and education services for children and men, where these will contribute to improving the lives of women.

Independence

As well as helping our students and service users to develop their own independence, our charitable and commercial activities all operate to continuously improving business standards – to deliver the independence of Blackburne House.

Activities, achievements, and performance

The principal activity of Blackburne House is to provide support structures to its sister organisation, Blackburne House Education. Blackburne House has a range of social business areas, and each business area is driven by our values. In addition to this, our project portfolio provides unique and bespoke wrap around services to enhance wellness and learning opportunities. A summary of the performance of each of these businesses is given below:

The Bistro

The Blackburne House Bistro has a core mission: to provide value-for-money, nutritious meals in a relaxed and welcoming environment for students, staff, conference attendees, and a diverse range of customers. As a bistro guided by social values, we actively champion our 'Buy Social & Buy Local' agenda, delivering positive impact every day. Our efforts extend beyond serving meals and contribute meaningfully to the community in the following ways:

- Healthy, Nutritious Meals: We prepare high-quality, affordable meals from scratch every day, ensuring they are both healthy and delicious.
- Support for Staff and Students: Subsidised meals are offered to ensure that no staff member or student goes hungry, helping them stay nourished and achieve their personal and professional best.
- Local and Sustainable Sourcing: Over 90% of our fresh produce is sourced from local suppliers and social enterprises, supporting Liverpool's local economy.
- Employment Opportunities: We create good-quality jobs with fair wages, prioritising employment and training opportunities for women who are furthest from the labour market.
- Inclusive Volunteering: Volunteer and employment opportunities are provided for people with learning difficulties and disabilities, promoting inclusivity and empowerment.
- Sustainability: We use fair trade products and ensure all disposable items are biodegradable, aligning with our environmental commitments.

We are passionate about the quality of our food, the service we provide, and the positive impact we create within our community. Every action we take—whether supporting education, promoting sustainability, or empowering individuals—makes a meaningful difference. Our bistro serves as a model for how social values and business goals can coexist to create long-lasting change.

The Café @ Clatterbridge

In partnership with Liverpool Clatterbridge Cancer Hospital, we successfully launched the Café @ Clatterbridge to provide healthy, nutritious meals for patients, staff, and visitors. This initiative aligns with our commitment to promoting health and wellbeing while also supporting Blackburne House's charitable objectives.

The hospital trust specifically sought to partner with a provider rooted in the Liverpool community—one that prioritises local staff and suppliers. This collaboration allowed us to expand our catering portfolio and strengthen our local supply chain, enhancing our contribution to the regional economy.

The Café @ Clatterbridge has provided an opportunity for growth and economies of scale within our Catering Portfolio. By operating another outlet, we have increased our hospitality turnover, supporting the future growth and sustainability of Blackburne House. This project is a vital part of our long-term strategy, ensuring we continue to deliver both economic and social value across the Liverpool community.

Conference and Events

Blackburne House offers a variety of flexible rooms and spaces to host conferences, events, private functions and development activities. We pride ourselves on being able to offer a welcoming conferencing and events service in a magnificent Grade II listed building.

This year, we continued to deliver a warm and welcoming experience for visitors, customers, and delegates during a period in which the catering and hospitality sector continues to face significant challenges. Our business growth strategy has focused on market penetration, with an emphasis on attracting both new and repeat customers. Looking ahead, we will prioritise strategic partnerships and enhanced digital visibility to support further growth.

In response to shifting industry expectations, we will continue leveraging partnerships and funding opportunities to enhance the décor, technology, and ergonomics of our conference and event spaces. These improvements will ensure we offer functional, welcoming spaces that celebrate the heritage of the building.

Collaboration with the Wellness Centre positions our conference and events offer to meet the rising demand for built-in wellness and mindfulness features. As organisers seek quiet zones, flexible seating, and moments of calm, we will design and promote packages that enhance delegate wellbeing and elevate the event experience.

The rise of 'micro-events', characterised by smaller groups, luxury touches, and deeper engagement, creates new opportunities to expand our personalised service offer. This includes intimate spaces, bespoke dining, and wellbeing treatments tailored to smaller gatherings.

Nursery

As a result of an expansion grant provided by the Liverpool City Council, we have now increased our offer from a 36-place to a 52-place nursery which provides childcare for the 9 months to 5-year-olds age range. We continue to provide high quality and innovative childcare that enhances the opportunities and lives of children, parents and families locally. We continue to be a key support structure for our students and the wider community by offering affordable and attainable childcare. We provide early learning interventions for all ages to ensure they have the opportunity to access a childcare environment and support their development to become school ready. From April 2025 the government expanded the Early Years 30 hours funded places to all ages from 9 months for working parents. In conjunction with our expanded places, this new funding allocation allows us to support more children and families in the community. For families with low income, the 15 hours funded places for 2-year-olds continues to be available. Alongside our local community we also support children and families in the wider community for parents who are enhancing their skills and knowledge at the local universities.

At our last Ofsted inspection in January 2023, we were rated Good. The inspectors commended our staff and how they use their qualifications, knowledge, and skills to assess children's progress and to plan activities that reflect children's stages of development and interests.

Nursery [Continued]

We have now extended learning from indoors to our new outdoor sensory provision which offers children who do not have access to outdoors the opportunity to do so in a safe and controlled environment.

We pride ourselves on providing a diverse and rich multicultural environment where our children come from as many different nationalities. All our direct childcare staff are qualified to Level 3 or more and one member of staff has a degree in Early Years & childhood studies.

By working in close partnership with parents and carers we ensure all the child's needs are met and supported. We use a software app called Famly in which we share observations, photographs, a live news feed for up-to-date information and any free advice, support or training for parent, carers or for extended family members who may not live in the same country.

As a charitable social enterprise, we give our children and local families the best possible life chances by:

- Offering subsidised childcare for our students and providing free meals where food poverty impacts a child's ability to learn and develop. Catering for children's dietary requirements or sensory needs.
- Delivering a holistic approach to parental and carer advice and support, guiding them through complex issues and concerns.
- Empowering mum's to go back into work.
- Providing more flexible, short term funded places to support parents and carers in need of respite.
- Delivering children's workshops to develop new experiences and skills e.g., Spanish Lessons. Supporting children with special educational needs, which included speech and language therapy, behaviour and sensory support.
- We retain SEND children when mainstream school places are deferred when not conducive to their individual needs or if no places at specialist provision are available. This provides consistency and routine for the children and family.
- Providing free nursery education places for two, three & four year-olds from the most disadvantaged families.
- Events celebrating parents and carers with their children.
- Holding our 5-year-old graduation ceremonies to celebrate the children's development and school readiness.

Many of our children experience Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND).

Wellness Centre

Our Wellness Centre offers counselling and wellbeing services to the community. There continues to be significant mental health decline amongst women and so we continue to respond to this through accessing funding support for wellness and counselling services, building on the program of counselling interventions and wellness services we had begun when the Wellness Centre launched during the pandemic and scaling up the level of services we offer to meet the increasing demand. We are currently providing both a funded and commercial offer for individuals and organisations. For this period, we have supported 980 women with our funded counselling and wellness interventions.

We have recruited a team of Counsellors all who are generalists and have knowledge and experience in areas such as domestic abuse, trauma and anxiety and our funders have recognised the vital role our services have played in the lives of women in our community. Developing 1-2-1 and group services delivered by counsellors and wellness practitioners. The more recent service developments include maternal wellbeing support.

We continue to embed our 'Education Through Enterprise' model, by linking education more closely to the commercial enterprise. We continue to provide Level 4 student counsellors who require 100 hours clinical practice, a placement with supervision to gain their full qualification. We have recognized that there is a lack of diversity within the counsellor base, so we have recruited 50%.of the learners from the global majority. This allows us to reach more women in need of mental health support whilst enabling student counsellors to qualify and become economically active.

Our social accounts show that based on our typical activities our social return on investment is £1: £51.96.

Wellness and Counselling Centre [Continued]

We have developed the Wellness Centre to become part of the core services of Blackburne House, making a significant social impact and becoming a vital part of our broader portfolio.

Safeguarding

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our students and expect all our staff, trustees and volunteers to share this commitment. Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults continue to be important to the organisation, and we take seriously our duty to comply with the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, Education Act 2002 and Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 and The Board of Trustees and staff have undertaken training in this area and continually review our performance and ability to adapt and respond.

Our Board and the Education & Nursery Quality Committee closely monitor our policies and procedures, and the organisation has an appointed a Board Safeguarding Lead, a Designated Safeguarding Lead and a team of Safeguarding Officers.

We have continued to update our safeguarding policies and action plan in line with our activities.

Projects and Business Development

Developing and maintaining contracts is vital to achieving our strategic aims and ensuring the long-term sustainability of Blackburne House. As a charity and social enterprise operating in a Grade II-listed building, the revenue generated through contracts, projects, and grant funding is critical. This funding not only contributes to core costs but also enables us to deliver significant social impact to our recipients, partners, and the wider community.

During this period, we have successfully maintained and developed contracts and partnerships, including:

- Clatterbridge Catering Contract – Supporting our expansion into the healthcare sector, providing quality catering services to staff, patients, and visitors.

Our Strategic Arenas

To enrich our portfolio and ensure alignment with our values and strategic objectives, we continue to innovate, deliver or develop impactful programs across the following areas:

1. **Health & Wellbeing:**
   Focused on supporting women and families through programs addressing female health, mental health, loneliness, social isolation, and resilience-building.

2. **Environmental & Cultural:**
   - Programs with positive environmental outcomes, including contributions to the green economy, local biodiversity, and mitigating the effects of climate change.
   - Initiatives that preserve and celebrate cultural heritage, promote inclusion and equality, and maintain the integrity of our historical asset and archives.

3. **Education & Employment:**
   Providing access to career support, personal development, lifestyle courses, and non-accredited programs to help learners enhance their skills and life opportunities.

4. **Business Development:**
   Delivering training and support in entrepreneurship, leadership, coaching and mentoring, and business start-up and scale-up. These programs are designed to empower individuals and businesses to achieve success and growth.

Our Strategic Arenas [Continued]

Commitment to Innovation and Impact
Blackburne House remains committed to innovating and expanding our services to meet the evolving needs of our community and partners. Through our strategic projects and business development efforts, we are creating opportunities for sustainability, resilience, and meaningful change.

Our plans for the future

Blackburne House boasts a diverse portfolio of businesses and projects that align with our core values of advancing education and vocational training for women. Our strength lies in our diversity, which enables us to capitalise on a variety of assets and opportunities to reach our full potential. This approach ensures that we remain innovative and adaptable while meeting the evolving needs of our community. Through the development of new strategic partnerships, we aim to deliver impactful and bespoke support to women, families, and the global majority. These partnerships will enhance the reach and effectiveness of our services while strengthening our trading and contracted activities, ensuring they are both sustainable and scalable to create significant social and economic impact.

Key Areas of Focus

1. **Wellness Centre**
    - We will continue to seek funding to maintain and grow our Wellness Centre, and to ensure it remains free at the point of access, while we maintain it as a core service provision within Blackburne House. Our focus will continue to be on expanding wellness services to support mental health, tackle inequalities, and provide a welcoming space for on-site counselling services and wellness activities.
    - The centre will continue to support over 1,000 women annually through both grant-funded and paid-for services, helping combat mental health challenges within the local community.
    - Alongside Blackburne House Education, we will ensure learners have access to mental health counselling services to remove obstacles to learning. In addition, the Wellness Centre will provide placements for newly qualified Level 4 counsellors, helping to increase the number of qualified and diverse professionals in Liverpool to meet the growing demand for mental health services.
    - By delivering a wider counselling curriculum, Blackburne House Education will provide pathways to employment, particularly for learners from the global majority, enabling service users to receive culturally competent care. This unique offering has already delivered significant social impact and remains vital to our broader portfolio.

2. **Café @ Clatterbridge Cancer Centre**
    - The café has continued to flourish as visitor numbers have increased. Our offering of fresh, seasonal, and nutritious food has been well received by patients, staff, and visitors, with positive feedback from both customers and Trust management.
    - This partnership has created an additional platform to raise Blackburne House's profile and promote our mission. We aim to replicate this successful social enterprise catering model at other suitable sites, ensuring continued growth and sustainability for our catering division.

3. **Nursery Services**
    - We remain committed to delivering our essential Nursery services, which support families and learners.
    - We will continue to work with sector partners to incorporate an intergenerational offer.

Our Strategic Arenas [Continued]

4. **Conference and Events**
    - We have identified conference and events as a key growth area. By developing partnerships and hosting our own events, we aim to increase external bookings, generate income, and raise the profile of Blackburne House.
    - Our historic, Grade II-listed building offers a unique venue experience, complemented by catering from our award-winning social enterprise bistro. As organisations increasingly value social responsibility, we are well-positioned to attract clients seeking venues with social impact.
5. **Projects Portfolio**
    - We plan to expand our projects portfolio, working closely with local stakeholders such as Visit Hope Street CIC to identify initiatives that position Blackburne House as one of Liverpool's most vital social enterprises.
    - We will engage an external funder to help raise capital and revenue funds whilst increasing our relationships with local, regional and national funders.
6. **Catering Division**
    - Our Catering Division continues to grow, delivering increased trading levels while providing opportunities for employment and skill development. By offering subsidised meals for students and serving the local community, we strengthen our social mission while enhancing our reputation for quality food services across the city.

Strategic Direction

The Board will continue to review and refine our plans to ensure we focus on mission-led, sustainable portfolios that align with our vision to empower women. Our proven track record, depth of expertise, and reputation in the local community position us strongly to adapt to emerging priorities and build on our successes.

With a blend of innovative services and a commitment to local needs, Blackburne House is well-equipped to strengthen its organisation and continue serving the women of Liverpool and the broader community for years to come.

Financial review

The trustees' financial responsibilities include the solvency of the organisation, safeguarding the assets of the organisation and approving the annual budget to set financial objectives, which are quantifiable targets against which we can measure achievement. To assist us in achieving these objectives monthly management accounts are produced and discussed at Executive Leadership Team meetings. A formal cycle of reporting of management accounts has been established and includes bi-monthly meetings with both the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee (FA&RC) and the trustees. The FA&RC continually reviews the reporting mechanisms in place to ensure risk management and financial planning is developed and enhances the opportunities of the organisation. The FA&RC, under powers delegated to it by the trustees, regulate and control the finances of the organisation.

We have continued with the increased frequency of meetings and reporting to FA&RC to ensure that we managed and mitigated risks.

- Engaged the services of Adding Value to provide Finance Director oversight and finance management.
- Engaged more frequently with our bankers Natwest and Lenders.
- Enhanced cashflow management and reporting to review weekly along with extended forecasting.
- Instigated finance repayment holidays for loan and lease repayments.
- Accessed HMRC PAYE/NI payment plans with HMRC.
- Successfully applied for support grants with strategic partners

Financial review [Continued]

Our financial performance has significantly improved since 2023/24 and with broader opportunities via additional products and services, for instance, contract gains through our Wellness Centre and supporting core costs and economies of scale through Clatterbridge.

We are reporting a net expenditure for the year of £282,962 in the year (2024: £259,336 net expenditure) which is stated after depreciation and endowment release costs of £38,057.

We continue to review our strategic plans with our trading ability focusing on sustainability and mission. The financial projections for 2025/26 have been prepared, considering the opportunities to strengthen our offer through strategic partnerships. They reflect our ability to adapt to the landscape in a strong and progressive manner in support of our learners and community. The trustees are confident that we have an ongoing viable business model, and they remain optimistic about the future and our ability to navigate the short-term challenges and trade back up to sustainable levels in the longer term.

Remuneration of key management personnel

The trustees consider the Chief Executive and the Executive Leadership Team to be the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis.

It is the charity's policy to pay staff at rates reflecting the local market and in line with similar organisations.

Reserves policy

The organisation's reserve policy has been reviewed in line with guidance from the Charity Commission. It is the policy of the organisation to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the organisation at a level, which equates to three months liquidity requirements. The trustees have reviewed the value of reserves required and have set the desired value of the reserves at £300,000 to reflect current level of overheads as the business grows. This provides sufficient funds to cover management, administration, and support costs for the development of our principal activities to enable us to provide a high-quality service to our stakeholders.

The organisation has not been able to achieve a surplus this year to improve the reserves position but is committed to continual improvement to reverse the negative reserves in future years. The trustees recognise that our negative unrestricted reserves position reflects the fact that we are a trading business rather than grant funded. We have invested our traded income into jobs, services, and strategic aims consistently over our many years in existence, responding to our communities needs and adapting to strengthen our social impact and services. The trustees continue to monitor the situation and have reviewed and agreed the strategy and priorities that align to this objective as we move forward.

Risk policy

The trustees are responsible for overseeing the risks faced by the organisation. Detailed considerations of risks are delegated to the Executive Leadership Team. Risks are identified and controls established throughout the year. All significant activities undertaken are subject to a risk review. Systems have been established to mitigate the risks, and the Executive Leadership Team regularly reviews the risks and takes any action identified. A Risk Register is also presented at the bi-monthly Finance, Audit & Risk Committee (FA&RC) meetings for review by the committee trustees.

Investment powers and restrictions

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the charity has the power, to invest or deposit funds in any manner only after obtaining advice from a financial expert and having regard to the suitability of investments and the need for diversification.

The trustees, having regard to the liquidity requirements of operating the charity and to the reserves policy, do not consider it necessary to invest in a portfolio of investments, but instead have operated a policy of keeping available funds in an interest-bearing deposit account and seek to achieve a rate of deposit interest which matches or exceeds inflation as measured by the retail price index.

Invested funds are held on deposit in a high interest savings account for use as and when necessary.

Environmental policy

The Board of Trustees and the Executive Leadership Team are fully committed to the principles of sustainable development and to achieving environmental best practices across all aspects of the organisation. We strive to integrate environmental management as a core business function, recognising the need for leadership and collective responsibility to ensure that our activities align with these principles.

As an organisation, we recognise the importance of a proactive approach to addressing environmental challenges. This includes efforts to prevent pollution, minimise waste, reduce carbon emissions, and achieve continual improvements in our environmental performance. Our commitment extends to educating and engaging staff, learners, and stakeholders in adopting sustainable practices and making informed decisions that contribute to environmental sustainability.

In line with this commitment, Blackburne House operates a structured approach to the management of our environmental impact, ensuring compliance with, or exceeding, all relevant legal and regulatory requirements. We also seek to align with recognised best practices that address environmental aspects related to our operations.

Decarbonisation Initiatives (2025/26)

A key component of our environmental policy is the decarbonisation of our Grade II-listed building, which continues to be a major focus throughout 2025/26. As custodians of a historic building, we recognise the unique challenges and opportunities presented in ensuring its sustainability for future generations.

The decarbonisation project will focus on:

- Conducting a comprehensive energy audit to identify key areas for improvement in energy efficiency.
- Implementing energy-efficient systems, including the potential installation of renewable energy sources, such as solar panels and heat pumps, where feasible.
- Upgrading insulation and reviewing heating, ventilation, and lighting systems to reduce energy consumption.
- Working with specialists to develop innovative, sustainable solutions that respect the historic integrity of the building while significantly reducing its carbon footprint.

This decarbonisation effort aligns with both our organisational goals and wider local and national environmental targets, including the Liverpool City Region's ambition to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2040. By undertaking this project, we aim to set a benchmark for other organisations housed in historic or listed properties, showcasing that sustainable innovation and heritage preservation can coexist effectively.

Wider Environmental Commitments

Our environmental priorities are further embedded into our organisational operations and include:

- Sustainable Procurement Practices: Working with suppliers who share our commitment to sustainability and reducing the environmental impact of goods and services.
- Waste Management: Implementing robust recycling initiatives and aiming for zero waste to landfill where possible.
- Education and Advocacy: Incorporating sustainability education into our curriculum to equip learners with the knowledge and skills needed to address global environmental challenges.
- Sustainable Transportation: Promoting the use of public transportation, car-sharing, and cycling for staff, learners, and visitors.

By embedding environmental considerations into our operations, decision-making processes, and educational offerings, Blackburne House is committed to fostering a culture of sustainability. This approach reflects our dedication to improving the wellbeing of both our local community and the planet, ensuring that environmental best practices remain central to our mission.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

Blackburne House is a charitable company limited by guarantee (No. 2674432), incorporated in England on 30 December 1991 and registered as a charity (No. 1010546) on 15 April 1992. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association.

On winding up of the company each member will contribute £1.

Organisation

Each of Blackburne House's business areas and social enterprises is strategically organised to support our learners while financially contributing to the organisation's sustainability and growth. These enterprises facilitate the development of resources that enable us to deliver on our mission to empower women through education, skills, and opportunity.

The Board of Trustees oversees the governance and administration of the charity. Meeting bi-monthly, the Board is supported by dedicated sub-committees focused on Finance, Audit & Risk (FA&RC) and Education & Nursery Quality (ENQ), ensuring comprehensive oversight and accountability across all areas of the organisation.

The trustees appoint a Chief Executive (CEO) to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity. Operating within the terms of delegation approved by the trustees, the CEO has authority over operational matters, including finance, and provides strategic leadership to ensure Blackburne House's policies, systems, products, and services are aligned with its mission. This includes driving the organisation's social, environmental, and commercial objectives. The CEO leads business planning across all service areas, ensuring alignment with the organisation's strategic direction, local priorities, and values. By championing high performance and innovation, the CEO ensures the sustainability and long-term impact of Blackburne House and its group activities.

Blackburne House operates a range of award-winning social enterprises that are values-driven and designed to generate positive social and environmental impact within the communities we serve. These enterprises not only provide financial support to the charity but also offer practical opportunities for learners to gain valuable real-world experience.

The Management Team

The day-to-day management of the organisation is delegated to a highly skilled Executive Leadership Team, which is responsible for the effective operation and delivery of Blackburne House's mission.

The current team is:

- A Rushton – Chief Executive
- L Mairah – Director of Business Development & Communications

Trustee appointment, induction and training

The Board adopt a strategic approach to trustee recruitment and when appropriate all vacancies are advertised within the community to attract trustees to serve on its board and also invite trustees to nominate prior to the AGM.

All members are circulated with invitations to nominate trustees prior to the AGM advising them of the retiring trustees and requesting nominations for the AGM. When considering co-opting trustees, the Board has regard to the requirements for any specialist skillset and competency needed that would enhance the organisation's ability to deliver on its strategic goals. Board members come from a variety of backgrounds, and it is this variety that adds value to the organisation. However, we recognise that our expectations are high and the demands we place on the Board are considerable, therefore we feel that it is important to support all Board Members with the training and development they need to complement and supplement their current skills and competencies.

The induction program aims to give the new member an understanding of the work of Blackburne House Education and to help recognise how they can make a significant contribution to the organisation during their term of office. New trustees undergo an orientation program to brief them on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the contents of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes and recent financial performance of the charity. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events and internal training and briefings where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Related Charities

Blackburne House is related to Women's Technology Training Limited by virtue of common directors, influence and shared resources.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors 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. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they 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 2019 (FRS 102).
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities [continued]

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Trustees' statement of disclosure of information to the auditors

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirm in so far as they are aware: -

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

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

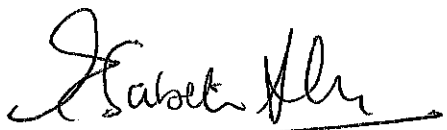
Auditors

A resolution for the re-appointment of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Approval

In approving the Trustees' Annual Report, we also approve the Strategic Report included therein in our capacity as company directors.

SIGNED BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES



Elizabeth Cross
Trustee

Date: 24 April 2026

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited

Accountants

Suites C, D, E, F . 14th Floor, The Plaza . 100 Old Hall Street . Liverpool . L3 9QJ

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Blackburne House for the year ended 31 July 2025

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Blackburne House (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 July 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Summary Income and Expenditure Account, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 July 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Material uncertainty relating to going concern

We draw attention to note 1(q) in the financial statements, which highlights the fact that there is a net current liability position of £541,500 and a deficit on unrestricted funds of £937,148. Whilst these conditions indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, note 1(q) provides a full explanation of the circumstances surrounding this. Our opinion is not qualified in respect of this matter.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Blackburne House for the year ended 31 July 2025 [Continued]

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on pages 14 and 15, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance;
- the charitable company's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- the results of our enquiries of management and members of the Board of Trustees of their own identification of and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charitable company's documentation of policies and procedures:
- identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether the Board of Trustees were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether the Board of Trustees have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:

(i) The presentation of the charitable company's Statement of Financial Activities, (ii) revenue recognition, and (iii) the overstatement of salary and other costs. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice - 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued by the joint SORP making body .

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included Safeguarding, Data Protection and food hygiene regulations.

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified the presentation of the charitable company's Statement of Financial Activities, revenue recognition and overstatement of wages and other costs as the key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud. The key audit matters section of our report explains the matters in more detail and also describes the specific procedures we performed in response to those key audit matters.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and members of the Board of Trustees concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant authorities where matters identified were significant; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. The risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited.

Mr Philip Griffiths
Senior Statutory Auditor

27 April 2026

On behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited
Statutory Auditor

Suites C, D, E & F
14th Floor, The Plaza
100 Old Hall Street
Liverpool
L3 9QJ

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Statement of Financial Activities
Year ended 31 July 2025

Income from:	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations and legacies	2	33,175	-	-	33,175	5,834
Charitable activities	3	1,433,822	-	-	1,433,822	1,454,203
Total income		1,466,997	-	-	1,466,997	1,460,037
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	4	1,689,028	22,874	38,057	1,749,959	1,719,373
Total expenditure		1,689,028	22,874	38,057	1,749,959	1,719,373
Net expenditure for the year	9	(222,031)	(22,874)	(38,057)	(282,962)	(259,336)
Total funds brought forward		(715,117)	2,165,930	2,600,590	4,051,403	4,310,739
Total funds carried forward		(937,148)	2,143,056	2,562,533	3,768,441	4,051,403

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year as set out above.

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 26 to 39 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Financial Activities [Continued]
Year ended 31 July 2025

Comparative information for the year ended 31 July 2024

Income from:	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations and legacies	2	5,834	-	-	5,834	11,847
Charitable activities	3	1,452,318	1,885	-	1,454,203	1,395,592
Investments		-	-	-	-	1
Total income		1,458,152	1,885	-	1,460,037	1,407,440
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	4	1,656,066	25,250	38,057	1,719,373	1,480,004
Total expenditure		1,656,066	25,250	38,057	1,719,373	1,480,004
Net expenditure for the year	9	(197,914)	(23,365)	(38,057)	(259,336)	(72,564)
Total funds brought forward		(517,203)	2,189,295	2,638,647	4,310,739	4,383,303
Total funds carried forward		(715,117)	2,165,930	2,600,590	4,051,403	4,310,739

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year as set out above.

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 26 to 39 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Summary Income and Expenditure Account
Year ended 31 July 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Gross income		1,466,997	1,460,037
Expenditure		1,675,533	1,642,250
Interest payable		3,005	6,267
Depreciation		71,421	70,856
Total expenditure		1,749,959	1,719,373
Net (expenditure)		(282,962)	(259,336)

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

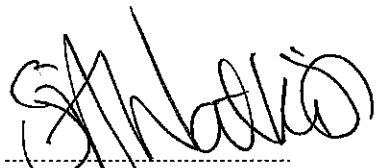
The notes on pages 26 to 39 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Balance Sheet
31st July 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		4,750,215		4,821,289
Current assets					
Stocks	14	7,381		3,567	
Debtors	15	84,385		72,932	
Cash at bank and in hand		43,129		20,689	
		134,895		97,188	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	16	(676,395)		(411,543)	
Net current liabilities			(541,500)		(314,355)
Total assets less current liabilities			4,208,715		4,506,934
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	17		(440,274)		(455,531)
Net assets			3,768,441		4,051,403
The funds of the Charity					
Endowment	20		2,562,533		2,600,590
Restricted	21		2,143,056		2,165,930
Unrestricted	22		(937,148)		(715,117)
Total funds	23		3,768,441		4,051,403

These financial statements were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 24 April 2026 and are signed on their behalf by:



Sally Anne Watkiss
Trustee

Company Registration Number: 2674432

The notes on pages 26 to 39 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Statement of Cash Flows
Year ended 31 July 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Cash flow from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	29		63,759		37,079
Cash flow from investing activities					
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		(347)		(4,975)	
Net cash flow from investing activities			(347)		(4,975)
			63,412		32,104
Cash flow from financing activities					
Repayment of loans		(29,633)		(30,674)	
Payment of obligations under finance leases		(8,334)		(7,519)	
Interest paid		(3,005)		(6,267)	
Net cash flow from financing activities			(40,972)		(44,460)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			22,440		(12,356)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 August 2024			20,689		33,045
Cash and cash equivalents as at 31 July 2025			43,129		20,689
Cash and cash equivalent consists of:					
Cash at bank			40,070		17,059
Cash in hand			3,059		3,630
			43,129		20,689

The notes on pages 26 to 39 form part of these financial statements.

1. Summary of accounting policies

(a) General information and basis of preparation

Blackburne House is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity incorporated in England and Wales. 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 address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 2 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are set out in the Trustees' Report on page 3.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. 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 in October 2019, the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

(b) Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity where they have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

The property fund is treated as a permanent endowment on the basis that the original building is not owned by the charity and the building alterations that have been carried out form a capital fund with which the charity has now power to convert the capital into income.

(c) Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

1. Summary of accounting policies [Continued]

(c) Income recognition [Continued]

Income from charitable activities includes income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to special performance conditions and is recognised as earned as the related services are provided. Grant income included in this category provides funding to support performance activities and is recognised when there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amounts can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as bank deposits. It essentially includes interest which is recognised using the effective interest method.

(d) Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes costs associated with the charity including support costs as appropriate.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the category above.

(e) Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at the charity's registered office. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 5.

(f) Capital grants

Grants received to cover the cost of building alterations and fixtures and fittings are included as restricted income and will be credited to the Statement of Financial Activities when the conditions for receipt are met.

(g) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended. Individual assets are capitalised on the balance sheet where their cost exceeds £100.

1. **Summary of accounting policies [Continued]**

(g) Tangible fixed assets [Continued]

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Building alterations & additions	1 - 10% per annum
Computers	10 - 33% per annum
Fixtures & fittings	10 - 20% per annum
Equipment	10 - 20% per annum

Whilst historically building alterations have been depreciated at 1%, additions are not considered to have the same life and so are depreciated over 10 years.

(h) Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost includes all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other cost incurred in bringing stock to its present location and condition. Cost is calculated using the first-in, first-out formula. Provision is made for damaged, obsolete and slow-moving stock where appropriate.

(i) Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

(j) Loans and borrowings

Loans and borrowings are initially recognised at the transaction price including transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less impairment. If an arrangement constitutes a finance transaction it is measured at present value.

(k) Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

1. Summary of accounting policies [Continued]

(k) Financial instruments [Continued]

Basic financial liabilities
Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities
Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

(l) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

(m) Leases

Assets acquired under finance leases are capitalised and depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and the expected useful life of the asset. Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and the reduction of the outstanding lease liability using the effective interest method. The related obligations, net of future finance charges, are included in creditors.

Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

(n) Employee benefits

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

The charity operates a defined contribution plan for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are expensed as they become payable.

(o) Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

1. **Summary of accounting policies** [Continued]

(p) VAT

The charity is partially exempt for VAT purposes. VAT which is not allowed in the year is written off to the Statement of Financial Activities.

(q) Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the future outlook reflects the opportunities that have arisen as a result of our ability to support the communities we serve. Whilst the Trustees acknowledge the net current liabilities position of £541,500 is challenging, we are confident that our core business can respond, bolstered by our embedded social impacts in action.

Our day-to-day activities that provide much needed services in support of our charitable aims to educate women and drive social and economic advancement have emerged as more valuable than previously recognised. Post pandemic, we have strengthened our work within our community as we are directly aligned to those who need us most. We are able to provide responsive and bespoke support to women, families and the BAME community that are impactful and immediate, and funders are investing in organisations that are delivering social value though their day-to-day trading operations, activities and interventions, rather than through one off projects.

Funders have seen the value of organisations working with particular communities since Covid-19. We are rooted in the local community and have access to people who have been disadvantaged since the pandemic. Our learners and employees, a high proportion of which are women, part of the BAME community and those who experience social deprivation are even more at risk of mental ill health and cultural inequalities. Blackburne House have responded at speed with interventions that reach those people most in need and provided funders with the networks and reach to make a difference. We have successfully contracted to provide that support post Covid-19, and we anticipate this will translate into long term, substantial contracts with significant interventions.

The trustees have reviewed the plans and consider that the budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern and remain confident that core business is sustainable in the long term.

2. Income from donations and legacies	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Donations	33,175	-	-	33,175	5,834
	33,175	-	-	33,175	5,834

All of the above income in 2024 was attributable to unrestricted funds.

3. Income from charitable activities	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Nursery income	445,182	-	-	445,182	363,683
Café Bar income	212,340	-	-	212,340	239,322
Rent receivable	152,567	-	-	152,567	227,872
Events	126,669	-	-	126,669	140,642
Car park income	48,916	-	-	48,916	35,719
Clatterbridge café	432,182	-	-	432,182	425,693
Wellness Centre	15,688	-	-	15,688	18,309
The National Garden Scheme	-	-	-	-	1,885
Other	278	-	-	278	1,078
	1,433,822	-	-	1,433,822	1,454,203

Of the above income in the prior year, £1,452,318 was attributable to unrestricted funds, and £1,885 was attributable to restricted funds.

4. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Nursery	350,903	203,885	554,788	461,722
Wellness Centre	64,655	7,160	71,815	49,636
Cafe	296,544	97,279	393,823	523,243
Events	41,491	58,000	99,491	85,202
Clatterbridge café	339,519	197,974	537,493	343,436
Central	-	92,549	92,549	256,134
	1,093,112	656,847	1,749,959	1,719,373

Of the above costs £1,689,028 (2024 £1,656,066) were attributable to unrestricted funds, £22,874 (2024 £22,250) were attributable to restricted funds, and £38,057 (2024 £38,057) were attributable to endowment funds.

5. Allocation of support costs	2025 £	2024 £
Management salaries	247,398	165,275
Premises costs	134,663	161,974
Office costs	73,838	76,486
Depreciation	71,421	70,856
Professional	85,780	49,188
Other	38,826	57,184
Governance costs (see note 7)	4,921	13,972
	656,847	594,935

6. Governance costs	2025 £	2024 £
Audit and accountancy fees	4,921	13,972

7. Staff costs and employee benefits	2025 £	2024 £
The aggregate payroll costs were:		
Wages and salaries	826,905	787,029
Social security costs	70,745	54,013
Other pension costs	19,874	19,291
	917,524	860,333
Recharged salaries (net)	70,745	84,781
Subcontracted staff	62,891	-
	1,051,160	945,114

8. Staff costs and employee benefits [Continued]

Particulars of employees:	2025 £	2024 £
The average number of staff employed by the Charity during the financial year amounted to:	51	45

There are no employees with emoluments above £60,000.

8. Trustees' and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

No remuneration was paid to the trustees during the year for their services as trustees (2024 £Nil) nor were any expenses reimbursed (2024 £Nil).

The total amount of employee remuneration received by key management personnel including recharges is £86,813 (2024 £65,964).

The charity considers its key management personnel to comprise the Executive Director of Operations. The CEO role is a shared resource between Blackburne House and its sister company, Women's Technology Training Limited. There is an annual recharge to Women's Technology Training Limited each year in connection with this resource.

9. Net income/(expenditure) for the year

	2025	2024
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Staff pension contributions	19,874	19,291
Depreciation	71,421	70,856
Auditors' remuneration - as auditors	4,921	13,972

10. Auditor's remuneration

	2025	2024
	£	£
Fees payable to the charity's auditor for the audit of the charity's annual accounts	4,921	13,972

11. Taxation

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

12. Interest payable and similar expenses

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other loans	2,359	4,805
Finance charge payable under finance leases	646	1,462
	3,005	6,267

13. Tangible fixed assets	Building Alterations £	Equipment £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Computers £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 August 2024	6,139,422	267,946	286,897	58,790	6,753,055
Additions	-	347	-	-	347
At 31 July 2025	6,139,422	268,293	286,897	58,790	6,753,402
Depreciation					
At 1 August 2024	1,368,962	237,406	266,716	58,682	1,931,766
Charge for the year	61,394	6,508	3,411	108	71,421
At 31 July 2025	1,430,356	243,914	270,127	58,790	2,003,187
Net book value					
At 31 July 2025	4,709,066	24,379	16,770	-	4,750,215
At 31 July 2024	4,770,460	30,540	20,181	108	4,821,289

Included in the net book value of equipment is £13,813 (2024 - £20,720) in respect of assets held under finance leases.

14. Stocks	2025 £	2024 £
Goods for resale	7,381	3,567

15. Debtors	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	45,108	24,729
Prepayments	38,490	48,203
Other debtors	787	-
	84,385	72,932

16. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	2025 £	2024 £
First Ark loan	-	16,961
People's Postcode Lottery loan	7,147	6,936
Bounce Back loan	5,899	5,736
Trade creditors	115,358	126,206
Social security and other taxes	170,017	118,053
Obligations under finance leases	2,211	8,334
Other creditors	323,581	49,095
Accruals and deferred income	52,182	80,222
	676,395	411,543

17. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	2025	2024
	£	£
People's Postcode Lottery loan	22,115	29,262
Bounce Back loan	23,873	29,772
Obligations under finance leases	-	2,211
Other creditors (see note 24)	394,286	394,286
	440,274	455,531

The finance leases are secured against the assets acquired.

On 29 March 2018 First Ark advanced the charity £120,000 repayable in monthly instalments over 6 years at a rate of interest of 8.5%.

On 20 May 2020, National Westminster Bank plc advanced the charity £50,000 under the Coronavirus Bounce Back Loan Scheme (BBLS) originally repayable over 6 years but extended to 10 years on 4 June 2021, with an interest rate of 2.5% per annum.

On 31 January 2022, People's Postcode Lottery advanced the charity £50,000 repayable in monthly instalments over 7 years at a rate of interest of 3%.

18. Loans and overdrafts

Creditors include loans which are due to be repaid as follows:	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts payable:		
In one year or less or on demand	13,046	29,633
In more than one year but no more than two years	13,430	13,048
In more than two years but not more than five years	32,558	40,799
Over five years and payable by instalments	-	5,187
	59,034	88,667

19. Leases

Finance leases

Finance leases primarily relate to the purchase of kitchen equipment.

Total future minimum lease payments are as follows:	2025	2024
	£	£
Not later than one year	2,211	8,334
Later than one and not later than five years	-	2,211
	2,211	10,545

At 31 July 2025 the charity had future total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:	Assets other than land and buildings 2025	2024
	£	£
Within one year	34,530	52,723
Between two and five years	67,886	102,732
	102,416	155,455

20. Endowment funds

	As at 1 August 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	As at 31 July 2025 £
Permanent endowments:				
Property fund	2,600,590	-	(38,057)	2,562,533

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	As at 1 August 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	As at 31 July 2024 £
Permanent endowments:				
Property fund	2,638,647	-	(38,057)	2,600,590

21. Restricted funds

	As at 1 August 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	As at 31 July 2025 £
Liverpool City Region - Single Investment Fund (Capital Investment)	2,165,930	-	(22,874)	2,143,056

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

Restricted funds	As at 1 August 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	As at 31 July 2024 £
Liverpool City Council Nursery capital	491	-	(491)	-
Liverpool City Region - Single Investment Fund (Capital Investment)	2,188,804	-	(22,874)	2,165,930
The National Garden Scheme	-	1,885	(1,885)	-
	2,189,295	1,885	(25,250)	2,165,930

22. Unrestricted funds

	As at 1 August 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	As at 31 July 2025 £
General fund	(715,117)	1,466,997	(1,689,028)	(937,148)

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	As at 1 August 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	As at 31 July 2024 £
General fund	(517,203)	1,458,152	(1,656,066)	(715,117)

23. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current liabilities £	Creditors due after one year £	Total £
Endowment fund	2,562,533	-	-	2,562,533
Restricted fund	2,143,056	-	-	2,143,056
Unrestricted funds	44,626	(541,500)	(440,274)	(937,148)
	4,750,215	(541,500)	(440,274)	(937,148)

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current liabilities £	Creditors due after one year £	Total £
Endowment fund	2,600,590	-	-	2,600,590
Restricted fund	2,165,930	-	-	2,165,930
Unrestricted funds	54,769	(314,355)	(455,531)	(715,117)
	4,821,289	(314,355)	(455,531)	4,051,403

24. Related party transactions

Blackburne House is related to Women's Technology Training Limited by virtue of common directors and influence. During the year Blackburne House charged Women's Technology Limited £231,098 for rent and services (2024 £312,720), £33,601 (2024 £Nil) for childcare and other administration, project costs £5,820 (2024 £53,106). During the year Women's Technology Training Limited charged Blackburne House £Nil (2024 £49,938) for management and administration costs and was refunded £Nil (2024 £16,912) in relation to overstated childcare costs.

The above exclude VAT on vatable items.

At the year-end Blackburne House owed Women's Technology Training Limited £709,935 (2024 £437,094). On 31 July 2024 the trustees entered into a formal agreement to repay the loan in equal monthly instalments.

25. Pension scheme contributions

The charity operates a defined contributions pension scheme for its employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions paid by the charity to the defined contribution scheme which amounted to £19,874 (2024 £19,291).

26. Deferred income

	Under 1 year	2025	2024
	£	£	£
At 1 August 2024	10,303	10,303	1,885
Additions	23,067	23,067	10,303
Amounts released to income	(10,303)	(10,303)	(1,885)
At 31 July 2025	23,067	23,067	10,303

Income has been deferred when it is received in advance of the period to which it relates or where performance of the activities to which it relates have not yet been undertaken.

27. Company limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

On winding up of the company each member will contribute £1.

28. Capital commitments

There are no capital commitments as at 31st July 2025 (2024 £Nil).

29. Reconciliation of net (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities	2025 £	2024 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the year	(282,962)	(259,336)
Interest payable	3,005	6,267
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	71,421	70,856
(Increase) in stock	(3,814)	-
(increase)/decrease in debtors	(11,453)	19,035
Increase in creditors	287,562	200,257
Net cash flow from operating activities	63,759	37,079

30. Analysis of changes in net debt	Balance at 1st August 2024 £	Cashflows £	Non-cash Changes £	Balance at 31st July 2025 £
Short term borrowings	(29,633)	29,633	(13,046)	(13,046)
Long term borrowings	(59,034)	-	13,046	(45,988)
Obligations under finance leases	(10,545)	8,334	-	(2,211)
Total liabilities	(99,212)	37,967	-	(61,245)
Cash and cash equivalent	20,689	22,440	-	43,129
Total net debt	(78,523)	60,407	-	(18,116)

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

England & Wales - Charity number 1010546

Accounts

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

(Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended
31 July 2024

Company Registration Number 2674432
Charity Number 1010546

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BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Financial Statements
Year ended 31 July 2024

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BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Members of the Board and Professional Advisors
Year ended 31 July 2024

Registered Charity Name	Blackburne House
Company Number	2674432
Charity Number	1010546
The Board of Trustees	Liz Cross (Chair) Sally-Anne Watkiss Annette Hennessy Claire Dixon (resigned 25/03/24) Nina Roberts Humaira Khan Ngunan Adamu (resigned 20/12/24) Lynda Brady
Company Secretary	Jennifer Lawson
Chief Executive	Andrea Rushton
Registered Office	Blackburne House Blackburne Place Off Hope Street Liverpool L8 7PE
Statutory Auditor	Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited Accountants Registered Auditor Suites C, D, E & F 14th Floor, The Plaza 100 Old Hall Street Liverpool L3 9QJ
Bankers	National Westminster Bank Plc 2 - 8 Church Street Liverpool L1 3BG
Solicitors	MSB Solicitors Ltd Silkhouse Court Tithebarn Street Liverpool L2 2LZ

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 July 2024

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their annual report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland published October 2019".

Trustees

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Liz Cross (Chair)	Humaira Khan
Kate Fox	Claire Dixon (resigned 23/03/24)
Sally-Anne Watkiss	Nina Roberts
Lynda Brady	Ngunan Adamu (resigned 20/12/2024)
Annette Hennessy	

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

None of the trustees receive remuneration or other benefits for their work as trustees of the charity. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity with a company must be disclosed to the full Board of Trustees in the same way as any contractual relationship with a related party.

Objectives of the Charity

The charity's objects and its principal activity continue to be to advance education and to relieve need by providing or assisting in the provision of vocational training for women and by providing guidance for such of them, as are in need, calculated to enable them to earn their own living. To promote any charitable purpose and in particular charitable purposes directed to the advancement of women's education and the provision of training facilities for women.

Public Benefit

When planning our activities for the year, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and in particular the specific guidance on charities with other purposes currently recognised as charitable and any new charitable purposes which are similar to other charitable purposes.

We are an equal opportunities organisation and are committed to a working environment that is free from any form of discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or disability.

It is a priority of the organisation that access to our services is not restricted to those who can afford our fees. Our concessionary fee policy contributes to the widening of access to the courses we offer and the facilities we provide.

The trustees have had due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit and in particular the supplementary guidance on public benefit and fee charging.

About Blackburne House

Blackburne House, the sister company of Women's Technology Training Limited (known as Blackburne House Education), was founded to advance women from disadvantaged backgrounds into technical professions—fields where women were significantly underrepresented in 1983, when the organisation was established. For nearly four decades, Blackburne House has remained a beacon of opportunity and empowerment for women, dedicated to providing holistic education and support structures.

Strategic Report

The organisation grew rapidly and, in 1991, moved into its iconic premises in Liverpool's Georgian Quarter. Over £4 million was raised to restore and revitalise Blackburne House, a beautiful Grade II-listed building that was once home to the first Girls' School in England. This remarkable building now serves as the vibrant hub of Blackburne House's activities.

After over 30 years of service, Blackburne House received local, national, and international recognition for its pioneering work in education and support for women. In June 2015, the organisation was awarded Freedom of the City of Liverpool, recognising its transformative contributions to education for women across the region and beyond.

Today, Blackburne House Education is thriving. Through Blackburne House, a diverse range of successful social enterprises has been established, each supporting the organisation's educational goals while providing tangible examples of how innovative solutions can address the needs of local communities. These enterprises not only generate income but also offer real-life work experience for learners, creating employment opportunities and fostering social impact.

Our facilities attract thousands of visitors annually and now include a bistro, café, wellness and counselling centre, conference and events facilities, a 36-place nursery, and a robust portfolio of projects. Blackburne House's activities are firmly rooted in its social purpose, ensuring that everything we do contributes to delivering exceptional educational and economic opportunities for women.

Feedback from learners and customers highlights the value of our wraparound educational opportunities, which empower women to access higher education and meaningful employment. Many of our learners become role models for their families and communities. Blackburne House remains integral to the economic empowerment of women, ensuring far-reaching social impact through its services.

Our Vision and Values

Our vision is to educate and upskill women so that they can pursue professions in every sector and at every level, to give confidence to the women we work with, so that they can go on to live independent lives, believe in their dreams and achieve their ambitions. We want to inspire our women to believe that anything is possible, to instil a culture of empathy and understanding; of inclusion and acceptance and to overcome racism, prejudice, discrimination, and adversity, creating a positive and holistic environment where women can share, learn, and grow.

Our social enterprises provide an enterprising approach to teaching and learning. Enterprise encourages people to learn and develop in a way that meets their needs and develops skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. The world is changing rapidly, and people need to be prepared. They need to have the skills and attitudes to cope with an unpredictable future, to be able to deal with setbacks and disappointments in a positive way and to continue to learn for the rest of their lives. Whenever possible, we utilise the resources across the whole of Blackburne House to provide our learners with real life opportunities to enhance their development and support them to become more influential in their own lives and that of others.

We have a core set of values that are embedded into everything that we do. Those values are integral to our organisation, helping to define our long-term aims and objectives and influence the way we work.

Inspiration
We provide the highest possible quality of inspirational education and development – and our teaching and working methods and our services and environment reflect this relentless commitment.

Transformation
We believe in using creative working methods to develop new and innovative ways of fulfilling and exceeding our financial, social, and environmental aims - renewing and transforming our business and helping us to touch and transform the lives of everyone who works with Blackburne House.

Equality
Blackburne House is and has always been about holistic approaches to improving the lives of women – all women. We constantly build on the diversity and range of our services including support and education services for children and men, where these will contribute to improving the lives of women.

Independence
As well as helping our students and service users to develop their own independence, our charitable and commercial activities all operate to continuously improving business standards – to deliver the independence of Blackburne House.

Activities, achievements, and performance

The principal activity of Blackburne House is to provide support structures to its sister organisation, Blackburne House Education. Blackburne House has a range of social business areas, and each business area is driven by our values. In addition to this, our project portfolio provides unique and bespoke wrap around services to enhance wellness and learning opportunities. A summary of the performance of each of these businesses is given below:

The Bistro

The Blackburne House Bistro has a core mission: to provide value-for-money, nutritious meals in a relaxed and welcoming environment for students, staff, conference attendees, and a diverse range of customers. As a bistro guided by social values, we actively champion our 'Buy Social' agenda, delivering positive impact every day. Our efforts extend beyond serving meals and contribute meaningfully to the community in the following ways:

- Healthy, Nutritious Meals: We prepare high-quality, affordable meals from scratch every day, ensuring they are both healthy and delicious.
- Support for Staff and Students: Subsidised meals are offered to ensure that no staff member or student goes hungry, helping them stay nourished and achieve their personal and professional best.
- Local and Sustainable Sourcing: Over 90% of our fresh produce is sourced from local suppliers and social enterprises, supporting Liverpool's local economy.
- Employment Opportunities: We create good-quality jobs with fair wages, prioritising employment and training opportunities for women who are furthest from the labour market.
- Inclusive Volunteering: Volunteer and employment opportunities are provided for people with learning difficulties and disabilities, promoting inclusivity and empowerment.
- Sustainability: We use fair trade products and ensure all disposable items are biodegradable, aligning with our environmental commitments.

We are passionate about the quality of our food, the service we provide, and the positive impact we create within our community. Every action we take—whether supporting education, promoting sustainability, or empowering individuals—makes a meaningful difference. Our bistro serves as a model for how social values and business goals can coexist to create long-lasting change.

The Café @ Clatterbridge
In partnership with Liverpool Clatterbridge Cancer Hospital, we successfully launched the Café @ Clatterbridge to provide healthy, nutritious meals for patients, staff, and visitors. This initiative aligns with our commitment to promoting health and wellbeing while also supporting Blackburne House's charitable objectives.

The hospital trust specifically sought to partner with a provider rooted in the Liverpool community—one that prioritises local staff and suppliers. This collaboration allowed us to expand our catering portfolio and strengthen our local supply chain, enhancing our contribution to the regional economy.

The Café @ Clatterbridge has provided an opportunity for growth and economies of scale within our Catering Portfolio. By operating another outlet, we have increased our hospitality turnover, supporting the future growth and sustainability of Blackburne House. This project is a vital part of our long-term strategy, ensuring we continue to deliver both economic and social value across the Liverpool community.

Conference and Events

Blackburne House offers a variety of flexible rooms and spaces to host conferences, events, private functions, exhibitions, and development activities. We pride ourselves on being able to offer a welcoming conferencing and events service within a magnificent Grade II listed building.

Dating back to 1744, Blackburne House retains its original charm and style offering a venue with a difference. The very nature and versatility of the building enabled Blackburne House to navigate 2024 Conferencing and Events industry trends which saw event's organisers wanting smaller sized rooms and event delegates wanting events spaces with a casual atmosphere, quality food and drink as well as space for networking and break out rooms.

As people started to experience virtual fatigue, we saw an increase in demand for room hire along with equipment to support hybrid events. The ability to host hybrid events is predicted to be an industry trend in 2024 and one which Blackburne House must be able to meet if it is to remain competitive in the marketplace.

This year we have continued to work with the Visit Hope Street CIC stakeholder group and remain a BID Levy Payer as the Hope Street area becomes a BID (Business Improvement District) which is a designate zone (BID Area) which will benefit from a wide range of additional services over and above those funded through the standard commercial rates and council services.

Next year, Conferencing & Events Industry trends are expected to focus upon:

- **Sustainability,** with customers choosing venues with a more environmentally friendly footprint.
- **Social Responsibility**. As a social enterprise, Blackburne House must be bold in how promotes its purpose, social impact, and unique value proposition.
- **Accessibility & Inclusion** considerations to ensure that we make people feel welcome, valued, and included. As an organisation Blackburne House must consider a spectrum of solutions such as the use of Quiet Rooms, accessible room layouts, and appropriate audio-visual equipment.
- The use of **technology** and how it can enhance both user and events booking and planning experiences.
- **Wellbeing** meaning that the Wellness Centre can provide tailored offers to Conference and Events customers.

Nursery
Our 36-place nursery, from babies to 5-year-olds, provides high quality and innovative childcare that enhances the opportunities and lives of children, parents and families locally. We continue to be a key support structure for our students and the wider community by offering affordable and attainable childcare. We provide early learning interventions for funded 2, 3- and 4-year-olds to ensure they have the opportunity to access a childcare environment and support their development to become school ready. We continue to offer the government 30 hours funded places for 3- and 4-year-olds, tax free childcare, in addition to 15 hours funded places for 2-year-olds.

Nursery [Continued]

At our last Ofsted inspection was Jan 23, we were rated Good. The inspectors commended our staff and how they use their qualifications, knowledge, and skills to assess children's progress and to plan activities that reflect children's stages of development and interests.

We have now extended learning from indoors to our new outdoor sensory provision which offers children who do not have access to outdoors the opportunity to do so in a safe and controlled environment.

We pride ourselves on providing a diverse and rich multicultural environment where our children come from as many different nationalities. All our direct childcare staff are qualified to Level 3 or more and one member of staff has a degree in Early Years & childhood studies.

By working in close partnership with parents and carers we ensure all the child's needs are met and supported. We use a software app called Famly in which we share observations, photographs, a live news feed for up-to-date information and any free advice, support or training for parent, carers or for extended family members who may not live in the same country.

As a charitable social enterprise, we give our children and local families the best possible life chances by:

- Offering subsidised childcare for our students and providing free meals where food poverty impacts a child's ability to learn and develop. Catering for children's dietary requirements or sensory needs.
- Delivering a holistic approach to parental and carer advice and support, guiding them through complex issues and concerns.
- Empowering mum's to go back into work.
- Providing more flexible, short term funded places to support parents and carers in need of respite.
- Delivering children's workshops to develop new experiences and skills e.g., Spanish Lessons. Supporting children with special educational needs, which included speech and language therapy, behaviour and sensory support.
- We retain SEND children when mainstream school places are deferred when not conducive to their individual needs or if no places at specialist provision are available. This provides consistency and routine for the children and family.
- Providing free nursery education places for two, three & 4-year-olds from the most disadvantaged families.
- Events celebrating parents and carers with their children.
- Holding our 5-year-old graduation ceremonies to celebrate the children's development and school readiness.

Many of our children experience Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND).

Wellness and Counselling Centre
Formerly known as The Health Place, our on-site space has been re-positioned and repurposed to become a dedicated Wellness and Counselling Centre. There remains significant mental health decline amongst women and so we responded to this through accessing funding support for wellness and counselling services, building on the program of counselling interventions and wellness services we had begun at the start of the pandemic and scaling up the level of services we offer to meet the increasing demand. We are currently providing both a funded and commercial offer for individuals and organisations. For this period, we have supported 836 women with our funded counselling and wellness interventions.

We have recruited a team of Counsellors all who are generalists and have knowledge and experience in areas such as domestic abuse, trauma and anxiety and our funders have recognised the vital role our services have played in the lives of women in our community. Developing 1-2-1 and group services delivered by counsellors and wellness practitioners. The more recent service developments include support for women who experience menopause and long covid.

Wellness and Counselling Centre [Continued]
A further development is via our 'Education Through Enterprise' model, by linking education more closely to the commercial enterprise. We continue to provide Level 4 student counsellors who require 100hrs clinical practice a placement with supervision to gain their full qualification. We have recognized that there is a lack of diversity within the counsellor base, so we have recruited 50% of the learners from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds. This allows us to reach more women in need of mental health support whilst enabling student counsellors to qualify and become economically active.

Our social accounts show that our social return on investment for all activities are £1: £51.96.

We have developed the Wellness and Counselling Centre to become part of the core services of Blackburne House, making a significant social impact and becoming a vital part of our broader portfolio.

Safeguarding

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our students and expect all of our staff, trustees and volunteers to share this commitment. Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults continue to be important to the organisation, and we take seriously our duty to comply with the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, Education Act 2002 and Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 and The Board of Trustees and staff have undertaken training in this area and continually review our performance and ability to adapt and respond. Our Board and the Education & Quality Committee closely monitor our policies and procedures and the organisation has an appointed a Board Safeguarding Lead, a Designated Safeguarding Officer and three four Safeguarding Officers.

We have continued to update our safeguarding policies and action plan in line with our activities.

Projects and Business Development
Developing and maintaining contracts is vital to achieving our strategic aims and ensuring the long-term sustainability of Blackburne House. As a charity and social enterprise operating in a Grade II-listed building, the revenue generated through contracts, projects, and grant funding is critical. This funding not only contributes to core costs but also enables us to deliver significant social impact to our recipients, partners, and the wider community.

During this period, we have successfully maintained and developed contracts and partnerships, including:

- Clatterbridge Catering Contract – Supporting our expansion into the healthcare sector, providing quality catering services to staff, patients, and visitors.
- Liverpool Women's Hospital Catering Offer – Developing an enhanced catering service that aligns with our mission to support health, wellbeing, and sustainability.

Our Strategic Arenas
To enrich our portfolio and ensure alignment with our values and strategic objectives, we continue to innovate, deliver or develop impactful programs across the following areas:

1. Health & Wellbeing:
   Focused on supporting women and families through programs addressing female health, mental health, loneliness, social isolation, and resilience-building.
2. Environmental & Cultural:
   - Programs with positive environmental outcomes, including contributions to the green economy, local biodiversity, and mitigating the effects of climate change.
   - Initiatives that preserve and celebrate cultural heritage, promote inclusion and equality, and maintain the integrity of our historical asset and archives.
3. Education & Employment:
   Providing access to career support, personal development, lifestyle courses, and non-accredited programs to help learners enhance their skills and life opportunities.

Our Strategic Arenas [Continued]

4. Business Development:
   Delivering training and support in entrepreneurship, leadership, coaching and mentoring, and business start-up and scale-up. These programs are designed to empower individuals and businesses to achieve success and growth.

Commitment to Innovation and Impact
Blackburne House remains committed to innovating and expanding our services to meet the evolving needs of our community and partners. Through our strategic projects and business development efforts, we are creating opportunities for sustainability, resilience, and meaningful change.

Our plans for the future

Blackburne House boasts a diverse portfolio of businesses and projects that align with our core values of advancing education and vocational training for women. Our strength lies in our diversity, which enables us to capitalise on a variety of assets and opportunities to reach our full potential. This approach ensures that we remain innovative and adaptable while meeting the evolving needs of our community.

Through the development of new strategic partnerships, we aim to deliver impactful and bespoke support to women, families, and the Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) community. These partnerships will enhance the reach and effectiveness of our services while strengthening our trading and contracted activities, ensuring they are both sustainable and scalable to create significant social and economic impact.

Key Areas of Focus

1. **Wellness and Counselling Centre**
   - We will continue to seek funding to maintain and grow our Wellness and Counselling Centre, establishing it as a core service provision within Blackburne House. Our focus will be on expanding wellness services to support mental health, tackle inequalities, and provide a welcoming space for on-site counselling services and wellness activities.
   - The centre will support over 1,000 women annually through both grant-funded and paid-for services, helping combat mental health challenges within the local community.
   - Alongside Blackburne House Education, we will ensure learners have access to mental health counselling services to remove obstacles to learning. In addition, the Wellness Centre will provide placements for newly qualified Level 4 counsellors, helping to increase the number of qualified and diverse professionals in Liverpool to meet the growing demand for mental health services.
   - By delivering a wider counselling curriculum, Blackburne House Education will provide pathways to employment, particularly for BAME learners, enabling service users to receive culturally competent care. This unique offering has already delivered significant social impact and remains vital to our broader portfolio.
2. **Café @ Clatterbridge Cancer Centre**
   - Despite early challenges due to the pandemic, the café has flourished as visitor numbers have increased. Our offering of fresh, seasonal, and nutritious food has been well received by patients, staff, and visitors, with positive feedback from both customers and Trust management.
   - This partnership has created an additional platform to raise Blackburne House's profile and promote our mission. We aim to replicate this successful social enterprise catering model at other suitable sites, ensuring continued growth and sustainability for our catering division.
3. **Nursery Services**
   - We remain committed to delivering our essential Nursery services, which support families and learners. We have applied for an expansion grant via Early Years to increase our capacity by an additional 16 places, ensuring we can continue to meet demand and support working families.

Our plans for the future [Continued]

4. **Conference and Events**
    - We have identified conference and events as a key growth area. By developing partnerships and hosting our own events, we aim to increase external bookings, generate income, and raise the profile of Blackburne House.
    - Our historic, Grade II-listed building offers a unique venue experience, complemented by catering from our award-winning social enterprise bistro. As organisations increasingly value social responsibility, we are well-positioned to attract clients seeking venues with social impact.
5. **Projects Portfolio**
    - We plan to expand our projects portfolio, working closely with local stakeholders such as Visit Hope Street CIC to identify initiatives that position Blackburne House as one of Liverpool's most vital social enterprises.
6. **Catering Division**
    - Our Catering Division continues to grow, delivering increased trading levels while providing opportunities for employment and skill development. By offering subsidised meals for students and serving the local community, we strengthen our social mission while enhancing our reputation for quality food services across the city.

Strategic Direction
The Board will continue to review and refine our plans to ensure we focus on mission-led, sustainable portfolios that align with our vision to empower women. Our proven track record, depth of expertise, and reputation in the local community position us strongly to adapt to emerging priorities and build on our successes.

With a blend of innovative services and a commitment to local needs, Blackburne House is well-equipped to strengthen its organisation and continue serving the women of Liverpool and the broader community for years to come.

Financial review

The trustees' financial responsibilities include the solvency of the organisation, safeguarding the assets of the organisation and approving the annual budget to set financial objectives, which are quantifiable targets against which we can measure achievement. To assist us in achieving these objectives monthly management accounts are produced and discussed at Executive Leadership Team meetings. A formal cycle of reporting of management accounts has been established and includes bi-monthly meetings with both the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee (FA&RC) and the trustees. The FA&RC continually reviews the reporting mechanisms in place to ensure risk management and financial planning is developed and enhances the opportunities of the organisation. The FA&RC, under powers delegated to it by the trustees, regulate and control the finances of the organisation.

We have continued with the increased frequency of meetings and reporting to FA&RC to ensure that we managed and mitigated risks.

- Engaged the services of Adding Value to provide FD oversight and finance management
- Engaged more frequently with our bankers Natwest and Lenders.
- Enhanced cashflow management and reporting to review weekly along with extended forecasting.
- Instigated finance repayment holidays for loan and lease repayments.
- Accessed HMRC PAYE/NI payment plans with HMRC.
- Successfully applied for support grants with strategic partners

Our Financial Performance has significantly improved since 22/23 and with broader opportunities via additional products and services, for instance, contracts gain through our Wellness Centre supporting core costs and economies of scale through Clatterbridge.

We are reporting a net expenditure for the year of £259,336 in the year (2023: £72,564 net expenditure) which is stated after depreciation and endowment release costs of £70,856.

Financial review [Continued]

We continue to review our strategic plans with our trading ability focusing on sustainability and mission. The financial projections for the remaining part of 2024/25 have been prepared, considering the opportunities to strengthen our offer through strategic partnerships. They reflect our ability to adapt to the landscape in a strong and progressive manner in support of our learners and community. The trustees are confident that we have an ongoing viable business model, and they remain optimistic about the future and our ability to navigate the short-term challenges and trade back up to sustainable levels in the longer term.

Remuneration of key management personnel

The trustees consider the Chief Executive and the Senior Management Team to be the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis.

It is the charity's policy to pay staff at rates reflecting the local market and in line with similar organisations.

Reserves policy

The organisation's reserve policy has been reviewed in line with guidance from the Charity Commission. It is the policy of the organisation to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the organisation at a level, which equates to three months liquidity requirements. The trustees have reviewed the value of reserves required and have set the desired value of the reserves at £300,000 to reflect current level of overheads as the business grows. This provides sufficient funds to cover management, administration, and support costs for the development of our principal activities to enable us to provide a high-quality service to our stakeholders.

The organisation has not been able to achieve a surplus this year to improve the reserves position but is committed to continual improvement to reverse the negative reserves in future years. The trustees recognise that our negative unrestricted reserves position reflects the fact that we are a trading business rather than grant funded. We have invested our traded income into jobs, services, and strategic aims consistently over our many years in existence, responding to our communities needs and adapting to strengthen our social impact and services. The trustees continue to monitor the situation and have reviewed and agreed the strategy and priorities that align to this objective as we move forward.

Risk policy

The trustees are responsible for overseeing the risks faced by the organisation. Detailed considerations of risks are delegated to the Senior Management Team. Risks are identified and controls established throughout the year. All significant activities undertaken are subject to a risk review. Systems have been established to mitigate the risks and the Senior Management Team regularly reviews the risks and takes any action identified.

Investment powers and restrictions

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the charity has the power, to invest or deposit funds in any manner only after obtaining advice from a financial expert and having regard to the suitability of investments and the need for diversification.

The trustees, having regard to the liquidity requirements of operating the charity and to the reserves policy, do not consider it necessary to invest in a portfolio of investments, but instead have operated a policy of keeping available funds in an interest-bearing deposit account and seek to achieve a rate of deposit interest which matches or exceeds inflation as measured by the retail price index.

Invested funds are held on deposit in a high interest savings account for use as and when necessary.

Environmental policy

The Board of Trustees and the Executive Leadership Team are fully committed to the principles of sustainable development and to achieving environmental best practices across all aspects of the organisation. We strive to integrate environmental management as a core business function, recognising the need for leadership and collective responsibility to ensure that our activities align with these principles.

As an organisation, we recognise the importance of a proactive approach to addressing environmental challenges. This includes efforts to prevent pollution, minimise waste, reduce carbon emissions, and achieve continual improvements in our environmental performance. Our commitment extends to educating and engaging staff, learners, and stakeholders in adopting sustainable practices and making informed decisions that contribute to environmental sustainability.

In line with this commitment, Blackburne House operates a structured approach to the management of our environmental impact, ensuring compliance with, or exceeding, all relevant legal and regulatory requirements. We also seek to align with recognised best practices that address environmental aspects related to our operations.

Decarbonisation Initiatives (2024/25)
A key component of our environmental policy is the decarbonisation of our Grade II-listed building, which will be a major focus throughout 2024/25. As custodians of a historic building, we recognise the unique challenges and opportunities presented in ensuring its sustainability for future generations. The decarbonisation project will focus on:

- Conducting a comprehensive energy audit to identify key areas for improvement in energy efficiency.
- Implementing energy-efficient systems, including the potential installation of renewable energy sources, such as solar panels and heat pumps, where feasible.
- Upgrading insulation and reviewing heating, ventilation, and lighting systems to reduce energy consumption.
- Working with specialists to develop innovative, sustainable solutions that respect the historic integrity of the building while significantly reducing its carbon footprint.

This decarbonisation effort aligns with both our organisational goals and wider local and national environmental targets, including the Liverpool City Region's ambition to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2040. By undertaking this project, we aim to set a benchmark for other organisations housed in historic or listed properties, showcasing that sustainable innovation and heritage preservation can coexist effectively.

Wider Environmental Commitments
Our environmental priorities are further embedded into our organisational operations and include:

- Sustainable Procurement Practices: Working with suppliers who share our commitment to sustainability and reducing the environmental impact of goods and services.
- Waste Management: Implementing robust recycling initiatives and aiming for zero waste to landfill where possible.
- Education and Advocacy: Incorporating sustainability education into our curriculum to equip learners with the knowledge and skills needed to address global environmental challenges.
- Sustainable Transportation: Promoting the use of public transportation, car-sharing, and cycling for staff, learners, and visitors.

By embedding environmental considerations into our operations, decision-making processes, and educational offerings, Blackburne House is committed to fostering a culture of sustainability. This approach reflects our dedication to improving the wellbeing of both our local community and the planet, ensuring that environmental best practices remain central to our mission.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

Blackburne House is a charitable company limited by guarantee (No. 2674432), incorporated in England on 30 December 1991 and registered as a charity (No. 1010546) on 15 April 1992. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. On winding up of the company each member will contribute £1.

Organisation

Each of Blackburne House's business areas and social enterprises is strategically organised to support our learners while financially contributing to the organisation's sustainability and growth. These enterprises facilitate the development of resources that enable us to deliver on our mission to empower women through education, skills, and opportunity.
The Board of Trustees oversees the governance and administration of the charity. Meeting bi-monthly, the Board is supported by dedicated sub-committees focused on Finance & Resources and Education & Quality, ensuring comprehensive oversight and accountability across all areas of the organisation.

The trustees appoint a Chief Executive (CEO) to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity. Operating within the terms of delegation approved by the trustees, the CEO has authority over operational matters, including finance, and provides strategic leadership to ensure Blackburne House's policies, systems, products, and services are aligned with its mission. This includes driving the organisation's social, environmental, and commercial objectives. The CEO leads business planning across all service areas, ensuring alignment with the organisation's strategic direction, local priorities, and values. By championing high performance and innovation, the CEO ensures the sustainability and long-term impact of Blackburne House and its group activities.

Blackburne House operates a range of award-winning social enterprises that are values-driven and designed to generate positive social and environmental impact within the communities we serve. These enterprises not only provide financial support to the charity but also offer practical opportunities for learners to gain valuable real-world experience.

The Management Team

The day-to-day management of the organisation is delegated to a highly skilled Senior Management Team, which is responsible for the effective operation and delivery of Blackburne House's mission. The current team is:

- A Rushton – Chief Executive
- L Mariah – Director of Business Development & Communications

Trustee appointment, induction and training

The Board adopt a strategic approach to trustee recruitment and when appropriate all vacancies are advertised within the community to attract trustees to serve on its board and also invite trustees to nominate prior to the AGM.

All members are circulated with invitations to nominate trustees prior to the AGM advising them of the retiring trustees and requesting nominations for the AGM. When considering co-opting trustees, the Board has regard to the requirements for any specialist skillset and competency needed that would enhance the organisation's ability to deliver on its strategic goals. Board members come from a variety of backgrounds, and it is this variety that adds value to the organisation. However, we recognise that our expectations are high and the demands we place on the Board are considerable, therefore we feel that it is important to support all Board Members with the training and development they need to complement and supplement their current skills and competencies.

Trustee appointment, induction and training [Continued]

The induction program aims to give the new member an understanding of the work of Blackburne House Education and to help recognise how they can make a significant contribution to the organisation during their term of office. New trustees undergo an orientation program to brief them on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the contents of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes and recent financial performance of the charity. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events and internal training and briefings where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Related Charities

Blackburne House is related to Women's Technology Training Limited by virtue of common directors, influence and shared resources.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors 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. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they 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 2019 (FRS 102).
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- prepare the financial statements on a 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 charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Trustees' statement of disclosure of information to the auditors

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirm in so far as they are aware: -

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

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

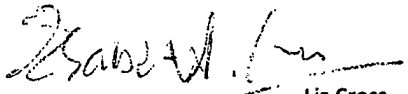
Auditors

A resolution for the re-appointment of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Approval

In approving the Trustees' Annual Report, we also approve the Strategic Report included therein in our capacity as company directors.

SIGNED BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES



Liz Cross
CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Registered office:
Blackburne House
Blackburne Place
Off Hope Street
Liverpool L8 7PE

Approved by the trustees on 22 April 2025

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited

Accountants

Suites C, D, E, F . 14th Floor, The Plaza . 100 Old Hall Street . Liverpool . L3 9QJ

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Blackburne House for the year ended 31 July 2024

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Blackburne House (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 July 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 July 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Material uncertainty related to going concern

We draw attention to note 1(q) in the financial statements, which highlights the fact that there is a net current liability position of £314,355 and a deficit on unrestricted funds of £715,322. Whilst these conditions indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, note 1(q) provides a full explanation of the circumstances surrounding this. Our opinion is not qualified in respect of this matter.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on page 14, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance;
- the charitable company's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- the results of our enquiries of management and members of the Board of Trustees of their own identification of and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charitable company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
- identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:

(i) The presentation of the charitable company's Statement of Financial Activities, (ii) revenue recognition, and (iii) the overstatement of salary and other costs. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice - 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued by the joint SORP making body .

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included Safeguarding, Data Protection and food hygiene regulations.

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified the presentation of the charitable company's Statement of Financial Activities, revenue recognition and overstatement of wages and other costs as the key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud. The key audit matters section of our report explains the matters in more detail and also describes the specific procedures we performed in response to those key audit matters.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and members of the Board of Trustees concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant authorities where matters identified were significant; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. The risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited

Mr Philip Griffiths
Senior Statutory Auditor

29 April 2025

On behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited
Statutory Auditor

Suites C, D, E & F
14th Floor, The Plaza
100 Old Hall Street
Liverpool
L3 9QJ

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Statement of Financial Activities
Year ended 31 July 2024

Income from:	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations and legacies	2	5,834	-	-	5,834	11,847
Charitable activities	3	1,452,318	1,885	-	1,454,203	1,395,592
Investments	4	-	-	-	-	1
Total income		1,458,152	1,885	-	1,460,037	1,407,440
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	5	(1,656,066)	(25,250)	(38,057)	(1,719,373)	(1,480,004)
Total expenditure		(1,656,066)	(25,250)	(38,057)	(1,719,373)	(1,480,004)
Net expenditure for the year	10	(197,914)	(23,365)	(38,057)	(259,336)	(72,564)
Total funds brought forward		(517,203)	2,189,295	2,638,647	4,310,739	4,383,303
Total funds carried forward		(715,117)	2,165,930	2,600,590	4,051,403	4,310,739

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year as set out above.

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 26 to 39 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Financial Activities [Continued]
Year ended 31 July 2024

Comparative information for the year ended 31 July 2023

Income from:	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Donations and legacies	2	11,847	-	-	11,847	19,525
Charitable activities	3	1,253,454	142,138	-	1,395,592	1,111,257
Investments	4	1	-	-	1	1
Other		-	-	-	-	24,750
Total income		1,265,302	142,138	-	1,407,440	1,155,533
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	5	(1,276,272)	(165,675)	(38,057)	(1,480,004)	(1,316,019)
Total expenditure		(1,276,272)	(165,675)	(38,057)	(1,480,004)	(1,316,019)
Net expenditure for the year	10	(10,970)	(23,537)	(38,057)	(72,564)	(160,486)
Total funds brought forward		(506,233)	2,212,832	2,676,704	4,383,303	4,543,789
Total funds carried forward		(517,203)	2,189,295	2,638,647	4,310,739	4,383,303

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year as set out above.

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 26 to 39 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Summary Income and Expenditure Account
Year ended 31 July 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Income		1,460,037	1,407,439
Interest and investment income	4	-	1
Gross income		1,460,037	1,407,440
Expenditure		1,642,250	1,386,835
Interest payable		6,267	8,487
Depreciation		70,856	84,682
Total expenditure		1,719,373	1,480,004
Net (expenditure)		(259,336)	(72,564)

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 26 to 39 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Balance Sheet
31st July 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		4,821,289		4,887,170
Current assets					
Stocks	15	3,567		3,567	
Debtors	16	72,932		91,967	
Cash at bank and in hand		20,689		33,045	
		97,188		128,579	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	(411,543)		(223,970)	
Net current liabilities			(314,355)		(95,391)
Total assets less current liabilities			4,506,934		4,791,779
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	18		(455,531)		(481,040)
Net assets			4,051,403		4,310,739
The funds of the Charity					
Endowment	21		2,600,590		2,638,647
Restricted	22		2,165,930		2,189,295
Unrestricted	23		(715,117)		(517,203)
Total funds	24		4,051,403		4,310,739

These financial statements were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 22 April 2025 and are signed on their behalf by:



.....
Sally Anne Watkiss
Trustee

Company Registration Number: 2674432

The notes on pages 26 to 39 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Statement of Cash Flows
Year ended 31 July 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2024 £	2023 £	2023 £
Cash flow from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	30		37,079		(22,766)
Cash flow from investing activities					
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		(4,975)		(3,528)	
Investment income received		-		1	
Net cash flow from investing activities			(4,975)		(3,527)
			32,104		(26,293)
Cash flow from financing activities					
Repayment of loans		(30,674)		(24,193)	
Payment of obligations under finance leases		(7,519)		(4,959)	
Interest paid		(6,267)		(8,487)	
Net cash flow from financing activities			(44,460)		(37,639)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			(12,356)		(63,932)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 August 2023			33,045		96,977
Cash and cash equivalents as at 31 July 2024			20,689		33,045

The notes on pages 26 to 39 form part of these financial statements.

1. Summary of accounting policies

(a) General information and basis of preparation

Blackburne House is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity incorporated in England and Wales. 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 address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 2 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are set out in the Trustees' Report on page 3.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. 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 in October 2019, the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

(b) Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity where they have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

The property fund is treated as a permanent endowment on the basis that the original building is not owned by the charity and the building alterations that have been carried out form a capital fund with which the charity has now power to convert the capital into income.

(c) Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

1. **Summary of accounting policies [Continued]**

(c) Income recognition [Continued]

Income from charitable activities includes income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to special performance conditions and is recognised as earned as the related services are provided. Grant income included in this category provides funding to support performance activities and is recognised when there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amounts can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as bank deposits. It essentially includes interest which is recognised using the effective interest method.

(d) Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes costs associated with the charity including support costs as appropriate.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the category above.

(e) Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at the charity's registered office. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 6.

(f) Capital grants

Grants received to cover the cost of building alterations and fixtures and fittings are included as restricted income and will be credited to the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis consistent with the depreciation policy.

(g) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended. Capital expenditure on equipment is written off in the period in which it is incurred if purchased from grant income. Individual assets are capitalised on the balance sheet where their cost exceeds £100.

1. **Summary of accounting policies [Continued]**

(g) Tangible fixed assets [Continued]

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Building alterations & additions	1 - 10% per annum
Computers	10 - 33% per annum
Fixtures & fittings	10 - 20% per annum
Equipment	10 - 20% per annum

Whilst historically building alterations have been depreciated at 1%, additions are not considered to have the same life and so are depreciated over 10 years.

(h) Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost includes all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other cost incurred in bringing stock to its present location and condition. Cost is calculated using the first-in, first-out formula. Provision is made for damaged, obsolete and slow-moving stock where appropriate.

(i) Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

(j) Loans and borrowings

Loans and borrowings are initially recognised at the transaction price including transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less impairment. If an arrangement constitutes a finance transaction it is measured at present value.

(k) Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

1. **Summary of accounting policies [Continued]**

(k) Financial instruments [Continued]

Basic financial liabilities
Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities
Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

(l) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

(m) Leases

Assets acquired under finance leases are capitalised and depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and the expected useful life of the asset. Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and the reduction of the outstanding lease liability using the effective interest method. The related obligations, net of future finance charges, are included in creditors.

Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

(n) Employee benefits

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

The charity operates a defined contribution plan for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are expensed as they become payable.

(o) Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

1. **Summary of accounting policies [Continued]**

(p) VAT

The charity is partially exempt for VAT purposes. VAT for partial exemption which is not allowed in the year is written off to the Statement of Financial Activities.

(q) Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the future outlook reflects the opportunities that have arisen as a result of our ability to support the communities we serve as we emerge from Covid-19. Whilst the Trustees acknowledge the net current liabilities position of £314,355 is a challenging basis on which to enter into post Covid-19 recovery, we are confident that our core business can respond to the transitioning period, bolstered by our embedded social impacts in action.

Our day to day activities that provide much needed services in support of our charitable aims to educate women and drive social and economic advancement have emerged as more valuable than previously recognised. During this pandemic, we have strengthened our work within our community as we are directly aligned to those who need us most. We are able to provide responsive and bespoke support to women, families and the BAME community that are impactful and immediate and funders are investing in organisations that are delivering social value though their day to day trading operations, activities and interventions, rather than through one off projects.

Funders have seen the value of organisations working with particular communities during Covid-19. We are rooted in the local community and have access to people who have been disadvantaged through this pandemic. Our learners and employees, a high proportion of which are women, part of the BAME community and those who experience social deprivation are even more at risk of mental ill health and cultural inequalities. Blackburne House have responded at speed with interventions that reach those people most in need and provided funders with the networks and reach to make a difference. We have successfully contracted to provide that support post Covid19 and we anticipate this will translate into long term, substantial contracts with significant interventions.

The trustees have reviewed the plans and consider that the budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern and remain confident that core business is sustainable in the long term.

2. Income from donations and legacies	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Donations	5,834	-	-	5,834	11,847
	5,834	-	-	5,834	11,847

All of the above income in 2023 was attributable to unrestricted funds.

3. Income from charitable activities	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Nursery income	363,683	-	-	363,683	364,644
Café Bar income	239,322	-	-	239,322	221,489
Rent receivable	227,872	-	-	227,872	115,587
Events	140,642	-	-	140,642	102,720
Car park income	35,719	-	-	35,719	30,826
Clatterbridge café	425,693	-	-	425,693	387,222
Wellness Centre	18,309	-	-	18,309	29,957
Grants receivable:					
People's Postcode Lottery	-	-	-	-	27,083
Liverpool City Council - Public Health Domestic Abuse Mental Health	-	-	-	-	8,449
Liverpool City Council - Clinically Extremely Vulnerable People Grant	-	-	-	-	64,571
Big Issue Invest SESF	-	-	-	-	40,917
The National Garden Scheme	-	1,885	-	1,885	1,118
Other	1,078	-	-	1,078	1,009
	1,452,318	1,885	-	1,454,203	1,395,592

Of the above income in the prior year, £1,253,454 was attributable to unrestricted funds, and £142,138 was attributable to restricted funds.

4. Income from investments	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Interest received on cash deposits	-	-	-	-	1

All of the above income in 2023 was attributable to unrestricted funds.

5. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Nursery	313,529	148,193	461,722	398,792
Wellness Centre	41,407	8,229	49,636	87,288
Cafe	425,724	97,519	523,243	504,239
Events	27,893	57,309	85,202	51,142
Projects and Business Development	48,182	-	48,182	(23,818)
Building management	97,728	107,408	205,136	163,234
Clatterbridge café	169,975	173,461	343,436	256,494
Other	-	2,816	2,816	42,633
	1,124,438	594,935	1,719,373	1,480,004

Of the above costs £1,656,066 (2023 £1,276,272) were attributable to unrestricted funds, £25,250 (2023 £165,675) were attributable to restricted funds, and £38,057 (2023 £38,057) were attributable to endowment funds.

6. Allocation of support costs	2024 £	2023 £
Management salaries	165,275	157,498
Premises costs	161,974	171,083
Office costs	76,486	73,494
Depreciation	70,856	84,682
Professional	49,188	649
Other	57,184	39,035
Governance costs (see note 7)	13,972	14,171
	594,935	540,612

7. Governance costs	2024 £	2023 £
Audit and accountancy fees	13,972	14,171

8. Staff costs and employee benefits	2024 £	2023 £
The aggregate payroll costs were:		
Wages and salaries	787,029	703,268
Social security costs	54,013	44,785
Other pension costs	19,291	18,057
	860,333	766,110
Recharged salaries (net)	84,781	(30,000)
	945,114	736,110

8. Staff costs and employee benefits [Continued]

	2024	2023
Particulars of employees:	£	£
The average number of staff employed by the Charity during the financial year amounted to:	45	43

There are no employees with emoluments above £60,000.

9. Trustees' and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

No remuneration was paid to the trustees during the year for their services as trustees (2023 £Nil) nor were any expenses reimbursed (2023 £Nil).

The total amount of employee remuneration received by key management personnel including recharges is £65,964 (2023 £67,800).

The charity considers its key management personnel to comprise the Executive Director of Operations. The CEO role is a shared resource between Blackburne House and its sister company, Women's Technology Training Limited. There is an annual recharge to Women's Technology Training Limited each year in connection with this resource.

10. Net income/(expenditure) for the year

	2024	2023
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Staff pension contributions	19,291	18,057
Depreciation	70,856	84,682
Auditors' remuneration - as auditors	13,972	14,171

11. Auditor's remuneration

	2024	2023
	£	£
Fees payable to the charity's auditor for the audit of the charity's annual accounts	13,972	14,171

12. Taxation

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

13. Interest payable and similar expenses

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other loans	4,805	6,210
Finance charge payable under finance leases	1,462	2,277
	6,267	8,487

14. Tangible fixed assets

	Building Alterations	Equipment	Fixtures & Fittings	Computers	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 August 2023	6,139,422	265,316	284,552	58,790	6,748,080
Additions	-	2,630	2,345	-	4,975
At 31 July 2024	6,139,422	267,946	286,897	58,790	6,753,055
Depreciation					
At 1 August 2023	1,307,568	230,626	264,141	58,575	1,860,910
Charge for the year	61,394	6,780	2,575	107	70,856
At 31 July 2024	1,368,962	237,406	266,716	58,682	1,931,766
Net book value					
At 31 July 2024	4,770,460	30,540	20,181	108	4,821,289
At 31 July 2023	4,831,854	34,690	20,411	215	4,887,170

Included in the net book value of equipment is £20,720 (2023 - £27,627) in respect of assets held under finance leases.

15. Stocks

	2024	2023
	£	£
Goods for resale	3,567	3,567

16. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	24,729	64,437
Prepayments	48,203	27,530
	72,932	91,967

17. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
First Ark loan	16,961	20,974
People's Postcode Lottery loan	6,936	6,732
Bounce Back loan	5,736	5,571
Trade creditors	126,206	129,304
Social security and other taxes	118,053	40,130
Obligations under finance leases	8,334	7,519
Other creditors	49,095	1,174
Accruals and deferred income	80,222	12,566
	411,543	223,970

18. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	2024	2023
	£	£
First Ark loan	-	14,358
People's Postcode Lottery loan	29,262	36,199
Bounce Back loan	29,772	35,507
Obligations under finance leases	2,211	10,545
Other creditors (see note 25)	394,286	384,431
	455,531	481,040

The finance leases are secured against the assets acquired.

On 29 March 2018 First Ark advanced the charity £120,000 repayable in monthly instalments over 6 years at a rate of interest of 8.5%.

On 20 May 2020, National Westminster Bank plc advanced the charity £50,000 under the Coronavirus Bounce Back Loan Scheme (BBLS) originally repayable over 6 years but extended to 10 years on 4 June 2021, with an interest rate of 2.5% per annum.

On 31 January 2022, People's Postcode Lottery advanced the charity £50,000 repayable in monthly instalments over 7 years at a rate of interest of 3%.

19. Loans and overdrafts

Creditors include loans which are due to be repaid as follows:	2024	2023
	£	£
Amounts payable:		
In one year or less or on demand	29,633	33,277
In more than one year but no more than two years	13,048	28,882
In more than two years but not more than five years	40,799	40,295
Over five years and payable by instalments	5,187	16,887
	88,667	119,341

20. Leases

Finance leases

Finance leases primarily relate to the purchase of kitchen equipment.

Total future minimum lease payments are as follows:	2024	2023
	£	£
Not later than one year	8,334	7,519
Later than one and not later than five years	2,211	10,545
	10,545	18,064

At 31 July 2024 the charity had future total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:	Assets other than land and buildings 2024	2023
	£	£
Within one year	52,723	40,069
Between two and five years	102,732	154,307
	155,455	194,376

21. **Endowment funds**

	As at 1 August 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	As at 31 July 2024 £
Permanent endowments:				
Property fund	2,638,647	-	(38,057)	2,600,590

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	As at 1 August 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	As at 31 July 2023 £
Permanent endowments:				
Property fund	2,676,704	-	(38,057)	2,638,647

22. **Restricted funds**

	As at 1 August 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	As at 31 July 2024 £
Liverpool City Council Nursery capital	491	-	(491)	-
Liverpool City Region - Single Investment Fund (Capital Investment)	2,188,804	-	(22,874)	2,165,930
The National Garden Scheme	-	1,885	(1,885)	-
	2,189,295	1,885	(25,250)	2,165,930

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

Restricted funds	As at 1 August 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	As at 31 July 2023 £
Liverpool City Council Nursery capital	1,154	-	(663)	491
Liverpool City Region - Single Investment Fund (Capital Investment)	2,211,678	-	(22,874)	2,188,804
People's Postcode Lottery	-	27,083	(27,083)	-
Liverpool City Council - Public Health Domestic Abuse	-	8,449	(8,449)	-
Liverpool City Council - Clinically Extremely Vulnerable People	-	64,571	(64,571)	-
BIG Issue Invest SESF	-	40,917	(40,917)	-
The National Garden Scheme	-	1,118	(1,118)	-
	2,212,832	142,138	(165,675)	2,189,295

23. Unrestricted funds

	As at 1 August 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	As at 31 July 2024 £
General fund	(517,203)	1,458,152	(1,656,066)	(715,117)

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	As at 1 August 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	As at 31 July 2023 £
General fund	(506,233)	1,265,302	(1,276,272)	(517,203)

24. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current liabilities £	Creditors due after one year £	Total £
Endowment fund	2,600,590	-	-	2,600,590
Restricted fund	2,165,930	-	-	2,165,930
Unrestricted funds	54,769	(314,355)	(455,531)	(715,117)
	4,821,289	(314,355)	(455,531)	4,051,403

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current liabilities £	Creditors due after one year £	Total £
Endowment fund	2,638,647	-	-	2,638,647
Restricted fund	2,189,295	-	-	2,189,295
Unrestricted funds	59,228	(95,391)	(481,040)	(517,203)
	4,887,170	(95,391)	(481,040)	4,310,739

25. Related party transactions

Blackburne House is related to Women's Technology Training Limited by virtue of common directors and influence. Both these charities operate from the same Registered Office. During the year Blackburne House charged Women's Technology Limited £312,720 for rent and services (2023 £142,372), £Nil (2023 £Nil) for childcare and other administration, project costs £53,106 (2023 £372,942). During the year Women's Technology Training Limited charged Blackburne House £49,938 (2023 £34,656) for management and administration costs and was refunded £16,912 (2023 £5,916) in relation to overstated childcare costs.

The above exclude VAT on vatable items.

At the year-end Blackburne House owed Women's Technology Training Limited £437,094 (2023 £384,431). On 31 July 2023 the trustees entered into a formal agreement to repay the loan in equal monthly instalments.

26. Pension scheme contributions

The charity operates a defined contributions pension scheme for its employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions paid by the charity to the defined contribution scheme which amounted to £19,291 (2023 £18,057).

27. Deferred income

	Under 1 year	2024	2023
	£	£	£
At 1 August 2023	1,885	1,885	110,256
Additions	10,303	10,303	1,885
Amounts released to income	(1,885)	(1,885)	(110,256)
At 31 July 2024	10,303	10,303	1,885

Income has been deferred when it is received in advance of the period to which it relates or where performance of the activities to which it relates have not yet been undertaken.

28. Company limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

On winding up of the company each member will contribute £1.

29. Capital commitments

There are no capital commitments as at 31st July 2024 (2023 £Nil).

30. Reconciliation of net (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities	2024 £	2023 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the year	(259,336)	(72,564)
Interest receivable	-	(1)
Interest payable	6,267	8,487
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	70,856	84,682
Decrease in stock	-	87
(Increase) in debtors	19,035	(4,583)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	200,257	(38,874)
Net cash flow from operating activities	37,079	(22,766)
Cash and cash equivalent consists of:		
Cash at bank	17,059	29,029
Cash in hand	3,630	4,016
	20,689	33,045

31. Analysis of changes in net debt	Balance at 1st August 2023 £	Cashflows £	Non-cash Changes £	Balance at 31st July 2024 £
Long term borrowings	(86,064)	-	27,030	(59,034)
Short term borrowings	(33,277)	30,674	(27,030)	(29,633)
Obligations under finance leases	(18,064)	7,519	-	(10,545)
Total liabilities	(137,405)	38,193	-	(99,212)
Cash and cash equivalent	33,045	(12,356)	-	20,689
Total net debt	(104,360)	25,837	-	(78,523)

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

England & Wales - Charity number 1010546

Accounts

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

(Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

for the year ended
31 July 2023

Company Registration Number 2674432
Charity Number 1010546

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Accounts
Year ended 31 July 2023

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BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Members of the Board and Professional Advisors
Year ended 31 July 2023

Registered charity name	Blackburne House
Company number	2674432
Charity number	1010546
The Board of Trustees	Liz Cross (Chair) Sally-Anne Watkiss Annette Hennessy Therese Patten (resigned 30/11/22) Kate Fox (resigned 29/09/22) Claire Dixon Nina Roberts Humaira Khan Ngunan Adamu (appointed 23/02/23) Lynda Brady (appointed 23/02/23)
Company secretary	Jennifer Lawson
Chief executive	Anne McColl (resigned 05/12/22) Andrea Rushton (appointed Interim CEO 01/12/22) Andrea Rushton (appointed CEO 08/03/23)
Registered office	Blackburne House Blackburne Place Off Hope Street Liverpool L8 7PE
Statutory Auditor	Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited Accountants Registered Auditor 3rd Floor 5 Temple Square Temple Street Liverpool L2 5RH
Bankers	National Westminster Bank Plc 2 - 8 Church Street Liverpool L1 3BG
Solicitors	MSB Solicitors Ltd Silkhouse Court Tithebarn Street Liverpool L2 2LZ

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 July 2023

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their annual report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland published October 2019".

Trustees

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Liz Cross (Chair)	Humaira Khan
Kate Fox (resigned 29/09/22)	Claire Dixon
Sally-Anne Watkiss	Therese Patten (resigned 30/11/22)
Annette Hennessy	Nina Roberts
Ngunan Adamu (appointed 23/02/23)	Lynda Brady (appointed 23/02/23)

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

None of the trustees receive remuneration or other benefits for their work as trustees of the charity. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity with a company must be disclosed to the full Board of Trustees in the same way as any contractual relationship with a related party.

Objectives of the Charity

The charity's objects and its principal activity continue to be to advance education and to relieve need by providing or assisting in the provision of vocational training for women and by providing guidance for such of them, as are in need, calculated to enable them to earn their own living. To promote any charitable purpose and in particular charitable purposes directed to the advancement of women's education and the provision of training facilities for women.

Public Benefit

When planning our activities for the year, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and in particular the specific guidance on charities with other purposes currently recognised as charitable and any new charitable purpose which are similar to other charitable purpose.

We are an equal opportunities organisation and are committed to a working environment that is free from any form of discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or disability in line with the Equalities Act 2010.

It is a priority of the organisation that access to our services is not restricted to those who can afford our fees. Our concessionary fee policy contributes to the widening of access to the courses we offer and the facilities we provide.

The trustees have had due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit and in particular the supplementary guidance on public benefit and fee charging.

About Blackburne House

Women's Technology Training Limited, our founder and sister company (known as Blackburne House Education) was established in 1983 with the aim of progressing women from disadvantaged backgrounds into employment within technical professions – an area in which, at the time, women were significantly under-represented.

Strategic Report

The organisation grew quickly and considerably and, in 1991 we moved into new premises in Liverpool's famous Georgian Quarter. More than £4m was raised in order to breathe new life back into Blackburne House and the beautiful, Grade II-listed building that was once the home of the first Girls' School in the country then became our new home.

After more than 30 years' service we received local, national and international recognition for the work that we do in education and in June 2015 were granted Freedom of the City in recognition for our services in Education for Women across Liverpool and the wider Merseyside area.

Today, Blackburne House Education is a vibrant and thriving organisation. Over the years, through Blackburne House, we have established several successful social enterprises that succeed in supporting our educational aims and provide tangible examples of how new markets can be used to serve local communities.

Attracting thousands of visitors each year, our facilities now include a bistro, café, wellness and counselling centre, conference and events facilities, a 36-place nursery and a robust project portfolio.

In operating our social businesses, our social purpose, and the social value we create is key to all of the activities undertaken at Blackburne House. All our contributions enable us to deliver outstanding educational and economic opportunities for women from across the city, who view Blackburne House as a safe place to access learning and personal development.

Feedback from our learners and customers has proven that, by offering a range of educational opportunities with a unique wrap around structure, women across the city go on to access higher education and employment, becoming role models for their family and friends. Blackburne House is key to the economic activity of many women, and this can only be achieved as our social enterprises generate income, provide real life work experience for our learners as well as creating local employment opportunities and far reaching social impact.

Our Vision and Values

Our vision is to educate and upskill women so that they can pursue professions in every sector and at every level, to give confidence to the women we work with, so that they can go on to live independent lives, believe in their dreams and achieve their ambitions. We want to inspire our women to believe that anything is possible, to instill a culture of empathy and understanding; of inclusion and acceptance and to overcome racism, prejudice, discrimination, and adversity, creating a positive and holistic environment where women can share, learn and grow.

Our social enterprises provide an enterprising approach to teaching and learning. Enterprise encourages people to learn and develop in a way that meets their needs and develops skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. The world is changing rapidly, and people need to be prepared. They need to have the skills and attitudes to cope with an unpredictable future, to be able to deal with setbacks and disappointments in a positive way and to continue to learn for the rest of their lives. Whenever possible, we utilise the resources across the whole of Blackburne House to provide our learners with real life opportunities to enhance their development and support them to become more influential in their own lives and that of others.

We have a core set of values that are embedded into everything that we do. Those values are integral to our organisation, helping to define our long-term aims and objectives and influence the way we work.

Inspiration
We provide the highest possible quality of inspirational education and development – and our teaching and working methods and our services and environment reflect this relentless commitment.

Transformation
We believe in using creative working methods to develop new and innovative ways of fulfilling and exceeding our financial, social, and environmental aims - renewing and transforming our business and helping us to touch and transform the lives of everyone who works with Blackburne House.

Equality
Blackburne House is and has always been about holistic approaches to improving the lives of women – all women. We constantly build on the diversity and range of our services including support and education services for children and men, where these will contribute to improving the lives of women.

Independence
As well as helping our students and service users to develop their own independence, our charitable and commercial activities all operate to continuously improving business standards – to deliver the independence of Blackburne House.

Activities, achievements, and performance

The principal activity of Blackburne House is to provide support structures to its sister organisation, Blackburne House Education. Blackburne House has a range of social business areas, and each business area is driven by our values. In addition to this, our project portfolio provides unique and bespoke wrap around services to enhance wellness and learning opportunities. A summary of the performance of each of these businesses is given below:

The Bistro

The prime aim of our Bistro is to provide students, staff, conference attendees and a broad range of customers with value for money, nutritional meals in a relaxed and welcoming environment. As a bistro that champions social values our 'Buy Social' agenda is something that we consciously operate within every day, and we are proud of the social impact we make in so many ways:

- We serve quality, affordable, healthy, and nutritious food, cooked from scratch every day.
- We subsidise the cost of meals to staff and students to ensure our people are never hungry and are fully nourished to enable them to achieve the best possible personal results.
- We use fresh produce each day, of which over 90% is purchased from local suppliers and social enterprises.
- We provide good quality jobs at a fair wage and employment and training opportunities for many women who are furthest from the labour market.
- We provide volunteer and employment opportunities for people with learning difficulties and disabilities.
- We use fair trade products, and all of our disposables are biodegradable.

We are passionate about the quality of our food and service and the impact we have in the local community. We take pride that all our actions make a positive impact, not only on the education of women, but to the environment and the lives of people we employ and throughout our supply chain.

The Café @ Clatterbridge

Despite previous significant challenges and delays we successfully opened the Café in the Liverpool Clatterbridge Cancer Hospital. We provide catering for visitors, staff and patients, enabling Key Workers to access healthy nutritional meals this also helps generate additional income to the Catering portfolio at Blackburne House in supporting our charitable objectives.

The hospital Trust particularly wanted to work with providers rooted in the Liverpool community, supporting local staff and local suppliers. This provided an opportunity for growth and economies of scale within our Catering Portfolio to ensure we could scale up our hospitality turnover through another outlet for future growth and sustainability.

Conference and Events

Blackburne House offers a variety of flexible rooms and spaces to host conferences, events, private functions, exhibitions, and development activities. We pride ourselves on being able to offer a welcoming conferencing and events service within a magnificent Grade II listed building.

Dating back to 1744, Blackburne House retains its original charm and style offering a venue with a difference. The very nature and versatility of the building enabled Blackburne House to navigate 2023 Conferencing and Events industry trends which saw event's organisers wanting smaller sized rooms and event delegates wanting events spaces with a casual atmosphere, quality food and drink as well as space for networking and break out rooms.

As people started to experience virtual fatigue, we saw an increase in demand for room hire along with equipment to support hybrid events. The ability to host hybrid events is predicted to be an industry trend in 2024 and one which Blackburne House must be able to meet if it is to remain competitive in the marketplace.

This year we have continued to work with the Visit Hope Street CIC stakeholder group and have become a BID Levy Payer as the Hope Street area becomes a BID (Business Improvement District) which is a designate zone (BID Area) which will benefit from a wide range of additional services over and above those funded through the standard commercial rates and council services.

Next year, Conferencing & Events Industry trends are expected to focus upon:

- **Sustainability,** with customers choosing venue with a more environmentally friendly footprint.
- **Social Responsibil**ity. As a social enterprise, Blackburne House must be bold in how promotes its purpose, social impact, and unique value proposition.
- **Accessibility & Inclusion** considerations to ensure that we make people feel welcome, valued, and included. As an organisation Blackburne House must consider a spectrum of solutions such as the use of Quiet Rooms, accessible room layouts, and appropriate audio-visual equipment.
- The use of **technology** and how it can enhance both user and events booking and planning experiences.
- **Wellbeing** meaning that the Wellness Centre can provide tailored offers to Conference and Events customers.

Nursery

Our 36-place nursery, from babies to 5-year-olds, provides high quality and innovative childcare that enhances the opportunities and lives of children, parents and families locally. We continue to be a key support structure for our students and the wider community by offering affordable and attainable childcare. We provide early learning interventions for funded 2, 3- and 4-year-olds to ensure they have the opportunity to access a childcare environment and support their development to become school ready. We continue to offer the government 30 hours funded places for 3- and 4-year-olds, tax free childcare, in addition to 15 hours funded places for 2-year-olds.

At our last Ofsted inspection was Jan 23, we were rated Good. The inspectors commended our staff and how they use their qualifications, knowledge, and skills to assess children's progress and to plan activities that reflect children's stages of development and interests.

We have now extended learning from indoors to our new outdoor sensory provision which offers children who do not have access to outdoors the opportunity to do so in a safe and controlled environment.

We pride ourselves on providing a diverse and rich multicultural environment where our children come from as many as 12 different nationalities. Children can speak Spanish as part of their learning in both preschool rooms. All our direct childcare staff are qualified to Level 3 or more and one member of staff has a degree in Early Years & childhood studies.

Nursery [Continued]
By working in close partnership with parents and carers we ensure all the child's needs are met and supported. We use a software app called Famly in which we share observations, photographs, a live news feed for up-to-date information and any free advice, support or training for parent, carers or for extended family members who may not live in the same country.

As a charitable social enterprise, we give our children and local families the best possible life chances by:

- Offering subsidised childcare for our students and providing free meals where food poverty impacts a child's ability to learn and develop. Catering for children`s dietary requirements or sensory needs.
- Delivering a holistic approach to parental and carer advice and support, guiding them through complex issues and concerns.
- Empowering mums to go back into work.
- Providing more flexible, short term funded places to support parents and carers in need of respite.
- Delivering children's workshops to develop new experiences and skills e.g., Spanish Lessons. Supporting children with special educational needs, which included speech and language therapy, behaviour and sensory support.
- We retain SEND children when mainstream school places are deferred when not conducive to their individual needs or if no places at specialist provision are available. This provides consistency and routine for the children and family.
- Providing free nursery education places for two, three & 4-year-olds from the most disadvantaged families.
- Events celebrating parents and carers with their children.
- Holding our 5-year-old graduation ceremonies to celebrate the children's development and school readiness.

Many of our children experience Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) and we recognize that Covid has been significant and remains an issue for the development of some children.

Wellness and Counselling Centre
Formerly known as The Health Place, our on-site space has been re-positioned and repurposed to become a dedicated Wellness and Counselling Centre. There remains significant mental health decline amongst women and so we responded to this through accessing funding support for wellness and counselling services, building on the program of counselling interventions and wellness services we had begun at the start of the pandemic and scaling up the level of services we offer to meet the increasing demand. We are currently providing both a funded and commercial offer for individuals and organisations. For this period, we have supported in excess of 650 women with our funded counselling and wellness interventions.

We have recruited a team of Counsellors all who are generalists and have knowledge and experience in areas such as domestic abuse, trauma and anxiety and our funders have recognised the vital role our services have played in the lives of women in our community. Developing 1-2-1 and group services delivered by counsellors and wellness practitioners. The more recent service developments include support for women who experience menopause and long covid.

A further development is via our 'Education Through Enterprise' model, by linking education more closely to the commercial enterprise. We now provide level 4 student counsellors who require 100hrs clinical practice a placement with supervision to gain their full qualification. We have recognized that there is a lack of diversity within the counsellor base, so we have recruited 50% of the learners from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds. This allows us to reach more women in need of mental health support whilst enabling student counsellors to qualify and become economically active.

Our recent social accounts show that our social return on investment for all activities are £1: £51.96.

As we move forward, we have developed the Wellness and Counselling Centre to become part of the core services of Blackburne House, making a significant social impact and becoming a vital part of our broader portfolio.

Safeguarding

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our students and expect all of our staff, trustees and volunteers to share this commitment. Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults continue to be important to the organisation, and we take seriously our duty to comply with the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, Education Act 2002 and Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 and The Board of Trustees and staff have undertaken training in this area and continually review our performance and ability to adapt and respond.

Our Board and the Education & Quality Committee closely monitor our policies and procedures and the organisation has an appointed a Board Safeguarding Lead, a Designated Safeguarding Officer and three four Safeguarding Officers.

We have continued to update our safeguarding policies and action plan in line with our activities.

Projects and Business Development

Developing new contracts to build on our strategic aims is an important part of the sustainability of our organisation. As a charity and social enterprise operating in a Grade II listed building, the revenue we gain through projects and grant funding is essential in support of organizational sustainability due to the contribution to core costs whilst delivering strong social impact to our recipients and partners. During this period, we have received funding from:

- The Peoples Postcode Lottery- wellness interventions
- Liverpool City Council Commissions- Long Covid and Domestic Abuse
- Social Enterprise Support Fund – wellness interventions
- National Garden Scheme – capital improvements
- Health Education England- student placements, The Wellness Centre

We are active in developing our products and services that enrich our portfolio and are aligned to our strategic aims and values and we operate within the following arenas:

1. Health & Wellbeing – Female Health, Mental Health, Loneliness & Social Isolation, Wellbeing & Resilience programs for women and families.
2. Environmental & Cultural - A blend of programs focused on positive environmental outcomes to enhance the green economy, local biodiversity, and the adverse effects of climate change, in addition to cultural programs including inclusion and equality and maintaining the integrity of our historical asset and archives.
3. Education & Employment - Career support, Access to Work, Personal Development, Lifestyle Courses and non-accredited courses.
4. Business - Business and personal development for Entrepreneurship, Leadership, Coaching and Mentoring and business start-up and scale up.

Our plans for the future

Blackburne House has a portfolio of businesses and projects that complement our core values in supporting the advancement of education and vocational training for women. Our strength is in our diversity as this means we have a variety of great assets and opportunities to maximise our full potential.

Through new strategic partnerships, we can provide responsive and bespoke support to women, families and the Black Asian & Minority Ethnic community that are more impactful and immediate. This will enable us to drive our trading and contracted services to a place of strength and sustainability for future scale and much needed social and economic impact.

Going forward we plan to focus our plans and strategic development on:

- We have secured funding for our Wellness and Counselling Centre, which supports our aim to establish this as one of the core service provisions in Blackburne House. We will continue to build and grow the program of wellbeing services to ensure we can continue to provide much needed support to tackle mental ill-health in our local community and provide local businesses and the public with a centrally located, welcoming destination for on-site counselling services and wellness activities. We have been contracted by local authority to provide counselling services for specialist mental health areas as well as secured additional funds to gear up the commercial aspects of the provision.

  Alongside Blackburne House Education, we will support learners will mental health counselling services, helping them to remove obstacles to learning. Blackburne House Wellness and Counselling Centre will also play a vital role in providing an environment for newly qualified Level 4 counsellors to access clinical counselling placements to complete their professional status, increasing the number of diverse qualified counsellors in the city to help to meet the increasing demand for mental health services.

  The Education Team in Blackburne House Education will deliver an increased program of counselling courses so the Wellness Centre can provide pathways to employment as Blackburne House learners both gain qualifications and experience in their chosen skill area. Through creating counselling roles, this will be an important employment pathway, particularly for BAME learners, so that service users can access support from professionals from their own community and culture. This is a unique offer that has made a significant social impact and is a vital part of our broader portfolio The Wellness and Counselling Centre will offer services to over 1,000 women over the coming year, supported through both grant and paid-for services of wellness and counselling and we will continue to work with strategic partners and funders to access finance to support the growth required in this sector to combat mental health inequalities.

- Although there were significant challenges to the start of the Liverpool Clatterbridge Cancer Centre catering outlet due to Covid, our offering at the hospital has been extremely well received and continues to grow. We have experienced higher turnover levels as the hospital opened up to visitors and increased hospital footfall. We continue to receive positive feedback from customers and Trust management and Blackburne House has an additional platform to promote the charity and raise our profile in the local community. We are delighted that patients and customers value the opportunity to access fresh, seasonal and nutritious food from a local social enterprise who can continue to tailor and adapt to their needs. We are encouraged that this model delivers significant benefits for both the Trust and Blackburne House and have created a successful trading model and will look for opportunities to replicate this at other suitable sites.

- Continuing to deliver our vital Nursery services to clients and learners and within this period received the news that via HSBS we gained significant capital funds to refurbish the outside play area for work to begin in the next financial year. This investment will benefit those children that require additional SEND support through the sensory elements as well as for those children that due to living in areas of high deprivation don't have access to safe and stimulating outside play areas.

Our plans for the future [Continued]

- We have identified our conference and events as a growth area by developing local partnerships to increase the external customer usage of our spaces and this income stream. Through building our own program of events we will generate income and raise the profile of the charity. Our historic building has a unique style and customer experience with catering provided through our social enterprise bistro. More and more organisations are becoming more socially minded and identify the social value of supporting charity venues for their own conference and events.

- We aim to grow our projects portfolio, supporting local community programs and working with local stakeholders in Visit Hope Street CIC to identify projects whereby Blackburne House can continue to be positioned as one of the most vital social enterprise charities in the city.

- Our Catering division continues to increase trading levels and provide an opportunity for increased employment and development of staff skills while providing students with subsidised meals to support their learning and our local neighbours and community who have supported Blackburne House and continue to promote our quality of food services throughout the city.

The Board will continue to review our plans and shape the business so that we can focus our efforts on mission led, sustainable portfolios that support the vision to empower women. As an organisation with such proven track record, depth and reputation in the local community, with a blend of services that have been able to adapt to local priorities, we are well positioned to strengthen our organisation and continue to serve the women of Liverpool and the local community.

Financial review

The trustees' financial responsibilities include the solvency of the organisation, safeguarding the assets of the organisation and approving the annual budget to set financial objectives, which are quantifiable targets against which we can measure achievement. To assist us in achieving these objectives monthly management accounts are produced and discussed at Executive Leadership Team meetings. A formal cycle of reporting of management accounts has been established and includes bi-monthly meetings with both the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee (FA&RC) and the trustees. The FA&RC continually reviews the reporting mechanisms in place to ensure risk management and financial planning is developed and enhances the opportunities of the organisation. The FA&RC, under powers delegated to it by the trustees, regulate and control the finances of the organisation.

We have continued with the increased frequency of meetings and reporting to FA&RC to ensure that we managed and mitigated risks.

- Engaged more frequently with our bankers Natwest and Lenders.
- Enhanced cashflow management and reporting to review weekly along with extended forecasting.
- Instigated finance repayment holidays for loan and lease repayments.
- Accessed HMRC PAYE/NI payment plans with HMRC.
- Continued to work with our existing funders to agree cost of living uplifts.
- Successfully applied for support grants with strategic partners

Our Financial Performance has significantly improved since 21/22 and with broader opportunities via additional products and services, for instance, contracts gain through our Wellness Centre supporting core costs and economies of scale through Clatterbridge.

Financial review [Continued]

We are reporting a net expenditure for the year of £72,564 in the year (2022: £160,486 net expenditure) which is stated after depreciation and endowment release costs of £84,682.

We continue to review our strategic plans with our trading ability focusing on sustainability and mission. The financial projections for the remaining part of 2023/24 have been prepared, considering the opportunities to strengthen our offer through strategic partnerships. They reflect our ability to adapt to the landscape in a strong and progressive manner in support of our learners and community. The trustees are confident that we have an ongoing viable business model, and they remain optimistic about the future and our ability to navigate the short-term challenges and trade back up to sustainable levels in the longer term.

Remuneration of key management personnel

The trustees consider the Chief Executive and the Senior Management Team to be the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

It is the charity's policy to pay staff at rates reflecting the local market and in line with similar organisations.

Reserves policy

The organisation's reserve policy has been reviewed in line with guidance from the Charity Commission. It is the policy of the organisation to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the organisation at a level, which equates to three months liquidity requirements. The trustees have reviewed the value of reserves required and have set the desired value of the reserves at £300,000 (2022 £150,000) to reflect current level of overheads as the business grows. This provides sufficient funds to cover management, administration, and support costs for the development of our principal activities to enable us to provide a high-quality service to our stakeholders.

The organisation has not been able to achieve a surplus this year to improve the reserves position but is committed to continual improvement to reverse the negative reserves in future years. The trustees recognise that our negative unrestricted reserves position reflects the fact that we are a trading business rather than grant funded. We have invested our traded income into jobs, services, and strategic aims consistently over our many years in existence, responding to our communities needs and adapting to strengthen our social impact and services. The trustees continue to monitor the situation and have reviewed and agreed the strategy and priorities that align to this objective as we move forward.

Risk policy

The trustees are responsible for overseeing the risks faced by the organisation. Detailed considerations of risks are delegated to the Senior Management Team. Risks are identified and controls established throughout the year. All significant activities undertaken are subject to a risk review. Systems have been established to mitigate the risks and the Senior Management Team regularly reviews the risks and takes any action identified, with strategic oversight from the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

Investment powers and restrictions

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the charity has the power, to invest or deposit funds in any manner only after obtaining advice from a financial expert and having regard to the suitability of investments and the need for diversification.

The trustees, having regard to the liquidity requirements of operating the charity and to the reserves policy, do not consider it necessary to invest in a portfolio of investments, but instead have operated a policy of keeping available funds in an interest-bearing deposit account and seek to achieve a rate of deposit interest which matches or exceeds inflation as measured by the retail price index.

Invested funds are held on deposit in a high interest savings account for use as and when necessary.

Environmental policy

The Board of Trustees and senior managers of Blackburne House are committed to the objectives of sustainable development and to achieving environmental best practice through all business activities, wherever practical to do so. We accept an active and practical leadership in respect of environmental management is a business function and that a concerted approach must be adopted to prevent pollution minimise waste and achieve continual improvement in environmental performance.

Blackburne House is committed to a structured approach to the management of its activities, ensuring it complies with or exceeds applicable environmental legal requirements and all other relevant requirements and recognised best practices which are related to our environmental aspects.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

Blackburne House is a charitable company limited by guarantee (No. 2674432), incorporated in England on 30 December 1991 and registered as a charity (No. 1010546) on 15 April 1992. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. On winding up of the company each member will contribute £1.

Organisation

Each of the organisation's business areas and social enterprises has been organised to support our learners they financially contribute to and facilitate the growth and development of the organisation's resources.

The Board of Trustees administer the charity. The Board meets bi-monthly and there are sub-committees covering Finance & Resources and Education & Quality.

A Chief Executive (CEO) is appointed by the trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters including finance and to provide strategic direction for Blackburne House ensuring that its policies, systems, products and services are continually focused on achieving the organisation's mission, including social, environmental and commercial objectives. The CEO leads business planning for all aspects of the service provision ensuring it fits with the strategic direction, local priorities and to champion high performance in line with the organisations values to ensure the sustainability of the group.

Blackburne House runs several award-winning social enterprises and those businesses are values based and committed to having a positive social and environmental impact on the communities we serve.

We are undertaking a governance review, with a view to exploring a group structure. This is due to our social enterprises being a key part of our strategy in supporting our charitable aims. Whilst waiting to conclude this review we have established an Enterprise Committee to oversee our income generating work and to ensure the Board oversees this in the context of our charitable responsibilities.

The Management Team

Day to day management of the charity is delegated to the senior managers. The current team is: -

A Rushton - Chief Executive

Trustee appointment, induction and training

The Board adopt a strategic approach to trustee recruitment and when appropriate all vacancies are advertised within the community to attract trustees to serve on its board and also invite trustees to nominate prior to the AGM.

All members are circulated with invitations to nominate trustees prior to the AGM advising them of the retiring trustees and requesting nominations for the AGM. When considering co-opting trustees, the Board has regard to the requirements for any specialist skillset and competency needed that would enhance the organisation's ability to deliver on its strategic goals. Board members come from a variety of backgrounds, and it is this variety that adds value to the organisation. However, we recognise that our expectations are high and the demands we place on the Board are considerable, therefore we feel that it is important to support all Board Members with the training and development they need to complement and supplement their current skills and competencies.

The induction program aims to give the new member an understanding of the work of Blackburne House Education and to help recognise how they can make a significant contribution to the organisation during their term of office. New trustees undergo an orientation program to brief them on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the contents of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes and recent financial performance of the charity. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events and internal training and briefings where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Related Charities

Blackburne House is related to Women's Technology Training Limited by virtue of common directors, influence and shared resources.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors 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. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they 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 2019 (FRS 102).
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Trustees' statement of disclosure of information to the auditors

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirm in so far as they are aware: -

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

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

Auditors

A resolution for the re-appointment of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Approval

In approving the Trustees' Annual Report, we also approve the Strategic Report included therein in our capacity as company directors.

SIGNED BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES

Registered office:
Blackburne House
Blackburne Place
Off Hope Street
Liverpool L8 7PE

Liz Cross
CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Approved by the trustees on 25 March 2024

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited

Accountants

5 Temple Square . Temple Street . Liverpool . L2 5RH

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Blackburne House for the year ended 31 July 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Blackburne House (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 July 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 July 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Material uncertainty related to going concern

We draw attention to note 1(q) in the financial statements, which highlights the fact that there is a net current liability position of £95,391 and a deficit on unrestricted funds of £517,203. Whilst these conditions indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, note 1(q) provides a full explanation of the circumstances surrounding this. Our opinion is not qualified in respect of this matter.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in strategic report and the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 require us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the financial statements is inconsistent in any material respect with the trustees' report; or
- the charitable company has not kept adequate accounting records; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on pages 12 - 13, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance;
- the charitable company's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- the results of our enquiries of management and members of the Board of Trustees of their own identification of and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charitable company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
- identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:

(i) The presentation of the charitable company's Statement of Financial Activities, (ii) revenue recognition, and (iii) the overstatement of salary and other costs. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice - 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued by the joint SORP making body .

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included Safeguarding, Data Protection and food hygiene regulations.

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified the presentation of the charitable company's Statement of Financial Activities, revenue recognition and overstatement of wages and other costs as the key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud. The key audit matters section of our report explains the matters in more detail and also describes the specific procedures we performed in response to those key audit matters.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and members of the Board of Trustees concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant authorities where matters identified were significant; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. The risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Philip Griffiths

Mr Philip Griffiths
Senior Statutory Auditor

25 March 2024

On behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited
Statutory Auditor

3rd Floor
5 Temple Square
Temple Street
Liverpool
Merseyside
L2 5RH

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Statement of Financial Activities
Year ended 31 July 2023

Income from:	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Donations and legacies	2	11,847	-	-	11,847	19,525
Charitable activities	3	1,253,454	142,138	-	1,395,592	1,111,257
Investments	4	1	-	-	1	1
Other	5	-	-	-	-	24,750
Total income		1,265,302	142,138	-	1,407,440	1,155,533
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	6	(1,276,272)	(165,675)	(38,057)	(1,480,004)	(1,316,019)
Total expenditure		(1,276,272)	(165,675)	(38,057)	(1,480,004)	(1,316,019)
Net expenditure for the year	11	(10,970)	(23,537)	(38,057)	(72,564)	(160,486)
Total funds brought forward		(506,233)	2,212,832	2,676,704	4,383,303	4,543,789
Total funds carried forward		(517,203)	2,189,295	2,638,647	4,310,739	4,383,303

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year as set out above.

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 25 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Financial Activities [Continued]
Year ended 31 July 2023

Comparative information for the year ended 31 July 2022

Income from:	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Donations and legacies	2	19,525	-	-	19,525	145,841
Charitable activities	3	1,039,156	72,101	-	1,111,257	822,865
Investments	4	1	-	-	1	6
Other	5	24,750	-	-	24,750	-
Total income		1,083,432	72,101	-	1,155,533	968,712
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	6	(1,182,324)	(95,638)	(38,057)	(1,316,019)	(1,090,509)
Total expenditure		(1,182,324)	(95,638)	(38,057)	(1,316,019)	(1,090,509)
Net expenditure for the year	11	(98,892)	(23,537)	(38,057)	(160,486)	(121,797)
Total funds brought forward		(407,341)	2,236,369	2,714,761	4,543,789	4,665,586
Total funds carried forward		(506,233)	2,212,832	2,676,704	4,383,303	4,543,789

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year as set out above.

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 25 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Summary Income and Expenditure Account
Year ended 31 July 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Income		1,407,439	1,155,532
Interest and investment income	4	1	1
Gross income		1,407,440	1,155,533
Expenditure		1,386,835	1,236,897
Interest payable		8,487	8,245
Depreciation		84,682	70,877
Total expenditure		1,480,004	1,316,019
Net (expenditure)		(72,564)	(160,486)

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 25 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Balance Sheet
31st July 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	15		4,887,170		4,968,324
Current assets					
Stocks	16	3,567		3,654	
Debtors	17	91,967		87,384	
Cash at bank and in hand		33,045		96,977	
		128,579		188,015	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	18	(223,970)		(656,013)	
Net current liabilities			(95,391)		(467,998)
Total assets less current liabilities			4,791,779		4,500,326
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	19		(481,040)		(117,023)
Net assets			4,310,739		4,383,303
The funds of the Charity					
Endowment	22		2,638,647		2,676,704
Restricted	23		2,189,295		2,212,832
Unrestricted	24		(517,203)		(506,233)
Total funds	25		4,310,739		4,383,303

These financial statements were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 25 March 2024 and are signed on their behalf by:

Claire Dixon
Trustee

Company Registration Number: 2674432

The notes on pages 25 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Statement of Cash Flows
Year ended 31 July 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Cash flow from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	31		(22,766)		28,582
Cash flow from investing activities					
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		(3,528)		(3,815)	
Investment income received		1		1	
Net cash flow from investing activities			(3,527)		(3,814)
			(26,293)		24,768
Cash flow from financing activities					
New borrowings		-		50,000	
Repayment of loans		(24,193)		(17,598)	
Payment of obligations under finance leases		(4,959)		(6,331)	
Interest paid		(8,487)		(8,245)	
Net cash flow from financing activities			(37,639)		17,826
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			(63,932)		42,594
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 August 2022			96,977		54,383
Cash and cash equivalents as at 31 July 2023			33,045		96,977

The notes on pages 25 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

1. Summary of accounting policies

(a) General information and basis of preparation

Blackburne House is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity incorporated in England and Wales. 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 address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are set out in the Trustees' Report on page 2.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. 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 in October 2019, the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

(b) Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

The property fund is treated as a permanent endowment on the basis that the original building is not owned by the charity and the building alterations that have been carried out form a capital fund with which the charity has now power to convert the capital into income.

(c) Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

1. Summary of accounting policies [Continued]

(c) Income recognition [Continued]

Income from charitable activities includes income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to special performance conditions and is recognised as earned as the related services are provided. Grant income included in this category provides funding to support performance activities and is recognised when there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amounts can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as bank deposits. It essentially includes interest which is recognised using the effective interest method.

(d) Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes costs associated with the charity including support costs as appropriate.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the category above.

(e) Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at the charity's registered office. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 7.

(f) Capital grants

Grants received to cover the cost of building alterations and fixtures and fittings are included as restricted income and will be credited to the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis consistent with the depreciation policy.

(g) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended. Capital expenditure on equipment is written off in the period in which it is incurred if purchased from grant income. Individual assets are capitalised on the balance sheet where their cost exceeds £100.

1. **Summary of accounting policies** [Continued]

(g) Tangible fixed assets [Continued]

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Building alterations & additions	1 - 10% per annum
Computers	10 - 33% per annum
Fixtures & fittings	10 - 20% per annum
Equipment	10 - 20% per annum

Whilst historically building alterations have been depreciated at 1%, additions are not considered to have the same life and so are depreciated over 10 years.

(h) Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost includes all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other cost incurred in bringing stock to its present location and condition. Cost is calculated using the first-in, first-out formula. Provision is made for damaged, obsolete and slow-moving stock where appropriate.

(i) Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

(j) Loans and borrowings

Loans and borrowings are initially recognised at the transaction price including transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less impairment. If an arrangement constitutes a finance transaction it is measured at present value.

(k) Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

1. **Summary of accounting policies** [Continued]

(k) Financial instruments [Continued]

Basic financial liabilities
Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities
Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

(l) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

(m) Leases

Assets acquired under finance leases are capitalised and depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and the expected useful life of the asset. Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and the reduction of the outstanding lease liability using the effective interest method. The related obligations, net of future finance charges, are included in creditors.

Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

(n) Employee benefits

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

The charity operates a defined contribution plan for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are expensed as they become payable.

(o) Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

1. **Summary of accounting policies** [Continued]

(p) VAT

The charity is partially exempt for VAT purposes. VAT for partial exemption which is not allowed in the year is written off to the Statement of Financial Activities.

(q) Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the future outlook reflects the opportunities that have arisen as a result of our ability to support the communities we serve as we emerge from Covid-19. Whilst the Trustees acknowledge the net current liabilities position of £443,550 is a challenging basis on which to enter into post Covid-19 recovery, we are confident that our core business can respond to the transitioning period, bolstered by our embedded social impacts in action.

Our day to day activities that provide much needed services in support of our charitable aims to educate women and drive social and economic advancement have emerged as more valuable than previously recognised. During this pandemic, we have strengthened our work within our community as we are directly aligned to those who need us most. We are able to provide responsive and bespoke support to women, families and the BAME community that are impactful and immediate and funders are investing in organisations that are delivering social value though their day to day trading operations, activities and interventions, rather than through one off projects.

Funders have seen the value of organisations working with particular communities during Covid-19. We are rooted in the local community and have access to people who have been disadvantaged through this pandemic. Our learners and employees, a high proportion of which are women, part of the BAME community and those who experience social deprivation are even more at risk of mental ill health and cultural inequalities. Blackburne House have responded at speed with interventions that reach those people most in need and provided funders with the networks and reach to make a difference. We have successfully contracted to provide that support post Covid19 and we anticipate this will translate into long term, substantial contracts with significant interventions.

The trustees have reviewed the plans and consider that the budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern and remain confident that core business is sustainable in the long term.

2. Income from donations and legacies	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Donations	11,847	-	-	11,847	1,805
Grants receivable	-	-	-	-	17,720
	11,847	-	-	11,847	19,525

All of the above income in 2022 was attributable to unrestricted funds.

3. Income from charitable activities	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Nursery income	364,644	-	-	364,644	358,049
Café Bar income	221,489	-	-	221,489	221,896
Rent receivable	115,587	-	-	115,587	39,423
Events	102,720	-	-	102,720	102,629
Car park income	30,826	-	-	30,826	23,993
Clatterbridge café	387,222	-	-	387,222	277,222
Wellness Centre	29,957	-	-	29,957	2,795
Grants receivable:					
People's Postcode Lottery	-	27,083	-	27,083	22,917
Liverpool City Council - Public Health Domestic Abuse Mental Health	-	8,449	-	8,449	16,898
Liverpool City Council - Clinically Extremely Vulnerable People Grant	-	64,571	-	64,571	32,286
Big Issue Invest SESF	-	40,917	-	40,917	-
The National Garden Scheme	-	1,118	-	1,118	-
Other	1,009	-	-	1,009	13,149
	1,253,454	142,138	-	1,395,592	1,111,257

Of the above income in the prior year, £1,039,156 was attributable to unrestricted funds, and £72,101 was attributable to restricted funds.

4. Income from investments	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Interest received on cash deposits	1	-	-	1	1

All of the above income in 2022 was attributable to unrestricted funds.

5. Other income	Unrestricted funds	
	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Business interruption insurance claim	-	24,750

6. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Nursery	268,034	130,758	398,792	427,734
Wellness Centre	41,665	45,623	87,288	1,970
Cafe	424,815	79,424	504,239	486,295
Events	14,308	36,834	51,142	62,488
Projects and Business Development	(23,818)	-	(23,818)	(2,083)
Building management	94,606	68,628	163,234	119,860
Clatterbridge café	119,782	136,712	256,494	201,916
Other	-	42,633	42,633	17,839
	939,392	540,612	1,480,004	1,316,019

Of the above costs £1,276,272 (2022 £1,182,324) were attributable to unrestricted funds, £165,675 (2022 £95,638) were attributable to restricted funds, and £38,057 (2022 £38,057) were attributable to endowment funds.

7. Allocation of support costs	2023 £	2022 £
Management salaries	157,498	185,003
Premises costs	171,083	134,285
Office costs	73,494	57,934
Depreciation	84,682	70,877
Professional	649	6,430
Other	39,035	42,467
Governance costs (see note 8)	14,171	9,503
	540,612	506,499

8. Governance costs	2023 £	2022 £
Audit and accountancy fees	14,171	9,503

9. Staff costs and employee benefits	2023 £	2022 £
The aggregate payroll costs were:		
Wages and salaries	703,268	592,577
Social security costs	44,785	35,049
Other pension costs	18,057	14,691
	766,110	642,317
Recharged salaries (net)	(30,000)	58,283
	736,110	700,600

9. Staff costs and employee benefits [Continued]

	2023	2022
Particulars of employees:	£	£
The average number of staff employed by the Charity during the financial year amounted to:	43	41

There are no employees with emoluments above £60,000.

10. Trustees' and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

No remuneration was paid to the trustees during the year for their services as trustees (2022 £Nil) nor were any expenses reimbursed (2022 £Nil).

The total amount of employee remuneration received by key management personnel is £67,800 (2022 £57,298).

The charity considers its key management personnel to comprise the Executive Director of Operations. The CEO role is a shared resource between Blackburne House and its sister company, Women's Technology Training Limited. There is an annual recharge to Women's Technology Training Limited each year in connection with this resource.

11. Net income/(expenditure) for the year

	2023	2022
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Staff pension contributions	18,057	14,691
Depreciation	84,682	70,877
Auditors' remuneration - as auditors	14,171	9,503

12. Auditor's remuneration

	2023	2022
	£	£
Fees payable to the charity's auditor for the audit of the charity's annual accounts	14,171	9,503

13. Taxation

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

14. Interest payable and similar expenses

	2023	2022
	£	£
Other loans	6,210	5,596
Finance charge payable under finance leases	2,277	2,649
	8,487	8,245

15. Tangible fixed assets

	Building Alterations £	Equipment £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Computers £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 August 2022	6,139,422	264,186	282,154	58,790	6,744,552
Additions	-	1,130	2,398	-	3,528
At 31 July 2023	6,139,422	265,316	284,552	58,790	6,748,080
Depreciation					
At 1 August 2022	1,245,474	216,821	255,465	58,468	1,776,228
Charge for the year	62,094	13,805	8,676	107	84,682
At 31 July 2023	1,307,568	230,626	264,141	58,575	1,860,910
Net book value					
At 31 July 2023	4,831,854	34,690	20,411	215	4,887,170
At 31 July 2022	4,893,948	47,365	26,689	322	4,968,324

Included in the net book value of equipment is £27,627 (2022 - £34,534) in respect of assets held under finance leases.

16. Stocks

	2023 £	2022 £
Goods for resale	3,567	3,654

17. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	64,437	59,628
Prepayments	27,530	26,238
Other debtors	-	1,518
	91,967	87,384

18. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Obligations under finance leases	7,519	7,483
First Ark loan	20,974	29,400
People's Postcode Lottery loan	6,732	6,408
Bounce Back loan	5,571	6,243
Trade creditors	129,304	136,722
Social security and other taxes	40,130	41,184
Other creditors	1,174	304,182
Accruals and deferred income	12,566	124,391
	223,970	656,013

19. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	2023	2022
	£	£
Obligations under finance leases	10,545	15,540
First Ark loan	14,358	16,953
People's Postcode Lottery loan	36,199	42,931
Bounce Back loan	35,507	41,599
Other creditors (see note 26)	384,431	-
	481,040	117,023

The finance leases are secured against the assets acquired.

On 29 March 2018 First Ark advanced the charity £120,000 repayable in monthly instalments over 6 years at a rate of interest of 8.5%.

On 20 May 2020, National Westminster Bank plc advanced the charity £50,000 under the Coronavirus Bounce Back Loan Scheme (BBLS) originally repayable over 6 years but extended to 10 years on 4 June 2021, with an interest rate of 2.5% per annum.

On 31 January 2022, People's Postcode Lottery advanced the charity £50,000 repayable in monthly instalments over 7 years at a rate of interest of 3%.

20. Loans and overdrafts

Creditors include loans which are due to be repaid as follows:	2023	2022
	£	£
Amounts payable:		
In one year or less or on demand	33,276	42,051
In more than one year but no more than two years	40,079	28,919
In more than two years but not more than five years	40,799	37,960
Over five years and payable by instalments	5,187	34,604
	119,341	143,534

21. Leases

Finance leases

Finance leases primarily relate to the purchase of kitchen equipment.

Total future minimum lease payments are as follows:	2023	2022
	£	£
Not later than one year	7,519	7,483
Later than one and not later than five years	10,545	15,540
	18,064	23,023

At 31 July 2023 the charity had future total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:	Assets other than land and buildings 2023	2022
	£	£
Within one year	23,694	20,073
Between two and five years	29,618	45,928
	53,312	66,001

22. Endowment funds	As at 1 August 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	As at 31 July 2023 £
Permanent endowments:					
Property fund	2,676,704	-	(38,057)	-	2,638,647

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	As at 1 August 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	As at 31 July 2022 £
Permanent endowments:					
Property fund	2,714,761	-	(38,057)	-	2,676,704

23. Restricted funds	As at 1 August 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	As at 31 July 2023 £
Liverpool City Council Nursery capital	1,154	-	(663)	-	491
Liverpool City Region - Single Investment Fund (Capital Investment)	2,211,678	-	(22,874)	-	2,188,804
People's Postcode Lottery	-	27,083	(27,083)	-	-
Liverpool City Council - Public Health Domestic Abuse	-	8,449	(8,449)	-	-
Liverpool City Council - Clinically Extremely Vulnerable People	-	64,571	(64,571)	-	-
BIG Issue Invest SESF	-	40,917	(40,917)	-	-
The National Garden Scheme	-	1,118	(1,118)	-	-
	2,212,832	142,138	(165,675)	-	2,189,295

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

Restricted funds	As at 1 August 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	As at 31 July 2022 £
Liverpool City Council Nursery capital	1,817	-	(663)	-	1,154
Liverpool City Region - Single Investment Fund (Capital Investment)	2,234,552	-	(22,874)	-	2,211,678
People's Postcode Lottery	-	22,917	(22,917)	-	-
Liverpool City Council - Public Health Domestic Abuse	-	16,898	(16,898)	-	-
Liverpool City Council - Clinically Extremely Vulnerable People	-	32,286	(32,286)	-	-
	2,236,369	72,101	(95,638)	-	2,212,832

24. Unrestricted funds

	As at 1 August 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	As at 31 July 2023 £
General fund	(506,233)	1,265,302	(1,276,272)	-	(517,203)

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	As at 1 August 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	As at 31 July 2022 £
General fund	(407,341)	1,083,432	(1,182,324)	-	(506,233)

25. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current liabilities £	Creditors due after one year £	Total £
Endowment fund	2,638,647	-	-	2,638,647
Restricted fund	2,189,295	-	-	2,189,295
Unrestricted funds	59,228	(95,391)	(481,040)	(517,203)
	4,887,170	(95,391)	(481,040)	4,346,655

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current liabilities £	Creditors due after one year £	Total £
Endowment fund	2,676,704	-	-	2,676,704
Restricted fund	2,212,832	-	-	2,212,832
Unrestricted funds	78,788	(467,998)	(117,023)	(506,233)
	4,968,324	(467,998)	(117,023)	4,383,303

26. Related party transactions

Blackburne House is related to Women's Technology Training Limited by virtue of common directors and influence. Both these charities operate from the same Registered Office. During the year Blackburne House charged Women's Technology Limited £142,372 for rent and services (2022 £8,437), £Nil for childcare and related project costs (2022 £14,655) and £372,942 for other administration and project costs (2022 £66,999). During the year Women's Technology Training Limited charged Blackburne House £34,656 (2022 £85,806) for management and administration costs and was refunded £5,916 (2022 £Nil) in relation to overstated childcare costs.

The above exclude VAT on vatable items.

At the year-end Blackburne House owed Women's Technology Training Limited £384,431 (2023 £294,788). On 31 July 2023 the trustees entered into a formal agreement to repay the loan in equal monthly instalments.

27. Pension scheme contributions

The charity operates a defined contributions pension scheme for its employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions paid by the charity to the defined contribution scheme which amounted to £18,057 (2022 £14,691).

28. Deferred income

	Under 1 year	2023	2022
	£	£	£
At 1 August 2022	110,256	110,256	14,268
Additions	1,885	1,885	110,256
Amounts released to income	(110,256)	(110,256)	(14,268)
At 31 July 2023	1,885	1,885	110,256

Income has been deferred when it is received in advance of the period to which it relates or where performance of the activities to which it relates have not yet been undertaken.

29. Company limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

On winding up of the company each member will contribute £1.

30. Capital commitments

There are no capital commitments as at 31st July 2023 (2022 £Nil).

31. Reconciliation of net (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities	2023 £	2022 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the year	(72,564)	(160,486)
Interest receivable	(1)	(1)
Interest payable	8,487	8,245
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	84,682	70,877
Decrease in stock	87	916
(Increase) in debtors	(4,583)	(10,643)
(Decrease)/increase in creditors	(38,874)	119,674
Net cash flow from operating activities	(22,766)	28,582
Cash and cash equivalent consists of:		
Cash at bank	29,029	88,970
Cash in hand	4,016	8,007
	33,045	96,977

32. Analysis of changes in net debt	Balance at 1st August 2022 £	Cashflows £	Non-cash Changes £	Balance at 31st July 2023 £
Long term borrowings	(101,483)	-	15,419	(86,064)
Short term borrowings	(42,051)	24,193	(15,419)	(33,277)
Obligations under finance leases	(23,023)	4,959	-	(18,064)
Total liabilities	(166,557)	29,152	-	(137,405)
Cash and cash equivalent	96,977	(63,932)	-	33,045
Total net debt	(69,580)	(34,780)	-	(104,360)

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

England & Wales - Charity number 1010546

Accounts

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

(Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

for the year ended
31 July 2022

Company Registration Number 2674432
Charity Number 1010546

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Accounts
Year ended 31 July 2022

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BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Members of the Board and Professional Advisors
Year ended 31 July 2022

Registered charity name	Blackburne House
Company number	2674432
Charity number	1010546
The Board of Trustees	Liz Cross (Chair) Sally-Anne Watkiss Therese Patten Annette Hennessy Claire Dixon Kate Fox (resigned 29/09/22) Emma Carey (resigned 01/01/22) Nina Roberts Humaira Khan (appointed 05/04/22)
Company secretary	Helen Byrne (resigned 31/05/22) Jennifer Lawson (appointed 01/06/22)
Chief executive	Anne McColl (resigned 31/12/22) Andrea Rushton (appointed 01/01/23)
Registered office	Blackburne House Blackburne Place Off Hope Street Liverpool L8 7PE
Statutory Auditor	Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited Accountants Registered Auditor 3rd Floor 5 Temple Square Temple Street Liverpool L2 5RH
Bankers	National Westminster Bank Plc 2 - 8 Church Street Liverpool L1 3BG
Solicitors	MSB Solicitors Ltd Silkhouse Court Tithebarn Street Liverpool L2 2LZ

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 July 2022

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their annual report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland published October 2019".

Trustees

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Liz Cross (Chair)	Humaira Khan (appointed 05/04/22)
Kate Fox (resigned 29/09/22)	Claire Dixon
Sally-Anne Watkiss	Therese Patten
Emma Carey (resigned 01/01/22)	Nina Roberts
Annette Hennessy	

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

None of the trustees receive remuneration or other benefits for their work as trustees of the charity. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity with a company must be disclosed to the full Board of Trustees in the same way as any contractual relationship with a related party.

Objectives of the Charity

The charity's objects and its principal activity continue to be to advance education and to relieve need by providing or assisting in the provision of vocational training for women and by providing guidance for such of them, as are in need, calculated to enable them to earn their own living. To promote any charitable purpose and in particular charitable purposes directed to the advancement of women's education and the provision of training facilities for women.

Public Benefit

When planning our activities for the year, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and in particular the specific guidance on charities with other purposes currently recognised as charitable and any new charitable purpose which are similar to other charitable purpose.

We are an equal opportunities organisation and are committed to a working environment that is free from any form of discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or disability.

It is a priority of the organisation that access to our services is not restricted to those who can afford our fees. Our concessionary fee policy contributes to the widening of access to the courses we offer and the facilities we provide.

The trustees have had due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit and in particular the supplementary guidance on public benefit and fee charging.

About Blackburne House

Women's Technology Training Limited, our founder and sister company (known as Blackburne House Education) was established in 1983 with the aim of progressing women from disadvantaged backgrounds into employment within technical professions – an area in which, at the time, women were significantly under-represented.

Strategic Report

The organisation grew quickly and considerably and, in 1991 we moved into new premises in Liverpool's famous Georgian Quarter. More than £4m was raised in order to breathe new life back into Blackburne House and the beautiful, Grade II-listed building that was once the home of the first Girls' School in the country then became our new home.

After more than 30 years' service we received local, national and international recognition for the work that we do in education and in June 2015 were granted Freedom of the City in recognition for our services in Education for Women across Liverpool and the wider Merseyside area.

Today, Blackburne House Education is a vibrant and thriving organisation. Over the years, through Blackburne House, we have established several successful social enterprises that succeed in supporting our educational aims and provide tangible examples of how new markets can be used to serve local communities.

Attracting thousands of visitors each year, our facilities now include a bistro, café, wellness and counselling centre, conference and events facilities, a 36-place nursery and a robust project portfolio.

In operating our social businesses, our social purpose, and the social value we create is key to all of the activities undertaken at Blackburne House. All our contributions enable us to deliver outstanding educational and economic opportunities for women from across the city, who view Blackburne House as a safe place to access learning and personal development.

Feedback from our learners and customers has proven that, by offering a range of educational opportunities with a unique wrap around structure, women across the city go on to access higher education and employment, becoming role models for their family and friends. Blackburne House is key to the economic activity of many women, and this can only be achieved as our social enterprises generate income, provide real life work experience for our learners as well as creating local employment opportunities and far reaching social impact.

Our Vision and Values

Our vision is to educate and upskill women so that they can pursue professions in every sector and at every level, to give confidence to the women we work with, so that they can go on to live independent lives, believe in their dreams and achieve their ambitions. We want to inspire our women to believe that anything is possible, to instill a culture of empathy and understanding; of inclusion and acceptance and to overcome racism, prejudice, discrimination, and adversity, creating a positive and holistic environment where women can share, learn and grow.

Our social enterprises provide an enterprising approach to teaching and learning. Enterprise encourages people to learn and develop in a way that meets their needs and develops skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. The world is changing rapidly, and people need to be prepared. They need to have the skills and attitudes to cope with an unpredictable future, to be able to deal with setbacks and disappointments in a positive way and to continue to learn for the rest of their lives. Whenever possible, we utilise the resources across the whole of Blackburne House to provide our learners with real life opportunities to enhance their development and support them to become more influential in their own lives and that of others.

We have a core set of values that are embedded into everything that we do. Those values are integral to our organisation, helping to define our long-term aims and objectives and influence the way we work.

Inspiration
We provide the highest possible quality of inspirational education and development – and our teaching and working methods and our services and environment reflect this relentless commitment.

Transformation
We believe in using creative working methods to develop new and innovative ways of fulfilling and exceeding our financial, social, and environmental aims - renewing and transforming our business and helping us to touch and transform the lives of everyone who works with Blackburne House.

Equality
Blackburne House is and has always been about holistic approaches to improving the lives of women – all women. We constantly build on the diversity and range of our services including support and education services for children and men, where these will contribute to improving the lives of women.

Independence
As well as helping our students and service users to develop their own independence, our charitable and commercial activities all operate to continuously improving business standards – to deliver the independence of Blackburne House.

Activities, achievements, and performance

The principal activity of Blackburne House is to provide support structures to its sister organisation, Blackburne House Education. Blackburne House has a range of social business areas, and each business area is driven by our values. In addition to this, our project portfolio provides unique and bespoke wrap around services to enhance wellness and learning opportunities. A summary of the performance of each of these businesses is given below:

The Bistro

The prime aim of our Bistro is to provide students, staff, conference attendees and a broad range of customers with value for money, nutritional meals in a relaxed and welcoming environment. As a bistro that champions social values our 'Buy Social' agenda is something that we consciously operate within every day, and we are proud of the social impact we make in so many ways:

- We serve quality, affordable, healthy, and nutritious food, cooked from scratch every day.
- We subsidise the cost of meals to staff and students to ensure our people are never hungry and are fully nourished to enable them to achieve the best possible personal results.
- We use fresh produce each day, of which over 90% is purchased from local suppliers and social enterprises.
- We provide good quality jobs at a fair wage and employment and training opportunities for many women who are furthest from the labour market.
- We provide volunteer and employment opportunities for people with learning difficulties and disabilities.
- We use fair trade products, and all of our disposables are biodegradable.

We are passionate about the quality of our food and service and the impact we have in the local community. We take pride that all our actions make a positive impact, not only on the education of women, but to the environment and the lives of people we employ and throughout our supply chain.

We have continued to re-build income following Covid and its lasting impacts on spending, we have felt this across all of our catering lines in the Bistro, Conference Catering, Outside Catering and Events.

The Café

Despite the significant challenges and delays of the Covid of the restrictions, we successfully opened the Café in the Liverpool Clatterbridge Cancer Hospital. Although, fewer covers are available on-site, we remain providing catering for visitors, staff and patients, enabling Key Workers to access healthy nutritional meals this also helps generate additional income to the portfolio at Blackburne House in supporting our charitable objectives.

The hospital Trust particularly wanted to work with providers rooted in the Liverpool community, supporting local staff and local suppliers. This provided an opportunity for growth within our Catering Portfolio to ensure we could scale up our hospitality turnover through another outlet for future growth and sustainability.

Conference and Events

Blackburne House offers a variety of refreshing and flexible rooms and spaces to host conferences, events, private functions, exhibitions, and development activities. We offer our clients a simple Day Delegate Rate along with specialised bespoke packages tailored to their individual needs. We also partner with similar organisations, providing them with our expertise in running and planning events such as graduations, conferences, training away days and educational activities. We host several key cultural events throughout the year separately and in collaboration with our partners in the Visit Hope Street CIC and are licensed as a wedding venue. Together with the Visit Hope Street CIC stakeholder group we hold a national prestigious award for one of the best streets in the UK and collectively we represent on many cultural and regional tourism board.

We are also proud to deliver a strong social impact in this part of the business by supporting local community groups and charities with free and discounted rooms and space. This enables organisations such as local drama and writing groups, choirs and other community charities to continue to generate significant participation, which drives a strong social impact in supporting the local community and bringing people together.

Conferencing has been one of the slowest sectors to recover as organisations have looked for socially distanced alternatives to traditional meetings. We are confident that we will see continued re-growth in this sector and look forward to building a usual level of hosted group events, campaigns and weddings within out Grade II listed building.

Nursery

Our 36-place nursery, from babies to 5-year olds, provides high quality and innovative childcare that enhances the opportunities and lives of children, parents and families locally. We continue to be a key support structure for our students and the wider community by offering affordable and attainable childcare. We provide early learning interventions for funded 2, 3- and 4-year-olds to ensure they have the opportunity to access a childcare environment and support their development to become school ready. We continue to offer the government 30 hours funded places for 3- and 4-year-olds, tax free childcare, in addition to 15 hours funded places for 2-year-olds.

At our last Ofsted inspection in June 2017, we were rated Good and some aspects, particularly in our pre-school room, are outstanding. The inspectors commended our staff and how they use their qualifications, knowledge and skills to assess children's progress and to plan activities that reflect children's stages of development and interests.

We have now extended learning from indoors to our new outdoor sensory provision which offers children who do not have access to outdoors the opportunity to do so in a safe and controlled environment.

We pride ourselves on providing a diverse and rich multicultural environment where our children come from as many as 10 different nationalities. Children can speak Spanish as part of their learning in both preschool rooms. All our direct childcare staff are qualified to Level 3 or more and one member of staff has a degree in Early Years & childhood studies.

Nursery [Continued]
By working in close partnership with parents and carers we ensure all the child's needs are met and supported. We use a software app called Famly in which we share observations, photographs, a live news feed for up-to-date information and any free advice, support or training for parent, carers or for extended family members who may not live in the same country.

As a charitable social enterprise, we give our children and local families the best possible life chances by:

- Offering subsidised childcare for our students and providing free meals where food poverty impacts a child's ability to learn and develop. Catering for children`s dietary requirements or sensory needs.
- Delivering a holistic approach to parental and carer advice and support, guiding them through complex issues and concerns.
- Empowering mum`s to go back into work.
- Providing more flexible, short term funded places to support parents and carers in need of respite.
- Delivering children's workshops to develop new experiences and skills e.g., Spanish Lessons. Supporting children with special educational needs, which included speech and language therapy, behaviour and sensory support.
- We retain SEND children when mainstream school places are deferred when not conducive to their individual needs or if no places at specialist provision are available. This provides consistency and routine for the children and family.
- Providing free nursery education places for two, three & 4-year-olds from the most disadvantaged families.
- Events celebrating parents and carers with their children.
- Holding our 5-year-old graduation ceremonies to celebrate the children's development and school readiness.

Many of our children experience Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) and we recognize that Covid has been significant and remains an issue for the development of some children.

Wellness and Counselling Centre
Formerly known as The Health Place, our on-site space has been re-positioned to become a dedicated Wellness and Counselling Centre. There remains significant mental health decline amongst women and so we responded to this through accessing funding support for wellness and counselling services, building on the program of counselling interventions and wellness services we had begun at the start of the pandemic and scaling up the level of services we offer to meet the increasing demand. We are currently providing both a funded and commercial offer for individuals and organisations. For this period we have supported in excess of 300 women with our funded counselling and wellness interventions.

We have recruited a team of Counsellors all who are generalists and have knowledge and experience in areas such as domestic abuse, trauma and anxiety and our funders have recognised the vital role our services have played in the lives of women in our community. Developing 1-2-1 and group services delivered by counsellors and wellness practitioners. The more recent service developments include support for women who experience menopause and long covid.

Wellness and Counselling Centre [Continued]
A further development is via our 'Education Through Enterprise' model, by linking education more closely to the commercial enterprise. We now provide level 4 student counsellors who require 100hrs clinical practice a placement with supervision to gain their full qualification. We have recognized that there is a lack of diversity within the counsellor base, so we have recruited 50% of the learners from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds. This allows us to reach more women in need of mental health support whilst enabling student counsellors to qualify and become economically active.

Our recent social accounts show that our social return on investment for all activities are £1: £51.96.

As we move forward, we have developed the Wellness and Counselling Centre to become part of the core services of Blackburne House, making a significant social impact and becoming a vital part of our broader portfolio.

Safeguarding

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our students and expect all of our staff, trustees and volunteers to share this commitment. Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults continue to be important to the organisation, and we take seriously our duty to comply with the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, Education Act 2002 and Counterterrorism and Security Act 2015 and The Board of Trustees and staff have undertaken training in this area and continually review our performance and ability to adapt and respond.
Our Board and the Education & Quality Committee closely monitor our policies and procedures and the organisation has an appointed a Board Safeguarding Lead, a Designated Safeguarding Officer and three four Safeguarding Officers.

We have continued to update our safeguarding policies and action plan in line with our activities.

Projects and Business Development

Developing new contracts to build on our strategic aims is an important part of the sustainability of our organisation. As a charity and social enterprise operating in a Grade II listed building, the revenue we gain through projects and grant funding is essential in support of organizational sustainability due to the contribution to core costs whilst delivering strong social impact to our recipients and partners. During this period, we have received funding from:

- The Peoples Postcode Lottery
- Liverpool City Council Commissions- Long Covid and Domestic Abuse
- HSBC for the Nursery Sensory Garden- award decision provided in this period.
- Social Enterprise Support Fund – award decision provided in this period.

We are active in developing our products and services that enrich our portfolio and are aligned to our strategic aims and values and we operate within the following arenas:

1. Health & Wellbeing – Female Health, Mental Health, Loneliness & Social Isolation, Wellbeing & Resilience programs for women and families.
2. Environmental & Cultural - A blend of programs focused on positive environmental outcomes to enhance the green economy, local biodiversity, and the adverse effects of climate change, in addition to cultural programs including inclusion and equality and maintaining the integrity of our historical asset and archives.
3. Education & Employment - Career support, Access to Work, Personal Development, Lifestyle Courses and non-accredited courses.
4. Business - Business and personal development for Entrepreneurship, Leadership, Coaching and Mentoring and business start-up and scale up.

Our plans for the future

Blackburne House has a portfolio of businesses and projects that complement our core values in supporting the advancement of education and vocational training for women. Our strength is in our diversity as this means we have a variety of great assets and opportunities to maximise our full potential.

Through new strategic partnerships, we can provide responsive and bespoke support to women, families and the Black Asian & Minority Ethnic community that are more impactful and immediate. This will enable us to drive our trading and contracted services to a place of strength and sustainability for future scale and much needed social and economic impact.

Going forward we plan to focus our plans and strategic development on:

- We have secured funding for our Wellness and Counselling Centre, which supports our aim to establish this as one of the core service provisions in Blackburne House. We will continue to build and grow the program of wellbeing services to ensure we can continue to provide much needed support to tackle mental ill-health in our local community and provide local businesses and the public with a centrally located, welcoming destination for on-site counselling services and wellness activities. We have been contracted by local authority to provide counselling services for specialist mental health areas as well as secured additional funds to gear up the commercial aspects of the provision.

  Alongside Blackburne House Education, we will support learners will mental health counselling services, helping them to remove obstacles to learning. Blackburne House Wellness and Counselling Centre will also play a vital role in providing an environment for newly qualified Level 4 counsellors to access clinical counselling placements to complete their professional status, increasing the number of diverse qualified counsellors in the city to help to meet the increasing demand for mental health services.

  The Education Team in Blackburne House Education will deliver an increased program of counselling courses so the Wellness Centre can provide pathways to employment as Blackburne House learners both gain qualifications and experience in their chosen skill area. Through creating counselling roles, this will be an important employment pathway, particularly for BAME learners, so that service users can access support from professionals from their own community and culture. This is a unique offer that has made a significant social impact and is a vital part of our broader portfolio The Wellness and Counselling Centre will offer services to over 1,000 women over the coming year, supported through both grant and paid-for services of wellness and counselling and we will continue to work with strategic partners and funders to access finance to support the growth required in this sector to combat mental health inequalities.

- Although there were significant challenges to the start of the Liverpool Clatterbridge Cancer Centre catering outlet due to Covid, our offering at the hospital has been extremely well received and continues to grow. We have experienced higher turnover levels as the hospital opened up to visitors and increased hospital footfall. We continue to receive positive feedback from customers and Trust management and Blackburne House has an additional platform to promote the charity and raise our profile in the local community. We are delighted that patients and customers value the opportunity to access fresh, seasonal and nutritious food from a local social enterprise who can continue to tailor and adapt to their needs. We are encouraged that this model delivers significant benefits for both the Trust and Blackburne House and have created a successful trading model and will look for opportunities to replicate this at other suitable sites.

- Continuing to deliver our vital Nursery services to clients and learners and within this period received the news that via HSBS we gained significant capital funds to refurbish the outside play area for work to begin in the next financial year. This investment will benefit those children that require additional SEND support through the sensory elements as well as for those children that due to living in areas of high deprivation don't have access to safe and stimulating outside play areas.

Our plans for the future [Continued]

- We have identified our conference and events as a growth area to continue the recovery from Covid impacts by developing local partnerships to increase the external customer usage of our spaces and this income stream. Through building our own program of events we will generate income and raise the profile of the charity. Our historic building has a unique style and customer experience with catering provided through our social enterprise bistro. More and more organisations are becoming more socially minded and identify the social value of supporting charity venues for their own conference and events.

- We aim to grow our projects portfolio, supporting local community programs and working with local stakeholders in Visit Hope Street CIC to identify projects whereby Blackburne House can continue to be positioned as one of the most vital social enterprise charities in the city.

- Our Bistro continues to recover and build back to pre-pandemic trading levels and provide an opportunity for increased employment and development of staff skills while providing students with subsidised meals to support their learning and our local neighbours and community who have supported Blackburne House and continue to promote our quality of food services throughout the city.

The Board will continue to review our plans and shape the business so that we can focus our efforts on mission led, sustainable portfolios that support the vision to empower women. As an organisation with such proven track record, depth and reputation in the local community, with a blend of services that have been able to adapt to local priorities, we are well positioned to strengthen our organisation and continue to serve the women of Liverpool and the local community.

Financial review

The trustees' financial responsibilities include the solvency of the organisation, safeguarding the assets of the organisation and approving the annual budget to set financial objectives, which are quantifiable targets against which we can measure achievement. To assist us in achieving these objectives monthly management accounts are produced and discussed at Executive Leadership Team meetings. A formal cycle of reporting of management accounts has been established and includes bi-monthly meetings with both the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee (FA&RC) and the trustees. The FA&RC continually reviews the reporting mechanisms in place to ensure risk management and financial planning is developed and enhances the opportunities of the organisation. The FA&RC, under powers delegated to it by the trustees, regulate and control the finances of the organisation.

We have continued with the increased frequency of meetings and reporting to FA&RC to ensure that we managed and mitigated risks.

- Engaged more frequently with our bankers Natwest and Lenders, First Ark to ensure they were fully aware of our response and actions.
- Enhanced cashflow management and reporting to review weekly along with extended forecasting.
- Instigated finance repayment holidays for loan and lease repayments.
- Accessed HMRC PAYE/NI payment deferral scheme, agreeing repayment plans with HMRC.
- Received our business interruption insurance claim for lost income during lockdown periods.
- Continued to work with our existing funders to agree certainty and draw down of funds.
- Successfully applied for support grants with strategic partners

Our Financial Performance has significantly improved since 20/21. Our trading income is back to pre-pandemic levels, with broader opportunities via additional products and services, for instance, contracts gains through our Wellness Centre supporting core costs and economies of scale through Clatterbridge.

Financial review [Continued]

We continue to build back after the challenging pandemic impacts. Due to this we are still reporting a financial year end operating deficit of £89,609 (before depreciation and endowment release) in 21/22.

We continue to review our strategic plans with our trading ability focusing on sustainability and mission. The financial projections for remaining part of 2022/23 and 23/24 have been prepared, considering the opportunities to strengthen our offer through strategic partnerships. They reflect our ability to adapt to the landscape in a strong and progressive manner in support of our learners and community. The trustees are confident that we have an ongoing viable business model, and they remain optimistic about the future and our ability to navigate the short-term challenges and trade back up to sustainable levels in the longer term.

Remuneration of key management personnel

The trustees consider the Chief Executive and the Senior Management Team to be the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

It is the charity's policy to pay staff at rates reflecting the local market and in line with similar organisations.

Reserves policy

The organisation's reserve policy has been reviewed in line with guidance from the Charity Commission. It is the policy of the organisation to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the organisation at a level, which equates to three months liquidity requirements. The trustees have reviewed the value of reserves required and have set the desired value of the reserves at £150,000 (2022 £150,000) to reflect current level of overheads as the business grows. This provides sufficient funds to cover management, administration, and support costs for the development of our principal activities to enable us to provide a high-quality service to our stakeholders.

The organisation has not been able to achieve a surplus this year to improve the reserves position but is committed to continual improvement to reverse the negative reserves in future years. The trustees recognise that our negative unrestricted reserves position reflects the fact that we are a trading business rather than grant funded. We have invested our traded income into jobs, services, and strategic aims consistently over our many years in existence, responding to our communities needs and adapting to strengthen our social impact and services. The trustees continue to monitor the situation and have reviewed and agreed the strategy and priorities that align to this objective as we move forward.

Risk policy

The trustees are responsible for overseeing the risks faced by the organisation. Detailed considerations of risks are delegated to the Senior Management Team. Risks are identified and controls established throughout the year. All significant activities undertaken are subject to a risk review. Systems have been established to mitigate the risks and the Senior Management Team regularly reviews the risks and takes any action identified.

Investment powers and restrictions

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the charity has the power, to invest or deposit funds in any manner only after obtaining advice from a financial expert and having regard to the suitability of investments and the need for diversification.

The trustees, having regard to the liquidity requirements of operating the charity and to the reserves policy, do not consider it necessary to invest in a portfolio of investments, but instead have operated a policy of keeping available funds in an interest-bearing deposit account and seek to achieve a rate of deposit interest which matches or exceeds inflation as measured by the retail price index.

Invested funds are held on deposit in a high interest savings account for use as and when necessary.

Environmental policy

The Board of Trustees and senior managers of Blackburne House are committed to the objectives of sustainable development and to achieving environmental best practice through all business activities, wherever practical to do so. We accept an active and practical leadership in respect of environmental management is a business function and that a concerted approach must be adopted to prevent pollution minimise waste and achieve continual improvement in environmental performance.

Blackburne House is committed to a structured approach to the management of its activities, ensuring it complies with or exceeds applicable environmental legal requirements and all other relevant requirements and recognised best practices which are related to our environmental aspects.

Structure, governance and management Governing document
Blackburne House is a charitable company limited by guarantee (No. 2674432), incorporated in England on 30 December 1991 and registered as a charity (No. 1010546) on 15 April 1992. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. On winding up of the company each member will contribute £1.

Organisation

Each of the organisation's business areas and social enterprises has been organised to support our learners they financially contribute to and facilitate the growth and development of the organisation's resources.

The Board of Trustees administer the charity. The Board meets bi-monthly and there are sub-committees covering Finance & Resources and Education & Quality.

A Chief Executive (CEO) is appointed by the trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters including finance and to provide strategic direction for Blackburne House ensuring that its policies, systems, products and services are continually focused on achieving the organisation's mission, including social, environmental and commercial objectives. The CEO leads business planning for all aspects of the service provision ensuring it fits with the strategic direction, local priorities and to champion high performance in line with the organisations values to ensure the sustainability of the group.

Blackburne House runs several award-winning social enterprises and those businesses are values based and committed to having a positive social and environmental impact on the communities we serve.

The Management Team

Day to day management of the charity is delegated to the senior managers. The current team is: -

A McColl	-	Chief Executive
A Rushton	-	Executive Director of Operations
H Byrne	-	Financial Controller (resigned 31/05/22)
J Lawson	-	Financial Controller (appointed 01/06/22)

Trustee appointment, induction and training

The Board adopt a strategic approach to trustee recruitment and when appropriate all vacancies are advertised within the community to attract trustees to serve on its board and also invite trustees to nominate prior to the AGM.

All members are circulated with invitations to nominate trustees prior to the AGM advising them of the retiring trustees and requesting nominations for the AGM. When considering co-opting trustees, the Board has regard to the requirements for any specialist skillset and competency needed that would enhance the organisation's ability to deliver on its strategic goals. Board members come from a variety of backgrounds, and it is this variety that adds value to the organisation. However, we recognise that our expectations are high and the demands we place on the Board are considerable, therefore we feel that it is important to support all Board Members with the training and development they need to complement and supplement their current skills and competencies.

The induction program aims to give the new member an understanding of the work of Blackburne House Education and to help recognise how they can make a significant contribution to the organisation during their term of office. New trustees undergo an orientation program to brief them on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the contents of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes and recent financial performance of the charity. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events and internal training and briefings where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Related Charities

Blackburne House is related to Women's Technology Training Limited by virtue of common directors, influence and shared resources.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors 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. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they 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 2019 (FRS 102).
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in operation.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Trustees' statement of disclosure of information to the auditors

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirm in so far as they are aware: -

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

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

Auditors

A resolution for the re-appointment of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Approval

In approving the Trustees' Annual Report, we also approve the Strategic Report included therein in our capacity as company directors.

SIGNED BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES



Jennifer Lawson
COMPANY SECRETARY

Registered office:
Blackburne House
Blackburne Place
Off Hope Street
Liverpool L8 7PE

Approved by the trustees on 27 April 2023

Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited

Accountants

5 Temple Square . Temple Street . Liverpool . L2 5RH

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Blackburne House for the year ended 31 July 2022

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Blackburne House (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 July 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 July 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Material uncertainty related to going concern

We draw attention to note 1(q) in the financial statements, which highlights the fact that there is a net current liability position of £467,998 and a deficit on unrestricted funds of £506,233. Whilst these conditions indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, note 1(q) provides a full explanation of the circumstances surrounding this. Our opinion is not qualified in respect of this matter.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustee' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on pages 12 - 13, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance;
- the charitable company's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- the results of our enquiries of management and members of the Board of Trustees of their own identification of and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charitable company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
- identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:

(i) The presentation of the charitable company's Statement of Financial Activities, (ii) the charitable company's accounting policies for revenue recognition, and (iii) the overstatement of salary and other costs. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice - 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued by the joint SORP making body .

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included Safeguarding, Data Protection and food hygiene regulations.

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified the presentation of the charitable company's Statement of Financial Activities, revenue recognition and overstatement of wages and other costs as the key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud. The key audit matters section of our report explains the matters in more detail and also describes the specific procedures we performed in response to those key audit matters.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and members of the Board of Trustees concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant authorities where matters identified were significant; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. The risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Philip Griffiths

Mr Philip Griffiths
Senior Statutory Auditor

27 April 2023

On behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth (Audit) Limited
Statutory Auditor

3rd Floor
5 Temple Square
Temple Street
Liverpool
Merseyside
L2 5RH

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Statement of Financial Activities
Year ended 31 July 2022

Income from:	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Donations and legacies	2	19,525	-	-	19,525	145,841
Charitable activities	3	1,039,156	72,101	-	1,111,257	822,865
Investments	4	1	-	-	1	6
Other	5	24,750	-	-	24,750	-
Total income		1,083,432	72,101	-	1,155,533	968,712
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	6	(1,182,324)	(95,638)	(38,057)	(1,316,019)	(1,090,509)
Total expenditure		(1,182,324)	(95,638)	(38,057)	(1,316,019)	(1,090,509)
Net expenditure for the year	11	(98,892)	(23,537)	(38,057)	(160,486)	(121,797)
Total funds brought forward		(407,341)	2,236,369	2,714,761	4,543,789	4,665,586
Total funds carried forward		(506,233)	2,212,832	2,676,704	4,383,303	4,543,789

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year as set out above.

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 24 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Financial Activities [Continued]
Year ended 31 July 2022

Comparative information for the year ended 31 July 2021

Income from:	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Donations and legacies	2	145,841	-	-	145,841	166,440
Charitable activities	3	746,871	75,994	-	822,865	783,241
Investments	4	6	-	-	6	9
Total income		892,718	75,994	-	968,712	949,690
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	6	(951,652)	(100,800)	(38,057)	(1,090,509)	(1,070,494)
Total expenditure		(951,652)	(100,800)	(38,057)	(1,090,509)	(1,070,494)
Net expenditure for the year	11	(58,934)	(24,806)	(38,057)	(121,797)	(120,804)
Total funds brought forward		(348,407)	2,261,175	2,752,818	4,665,586	4,786,390
Total funds carried forward		(407,341)	2,236,369	2,714,761	4,543,789	4,665,586

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year as set out above.

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 24 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Summary Income and Expenditure Account
Year ended 31 July 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Income		1,155,532	968,706
Interest and investment income	4	1	6
Gross income		1,155,533	968,712
Expenditure		1,236,897	1,006,986
Interest payable		8,245	7,099
Depreciation		32,820	38,367
Total expenditure		1,277,962	1,052,452
Net (expenditure)		(122,429)	(83,740)

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

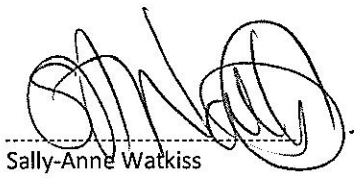
The notes on pages 24 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Balance Sheet
31st July 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	15		4,968,324		5,035,386
Current assets					
Stocks	16	3,654		4,570	
Debtors	17	87,384		76,741	
Cash at bank and in hand		96,977		54,383	
		188,015		135,694	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	18	(656,013)		(513,982)	
Net current liabilities			(467,998)		(378,288)
Total assets less current liabilities			4,500,326		4,657,098
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	19		(117,023)		(113,309)
Net assets			4,383,303		4,543,789
The funds of the Charity					
Endowment	22		2,676,704		2,714,761
Restricted	23		2,212,832		2,236,369
Unrestricted	24		(506,233)		(407,341)
Total funds	25		4,383,303		4,543,789

These financial statements were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 27/4 2023 and are signed on their behalf by:



Sally-Anne Watkiss
Trustee

Company Registration Number: 2674432

The notes on pages 24 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Statement of Cash Flows
Year ended 31 July 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2022 £	2021 £	2021 £
Cash flow from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	31		28,582		9,700
Cash flow from investing activities					
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		(3,815)		(13,609)	
Investment income received		1		6	
Net cash flow from investing activities			(3,814)		(13,603)
			24,768		(3,903)
Cash flow from financing activities					
New borrowings		50,000		-	
Repayment of loans		(17,598)		(17,937)	
Payment of obligations under finance leases		(6,331)		(5,180)	
Interest paid		(8,245)		(7,099)	
Net cash flow from financing activities			17,826		(30,216)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents			42,594		(34,119)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 August 2021			54,383		88,502
Cash and cash equivalents as at 31 July 2022			96,977		54,383

The notes on pages 24 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

1. Summary of accounting policies

(a) General information and basis of preparation

Blackburne House is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity incorporated in England and Wales. 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 address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are set out in the Trustees' Report on page 2.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. 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 in October 2019, the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

(b) Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

The property fund is treated as a permanent endowment on the basis that the original building is not owned by the charity and the building alterations that have been carried out form a capital fund with which the charity has now power to convert the capital into income.

(c) Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

1. **Summary of accounting policies** [Continued]

(c) Income recognition [Continued]

Income from charitable activities includes income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to special performance conditions and is recognised as earned as the related services are provided. Grant income included in this category provides funding to support performance activities and is recognised when there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amounts can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as bank deposits. It essentially includes interest which is recognised using the effective interest method.

(d) Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes costs associated with the charity including support costs as appropriate.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the category above.

(e) Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at the charity's registered office. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 7.

(f) Capital grants

Grants received to cover the cost of building alterations and fixtures and fittings are included as restricted income and will be credited to the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis consistent with the depreciation policy.

(g) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended. Capital expenditure on equipment is written off in the period in which it is incurred if purchased from grant income. Individual assets are capitalised on the balance sheet where their cost exceeds £100.

1. **Summary of accounting policies [Continued]**

(g) Tangible fixed assets [Continued]

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Building alterations & additions	1 - 10% per annum
Computers	10 - 33% per annum
Fixtures & fittings	10 - 20% per annum
Equipment	10 - 20% per annum

Whilst historically building alterations have been depreciated at 1%, additions are not considered to have the same life and so are depreciated over 10 years.

(h) Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost includes all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other cost incurred in bringing stock to its present location and condition. Cost is calculated using the first-in, first-out formula. Provision is made for damaged, obsolete and slow-moving stock where appropriate.

(i) Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

(j) Loans and borrowings

Loans and borrowings are initially recognised at the transaction price including transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less impairment. If an arrangement constitutes a finance transaction it is measured at present value.

(k) Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

1. Summary of accounting policies [Continued]

(k) Financial instruments [Continued]

Basic financial liabilities
Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities
Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

(l) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

(m) Leases

Assets acquired under finance leases are capitalised and depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and the expected useful life of the asset. Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and the reduction of the outstanding lease liability using the effective interest method. The related obligations, net of future finance charges, are included in creditors.

Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

(n) Employee benefits

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

The charity operates a defined contribution plan for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are expensed as they become payable.

(o) Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

1. **Summary of accounting policies [Continued]**

(p) VAT

The charity is partially exempt for VAT purposes. VAT for partial exemption which is not allowed in the year is written off to the Statement of Financial Activities.

(q) Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the future outlook reflects the opportunities that have arisen as a result of our ability to support the communities we serve as we emerge from Covid-19. Whilst the Trustees acknowledge the net current liabilities position of £467,998 is a challenging basis on which to enter into post Covid-19 recovery, we are confident that our core business can respond to the transitioning period, bolstered by our embedded social impacts in action.

Our day to day activities that provide much needed services in support of our charitable aims to educate women and drive social and economic advancement have emerged as more valuable than previously recognised. During this pandemic, we have strengthened our work within our community as we are directly aligned to those who need us most. We are able to provide responsive and bespoke support to women, families and the BAME community that are impactful and immediate and funders are investing in organisations that are delivering social value though their day to day trading operations, activities and interventions, rather than through one off projects.

Funders have seen the value of organisations working with particular communities during Covid-19. We are rooted in the local community and have access to people who have been disadvantaged through this pandemic. Our learners and employees, a high proportion of which are women, part of the BAME community and those who experience social deprivation are even more at risk of mental ill health and cultural inequalities. Blackburne House have responded at speed with interventions that reach those people most in need and provided funders with the networks and reach to make a difference. We have successfully contracted to provide that support post Covid19 and we anticipate this will translate into long term, substantial contracts with significant interventions.

The trustees have reviewed the plans and consider that the budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern and remain confident that core business is sustainable in the long term.

2. Income from donations and legacies	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Donations	1,805	-	-	1,805	890
Grants receivable	17,720	-	-	17,720	144,951
	19,525	-	-	19,525	145,841

All of the above income in 2021 was attributable to unrestricted funds.

3. Income from charitable activities	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Nursery income	358,049	-	-	358,049	323,627
Café Bar income	221,896	-	-	221,896	78,871
Rent receivable	39,423	-	-	39,423	43,137
Events	102,629	-	-	102,629	17,479
Car park income	23,993	-	-	23,993	6,584
Clatterbridge café	277,222	-	-	277,222	142,308
Wellness Centre	2,795	-	-	2,795	-
Grants receivable:					
People's Postcode Lottery	-	22,917	-	22,917	-
Liverpool City Council - Public Health Domestic Abuse Mental Health	-	16,898	-	16,898	-
Liverpool City Council - Clinically Extremely Vulnerable People Grant	-	32,286	-	32,286	-
Steve Morgan Foundation	-	-	-	-	26,732
National Lottery	-	-	-	-	75,994
Social Enterprise Support Fund	-	-	-	-	97,602
Social Investment Business Growth Fund	-	-	-	-	9,250
Other	13,149	-	-	13,149	1,281
	1,039,156	72,101	-	1,111,257	822,865

4. Income from investments	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Interest received on cash deposits	1	-	-	1	6

All of the above income in 2021 was attributable to unrestricted funds.

5. Other income	Unrestricted funds	
	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Business interruption insurance claim	24,750	-

6. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Nursery	255,777	171,957	427,734	319,900
Wellness Centre	628	1,342	1,970	643
Cafe	379,727	106,568	486,295	165,946
Events	13,199	49,289	62,488	69,567
Projects and Business Development	(2,083)	-	(2,083)	63,996
Building management	93,495	26,365	119,860	276,867
Clatterbridge café	68,777	133,139	201,916	193,590
Other	-	17,839	17,839	-
	809,520	506,499	1,316,019	1,090,509

Of the above costs £1,182,324 (2021 £951,652) were attributable to unrestricted funds, £95,638 (2021 £100,800) were attributable to restricted funds, and £38,057 (2021 £38,057) were attributable to endowment funds.

7. Allocation of support costs	2022 £	2021 £
Management salaries	185,003	61,758
Premises costs	134,285	105,754
Office costs	57,934	21,359
Depreciation	70,877	76,424
Professional	6,430	2,558
Other	42,467	21,553
Governance costs (see note 7)	9,503	5,795
	506,499	295,201

8. Governance costs	2022 £	2021 £
Audit and accountancy fees	9,503	5,795

9. Staff costs and employee benefits	2022 £	2021 £
The aggregate payroll costs were:		
Wages and salaries	592,577	642,455
Social security costs	35,049	40,382
Other pension costs	14,691	16,191
	642,317	699,028
Recharged salaries	58,283	(33,600)
	700,600	665,428

9. Staff costs and employee benefits [Continued]

	2022	2021
Particulars of employees:	£	£
The average number of staff employed by the Charity during the financial year amounted to:	41	47

There are no employees with emoluments above £60,000.

10. Trustees' and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

No remuneration was paid to the trustees during the year for their services as trustees (2021 £Nil) nor were any expenses reimbursed (2021 £Nil).

The total amount of employee remuneration received by key management personnel is £57,298 (2021 £57,186).

The charity considers its key management personnel to comprise the Executive Director of Operations.

11. Net income/(expenditure) for the year

	2022	2021
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Staff pension contributions	14,691	16,191
Depreciation	70,877	76,424
Auditors' remuneration - as auditors	9,503	5,795

12. Auditor's remuneration

	2022	2021
	£	£
Fees payable to the charity's auditor for the audit of the charity's annual accounts	9,503	5,795

13. Taxation

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

14. Interest payable and similar expenses

	2022	2021
	£	£
Other loans	5,596	5,394
Finance charge payable under finance leases	2,649	1,705
	8,245	7,099

15. Tangible fixed assets	Building Alterations £	Equipment £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Computers £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 August 2021	6,139,422	261,847	281,000	58,468	6,740,737
Additions	-	2,339	1,154	322	3,815
At 31 July 2022	6,139,422	264,186	282,154	58,790	6,744,552
Depreciation					
At 1 August 2021	1,184,166	211,229	251,488	58,468	1,705,351
Charge for the year	61,308	5,592	3,977	-	70,877
At 31 July 2022	1,245,474	216,821	255,465	58,468	1,776,228
Net book value					
At 31 July 2022	4,893,948	47,365	26,689	322	4,968,324
At 31 July 2021	4,955,256	50,618	29,512	-	5,035,386

Included in the net book value of equipment is £34,534 (2021 - £34,534) in respect of assets held under finance leases.

16. Stocks	2022 £	2021 £
Goods for resale	3,654	4,570

17. Debtors	2022 £	2021 £
Trade debtors	59,628	28,645
Prepayments	26,238	29,816
Other debtors	1,518	18,280
	87,384	76,741

18. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	2022 £	2021 £
Obligations under finance leases	7,483	6,907
First Ark loan	29,400	16,939
Postcard Lottery loan	6,408	-
Bounce Back loan	6,243	3,331
Trade creditors	136,722	99,613
Social security and other taxes	41,184	32,619
Other creditors	304,182	320,606
Accruals and deferred income	124,391	33,967
	656,013	513,982

19. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	2022	2021
	£	£
Obligations under finance leases	15,540	22,447
First Ark loan	16,953	44,192
People's Postcode Lottery loan	42,931	
Bounce Back loan	41,599	46,670
	117,023	113,309

The finance leases are secured against the assets acquired.

On 29 March 2018 First Ark advanced the charity £120,000 repayable in monthly instalments over 6 years at a rate of interest of 8.5%.

On 20 May 2020, National Westminster Bank plc advanced the charity £50,000 under the Coronavirus Bounce Back Loan Scheme (BBLS) originally repayable over 6 years but extended to 10 years on 4 June 2021, with an interest rate of 2.5% per annum.

On 31 January 2022, People's Postcode Lottery advanced the charity £50,000 repayable in monthly instalments over 7 years at a rate of interest of 3%.

20. Loans and overdrafts

Creditors include loans which are due to be repaid as follows:	2022	2021
	£	£
Amounts payable:		
In one year or less or on demand	42,051	20,270
In more than one year but no more than two years	28,919	32,341
In more than two years but not more than five years	37,960	33,044
Over five years and payable by instalments	34,604	25,477
	145,534	111,132

21. Leases

Finance leases

Finance leases primarily relate to the purchase of kitchen equipment.

Total future minimum lease payments are as follows:	2022	2021
	£	£
Not later than one year	7,483	6,907
Later than one and not later than five years	15,540	22,447
	23,023	29,354

At 31 July 2022 the charity had future total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:	Assets other than land and buildings 2022	2021
	£	£
Within one year	20,073	16,529
Between two and five years	45,928	45,967
	66,001	62,496

22. **Endowment funds**

	As at 1 August 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	As at 31 July 2022 £
Permanent endowments:					
Property fund	2,714,761	-	(38,057)	-	2,676,704

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	As at 1 August 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	As at 31 July 2021 £
Permanent endowments:					
Property fund	2,752,818	-	(38,057)	-	2,714,761

23. **Restricted funds**

	As at 1 August 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	As at 31 July 2022 £
Liverpool City Council Nursery capital	1,817	-	(663)	-	1,154
Liverpool City Region - Single Investment Fund (Capital Investment)	2,234,552	-	(22,874)	-	2,211,678
People's Postcode Lottery	-	22,917	(22,917)	-	-
Liverpool City Council - Public Health Domestic Abuse	-	16,898	(16,898)	-	-
Liverpool City Council - Clinically Extremely Vulnerable People	-	32,286	(32,286)	-	-
	2,236,369	72,101	(95,638)	-	2,212,832

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

Restricted funds	As at 1 August 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	As at 31 July 2021 £
Liverpool City Council Nursery capital	2,480	-	(663)	-	1,817
Liverpool City Region - Single Investment Fund (Capital Investment)	2,258,695	-	(24,143)	-	2,234,552
National Lottery	-	75,994	(75,994)	-	-
	2,261,175	75,994	(100,800)	-	2,236,369

The restricted fund balances relate to specific projects and events run by the charity and are recorded as restricted in accordance with the conditions of the grant.

24. Unrestricted funds

	As at 1 August 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	As at 31 July 2022 £
General fund	(407,341)	1,083,432	(1,182,324)	-	(506,233)

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	As at 1 August 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	As at 31 July 2021 £
General fund	(348,407)	892,718	(951,652)	-	(407,341)

25. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current liabilities £	Creditors due after one year £	Total £
Endowment fund	2,676,704	-	-	2,676,704
Restricted fund	2,212,832	-	-	2,212,832
Unrestricted funds	78,788	(467,998)	(117,023)	(506,233)
	4,968,324	(467,998)	(117,023)	4,383,303

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current liabilities £	Creditors due after one year £	Total £
Endowment fund	2,714,761	-	-	2,714,761
Restricted fund	2,236,369	-	-	2,236,369
Unrestricted funds	84,256	(378,288)	(113,309)	(407,341)
	5,035,386	(378,288)	(113,309)	4,543,789

26. Related party transactions

Blackburne House is related to Women's Technology Training Limited by virtue of common directors and influence. Both these charities operate from the same Registered Office. During the year Blackburne House charged Women's Technology Limited £8,437 for rent and services (2021 £18,157), £14,655 for childcare and related project costs (2021 £34,040) and £66,999 for other administration and project costs (2021 £132,084). During the year Women's Technology Training Limited charged Blackburne House £85,806 (2021 £988) for management and administration costs.

The above exclude VAT on vatable items.

At the year-end Blackburne House owed Women's Technology Training Limited £236,078 (2022 £312,215).

Included in creditors is a loan from Women's Technology Training Limited for £58,710 (2021 £58,710) which is due to be repaid as agreed by the trustees.

27. Pension scheme contributions

The charity operates a defined contributions pension scheme for its employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions paid by the charity to the defined contribution scheme which amounted to £14,691 (2021 £16,191).

28. Deferred income

	Under 1 year	2022	2021
	£	£	£
At 1 August 2021	14,268	14,268	3,750
Additions	110,256	110,256	10,518
Amounts released to income	(14,268)	(14,268)	-
At 31 July 2022	110,256	110,256	14,268

Income has been deferred when it is received in advance of the period to which it relates or where performance of the activities to which it relates have not yet been undertaken.

29. Company limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

On winding up of the company each member will contribute £1.

30. Capital commitments

There are no capital commitments as at 31st July 2022 (2021 £Nil).

31. Reconciliation of net (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities	2022 £	2021 £
Net (expenditure)/income for the year	(160,486)	(121,797)
Interest receivable	(1)	(6)
Interest payable	8,245	7,099
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	70,877	76,424
Decrease/(increase) in stock	916	(1,327)
(Decrease)/increase in debtors	(10,643)	14,437
Increase in creditors	119,674	34,870
Net cash flow from operating activities	28,582	9,700
Cash and cash equivalent consists of:		
Cash at bank	88,970	48,250
Cash in hand	8,007	6,133
	96,977	54,383

32. Analysis of changes in net debt	Balance at 1st August 2021 £	Cashflows £	Non-cash Changes £	Balance at 31st July 2022 £
Long term borrowings	(90,861)	(50,000)	39,378	(101,483)
Short term borrowings	(20,271)	17,598	(39,378)	(42,051)
Obligations under finance leases	(29,354)	6,331	-	(23,023)
Total liabilities	(140,486)	(26,071)	-	(166,557)
Cash and cash equivalent	54,383	42,594	-	96,977
Total net debt	(86,103)	16,523	-	(69,580)

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

England & Wales - Charity number 1010546

Accounts

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

(Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

for the year ended
31 July 2021

Company Registration Number 2674432
Charity Number 1010546

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Accounts
Year ended 31 July 2021

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BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Members of the Board and Professional Advisors
Year ended 31 July 2021

Registered charity name	Blackburne House
Company number	2674432
Charity number	1010546
The Board of Trustees	Liz Cross (Chair) Maureen Mellor (resigned 19/11/20) Sally-Anne Watkiss Lorna Rogers (resigned 25/02/21) Therese Patten Annette Hennessy Claire Ryan Kate Fox Emma Carey (appointed 29/07/20) Nina Roberts (appointed 29/07/20
Company secretary	Dana Nixon (resigned 30/03/21) Helen Byrne (appointed 30/03/21)
Chief executive	Anne McColl (appointed 01/08/20)
Registered office	Blackburne House Blackburne Place Off Hope Street Liverpool L8 7PE
Statutory Auditor	Mitchell Charlesworth LLP Chartered Accountants Registered Auditor 3rd Floor 5 Temple Square Temple Street Liverpool L2 5RH
Bankers	National Westminster Bank Plc 2 - 8 Church Street Liverpool L1 3BG
Solicitors	MSB Solicitors Ltd Silkhouse Court Tithebarn Street Liverpool L2 2LZ

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 July 2021

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their annual report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland published October 2019".

Trustees

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Liz Cross	Annette Hennessy
Maureen Mellor (resigned 19/11/20)	Claire Ryan
Sally-Anne Watkiss	Kate Fox
Lorna Rogers (resigned 25/02/21)	Emma Carey (appointed 29/07/20)
Therese Patten	Nina Roberts (appointed 29/07/20)

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

None of the trustees receive remuneration or other benefits for their work as trustees of the charity. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity with a company must be disclosed to the full Board of Trustees in the same way as any contractual relationship with a related party.

Objectives of the Charity

The charity's objects and its principal activity continue to be to advance education and to relieve need by providing or assisting in the provision of vocational training for women and by providing guidance for such of them, as are in need, calculated to enable them to earn their own living. To promote any charitable purpose and in particular charitable purposes directed to the advancement of women's education and the provision of training facilities for women.

Public Benefit

When planning our activities for the year, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and in particular the specific guidance on charities with other purposes currently recognised as charitable and any new charitable purpose which are similar to other charitable purpose.

We are an equal opportunities organisation and are committed to a working environment that is free from any form of discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or disability.

It is a priority of the organisation that access to our services is not restricted to those who can afford our fees. Our concessionary fee policy contributes to the widening of access to the courses we offer and the facilities we provide.

The trustees have had due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit and in particular the supplementary guidance on public benefit and fee charging.

About Blackburne House

Women's Technology Training Limited, our founder and sister company (known as Blackburne House Education) was established in 1983 with the aim of progressing women from disadvantaged backgrounds into employment within technical professions – an area in which, at the time, women were significantly under-represented.

Strategic Report

The organisation grew quickly and considerably and, in 1991 we moved into new premises in Liverpool's famous Georgian Quarter. More than £4m was raised in order to breathe new life back into Blackburne House and the beautiful, Grade II-listed building that was once the home of the first Girls' School in the country then became our new home.

After more than 30 years' service we received local, national and international recognition for the work that we do in education and in June 2015 were granted Freedom of the City in recognition for our services in Education for Women across Liverpool and the wider Merseyside area.

Today, Blackburne House Education is a vibrant and thriving organisation. Over the years, through Blackburne House, we have established a number of successful social enterprises that succeed in supporting our educational aims and provide tangible examples of how new markets can be used to serve local communities.

Attracting thousands of visitors each year, our facilities now includes a bistro, café, wellness and counselling centre, conference and events facilities, a 36-place nursery and a robust project portfolio.

In operating our social businesses, our social purpose and the social value we create is key to all of the activities undertaken at Blackburne House. All of our contributions enable us to deliver outstanding educational and economic opportunities for women from across the city, who view Blackburne House as a safe place to access learning and personal development.

Feedback from our learners and customers has proven that, by offering a range of educational opportunities with a unique wrap around structure, women across the city go on to access higher education and employment, becoming role models for their family and friends. Blackburne House is key to the economic activity of many women and this can only be achieved as our social enterprises generate income, provide real life work experience for our learners as well as creating local employment opportunities and far reaching social impact.

Our Vision and Values

Our vision is to educate and upskill women so that they can pursue professions in every sector and at every level, to give confidence to the women we work with, so that they can go on to live independent lives, believe in their dreams and achieve their ambitions. We want to inspire our women to believe that anything is possible, to instil a culture of empathy and understanding; of inclusion and acceptance and to overcome racism, prejudice, discrimination and adversity, creating a positive and holistic environment where women can share, learn and grow.

Our social enterprises provide an enterprising approach to teaching and learning. Enterprise encourages people to learn and develop in a way that meets their needs and develops skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. The world is changing rapidly, and people need to be prepared. They need to have the skills and attitudes to cope with an unpredictable future, to be able to deal with setbacks and disappointments in a positive way and to continue to learn for the rest of their lives. Whenever possible, we utilise the resources across the whole of Blackburne House to provide our learners with real life opportunities to enhance their development and support them to become more influential in their own lives and that of others.

We have a core set of values that are embedded into everything that we do. Those values are integral to our organisation, helping to define our long-term aims and objectives and influence the way we work.

Inspiration
We provide the highest possible quality of inspirational education and development – and our teaching and working methods and our services and environment reflect this relentless commitment.

Transformation
We believe in using creative working methods to develop new and innovative ways of fulfilling and exceeding our financial, social and environmental aims - renewing and transforming our business and helping us to touch and transform the lives of everyone who works with Blackburne House.

Equality
Blackburne House is and has always been about holistic approaches to improving the lives of women – all women. We constantly build on the diversity and range of our services including support and education services for children and men, where these will contribute to improving the lives of women.

Independence
As well as helping our students and service users to develop their own independence, our charitable and commercial activities all operate to continuously improving business standards – to deliver the independence of Blackburne House.

Activities, achievements and performance

The principal activity of Blackburne House is to provide support structures to its sister organisation, Blackburne House Education. Blackburne House has a range of social business areas and each business area is driven by our values. In addition to this, our project portfolio provides unique and bespoke wrap around services to enhance wellness and learning opportunities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, local economies throughout the world have been severely impacted. From March 2020, measures taken by governments to control the spread of the virus have included lockdowns, travel bans, quarantines, social distancing and closing of non-essential services which continued throughout 2021. This has resulted in many businesses like ours having to cease or limit our activities for long or indefinite periods of time as we work to adapt to the economic slowdown. The impact for Blackburne House has been far reaching as we socially trade across multiple sectors that have been directly affected. We responded quickly and adapted, continuing to access government grants and support, working with funders and strategic partners that seek to enhance social impact and support sustainability. Given our proven track record, depth and reputation in the local community we are well positioned to continue to serve the women of Liverpool and the local community. The Board continue to review our post Covid-19 recovery plans and shape the business so that we can focus our efforts on mission led, sustainable portfolios that support the vision to empower women.

A summary of the performance of each of these businesses is given below:

The Bistro

The prime aim of our Bistro is to provide students, staff, conference attendees and a broad range of customers with value for money, nutritional meals in a relaxed and welcoming environment. As a bistro that champions social values our 'Buy Social' agenda is something that we consciously operate within every day and we are proud of the social impact we make in so many ways:

- We serve quality, affordable, healthy and nutritious food, cooked from scratch every day.
- We subsidise the cost of meals to staff and students to ensure our people are never hungry and are fully nourished to enable them to achieve the best possible personal results.
- We use fresh produce each day, of which over 90% is purchased from local suppliers and social enterprises.
- We provide good quality jobs at a fair wage and employment and training opportunities for many women who are furthest from the labour market
- We provide volunteer and employment opportunities for people with learning difficulties and disabilities.
- We use fair trade products and all of our disposables are biodegradable.

We are passionate about the quality of our food and service and the impact we have in the local community. We take pride that all of our actions make a positive impact, not only on the education of women, but to the environment and the lives of people we employ and throughout our supply chain.

The hospitality sector has been one of the hardest hit by the pandemic. Following the first national lockdown restrictions which impacted severely on turnover with periods of complete closure, the Bistro gradually re-opened its doors from July 2020, continuing to offer takeaway services alongside seated dining and welcoming back customers from the local community who had continued to support Blackburne House throughout period of closure. The challenges of navigating changing rules, local Tier restrictions which were first introduced in Liverpool in October 2020 and further local and national lockdowns continued to impact the income generated by the Bistro with sales down 80% from August 2020 to March 2021 against pre-pandemic year. We have continued to re-build income following the lift of the third national lockdown in line with government guidance for hospitality. The pandemic impacted all of our catering lines across the Bistro, Conference Catering, Outside Catering and Events.

We continued to access local government funding opportunities and took advantage of government schemes such as VAT reduction and the Coronavirus Job Retentions Scheme. We successfully gained the Liverpool City Council Hospitality Discretionary Grant of £15.4k in November 2020 and a further Hospitality Top Up Grant for £15.2k in June 2021 for hospitality industry. We made grant applications to funders who recognised the challenges facing our sector. More specifically, those funders focused on sustainability and who recognised the impact we make as a charity supporting women in education and as a social enterprise supporting the local community.

The Café

We received grant funding from Social Enterprise Support Fund in October 2020 in order to support our new catering enterprise and in November 2020, despite the significant challenges of the pandemic restrictions, we successfully opened the Café in the Liverpool Clatterbridge Cancer Hospital. We provide catering for visitors, staff and patients, enabling Key Workers to access healthy nutritional meals this also helps generate additional income to the portfolio at Blackburne House in supporting our charitable objectives.

The hospital Trust particularly wanted to work with providers rooted in the Liverpool community, supporting local staff and local suppliers. This provided an opportunity for growth within our Catering Portfolio to ensure we could scale up our hospitality turnover through another outlet for future growth and sustainability.

Conference and Events

Blackburne House offers a variety of refreshing and flexible rooms and spaces to host conferences, events, private functions, exhibitions and development activities. We offer our clients a simple Day Delegate Rate along with specialised bespoke packages tailored to their individual needs. We also partner with similar organisations, providing them with our expertise in running and planning events such as graduations, conferences, training away days and educational activities. We host a number of key cultural events throughout the year separately and in collaboration with our partners in the Visit Hope Street CIC and are licensed as a wedding venue. Together with the Visit Hope Street CIC stakeholder group we hold a national prestigious award for one of the best streets in the UK and collectively we represent on many cultural and regional tourism board.

Blackburne House was one of the host venues in July 2021 for the "From Now On" exhibitions supported by Culture Liverpool as part of the "Goodbye and Good Riddance" events to acknowledge the lifting of Covid restrictions in the city and memorialise the challenges and changes which had taken place since the start of the pandemic.

We are also proud to deliver a strong social impact in this part of the business by supporting local community groups and charities with free and discounted rooms and space. This enables organisations such as local drama and writing groups, choirs and other community charities to continue to generate significant participation, which drives a strong social impact in supporting the local community and bringing people together.

The continued pandemic restrictions and additional lockdowns from Autumn 2020 through to 2021 extended the adverse trading impact of the pandemic on our conference and events portfolio with gatherings limited to small numbers and further cancellations of re-booked events due to implementation of further restrictions to hospitality. Room hire income reduced by 78% against the last pre-pandemic financial year. Conferencing has been one of the slowest sectors to recover as organisations have looked for socially distanced alternatives to traditional meetings. We are confident that we will see continued re-growth in this sector and look forward to building a usual level of hosted group events, campaigns and weddings within out Grade II listed building.

Nursery

Our 36-place nursery, from babies to 5-year olds, provides high quality and innovative childcare that enhances the opportunities and lives of children, parents and families locally. We continue to be a key support structure for our students and the wider community by offering affordable and attainable childcare. We provide early learning interventions for funded 2, 3- and 4-year olds to ensure they have the opportunity to access a childcare environment and support their development to become school ready. We continue to offer the government 30 hours funded places for 3- and 4-year olds, in addition to 15 hours funded places for 2-year olds.

At our last Ofsted inspection in June 2017, we were rated Good and some aspects, particularly in our pre-school room, are outstanding. The inspectors commended our staff and how they use their qualifications, knowledge and skills to assess children's progress and to plan activities that reflect children's stages of development and interests. We were particularly proud that the inspectors commented that our well-qualified staff act as excellent role models who are particularly skilled and sensitive in supporting good behaviour and that our children show wonderful care and compassion towards each other.

We pride ourselves on providing a diverse and rich multicultural environment where our children come from as many as 10 different nationalities. Two of our staff are multilingual and children have the opportunity to speak Spanish as part of their learning. All of our direct childcare staff are qualified to Level 3 or more and one member of staff has Early Years Professional status.

By working in close partnership with parents and carers we ensure all of the child's needs are met and supported. As a charitable social enterprise, we give our children and local families the best possible life chances by:

- Offering subsidised childcare for our students and providing free meals where food poverty impacts a child's ability to learn and develop.
- Delivering a holistic approach to parental and carer advice and support, guiding them through complex issues and concerns.
- Empowering mum`s to go back into work.
- Providing more flexible, short term funded places to support parents and carers in need of respite.
- Delivering children's workshops to develop new experiences and skills e.g. Spanish Lessons. Supporting children with special educational needs, which included speech and language therapy, behaviour and sensory support.
- Providing free nursery education places for two- and three-year olds from the most disadvantaged families.
- Holding our 5-year-old graduation ceremonies to celebrate the children's development and school readiness.

Following the first national Covid-19 lockdown we re-opened the nursery on 29 June 2020 and welcomed the children back to Blackburne House. We had regularly communicated with our parents, carers and children to ensure they were provided with activity packs, support and parental guidance. Many of our children experience Special Educational Needs (SEN) and we recognised the disruption that lockdown has on family life, so keeping in touch and supporting our families was a priority.

Wellness and Counselling Centre

Formerly known as The Health Place, our on-site space has been re-positioned to become a dedicated Wellness and Counselling Centre. During the pandemic we identified a significant mental health decline amongst women and we responded to this through accessing funding support for wellness and counselling services, building on the programme of counselling interventions and wellness services we had begun at the start of the pandemic and scaling up the level of services we offer to meet the increasing demand.

We work closely with a team of professional counsellors who are skilled in specialist areas such as domestic abuse, trauma and anxiety and our funders have recognised the vital role our services have played in the lives of women in our community. As we move forward, we have developed the Wellness and Counselling Centre to become part of the core services of Blackburne House, making a significant social impact and becoming a vital part of our broader portfolio.

Safeguarding

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our students and expect all of our staff, trustees and volunteers to share this commitment. Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults continue to be important to the organisation, and we take seriously our duty to comply with the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, Education Act 2002 and Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and The Board of Trustees and staff have undertaken training in this area and continually review our performance and ability to adapt and respond, particularly with the additional challenges brought about by Covid-19 and delivery of services online. Our Board and the Education & Quality Committee closely monitor our policies and procedures and the organisation has an appointed Designated Safeguarding Officer.

We have continued to adapt our safeguarding policies in light of Covid19 impacts around digital and online safety and are providing additional support for mental health and wellness through our Counselling portfolio.

Projects and Business Development

Developing new contracts to build on our strategic aims is an important part of the sustainability of our organisation. As a charity and social enterprise operating in a Grade II listed building, the revenue we gain through projects and grant funding is essential. Providing sustainability during the periods of closure and restrictions due to the pandemic, project and grant funding has helped to contribute towards our core costs whilst delivering strong social impact to our recipients and partners. We received funding to support our nursery re-opening through Steve Morgan Foundation, funding to support the development and opening of a new catering outlet through the Social Enterprise Support Fund and hospitality grant funding through Liverpool City Council. This was vital in order to support the charity throughout the period of lifting of restrictions and recovery towards pre-pandemic trading levels.

We are active in developing our products and services that enrich our portfolio and are aligned to our strategic aims and values and we operate within the following arenas:

1. **Health & Wellbeing** – Female Health, Mental Health, Loneliness & Social Isolation, Wellbeing & Resilience programmes for women and families.
2. **Environmenta**l **& Cultural** - A blend of programmes focused on positive environmental outcomes to enhance the green economy, local biodiversity, and the adverse effects of climate change, in addition to cultural programmes including inclusion and equality and maintaining the integrity of our historical asset and archives.
3. **Education & Employment** - Career support, Access to Work, Personal Development, Lifestyle Courses, Apprenticeships and non-accredited courses.
4. **Business** - Business and personal development for Entrepreneurship, Leadership, Coaching and Mentoring and business start-up and scale up.

The global Covid-19 pandemic has presented us with strategic partnership opportunities we had not anticipated. Funders are favouring investment in organisations that are delivering social value though their day to day trading operations and activities, rather than through one off projects. As Blackburne House is a long-established social business with a track record of delivering social impact through trading, we are strongly positioned to partner with funders who are aligned to our vision and values.

The Board continues to review our Covid-19 recovery plans to shape the business so that we can focus our efforts on mission led, sustainable portfolios that support the vision to empower women. The budget projections for 2021/22 include a re-growth towards our pre-pandemic trading levels for our existing portfolio which is supported by growth of our more recent social enterprise areas such as our hospital café and our Wellness and Counselling centre. Our sustainability is enhanced through a blend of trading and strategic partnerships with Blackburne House that seek to enhance social impact and trading for good. As an organisation with such proven track record, depth and reputation in the local community, with a blend of services that have been able to adapt to local priorities, we are well positioned to strengthen our position post Covid-19 to continue to serve the women of Liverpool and the local community.

The Building

One of the trustees' prime responsibility is the upkeep of the Grade II listed building by way of ongoing repairs and renewals. The trustees' decisions are made to enable the building to be kept at a standard in line with the requirements of both Liverpool City Council and The Charities Commission.

The building is in trust to Blackburne House and in order to protect the investment of Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Blackburne House agreed that it was in the best interests of the company, the property and the beneficiaries of the charity to appoint WTEC as a co-trustee of the Blackburne House Charity and to grant WTEC an interest in the property. A Deed of Appointment of Trustee and a Declaration of Trust between WTEC and Blackburne House was signed on 2 September 2016.

Our plans for the future

Blackburne House has a portfolio of businesses and projects that are diverse and yet complimentary to our core values in supporting the advancement of education and vocational training for women. Our strength is in our diversity as this means we have a variety of great assets and opportunities to maximise our full potential.

As a result of Covid-19 our day-to-day activities that provide much needed services in support of our charitable aims to educate women and drive social and economic advancement, have been recognised by funders. During this pandemic, we have strengthened our work within our community as we are directly aligned to those who need us most. Through new strategic partnerships, we are able to provide responsive and bespoke support to women, families and the BAME community that are more impactful and immediate. This will enable us to drive our trading and contracted services to a repositioned place of strength and sustainability for future scale and much needed social and economic impact.

Going forward we plan to focus our plans and strategic development on:

- We have secured funding for our Wellness and Counselling Centre, which supports our aim to establish this as one of the core service provisions in Blackburne House. We will continue to build and grow the programme of wellbeing services to ensure we can continue to provide much needed support to tackle mental ill-health in our local community and provide local businesses and the public with a centrally located, welcoming destination for on-site counselling services and wellness activities. We have been contracted by local authority to provide counselling services for specialist mental health areas and developed mental health first aider supervision and employee mental health welfare programmes for local and national businesses to access.

Alongside Blackburne House Education, we will support learners will mental health counselling services, helping them to remove obstacles to learning. Blackburne House Wellness and Counselling Centre will also play a vital role in providing an environment for newly qualified Level 4 counsellors to access clinical counselling placements in order to complete their professional status, increasing the number of qualified counsellors in the city to help to meet the increasing demand for mental health services.

We are working closely with our Education Team in Blackburne House Education who will deliver an increased programme of counselling courses. The Wellness and Counselling Centre will provide a pathway to employment as Blackburne House learners both gain qualifications and experience in their chosen skill area. Through creating counselling roles, this will be an important employment pathway, particularly for BAME learners, so that service users can access support from professionals from their own community and culture. This is a unique offer that has made a significant social impact and is a vital part of our broader portfolio The Wellness and Counselling Centre will offer services to over 1,000 women over the coming year, supported through both grant and paid-for services of wellness and counselling and we will continue to work with strategic partners and funders to access finance to support the growth required in this sector to combat mental health inequalities.

- We are proud to have established a new catering outlet at the Liverpool Clatterbridge Cancer Centre in November 2020, through significant challenges of opening during a period of Government lockdowns and restrictions. Our offering at the hospital has been extremely well received and continues to grow as local healthcare restrictions are gradually lifted. We anticipate generating higher turnover levels as the hospital opens up to visitors and increased hospital footfall. We have received positive feedback from customers and Trust management and Blackburne House has an additional platform to promote the charity and raise our profile in the local community. We are delighted that patients and customers value the opportunity to access fresh, seasonal and nutritious food from a local social enterprise who can continue to tailor and adapt to their needs. We are encouraged that this model delivers significant benefits for both the Trust and Blackburne House and have created a successful trading model and will look for opportunities to replicate this at other suitable sites.

- Continuing to deliver our vital Nursery service which has remained fully operational since re-opening in June 2020. This continuity of service is vital for local families, and we are grateful for the continued support of The Steve Morgan Foundation who recognised our Nursery provision is a critical component to family support and economic recovery.

- We have identified our conference and events as a growth area and will develop local partnerships to grow external customer usage of our spaces to develop this income stream. Through building our own programme of events we will generate income and raise the profile of the charity. Our historic building has a unique style and customer experience with catering provided through our social enterprise bistro. More and more organisations are becoming more socially minded and identify the social value of supporting charity venues for their own conference and events.

- We aim to grow our projects portfolio, supporting local community programmes and working with local stakeholders in Visit Hope Street CIC to identify projects whereby Blackburne House can continue to be positioned as one of the most vital social enterprise charities in the city.

- Our Bistro will continue to recover and build back to pre-pandemic trading levels, and provide an opportunity for increased employment and development of staff skills while providing students with subsidised meals to support their learning and our local neighbours and community who have supported Blackburne House and continue to promote our quality of food services throughout the city.

The Board will continue to review our post Covid-19 recovery plans and shape the business so that we can focus our efforts on mission led, sustainable portfolios that support the vision to empower women. As an organisation with such proven track record, depth and reputation in the local community, with a blend of services that have been able to adapt to local priorities, we are well positioned to strengthen our organisation and we emerge from Covid-19 and continue to serve the women of Liverpool and the local community.

Financial review

The trustees' financial responsibilities include the solvency of the organisation, safeguarding the assets of the organisation and approving the annual budget to set financial objectives, which are quantifiable targets against which we can measure achievement. To assist us in achieving these objectives monthly management accounts are produced and discussed at Executive Leadership Team meetings. A formal cycle of reporting of management accounts has been established and includes bi-monthly meetings with both the Finance & Resources Committee and the trustees. The Finance & Resources Committee continually reviews the reporting mechanisms in place to ensure risk management and financial planning is developed and enhances the opportunities of the organisation. The Finance & Resources Committee, under powers delegated to it by the trustees, regulate and control the finances of the organisation.

As the financial impacts of Covid-19 continued past July 2020 with implementation of Tier restrictions, two further lockdowns and continued restrictions throughout 2021, we have increased the frequency of meetings and reporting to the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee in order to ensure that we managed and mitigated the continued risks due to the pandemic.

- Engaged more frequently with our bankers Natwest and Lenders, First Ark to ensure they were fully aware of the impacts of Covid and our response and actions
- Enhanced cashflow management and reporting to review weekly along with extend forecasting
- Instigated finance repayment holidays for loan and lease repayments
- Accessed HMRC PAYE/NI and VAT payment deferral scheme, agreeing repayment plans with HMRC
- Accessed the Government Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme including the flexible furlough scheme to tailor staffing needs to income levels where possible.
- Worked with our insurers to submit business interruption insurance claim for lost income during lockdown periods.
- Accessed Local Authority Grant funding to support Hospitality and Leisure lockdowns
- Worked with our existing funders to agree certainty and draw down of funds
- Successfully applied for support grants with strategic partners to access vital funding during periods of income restrictions.

Our Financial Performance has been significantly impacted by our inability to trade through multiple national lockdowns during our financial year ending 2021. Our principal trading income was down by 36% against pre-pandemic levels and this reflects the impact across all of our social enterprise business areas as we were unable to access the physical space in the building to generate income.

Working closely with the trustees and carrying out the actions within the Finance Contingency Plan enabled the organisation to navigate through these challenging times. In utilising the furlough scheme, accessing grants, working with strategic partners and carefully managing cashflow, we mitigated the losses and during the financial year to 2020/21 are reporting an operating deficit of £45,373 (before depreciation and endowment release).

We continue to review our strategic plans in light of Covid-19 and the longer-term impacts on our trading ability, focusing on sustainability and mission. The financial projections for 2021/22 and 2022/23 have been prepared, taking into account the impact of Covid-19 and the opportunities to strengthen our offer through strategic partnerships developed at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic. They reflect our ability to adapt to the landscape in a strong and progressive manner in support of our learners and community. The trustees are confident that we have an ongoing viable business model, and they remain optimistic about the future and our ability to navigate the short-term challenges and trade back up to sustainable levels in the longer term.

Remuneration of key management personnel

The trustees consider the Chief Executive and the Senior Management Team to be the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

It is the charity's policy to pay staff at rates reflecting the local market and in line with similar organisations.

Reserves policy

The organisation's reserve policy has been reviewed in line with guidance from the Charity Commission. It is the policy of the organisation to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the organisation at a level, which equates to three months liquidity requirements. The trustees have reviewed the value of reserves required and have set the desired value of the reserves at £150,000 (2020 £150,000) to reflect current level of overheads as the business grows. This provides sufficient funds to cover management, administration and support costs for the development of our principal activities to enable us to provide a high-quality service to our stakeholders.

The organisation has not been able to achieve a surplus this year to improve the reserves position but is committed to continual improvement to reverse the negative reserves in future years. The trustees recognise that our negative unrestricted reserves position reflects the fact that we are a trading business rather than grant funded. We have invested our traded income into jobs, services and strategic aims consistently over our many years in existence, responding to our communities needs and adapting to strengthen our social impact and services. The trustees continue to monitor the situation and have reviewed and agreed the strategy and priorities that align to this objective as we move forward.

Risk policy

The trustees are responsible for overseeing the risks faced by the organisation. Detailed considerations of risks are delegated to the Senior Management Team. Risks are identified and controls established throughout the year. All significant activities undertaken are subject to a risk review. Systems have been established to mitigate the risks and the Senior Management Team regularly reviews the risks and takes any action identified.

Investment powers and restrictions

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the charity has the power, to invest or deposit funds in any manner only after obtaining advice from a financial expert and having regard to the suitability of investments and the need for diversification.

The trustees, having regard to the liquidity requirements of operating the charity and to the reserves policy, do not consider it necessary to invest in a portfolio of investments, but instead have operated a policy of keeping available funds in an interest-bearing deposit account and seek to achieve a rate of deposit interest which matches or exceeds inflation as measured by the retail price index.

Invested funds are held on deposit in a high interest savings account for use as and when necessary.

Environmental policy

The Board of Trustees and senior managers of Blackburne House are committed to the objectives of sustainable development and to achieving environmental best practice through all business activities, wherever practical to do so. We accept an active and practical leadership in respect of environmental management is a business function and that a concerted approach must be adopted to prevent pollution minimise waste and achieve continual improvement in environmental performance.

Blackburne House is committed to a structured approach to the management of its activities, ensuring it complies with or exceeds applicable environmental legal requirements and all other relevant requirements and recognised best practices which are related to our environmental aspects.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

Blackburne House is a charitable company limited by guarantee (No. 2674432), incorporated in England on 30 December 1991 and registered as a charity (No. 1010546) on 15 April 1992. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. On winding up of the company each member will contribute £1.

Organisation

Each of the organisation's business areas and social enterprises has been organised to support our learners they financially contribute to and facilitate the growth and development of the organisation's resources.

The Board of Trustees administer the charity. The Board meets bi-monthly and there are sub-committees covering Finance & Resources and Education & Quality.

A Chief Executive (CEO) is appointed by the trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters including finance and to provide strategic direction for Blackburne House ensuring that its policies, systems, products and services are continually focused on achieving the organisation's mission, including social, environmental and commercial objectives. The CEO leads business planning for all aspects of the service provision ensuring it fits with the strategic direction, local priorities and to champion high performance in line with the organisations values to ensure the sustainability of the group.

Blackburne House runs a number of award-winning social enterprises and currently holds a National Social Enterprise Mark which recognises that our businesses are values based and committed to having a positive social and environmental impact on the communities we serve.

The Management Team

Day to day management of the charity is delegated to the senior managers. The current team is:-

A McColl - Chief Executive
A Rushton - Director of Operations
H Byrne - Financial Controller

Trustee appointment, induction and training

The Board adopt a strategic approach to trustee recruitment and when appropriate all vacancies are advertised within the community to attract trustees to serve on its board and also invite trustees to nominate prior to the AGM.

All members are circulated with invitations to nominate trustees prior to the AGM advising them of the retiring trustees and requesting nominations for the AGM. When considering co-opting trustees, the Board has regard to the requirements for any specialist skillset and competency needed that would enhance the organisation's ability to deliver on its strategic goals. Board members come from a variety of backgrounds, and it is this variety that adds value to the organisation. However, we recognise that our expectations are high and the demands we place on the Board are considerable, therefore we feel that it is important to support all Board Members with the training and development they need to complement and supplement their current skills and competencies.

The induction programme aims to give the new member an understanding of the work of Blackburne House Education and to help recognise how they can make a significant contribution to the organisation during their term of office. New trustees undergo an orientation programme to brief them on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the contents of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes and recent financial performance of the charity. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events and internal training and briefings where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Related Charities

Blackburne House is related to Women's Technology Training Limited by virtue of common directors, influence and shared resources.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors 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. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they 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 2019 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on a 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 charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Trustees' statement of disclosure of information to the auditors

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirm in so far as they are aware:-

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

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

Trustees' Annual Report [Continued]
Year ended 31 July 2021

Auditors

A resolution for the re-appointment of Mitchell Charlesworth LLP will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Approval

In approving the Trustees' Annual Report, we also approve the Strategic Report included therein in our capacity as company directors.

SIGNED BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES



Helen Byrne
COMPANY SECRETARY

Registered office:
Blackburne House
Blackburne Place
Off Hope Street
Liverpool L8 7PE

Approved by the trustees on 5 April 2022

Mitchell Charlesworth LLP

Chartered Accountants

5 Temple Square . Temple Street . Liverpool . L2 5RH

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Blackburne House for the year ended 31 July 2021

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Blackburne House (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 July 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 July 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Material uncertainty related to going concern

We draw attention to note 1(q) in the financial statements, which highlights the fact that there is a net current liability position of £378,288 and a deficit on unrestricted funds of £407,341. Whilst these conditions indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, note 1(q) provides a full explanation of the circumstances surrounding this. Our opinion is not qualified in respect of this matter.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustee' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities set out on page 13, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

Extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Identifying and assessing potential risks related to irregularities

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the industry and sector, control environment and business performance;
- the charitable company's own assessment of the risks that irregularities may occur either as a result of fraud or error;
- the results of our enquiries of management and members of the Board of Trustees of their own identification of and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charitable company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
- identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
- detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
- the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations; and
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas:

(i) The presentation of the charitable company's Statement of Financial Activities, (ii) the charitable company's accounting policies for revenue recognition, and (iii) the overstatement of salary and other costs. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the UK Companies Act and the Statement of Recommended Practice - 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities' issued by the joint SORP making body .

In addition, we considered provisions of other laws and regulations that do not have a direct effect on the financial statements but compliance with which may be fundamental to the charitable company's ability to operate or to avoid a material penalty. These included Safeguarding, Data Protection and food hygiene regulations.

Audit response to risks identified

As a result of performing the above, we identified the presentation of the charitable company's Statement of Financial Activities, revenue recognition and overstatement of wages and other costs as the key audit matters related to the potential risk of fraud. The key audit matters section of our report explains the matters in more detail and also describes the specific procedures we performed in response to those key audit matters.

In addition to the above, our procedures to respond to risks identified included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations described above as having a direct effect on the financial statements;
- enquiring of management and members of the Board of Trustees concerning actual and potential litigation and claims;
- performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance and reviewing correspondence with relevant authorities where matters identified were significant; and
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Blackburne House for the year ended 31 July 2021 [Continued]

We also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all engagement team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. The risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mitchell Charlesworth

Mr Philip Griffiths
Senior Statutory Auditor

26 April 2022

On behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth LLP
Statutory Auditor

3rd Floor
5 Temple Square
Temple Street
Liverpool
Merseyside
L2 5RH

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Statement of Financial Activities
Year ended 31 July 2021

Income from:	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Donations and legacies	2	145,841	-	-	145,841	166,440
Charitable activities	3	746,871	75,994	-	822,865	783,241
Investments	4	6	-	-	6	9
Total income		892,718	75,994	-	968,712	949,690
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	5	(951,652)	(100,800)	(38,057)	(1,090,509)	(1,070,494)
Total expenditure		(951,652)	(100,800)	(38,057)	(1,090,509)	(1,070,494)
Net expenditure for the year	10	(58,934)	(24,806)	(38,057)	(121,797)	(120,804)
Total funds brought forward		(348,407)	2,261,175	2,752,818	4,665,586	4,786,390
Total funds carried forward		(407,341)	2,236,369	2,714,761	4,543,789	4,665,586

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year as set out above.

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 25 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

Statement of Financial Activities [Continued]
Year ended 31 July 2021

Comparative information for the year ended 31 July 2020

Income from:	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Donations and legacies	2	166,440	-	-	166,440	721
Charitable activities	3	783,241	-	-	783,241	1,420,828
Investments	4	9	-	-	9	4
Total income		949,690	-	-	949,690	1,421,553
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	5	(1,007,731)	(24,706)	(38,057)	(1,070,494)	1,285,712
Total expenditure		(1,007,731)	(24,706)	(38,057)	(1,070,494)	1,285,712
Net (expenditure)/income for the year	10	(58,041)	(24,706)	(38,057)	(120,804)	135,841
Total funds brought forward		(290,366)	2,285,881	2,790,875	4,786,390	4,650,549
Total funds carried forward		(348,407)	2,261,175	2,752,818	4,665,586	4,786,390

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year as set out above.

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 25 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Summary Income and Expenditure Account
Year ended 31 July 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Income		968,706	949,681
Interest and investment income	4	6	9
Gross income		968,712	949,690
Expenditure		1,006,986	986,748
Interest payable		7,099	4,300
Depreciation		38,367	41,389
Total expenditure		1,052,452	1,032,437
Net (expenditure)/income		(83,740)	(82,747)

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

The notes on pages 25 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Balance Sheet
31st July 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		5,035,386		5,063,667
Current assets					
Stocks	15	4,570		3,243	
Debtors	16	76,741		91,178	
Cash at bank and in hand		54,383		88,502	
		135,694		182,923	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	(513,982)		(476,366)	
Net current liabilities			(378,288)		(293,443)
Total assets less current liabilities			4,657,098		4,770,224
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	18		(113,309)		(104,638)
Net assets			4,543,789		4,665,586
The funds of the Charity					
Endowment	21		2,714,761		2,752,818
Restricted	22		2,236,369		2,261,175
Unrestricted	23		(407,341)		(348,407)
Total funds	24		4,543,789		4,665,586

These financial statements were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 5 April 2022 and are signed on their behalf by:



Sally-Anne Watkiss
Trustee

Company Registration Number: 2674432

The notes on pages 25 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Statement of Cash Flows
Year ended 31 July 2021

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
Cash flow from operating activities				
Cash generated from operations		9,700		28,433
Cash flow from investing activities				
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	(13,609)		(7,583)	
Proceeds of disposal of tangible fixed assets	-		5,768	
Investment income received	6		9	
Net cash flow from investing activities		(13,603)		(1,806)
		(3,903)		26,627
Cash flow from financing activities				
New borrowings	-		50,000	
Repayment of loans	(17,937)		(13,169)	
Payment of obligations under finance leases	(5,180)		-	
Interest paid	(7,099)		(4,300)	
Net cash flow from financing activities		(30,216)		32,531
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(34,119)		59,158
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 August 2020		88,502		29,344
Cash and cash equivalents as at 31 July 2021		54,383		88,502

The notes on pages 25 to 38 form part of these financial statements.

1. Summary of accounting policies

(a) General information and basis of preparation

Blackburne House is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity incorporated in England and Wales. 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 address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are set out in the Trustees' Report on page 2.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. 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 in October 2019, the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

(b) Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

The property fund is treated as a permanent endowment on the basis that the original building is not owned by the charity and the building alterations that have been carried out form a capital fund with which the charity has now power to convert the capital into income.

(c) Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

1. Summary of accounting policies [Continued]

(c) Income recognition [Continued]

Income from charitable activities includes income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to special performance conditions and is recognised as earned as the related services are provided. Grant income included in this category provides funding to support performance activities and is recognised when there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amounts can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as bank deposits. It essentially includes interest which is recognised using the effective interest method.

(d) Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes costs associated with the charity including support costs as appropriate.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the category above.

(e) Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at the charity's registered office. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 6.

(f) Capital grants

Grants received to cover the cost of building alterations and fixtures and fittings are included as restricted income and will be credited to the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis consistent with the depreciation policy.

(g) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended. Capital expenditure on equipment is written off in the period in which it is incurred if purchased from grant income. Individual assets are capitalised on the balance sheet where their cost exceeds £100.

1. Summary of accounting policies [Continued]

(g) Tangible fixed assets [Continued]

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Building alterations & additions	1 - 10% per annum
Computers	10 - 33% per annum
Fixtures & fittings	10 - 20% per annum
Equipment	10 - 20% per annum

Whilst historically building alterations have been depreciated at 1%, additions are not considered to have the same life and so are depreciated over 10 years.

(h) Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost includes all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other cost incurred in bringing stock to its present location and condition. Cost is calculated using the first-in, first-out formula. Provision is made for damaged, obsolete and slow-moving stock where appropriate.

(i) Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

(j) Loans and borrowings

Loans and borrowings are initially recognised at the transaction price including transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less impairment. If an arrangement constitutes a finance transaction it is measured at present value.

(k) Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

1. Summary of accounting policies [Continued]

(k) Financial instruments [Continued]

Basic financial liabilities
Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities
Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

(l) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

(m) Leases

Assets acquired under finance leases are capitalised and depreciated over the shorter of the lease term and the expected useful life of the asset. Minimum lease payments are apportioned between the finance charge and the reduction of the outstanding lease liability using the effective interest method. The related obligations, net of future finance charges, are included in creditors.

Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

(n) Employee benefits

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

The charity operates a defined contribution plan for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are expensed as they become payable.

(o) Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

1. Summary of accounting policies [Continued]

(p) VAT

The charity is partially exempt for VAT purposes. VAT for partial exemption which is not allowed in the year is written off to the Statement of Financial Activities.

(q) Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the future outlook reflects the opportunities that have arisen as a result of our ability to support the communities we serve as we emerge from Covid19. Whilst the Trustees acknowledge the net current liabilities position of £378,288 is a challenging basis on which to enter into post Covid19 recovery, we are confident that our core business can respond to the transitioning period, bolstered by our embedded social impacts in action.

Our day to day activities that provide much needed services in support of our charitable aims to educate women and drive social and economic advancement have emerged as more valuable than previously recognised. During this pandemic, we have strengthened our work within our community as we are directly aligned to those who need us most. We are able to provide responsive and bespoke support to women, families and the BAME community that are impactful and immediate and funders are investing in organisations that are delivering social value though their day to day trading operations, activities and interventions, rather than through one off projects.

Funders have seen the value of organisations working with particular communities during Covid-19. We are rooted in the local community and have access to people who have been disadvantaged through this pandemic. Our learners and employees, a high proportion of which are women, part of the BAME community and those who experience social deprivation are even more at risk of mental ill health and cultural inequalities. Blackburne House have responded at speed with interventions that reach those people most in need and provided funders with the networks and reach to make a difference. We have successfully contracted to provide that support post Covid19 and we anticipate this will translate into long term, substantial contracts with significant interventions.

The trustees have reviewed the plans and consider that the budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern and remain confident that core business is sustainable in the long term.

2. Income from donations and legacies	**Unrestricted Funds £**	**Restricted Funds £**	**Endowment Funds £**	**Total 2021 £**	**Total 2020 £**
Donations	890	-	-	890	645
Grants receivable	144,951	-	-	144,951	165,795
	145,841	-	-	145,841	166,440

All of the above income in 2020 was attributable to unrestricted funds.

3. Income from charitable activities	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Nursery income	323,627	-	-	323,627	256,085
Health Place income	-	-	-	-	25,054
Café Bar income	78,871	-	-	78,871	163,355
Rent receivable	43,137	-	-	43,137	161,983
Project and business development	750	-	-	750	5,043
Events	17,479	-	-	17,479	61,092
Car park income	6,584	-	-	6,584	10,945
Post and photocopying	-	-	-	-	10,837
Meeting House café	-	-	-	-	43,441
Other	531	-	-	531	3,275
Liverpool City Council - Headstrong Programme	-	-	-	-	15,000
Steve Morgan Foundation	26,732	-	-	26,732	24,131
Add: Deferred income released	-	-	-	-	3,000
Clatterbridge café	142,308	-	-	142,308	-
National Lottery	-	75,994	-	75,994	-
Social Enterprise Support Fund	97,602	-	-	97,602	-
Social Investment Business Growth Fund	9,250	-	-	9,250	-
	746,871	75,994	-	822,865	783,241

All of the above income in 2020 was attributable to unrestricted funds.

4. Income from investments	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Interest received on cash deposits	6	-	-	6	9

All of the above income in 2020 was attributable to unrestricted funds.

5. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Nursery	257,022	62,878	319,900	311,221
Health Place	643	-	643	29,403
Cafe	141,769	24,177	165,946	297,163
Meeting House	-	-	-	76,656
Events	64,194	5,373	69,567	102,909
Projects and Business Development	63,760	236	63,996	19,780
Building management	117,961	158,906	276,867	233,362
Clatterbridge café	149,959	43,631	193,590	-
	795,308	295,201	1,090,509	1,070,494

Of the above costs £951,652 (2020 £1,007,731) were attributable to unrestricted funds, £100,800 (2020 £24,706) were attributable to restricted funds, and £38,057 (2020 £38,057) were attributable to endowment funds.

6. Allocation of support costs	2021	2020
	£	£
Management salaries	61,758	40,306
Premises costs	105,754	100,665
Office costs	21,359	40,165
Depreciation	76,424	79,446
Professional	2,558	26,876
Other	21,553	9,933
Governance costs (see note 7)	5,795	6,633
	295,201	304,024

7. Governance costs	2021	2020
	£	£
Audit and accountancy fees	5,795	6,633

8. Staff costs and employee benefits	2021	2020
	£	£
The aggregate payroll costs were:		
Wages and salaries	642,455	657,146
Social security costs	40,382	35,255
Other pension costs	16,191	15,231
	699,028	707,632
Recharged salaries	(33,600)	(36,297)
	665,428	671,335

	2021	2020
Particulars of employees:	£	£
The average number of staff employed by the Charity during the financial year amounted to:	47	49

There are no employees with emoluments above £60,000.

9. Trustees' and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

No remuneration was paid to the trustees during the year for their services as trustees (2020 £Nil) nor were any expenses reimbursed (2020 £Nil).

The total amount of employee remuneration received by key management personnel is £57,186 (2020 £57,583).

The charity considers its key management personnel to comprise the Executive Director of Operations.

10. Net income/(expenditure) for the year	**2021**	**2020**
	£	**£**
This is stated after charging:		
Staff pension contributions	16,191	15,231
Depreciation	76,424	79,446
Auditors' remuneration - as auditors	5,795	5,460

11. Auditor's remuneration	**2021**	**2020**
	£	**£**
Fees payable to the charity's auditor for the audit of the charity's annual accounts	5,795	5,460

12. Taxation

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

13. Interest payable and similar expenses	**2021**	**2020**
	£	**£**
Other loans	5,394	4,300
Finance charge payable under finance leases	1,705	-
	7,099	4,300

14. Tangible fixed assets	Building Alterations £	Equipment £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Computers £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 August 2020	6,139,422	224,186	270,518	58,468	6,692,594
Additions	-	37,661	10,482	-	48,143
At 31 July 2021	6,139,422	261,847	281,000	58,468	6,740,737
Depreciation					
At 1 August 2020	1,116,314	205,470	248,675	58,468	1,628,927
Charge for the year	67,852	5,759	2,813	-	76,424
At 31 July 2021	1,184,166	211,229	251,488	58,468	1,705,351
Net book value					
At 31 July 2021	4,955,256	50,618	29,512	-	5,035,386
At 31 July 2020	5,023,108	18,716	21,843	-	5,063,667

Included in the net book value of equipment is £34,534 (2020 - £Nil) in respect of assets held under finance leases.

In accordance with the accounting policy, these assets were not depreciated in the current year.

15. Stocks	2021 £	2020 £
Goods for resale	4,570	3,243

16. Debtors	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	28,645	27,611
Prepayments	29,816	15,674
Other debtors	18,280	47,893
	76,741	91,178

17. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	2021 £	2020 £
Obligations under finance leases	6,907	-
First Ark loan	16,939	22,075
Bounce Back loan	3,331	2,355
Trade creditors	99,613	63,627
Social security and other taxes	32,619	59,621
Other creditors	320,606	304,519
Accruals and deferred income	33,967	24,169
	513,982	476,366

18. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	2021	2020
	£	£
Obligations under finance leases	22,447	-
First Ark loan	44,192	56,992
Bounce Back loan	46,670	47,646
	113,309	104,638

The finance leases are secured against the assets acquired.

On 29 March 2018 First Ark advanced the charity £120,000 repayable in monthly instalments over 6 years at a rate of interest of 8.5%.

On 20 May 2020, National Westminster Bank plc advanced the charity £50,000 under the Coronavirus Bounce Back Loan Scheme (BBLS) originally repayable over 6 years but extended to 10 years on 4 June 2021, with an interest rate of 2.5% per annum.

19. Loans and overdrafts

Creditors include loans which are due to be repaid as follows:	2021	2020
	£	£
Amounts payable:		
In one year or less or on demand	20,270	24,430
In more than one year but no more than two years	32,341	35,674
In more than two years but not more than five years	33,044	61,060
Over five years and payable by instalments	25,477	7,904
	111,132	129,068

20. Leases

Finance leases

Finance leases primarily relate to the purchase of kitchen equipment.

Total future minimum lease payments are as follows:	2021	2020
	£	£
Not later than one year	6,907	-
Later than one and not later than five years	22,447	-
	29,354	-

At 31 July 2021 the charity had future total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:	Assets other than land and buildings 2021	2020
	£	£
Within one year	16,529	10,912
Between two and five years	45,967	8,108
	62,496	19,020

Notes to the Financial Statements [Continued]
Year ended 31 July 2021

21. Endowment funds	As at 1 August 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	As at 31 July 2021 £
Permanent endowments:					
Property fund	2,752,818	-	(38,057)	-	2,714,761

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	As at 1 August 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	As at 31 July 2020 £
Permanent endowments:					
Property fund	2,790,875	-	(38,057)	-	2,752,818

22. Restricted funds	As at 1 August 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	As at 31 July 2021 £
Liverpool City Council Nursery capital	2,480	-	(663)	-	1,817
Liverpool City Region - Single Investment Fund (Capital Investment)	2,258,695	-	(24,143)	-	2,234,552
National Lottery	-	75,994	(75,994)	-	-
	2,261,175	75,994	(100,800)	-	2,236,369

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

Restricted funds	As at 1 August 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	As at 31 July 2020 £
Liverpool City Council Nursery capital	3,043	-	(563)	-	2,480
Liverpool City Region - Single Investment Fund (Capital Investment)	2,282,838	-	(24,143)	-	2,258,695
	2,285,881	-	(24,706)	-	2,261,175

The restricted fund balances relate to specific projects and events run by the charity and are recorded as restricted in accordance with the conditions of the grant.

23. Unrestricted funds

	As at 1 August 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	As at 31 July 2021 £
General fund	(348,407)	892,718	(951,652)	-	(407,341)

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	As at 1 August 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	As at 31 July 2020 £
General fund	(290,366)	949,690	(1,007,731)	-	(348,407)

24. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current liabilities £	Creditors due after one year £	Total £
Endowment fund	2,714,761	-	-	2,714,761
Restricted fund	2,236,369	-	-	2,236,369
Unrestricted funds	84,256	(378,288)	(113,309)	(407,341)
	5,035,386	(378,288)	(113,309)	4,543,789

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current liabilities £	Creditors due after one year £	Total £
Endowment fund	2,752,818	-	-	2,752,818
Restricted fund	2,261,175	-	-	2,261,175
Unrestricted funds	49,674	(293,443)	(104,638)	(348,407)
	5,063,667	(293,443)	(104,638)	4,665,586

25. Related party transactions

Blackburne House is related to Women's Technology Training Limited by virtue of common directors and influence. Both these charities operate from the same Registered Office. During the year Blackburne House charged Women's Technology Limited £18,157 for rent and services (2020 £136,194), £34,040 for childcare and related allowances (2020 £5,462) and £132,084 for other administration and project costs (2020 £117,129). During the year Women's Technology Training Limited charged Blackburne House £988 (2020 £823) for administration costs.

The above exclude VAT on vatable items.

At the year-end Blackburne House owed Women's Technology Training Limited £312,215 (2021 £214,052).

Included in creditors is a loan from Women's Technology Training Limited for £58,710 (2020 £58,710) which is due to be repaid as agreed by the trustees.

26. Pension scheme contributions

The charity operates a defined contributions pension scheme for its employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions paid by the charity to the defined contribution scheme which amounted to £16,191 (2020 £15,231).

27. Deferred income	**Under 1 year**	**2021**	**2020**
	£	**£**	**£**
At 1 August 2020	3,750	3,750	6,750
Additions	10,518	10,518	-
Amounts released to income	-	-	(3,000)
At 31 July 2021	14,268	14,268	3,750

Income has been deferred when it is received in advance of the period to which it relates or where performance of the activities to which it relates have not yet been undertaken.

28. Company limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

On winding up of the company each member will contribute £1.

29. Capital commitments

There are no capital commitments as at 31st July 2021 (2020 £Nil).

30.	**Reconciliation of net (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities**	**£**	**£**
	Net (expenditure)/income for the year	(121,797)	(120,804)
	Interest receivable	(6)	(9)
	Interest payable	7,099	4,300
	Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	76,424	79,446
	Decrease/(increase) in stock	(1,327)	2,093
	(Increase)/decrease in debtors	14,437	(24,337)
	Increase in creditors	34,870	87,744
	Net cash flow from operating activities	9,700	28,433
	Cash and cash equivalent consists of:		
	Cash at bank	48,250	85,335
	Cash in hand	6,133	3,167
		54,383	88,502

31.	**Analysis of changes in net debt**	**Balance at 1st August 2020 £**	**Cashflows £**	**Non-cash Changes £**	**Balance at 31st July 2021 £**
	Long term borrowings	104,638	-	(13,777)	90,861
	Short term borrowings	24,430	(17,936)	13,777	20,271
	Obligations under finance leases	-	(5,180)	34,534	29,354
	Total liabilities	129,068	(23,116)	34,534	140,486
	Cash and cash equivalent	(88,502)	34,119	-	(54,383)
	Total net debt	40,566	11,003	34,534	86,103

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

England & Wales - Charity number 1010546

Accounts

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

(Company Limited by Guarantee)

TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

for the year ended
31 July 2020

Company Registration Number 2674432
Charity Number 1010546

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Accounts
Year ended 31 July 2020

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BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Members of the Board and Professional Advisors
Year ended 31 July 2020

Registered charity name	Blackburne House
Company number	2674432
Charity number	1010546
The Board of Trustees	Liz Cross (Chair) Maureen Mellor (resigned 29/11/20) Sally-Anne Watkiss Lorna Rogers (resigned 25/02/21) Therese Patten Annette Hennessy Claire Ryan Kate Fox Emma Carey (appointed 29/07/20) Nina Roberts (appointed 29/07/20
Company secretary	Pauline Phillips (resigned 19/12/19) Dana Nixon (appointed 19/12/19)
Chief executive	Claire Dove OBE, DL (resigned 31/07/20) Anne McColl (appointed 01/08/20)
Registered office	Blackburne House Blackburne Place Off Hope Street Liverpool L8 7PE
Statutory Auditor	Mitchell Charlesworth LLP Chartered Accountants Registered Auditor 3rd Floor 5 Temple Square Temple Street Liverpool L2 5RH
Bankers	National Westminster Bank Plc 2 - 8 Church Street Liverpool L1 3BG
Solicitors	MSB Solicitors Ltd Silkhouse Court Tithebarn Street Liverpool L2 2LZ

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Trustees' Annual Report
Year ended 31 July 2020

The trustees, who are also directors for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their annual report and the audited accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2020. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS102) in preparing the annual report and accounts of the charity.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the accounts and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland published October 2019.

Trustees

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Liz Cross	Annette Hennessy
Maureen Mellor (resigned 29/11/20)	Claire Ryan
Sally-Anne Watkiss	Kate Fox
Lorna Rogers (resigned 25/02/21)	Emma Carey (appointed 29/07/20)
Therese Patten	Nina Roberts (appointed 29/07/20)

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

None of the trustees receive remuneration or other benefits for their work as trustees of the charity. Any connection between a trustee or senior manager of the charity with a company must be disclosed to the full Board of Trustees in the same way as any contractual relationship with a related party.

Objectives of the Charity

The charity's objects and its principal activity continue to be to advance education and to relieve need by providing or assisting in the provision of vocational training for women and by providing guidance for such of them, as are in need, calculated to enable them to earn their own living. To promote any charitable purpose and in particular charitable purposes directed to the advancement of women's education and the provision of training facilities for women.

Public Benefit

When planning our activities for the year, the trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and in particular the specific guidance on charities with other purposes currently recognised as charitable and any new charitable purpose which are similar to other charitable purpose.

We are an equal opportunities organisation and are committed to a working environment that is free from any form of discrimination on the grounds of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or disability.

It is a priority of the organisation that access to our services is not restricted to those who can afford our fees. Our concessionary fee policy contributes to the widening of access to the courses we offer and the facilities we provide.

The trustees have had due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit and in particular the supplementary guidance on public benefit and fee charging.

About Blackburne House

Women's Technology Training Limited, our founder and sister company (known as Blackburne House Education) was established in 1983 with the aim of progressing women from disadvantaged backgrounds into employment within technical professions – an area in which, at the time, women were significantly under-represented.

Strategic Report

The organisation grew quickly and considerably and, in 1991 we moved into new premises in Liverpool's famous Georgian Quarter. More than £4m was raised in order to breathe new life back into Blackburne House and the beautiful, Grade II-listed building that was once the home of the first Girls' School in the country then became our new home.

After more than 30 years' service we received local, national and international recognition for the work that we do in education and in June 2015 were granted Freedom of the City in recognition for our services in Education for Women across Liverpool and the wider Merseyside area.

Today, Blackburne House Education is a vibrant and thriving organisation and one of the country's leading Ofsted Outstanding rated education centres. Over the years, through Blackburne House, we have established a number of successful social enterprises that succeed in supporting our educational aims and provide tangible examples of how new markets can be used to serve local communities.

Attracting thousands of visitors each year, our facilities now includes a bistro, health place, conference and events facilities, a 36-place nursery and a robust project portfolio.

In operating our social businesses, our social purpose and the social value we create is key to all of the activities undertaken at Blackburne House. All of our contributions enable us to deliver outstanding educational and economic opportunities for women from across the city, who view Blackburne House as a safe place to access learning and personal development.

Feedback from our learners and customers has proven that, by offering a range of educational opportunities with a unique wrap around structure, women across the city go on to access higher education and employment, becoming role models for their family and friends. Blackburne House is key to the economic activity of many women and this can only be achieved as our social enterprises generate income, provide real life work experience for our learners as well as creating local employment opportunities and far reaching social impact.

Our Vision and Values

Our vision is to educate and upskill women so that they can pursue professions in every sector and at every level – including construction, logistics and digital technology, where women are still typically under-represented. We aspire to give confidence to the women we work with, so that they can go on to live independent lives, believe in their dreams and achieve their ambitions. We want to inspire our women to believe that anything is possible, to instil a culture of empathy and understanding; of inclusion and acceptance and to overcome racism, prejudice, discrimination and adversity, creating a positive and holistic environment where women can share, learn and grow.

Our social enterprises provide an enterprising approach to teaching and learning. Enterprise encourages people to learn and develop in a way that meets their needs and develops skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. The world is changing rapidly, and people need to be prepared. They need to have the skills and attitudes to cope with an unpredictable future, to be able to deal with setbacks and disappointments in a positive way and to continue to learn for the rest of their lives. Whenever possible, we utilise the resources across the whole of Blackburne House to provide our learners with real life opportunities to enhance their development and support them to become more influential in their own lives and that of others.

We have a core set of values that are embedded into everything that we do. Those values are integral to our organisation, helping to define our long-term aims and objectives and influence the way we work.

Inspiration
We provide the highest possible quality of inspirational education and development – and our teaching and working methods and our services and environment reflect this relentless commitment.

Transformation
We believe in using creative working methods to develop new and innovative ways of fulfilling and exceeding our financial, social and environmental aims - renewing and transforming our business and helping us to touch and transform the lives of everyone who works with Blackburne House.

Strategic Report

Equality
Blackburne House is and has always been about holistic approaches to improving the lives of women – all women. We constantly build on the diversity and range of our services including support and education services for children and men, where these will contribute to improving the lives of women.

Independence
As well as helping our students and service users to develop their own independence, our charitable and commercial activities all operate to continuously improving business standards – to deliver the independence of Blackburne House.

Activities, achievements and performance

The principal activity of Blackburne House is to provide support structures to its sister organisation, Blackburne House Education. Blackburne House has a range of social business areas and each business area is driven by our values. In addition to this, our project portfolio provides unique and bespoke wrap around services to enhance wellness and learning opportunities.

Since the beginning of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted many local economies around the world. Measures taken by governments to control the spread of the virus have included lockdowns, travel bans, quarantines, social distancing and closing of non-essential services. This has resulted in many businesses like ours having to cease or limit our activities for long or indefinite periods of time as we work to adapt to the economic slowdown. The impact for Blackburne House has been far reaching as we socially trade across multiple sectors that have been directly affected. We have responded quickly and adapted, utilising government grants and support, working with funders and strategic partners that seek to enhance social impact and support sustainability. Given our proven track record, depth and reputation in the local community we are well positioned to continue to serve the women of Liverpool and the local community. The Board continue to review our post Covid-19 recovery plans and shape the business so that we can focus our efforts on mission led, sustainable portfolios that support the vision to empower women.

A summary of the performance of each of these businesses is given below:

The Bistro

The prime aim of our Bistro is to provide students, staff, conference attendees and a broad range of customers with value for money, nutritional meals in a relaxed and welcoming environment. As a bistro that champions social values our 'Buy Social' agenda is something that we consciously operate within every day and we are proud of the social impact we make in so many ways:

- We serve quality, affordable, healthy and nutritious food, cooked from scratch every day.
- We subsidise the cost of meals to staff and students to ensure our people are never hungry and are fully nourished to enable them to achieve the best possible personal results.
- We use fresh produce each day, of which over 90% is purchased from local suppliers and social enterprises.
- We provide good quality jobs at a fair wage and employment and training opportunities for many women who are furthest from the labour market
- We provide volunteer and employment opportunities for people with learning difficulties and disabilities.
- We use fair trade products and all of our disposables are biodegradable.

We are passionate about the quality of our food and service and the impact we have in the local community. We take pride that all of our actions make a positive impact, not only on the education of women, but to the environment and the lives of people we employ and throughout our supply chain.

The hospitality sector has been one of the hardest hit by the pandemic. Restrictions on trading have significantly impacted turnover as we experienced periods of complete closure and navigated changing rules, restrictions and lockdowns. During the year our sales were 45% down on prior year as the pandemic impacted all of our catering lines across the Bistro, Conference Catering, Outside Catering and Events.

As we moved into the first lockdown the Catering Team voluntarily supported our local community in conjunction with The Bronte Centre to provide much needed hot and nutritious meals to the elderly and vulnerable. We also supported Key Workers at Clatterbridge Cancer Hospital with hot meals during weekend shifts.

We accessed local government funding opportunities and took advantage of government schemes such as VAT reduction and the Coronavirus Job Retentions Scheme. We successfully gained the Liverpool City Council Discretionary Grant of £25k for hospitality industry and commenced discussions with funders who recognised the challenges facing our sector. More specifically, those funders focused on sustainability and who recognised the impact we make as a charity supporting women in education and as a social enterprise supporting the local community.

During the year we worked on the opening of a new social enterprise Café in the new build Liverpool Clatterbridge Cancer Hospital. Providing healthy, nutritious food to patients and staff in a welcoming and relaxing space, with a focus on the quality of food and service. The Trust particularly wanted to work with providers rooted in the Liverpool community, supporting local staff and local suppliers. This provided an opportunity for growth within our Catering Portfolio to ensure we could scale up our hospitality turnover through another outlet, particularly as the hospitality sector continues to be adversely impacted into 2021. The planned opening of May 2020 was delayed due as a result of Covid and we opened the Clatterbridge Café on 9th November 2020. It has been a fantastic addition to the Hospital and to the portfolio at Blackburne House in supporting our charitable objectives.

The Meeting House Cafe

As indicated in the prior year report we took the decision in conjunction with The Quakers to cease the partnership and closed the Café on 18 October 2019. This was the sixth and final year of this innovative partnership to create an all vegetarian, social enterprise café in the heart of Liverpool One. The reported turnover of £43k (£177k 2018/19) represents the 3 months trading to closure.

Despite the steady increase in turnover and the great work done to grow this brand-new Café from scratch, in a very challenging market, we were unable to drive the required surplus to make this sustainable As a social enterprise, we recognise that the conscious, values-based decisions we make have a financial impact on our margins and after a lengthy review period, the partnership took the decision to close. We were able to redeploy all staff across the partnership and within Blackburne House and utilise the experience across our Catering portfolio. We thank The Quakers for working with us and for the invaluable experienced gained in this start up and trade up, particularly as we embarked on the set up of the Café in Liverpool Clatterbridge Cancer Hospital.

Conference and Events

Blackburne House offers a variety of refreshing and flexible rooms and spaces to host conferences, events, private functions, exhibitions and development activities. We offer our clients a simple Day Delegate Rate along with specialised bespoke packages tailored to their individual needs. We also partner with similar organisations, providing them with our expertise in running and planning events such as graduations, conferences, training away days and educational activities. We host a number of key cultural events throughout the year separately and in collaboration with our partners in the Hope Street Stakeholder Group and are licensed as a wedding venue. Together with the Hope Street Stakeholder group we hold a national prestigious award for one of the best streets in the UK and collectively we represent on many cultural and regional tourism board.

We are also proud to deliver a strong social impact in this part of the business by supporting local community groups and charities with free and discounted rooms and space. This enables organisations such as The Readers Group, The Writers Group, Drama & Theatre Groups and Liverpool Community Choir to continue to generate significant participation, which drives a strong social impact in supporting the local community and bringing people together.

During the year we completed the Windrush documentary film based on oral histories of those female descendants of some of the 68 men who arrived in Liverpool from the HMS Empire Windrush that settled in Liverpool and went on to marry local women. This demonstrates our representation of the unheard female histories and our commitment to equality and diversity, coupled with our campaigns around Black History Month, International Women's Week and more recently in the wake of Black Lives Matter.

We began to feel the adverse trading impact of the pandemic on our conference and events portfolio early in 2020 when bookings were cancelled as information about the spread of the virus was emerging. We closed the building as instructed by the government in March 2020 and our room hire sales are down by 42% on prior year. To support this portfolio during lockdown we accessed the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, but funding for events businesses has been challenging to access. We have been unable to deliver against our cultural events programme, host group events and campaigns and hold weddings withing out Grade II listed building.

We continue to review government guidelines and our space utilisation to flex and adapt to the market as restrictions are relaxed and we can safely engage our community back into the physical space.

Nursery

Our 36-place nursery, from babies to 5-year olds, provides high quality and innovative childcare that enhances the opportunities and lives of children, parents and families locally. We continue to be a key support structure for our students and the wider community by offering affordable and attainable childcare. We provide early learning interventions for funded 2, 3- and 4-year olds to ensure they have the opportunity to access a childcare environment and support their development to become school ready. We continue to offer the government 30 hours funded places for 3- and 4-year olds, in addition to 15 hours funded places for 2-year olds.

At our last Ofsted inspection in June 2017 we were rated Good and some aspects, particularly in our pre-school room, are outstanding. The inspectors commended our staff and how they use their qualifications, knowledge and skills to assess children's progress and to plan activities that reflect children's stages of development and interests. We were particularly proud that the inspectors commented that our well-qualified staff act as excellent role models who are particularly skilled and sensitive in supporting good behaviour and that our children show wonderful care and compassion towards each other.

We pride ourselves on providing a diverse and rich multicultural environment where our children come from as many as 10 different nationalities. Around 40% of our childcare staff live within a 2 miles radius of where they work and 2 of our staff are multilingual, speaking a range of languages including Polish, Arabic and Romanian. 80% of our childcare staff are qualified to Level 3 or more and one member of staff has Early Years Professional status.

By working in close partnership with parents and carers we ensure all of the child's needs are met and supported. As a charitable social enterprise, we give our children and local families the best possible life chances by:

- Offering subsidised childcare for our students and providing free meals where food poverty impacts a child's ability to learn and develop.
- Delivering a holistic approach to parental and carer advice and support, guiding them through complex issues and concerns.
- Empowering mum`s to go back into work.
- Providing more flexible, short term funded places to support parents and carers in need of respite.
- Delivering children's workshops to develop new experiences and skills e.g. Spanish Lessons.
- Supporting children with special educational needs, which included speech and language therapy, behaviour and sensory support.
- Providing free nursery education places for two- and three-year olds from the most disadvantaged families.
- Holding our 5-year-old graduation ceremonies to celebrate the children's development and school readiness.

We carefully observed the Pandemic advice and closed the Nursery on 23rd March to prevent the spread of Covid-19 and in line with government advice and guidance. We remained closed until 29th June 2020 and during lockdown we regularly communicated with our parents, carers and children to ensure they were provided with activity packs, support and parental guidance. Many of our children experience Special Educational Needs (SEN) and we recognised the disruption that lockdown has on family life, so keeping in touch and supporting our families was a priority. The Local Authority continued to pay for childcare places during lockdown and we accessed the Coronavirus Job Retention scheme on a partial basis, aligned to the directive to exclude the proportion of staff covered by government early years funding. During this period, we campaigned for government support, lobbying local MP's and campaigned on the radio to raise awareness of the requirement for further financial support to protect this vital 4th Emergency Service.

We partnered with The Steve Morgan Foundation to deliver Wellbeing and Counselling Services to our learners and local women impacted by mental ill-health as a result of the Pandemic. As part of this funding, they recognised the importance of childcare provision and sustaining our Nursery through and beyond the pandemic. They provided core costs support to allow us to reopen in a carefully planned, adapted and safe environment so that we could focus on re-engaging the children without the financial concerns of low occupancy during restart.

As a result of the pandemic, our trading income was impacted by a 25% reduction in sales based on prior year. Since reopening, we have continued to deliver our Nursery service and occupancy rates have risen to pre Covid levels, against the challenge of enhanced delivery costs as we carefully manage space and staffing to ensure we remain a safe environment for all.

Health Place

The Health Place is a sanctuary within Blackburne House aimed to support women to improve their health, confidence, and resilience and to address health inequalities. We use a holistic approach and seek to support physical, mental, emotional, social and economic wellbeing through our range of services and programmes. We also work closely with the education team, providing work experience placements for our students, enhancing and adding value to their learning experience.

As a consequence of the pandemic, coupled with prolonged lockdowns, and the Black Lives Matter campaign manifesting key triggers, we identified a significant mental health decline amongst local women. We recognised the urgent need to scale up our wellbeing and counselling interventions and with the support of a number of funders through our sister company, we have been able to increase and sub contract our services internally to respond to this demand. Since scaling up our service we have supported in excess of 2000 women and we plan to grow this service to ensure we are able to continue to provide interventions that address the complex needs that are emerging.

As we move forward with the health place and recognise the significant and continued impact of Covid-19 through 2020/21, we will be repositioning the space to provide on-site counselling services to our women learners and community when it is safe to do so. We are working closely with our Education Team who deliver counselling qualifications to create counselling roles, particularly for BAME learners, so that service users can access support from professionals from their own community and culture. This is a unique offer that has made a significant social impact and is a vital part of our broader portfolio

Safeguarding

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our students and expect all of our staff, trustees and volunteers to share this commitment. Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults continue to be important to the organisation, and we take seriously our duty to comply with the Safeguarding Act 2015. The Board of Trustees and staff have undertaken training in this area and continually review our performance and ability to adapt and respond, particularly with the additional challenges brought about by Covid and delivery of services online. Our Board and the Education & Quality Committee closely monitor our policies and procedures and the organisation has an appointed Designated Safeguarding Officer. We have continued to adapt our safeguarding policies in light of Covid19 impacts around digital and online safety and are providing additional support for mental health and wellness through our Counselling portfolio.

Projects and Business Development

Developing new contracts to build on our strategic aims is an important part of the sustainability of our organisation. As a charity and social enterprise operating in a Grade II listed building, and in this current year, battling the challenges of Covid, the revenue we gain through projects and grant funding is essential. This provides sustainability whilst our ability to trade at prior year levels is adversely impacted and helps contribute towards our core costs whilst delivering strong social impacts to our recipients and partners. We are active in developing our products and services that enrich our portfolio and are aligned to our strategic aims and values and we operate within the following arenas:

1. **Health & Wellbeing** – Female Health, Mental Health, Loneliness & Social Isolation, Wellbeing & Resilience programmes for women and families.
2. **Environmental & Cultural** - A blend of programmes focused on positive environmental outcomes to enhance the green economy, local biodiversity, and the adverse effects of climate change, in addition to cultural programmes including inclusion and equality and maintaining the integrity of our historical asset and archives.
3. **Education & Employment** - Career support, Access to Work, Personal Development, Lifestyle Courses, Apprenticeships and non-accredited courses.
4. **Business** - Business and personal development for Entrepreneurship, Leadership, Coaching and Mentoring and business start-up and scale up.

The global Covid-19 pandemic has presented us with strategic partnership opportunities we had not anticipated. Funders are favouring investment in organisations that are delivering social value though their day to day trading operations and activities, rather than through one off projects. As Blackburne House is a long-established social business with a track record of delivering social impact through trading, we are strongly positioned to partner with funders who are aligned to our vision and values

The development of our strategic relationships and contracting portfolio is being supported through Capacity Lab who have provided free consultancy support to drive our bidding capacity to those funders who are most aligned to our vision and aims. We have been successful in securing support specifically to strengthen our Catering and Wellness Portfolio and our conversion rate and pipeline of contracts is more successful through Covid than in previous years

The Board continues to review our Covid-19 recovery plans to shape the business so that we can focus our efforts on mission led, sustainable portfolios that support the vision to empower women. The budget projections for 2020/21 show that we can shift from a trading organisation into one that can achieve sustainability through a blend of strategic partnerships that seek to enhance social impact and trading for good. As an organisation with such proven track record, depth and reputation in the local community, with a blend of services that have been able to adapt to local priorities, we are well positioned to strengthen our position through Covid-19 to continue to serve the women of Liverpool and the local community.

The Building

One of the trustees' prime responsibility is the upkeep of the Grade II listed building by way of ongoing repairs and renewals. The trustees' decisions are made to enable the building to be kept at a standard in line with the requirements of both Liverpool City Council and The Charities Commission.

The building is in trust to Blackburne House and in order to protect the investment of Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Blackburne House agreed that it was in the best interests of the company, the property and the beneficiaries of the charity to appoint WTEC as a co-trustee of the Blackburne House Charity and to grant WTEC an interest in the property. A Deed of Appointment of Trustee and a Declaration of Trust between WTEC and Blackburne House was signed on 2 September 2016.

We completed the programme of capital investment granted through Liverpool City Region - Single Investment Fund (Capital Investment) (via Women's Technology Training Limited) in 2018/19 which enhanced the learner environment and supported a more resource efficient footprint to reduce running costs and increase accessibility of our current grade two listed building

Our plans for the future

Blackburne House has a portfolio of businesses and projects that are diverse and yet complimentary to our core values in supporting the advancement of education and vocational training for women. Our strength is in our diversity as this means we have a variety of great assets and opportunities to maximise our full potential.

As a result of Covid-19 our day-to-day activities that provide much needed services in support of our charitable aims to educate women and drive social and economic advancement, have emerged as more valuable than previously recognised by funders. During this pandemic, we have strengthened our work within our community as we are directly aligned to those who need us most. Through new strategic partnerships, we are able to provide responsive and bespoke support to women, families and the BAME community that are more impactful and immediate. This will enable us to drive our trading and contracted services to a repositioned place of strength and sustainability for future scale and much needed social and economic impact.

Going forward we plan to focus our plans and strategic development on:

- Developing our Wellness and Counselling programmes to ensure we can continue to provide much needed support to tackle mental ill-health in our local community. This has been a lifeline to our learners and has been strongly supported by the National Lottery, The Steve Morgan Foundation, Barclays100x100 and the Merseyside PCC. As we move forward, we will be repositioning the Health Place into a Women's Wellness & Counselling Centre and we are working with additional partners and funders to access finance to support the growth required in this sector to combat female mental health inequalities.

- As part of our catering portfolio, we will scale up our trading activity through our new Café at the Liverpool Clatterbridge Cancer hospital. Following the opening on 9th November we are delighted that patients and customers value the opportunity to access fresh, seasonal and nutritious food from a local social enterprise who can continue to tailor and adapt to their needs. Turnover has exceeded expectations and we are encouraged that this model delivers significant benefits for both the Trust and Blackburne House

- Continuing to deliver our vital Nursery service which restarted in June 2020 after the first national lockdown and has remained open during subsequent lockdowns. This continuity of service is vital for local families and we are grateful for the support of The Steve Morgan Foundation who recognised our Nursery provision is a critical component to family support and economic recovery.

- Reviewing how we utilise the space in the building to pivot income streams in light of ongoing Covid restrictions and working with Government guidance to reopen our spaces and create Conference and Events that provide a safe and unique experience for our service users

- Enhancing our digital presence and our e-commerce capability to engage with a broader audience remotely to support our trade up agenda

The Board will continue to review our post Covid-19 recovery plans and shape the business so that we can focus our efforts on mission led, sustainable portfolios that support the vision to empower women. As an organisation with such proven track record, depth and reputation in the local community, with a blend of services that have been able to adapt to local priorities, we are well positioned to strengthen our organisation and we emerge from Covid-19 and continue to serve the women of Liverpool and the local community.

Financial review

The trustees' financial responsibilities include the solvency of the organisation, safeguarding the assets of the organisation and approving the annual budget to set financial objectives, which are quantifiable targets against which we can measure achievement. To assist us in achieving these objectives monthly management accounts are produced and discussed at Executive Leadership Team meetings. A formal cycle of reporting of management accounts has been established and includes bi-monthly meetings with both the Finance & Resources Committee and the trustees. The Finance & Resources Committee continually reviews the reporting mechanisms in place to ensure risk management and financial planning is developed and enhances the opportunities of the organisation. The Finance & Resources Committee, under powers delegated to it by the trustees, regulate and control the finances of the organisation.

As we began to understand the potential financial impacts of Covid -19 we responded quickly and set up a Finance Contingency Planning Task & Finish, reporting monthly into the Finance & Resources Committee to ensure we managed and mitigated the emerging risk of the Pandemic. During this early period, we instigated the following actions:

- Engaged more frequently with our bankers Natwest and Lenders, First Ark to ensure they were fully aware of the impacts of Covid and our response and actions
- Enhanced cashflow management and reporting to review weekly along with extend forecasting
- Instigated finance repayment holidays for loan and lease repayments
- Accessed HMRC PAYE/NI and VAT payment deferral scheme, agreeing repayment plans with HMRC
- Drew down a £50,000 Bounce Back Loan facility through Natwest
- Accessed the Government Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme where applicable
- Accessed Local Authority Grant funding to support Hospitality and Leisure lockdowns
- Commenced a staffing review in light of National Restriction impacts and changes to future trading capability
- Worked with our existing funders to agree certainty and draw down of funds
- Worked with Capacity Lab who provided free consultancy support to engage with grant funders and strategic partners to explore further grants and contracts

Our Financial Performance has been significantly impacted by our inability to trade through national Lockdowns. Our trading income is down by 40% on prior year and this reflects the impact across all of our social enterprise business areas as we were unable to access the physical space in the building to generate income.

Working closely with the trustees and carrying out the actions within the Finance Contingency Plan enabled the organisation to navigate through these challenging times. In utilising the furlough scheme, accessing grants, working with strategic partners and carefully managing cashflow, we mitigated the losses and during the financial year to 2019/20 are reporting an operating deficit of (£41,358) (before depreciation and endowment release).

We continue to review our strategic plans in light of Covid-19 and the longer term impacts on our trading ability, focusing on sustainability and mission. The financial projections for 2020/21 and 2021/22 have been prepared, taking into account the impact of Covid-19 and the opportunities to strengthen our offer through strategic partnerships commenced during 2019/20. They reflect our ability to adapt to the landscape in a strong and progressive manner in support of our learners and community. The trustees are confident that we have an ongoing viable business model and they remain optimistic about the future and our ability to navigate the short term challenges and trade back up to sustainable levels in the longer term.

Remuneration of key management personnel

The trustees consider the Chief Executive and the Senior Management Team to be the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling the charity and running and operating the charity on a day to day basis.

It is the charity's policy to pay staff at rates reflecting the local market and in line with similar organisations.

Reserves policy

The organisation's reserve policy has been reviewed in line with guidance from the Charity Commission. It is the policy of the organisation to maintain unrestricted funds, which are the free reserves of the organisation at a level, which equates to three months liquidity requirements. The trustees have reviewed the value of reserves required and have set the desired value of the reserves at £150,000 (2019 £150,000) to reflect current level of overheads as the business grows. This provides sufficient funds to cover management, administration and support costs for the development of our principal activities to enable us to provide a high-quality service to our stakeholders.

The organisation has not been able to achieve a surplus this year to improve the reserves position but is committed to continual improvement to reverse the negative reserves in future years. The trustees recognise that our negative unrestricted reserves position reflects the fact that we are a trading business rather than grant funded. We have invested our traded income into jobs, services and strategic aims consistently over our many years in existence, responding to our communities needs and adapting to strengthen our social impact and services. The trustees continue to monitor the situation and have reviewed and agreed the strategy and priorities that align to this objective as we move forward.

Risk policy

The trustees are responsible for overseeing the risks faced by the organisation. Detailed considerations of risks are delegated to the Senior Management Team. Risks are identified and controls established throughout the year. All significant activities undertaken are subject to a risk review. Systems have been established to mitigate the risks and the Senior Management Team regularly reviews the risks and takes any action identified.

Investment powers and restrictions

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the charity has the power, to invest or deposit funds in any manner only after obtaining advice from a financial expert and having regard to the suitability of investments and the need for diversification.

The trustees, having regard to the liquidity requirements of operating the charity and to the reserves policy, do not consider it necessary to invest in a portfolio of investments, but instead have operated a policy of keeping available funds in an interest-bearing deposit account and seek to achieve a rate of deposit interest which matches or exceeds inflation as measured by the retail price index.

Invested funds are held on deposit in a high interest savings account for use as and when necessary.

Environmental policy

The Board of Trustees and senior managers of Blackburne House are committed to the objectives of sustainable development and to achieving environmental best practice through all business activities, wherever practical to do so. We accept an active and practical leadership in respect of environmental management is a business function and that a concerted approach must be adopted to prevent pollution minimise waste and achieve continual improvement in environmental performance.

Blackburne House is committed to a structured approach to the management of its activities, ensuring it complies with or exceeds applicable environmental legal requirements and all other relevant requirements and recognised best practices which are related to our environmental aspects.

Structure, governance and management

Governing document

Blackburne House is a charitable company limited by guarantee (No. 2674432), incorporated in England on 30 December 1991 and registered as a charity (No. 1010546) on 15 April 1992. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association, which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. On winding up of the company each member will contribute £1.

Organisation

Each of the organisation's business areas and social enterprises has been organised to support our learners they financially contribute to and facilitate the growth and development of the organisation's resources.

The Board of Trustees administer the charity. The Board meets bi-monthly and there are sub-committees covering Finance & Resources and Education & Quality.

A Chief Executive (CEO) is appointed by the trustees to manage the day to day operations of the charity. To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive has delegated authority, within terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters including finance and to provide strategic direction for Blackburne House ensuring that its policies, systems, products and services are continually focused on achieving the organisation's mission, including social, environmental and commercial objectives. The CEO leads business planning for all aspects of the service provision ensuring it fits with the strategic direction, local priorities and to champion high performance in line with the organisations values to ensure the sustainability of the group.

Blackburne House runs a number of award-winning social enterprises and currently holds a National Social Enterprise Mark which recognises that our businesses are values based and committed to having a positive social and environmental impact on the communities we serve.

The Management Team

Day to day management of the charity is delegated to the senior managers. The current team is:-

C Dove - Chief Executive (retired 31/7/20)
A Rushton - Director of Projects & Business Development
A Deary - Director of Strategy, Planning & Business Support

Trustee appointment, induction and training

The Board adopt a strategic approach to trustee recruitment and when appropriate all vacancies are advertised within the community to attract trustees to serve on its board and also invite trustees to nominate prior to the AGM.

All members are circulated with invitations to nominate trustees prior to the AGM advising them of the retiring trustees and requesting nominations for the AGM. When considering co-opting trustees, the Board has regard to the requirements for any specialist skillset and competency needed that would enhance the organisations ability to deliver on its strategic goals. Board members come from a variety of backgrounds and it is this variety that adds value to the organisation. However, we recognise that our expectations are high and the demands we place on the Board are considerable, therefore we feel that it is important to support all Board Members with the training and development they need to complement and supplement their current skills and competencies.

The induction programme aims to give the new member an understanding of the work of Blackburne House Education and to help recognise how they can make a significant contribution to the organisation during their term of office. New trustees undergo an orientation programme to brief them on their legal obligations under charity and company law, the contents of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes and recent financial performance of the charity. Trustees are encouraged to attend appropriate external training events and internal training and briefings where these will facilitate the undertaking of their role.

Related Charities

Blackburne House is related to Women's Technology Training Limited by virtue of common directors, influence and shared resources.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the accounts in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare accounts for each financial year, give a true and fair view of the charity's financial activities during the year and of its financial position at the end of the year. In preparing these accounts, 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 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the accounts;
- prepare the accounts on a 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 the time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the accounts comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Trustees' statement of disclosure of information to the auditors

Each of the persons who is a trustee at the date of approval of this report confirm in so far as they are aware:-

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charity's auditors are unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

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

Auditors

A resolution for the re-appointment of Mitchell Charlesworth LLP will be proposed at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting.

Approval

In approving the Trustees' Annual Report, we also approve the Strategic Report included therein in our capacity as company directors.

SIGNED BY ORDER OF THE TRUSTEES



Dana Nixon
COMPANY SECRETARY

Registered office:
Blackburne House
Blackburne Place
Off Hope Street
Liverpool L8 7PE

Approved by the trustees on 30 March 2021

Mitchell Charlesworth LLP

Chartered Accountants

5 Temple Square . Temple Street . Liverpool . L2 5RH

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Blackburne House for the year ended 31 July 2020

Opinion

We have audited the accounts of Blackburne House (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 July 2020 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cash Flows and the notes to the accounts, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the accounts:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 July 2020 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the accounts section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the accounts in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Material uncertainty related to going concern

We draw attention to note 1(q) in the financial statements, which highlights the fact that there is a net current liability position of £293,443 and a deficit on unrestricted funds of £348,407. Whilst these conditions indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, note 1(q) provides a full explanation of the circumstances surrounding this. Our opinion is not qualified in respect of this matter.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the accounts and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the accounts does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the accounts, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the accounts or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the accounts or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report, which includes the directors' report for the financial year for which the accounts are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the trustees and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Strategic Report and the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the accounts are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustee' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Mitchell Charlesworth LLP

Chartered Accountants

5 Temple Square . Temple Street . Liverpool . L2 5RH

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of Blackburne House for the year ended 31 July 2020 [Continued]

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the accounts, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the accounts as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these accounts.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the accounts is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: http://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006 and to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and its trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Mitchell Charlesworth

Mr Philip Griffiths
Senior Statutory Auditor

30 March 2021

On behalf of Mitchell Charlesworth LLP
Statutory Auditor

3rd Floor
5 Temple Square
Temple Street
Liverpool
Merseyside
L2 5RH

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Statement of Financial Activities
Year ended 31 July 2020

Income from:	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £	Total Funds 2019 £
Donations and legacies	2	166,440	-	-	166,440	721
Charitable activities	3	783,241	-	-	783,241	1,420,828
Investments	4	9	-	-	9	4
Total income		949,690	-	-	949,690	1,421,553
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	5	(1,007,731)	(24,706)	(38,057)	(1,070,494)	1,285,712
Total expenditure		(1,007,731)	(24,706)	(38,057)	(1,070,494)	1,285,712
Net (expenditure)/income for the year	10	(58,041)	(24,706)	(38,057)	(120,804)	135,841
Total funds brought forward		(290,366)	2,285,881	2,790,875	4,786,390	4,650,549
Total funds carried forward		(348,407)	2,261,175	2,752,818	4,665,586	4,786,390

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year as set out above

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing

The notes on pages 23 to 36 form part of these accounts.

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Statement of Financial Activities
Year ended 31 July 2020

Comparative information for the year ended 31 July 2019

Income from:	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total Funds 2019 £	Total Funds 2018 £
Donations and legacies	2	721	-	-	721	1,885
Charitable activities	3	1,060,881	359,947	-	1,420,828	2,686,192
Investments	4	4	-	-	4	7
Total income		1,061,606	359,947	-	1,421,553	2,688,084
Expenditure on:						
Charitable activities	5	(1,206,123)	(41,532)	(38,057)	(1,285,712)	1,204,112
Total expenditure		(1,206,123)	(41,532)	(38,057)	(1,285,712)	1,204,112
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	10	(144,517)	318,415	(38,057)	135,841	1,483,972
Total funds brought forward		(145,849)	1,967,466	2,828,932	4,650,549	3,166,577
Total funds carried forward		(290,366)	2,285,881	2,790,875	4,786,390	4,650,549

The charity has no recognised gains or losses other than the results for the year as set out above

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing

The notes on pages 23 to 36 form part of these accounts.

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Summary Income and Expenditure Account
Year ended 31 July 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
Income		949,681	1,421,549
Interest and investment income	4	9	4
Gross income		949,690	1,421,553
Expenditure		986,748	1,218,840
Interest payable		4,300	8,826
Depreciation		41,389	19,989
Total expenditure		1,032,437	1,247,655
Net (expenditure)/income		(82,747)	173,898

All of the activities of the charity are classed as continuing.

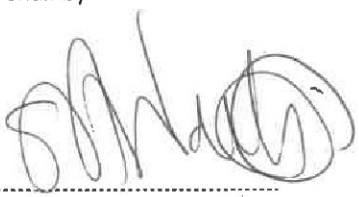
The notes on pages 23 to 36 form part of these accounts.

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Balance Sheet
31st July 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2020 £	2019 £	2019 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	12		5,063,667		5,141,298
Current assets					
Stocks	13	3,243		5,336	
Debtors	14	91,178		66,841	
Cash at bank and in hand		88,502		29,344	
		182,923		101,521	
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	15	(476,366)		(387,160)	
Net current (liabilities)			(293,443)		(285,639)
Total assets less current liabilities			4,770,224		4,855,659
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	16		(104,638)		(69,269)
Net assets			4,665,586		4,786,390
The funds of the Charity					
Endowment	19		2,752,818		2,790,875
Restricted	20		2,261,175		2,285,881
Unrestricted	21		(348,407)		(290,366)
Total funds	22		4,665,586		4,786,390

These accounts were approved by the trustees and authorised for issue on 30 March 2021 and are signed on their behalf by:



Sally-Anne Watkiss
Trustee

Company Registration Number: 2674432

The notes on pages 23 to 36 form part of these accounts.

BLACKBURNE HOUSE

Statement of Cash Flows
Year ended 31 July 2020

	2020		2019	
	£	£	£	£
Cash flow from operating activities		28,442		55,726
Cash flow from investing activities				
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	(7,583)		(341,236)	
Proceeds of disposal of tangible fixed assets	5,768		-	
Capital grants received	-		323,952	
Net cash flow from investing activities		(1,815)		(17,284)
		26,627		38,442
Cash flow from financing activities				
New borrowings	50,000		-	
Repayment of loans	(13,169)		(21,120)	
Interest paid	(4,300)		(8,826)	
Net cash flow from financing activities		32,531		(29,946)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		59,158		8,496
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 August 2019		29,344		20,848
Cash and cash equivalents as at 31 July 2020		88,502		29,344
Reconciliation of net (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities				
Net (expenditure)/income for the year		(120,804)		135,841
Capital grants		-		(323,952)
Interest payable		4,300		8,826
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets		79,446		58,046
Decrease/(increase) in stock		2,093		(378)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		(24,337)		64,822
Increase in creditors		87,744		112,521
Net cash flow from operating activities		28,442		55,726
Cash and cash equivalent consists of:				
Cash at bank		85,335		20,816
Cash in hand		3,167		8,528
		88,502		29,344

The notes on pages 23 to 36 form part of these accounts.

1. Summary of accounting policies

(a) General information and basis of preparation

Blackburne House is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity incorporated in England and Wales. 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 address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are set out in the Trustees' Report on page 2.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. 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 in October 2019, the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention. The financial statements are prepared in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £1.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

(b) Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

The property fund is treated as a permanent endowment on the basis that the original building is not owned by the charity and the building alterations that have been carried out form a capital fund with which the charity has now power to convert the capital into income.

I Income recognition

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing. If there are conditions attached to the donation and this requires a level of performance before entitlement can be obtained then income is deferred until those conditions are fully met or the fulfilment of those conditions is within the control of the charity and it is probable that they will be fulfilled.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

1. Summary of accounting policies [Continued]

I Income recognition [Continued]

Income from charitable activities includes income received under contract or where entitlement to grant funding is subject to special performance conditions and is recognised as earned as the related services are provided. Grant income included in this category provides funding to support performance activities and is recognised when there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amounts can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as bank deposits. It essentially includes interest which is recognised using the effective interest method.

(d) Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes costs associated with the charity including support costs as appropriate.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into the category above.

I Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs and administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity and include project management carried out at the charity's registered office. Where support costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to cost of raising funds and expenditure on charitable activities on a basis consistent with use of the resources.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 6.

(f) Capital grants

Grants received to cover the cost of building alterations and fixtures and fittings are included as restricted income and will be credited to the Statement of Financial Activities on a basis consistent with the depreciation policy.

(g) Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost (or deemed cost) or valuation less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes costs directly attributable to making the asset capable of operating as intended. Capital expenditure on equipment is written off in the period in which it is incurred if purchased from grant income. Individual assets are capitalised on the balance sheet where their cost exceeds £100.

1. Summary of accounting policies [Continued]

(g) Tangible fixed assets [Continued]

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets, at rates calculated to write off the cost, less estimated residual value, of each asset on a systematic basis over its expected useful life as follows:

Building alterations & additions	1 - 10% per annum
Computers	10 - 33% per annum
Fixtures & fittings	10 - 20% per annum
Equipment	10 - 20% per annum

Whilst historically building alterations have been depreciated at 1%, additions are not considered to have the same life and so are depreciated over 10 years.

(h) Stocks

Stocks are stated at the lower of cost and estimated selling price less costs to complete and sell. Cost includes all costs of purchase, costs of conversion and other cost incurred in bringing stock to its present location and condition. Cost is calculated using the first-in, first-out formula. Provision is made for damaged, obsolete and slow-moving stock where appropriate.

(i) Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

(j) Loans and borrowings

Loans and borrowings are initially recognised at the transaction price including transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less impairment. If an arrangement constitutes a finance transaction it is measured at present value.

(k) Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets
Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

1. Summary of accounting policies [Continued]

(k) Financial instruments [Continued]

Basic financial liabilities
Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities
Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

(l) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the charity has an obligation at the balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount can be reliably estimated.

(m) Operating leases

Rentals payable and receivable under operating leases are charged to the SoFA on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

(n) Employee benefits

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service.

The charity operates a defined contribution plan for the benefit of its employees. Contributions are expensed as they become payable.

(o) Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and before it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes.

(p) VAT

The charity is partially exempt for VAT purposes. VAT for partial exemption which is not allowed in the year is written off to the Statement of Financial Activities.

1. **Summary of accounting policies** [Continued]

(q) Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the future outlook reflects the opportunities that have arisen as a result of our ability to support the communities we serve as we emerge from Covid19. Whilst the Trustees acknowledge the net current liabilities position of £285,639 is a challenging basis on which to enter into post Covid19 recovery, we are confident that our core business can respond to the transitioning period, bolstered by our embedded social impacts in action.

Our day to day activities that provide much needed services in support of our charitable aims to educate women and drive social and economic advancement have emerged as more valuable than previously recognised. During this pandemic, we have strengthened our work within our community as we are directly aligned to those who need us most. We are able to provide responsive and bespoke support to women, families and the BAME community that are impactful and immediate and funders are investing in organisations that are delivering social value though their day to day trading operations, activities and interventions, rather than through one off projects.

Funders have seen the value of organisations working with particular communities during Covid-19. We are rooted in the local community and have access to people who have been disadvantaged through this pandemic. Our learners and employees, a high proportion of which are women, part of the BAME community and those who experience social deprivation are even more at risk of mental ill health and cultural inequalities. Blackburne House have responded at speed with interventions that reach those people most in need and provided funders with the networks and reach to make a difference. We have successfully contracted to provide that support post Covid19 and we anticipate this will translate into long term, substantial contracts with significant interventions.

The trustees have reviewed the plans and consider that the budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern and remain confident that core business is sustainable in the long term.

2. Income from donations and legacies	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Donations	645	-	-	645	721
Grants receivable	165,795	-	-	165,795	-
	166,440	-	-	166,440	721

All of the above income in 2019 was attributable to unrestricted funds.

3. Income from charitable activities	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Nursery income	256,085	-	-	256,085	337,100
Health Place income	25,054	-	-	25,054	12,019
Café Bar income	163,355	-	-	163,355	303,882
Rent receivable	161,983	-	-	161,983	118,996
Project and business development	5,043	-	-	5,043	3,134
Events	61,092	-	-	61,092	79,313
Car park income	10,945	-	-	10,945	16,006
Post and photocopying	10,837	-	-	10,837	10,451
Meeting House café	43,441	-	-	43,441	177,704
Other	3,275	-	-	3,275	2,276
Liverpool City Region - Single Investment Fund (Capital Investment)	-	-	-	-	323,952
National Lottery Awards for All	-	-	-	-	9,800
DW Foundation	-	-	-	-	2,000
Church Urban Fund - Windrush	-	-	-	-	12,000
Liverpool City Council - Windrush	-	-	-	-	3,000
Liverpool City Council - Headstrong Programme	15,000	-	-	15,000	-
Steve Morgan Foundation	24,131	-	-	24,131	-
Add: Deferred income released	3,000	-	-	3,000	12,195
Less: Deferred income	-	-	-	-	(3,000)
	783,241	-	-	783,241	1,420,828

£359,947 of the above income for 2019 was attributed to restricted funds and £1,060,881 of the above income in 2019 was attributable to unrestricted funds.

4. Income from investments	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Interest received on cash deposits	9	-	-	9	4

All of the above income in 2019 was attributable to unrestricted funds.

5. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities	Activities undertaken directly £	Support costs £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Nursery	229,135	82,086	311,221	340,564
Health Place	20,282	9,121	29,403	35,810
Cafe	245,479	51,684	297,163	370,339
Meeting House	61,455	15,201	76,656	248,737
Events	81,627	21,282	102,909	95,106
Projects and Business Development	13,699	6,081	19,780	35,771
Building management	114,793	118,569	233,362	159,385
	766,470	304,024	1,070,494	1,285,712

Of the above costs £1,007,731 (2019 £1,206,123) were attributable to unrestricted funds, £24,706 (2019 £41,532) were attributable to restricted funds, and £38,057 (2019 £38,057) were attributable to endowment funds.

6. Allocation of support costs	2020 £	2019 £
Management salaries	40,306	57,029
Premises costs	100,665	103,573
Office costs	40,165	48,569
Depreciation	79,446	58,046
Professional	26,876	35,466
Other	9,933	19,463
Governance costs (see note 7)	6,633	6,633
	304,024	328,779

7. Governance costs	2020 £	2019 £
Audit and accountancy fees	6,633	6,633

8. Staff costs and numbers	2020	2019
	£	£
The aggregate payroll costs were:		
Wages and salaries	657,146	720,961
Social security costs	35,255	37,495
Other pension costs	15,231	13,926
	707,632	772,382
Recharged salaries	(36,297)	-
	671,335	772,382

	2020	2019
Particulars of employees:	£	£
The average number of staff employed by the Charity during the financial year amounted to:	49	54

There are no employees with emoluments above £60,000.

9. Trustees' and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

No remuneration was paid to the trustees during the year for their services as trustees (2019 £Nil) nor were any expenses reimbursed (2019 £Nil).

The total amount of employee remuneration received by key management personnel is £36,228 (2019 £53,474).

The charity considers its key management personnel to comprise the Chief Executive, and the Director of Projects and Business Development.

10. Net income/(expenditure) for the year	2020	2019
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Staff pension contributions	15,231	13,926
Depreciation	79,446	58,046
Auditors' remuneration - as auditors	5,460	5,460

11. Taxation

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

12. Tangible fixed assets

	Building Alterations £	Equipment £	Fixtures & Fittings £	Computers £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 August 2019	6,139,422	227,125	265,764	58,468	6,690,779
Additions	-	2,829	4,754	-	7,583
Disposal	-	(5,768)	-	-	(5,768)
At 31 July 2020	6,139,422	224,186	270,518	58,468	6,692,594
Depreciation					
At 1 August 2019	1,044,474	199,976	246,563	58,468	1,549,481
Charge for the year	71,840	5,494	2,112	-	79,446
Disposal	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 July 2020	1,116,314	205,470	248,675	58,468	1,628,927
Net book value					
At 31 July 2020	5,023,108	18,716	21,843	-	5,063,667
At 31 July 2019	5,094,948	27,149	19,201	-	5,141,298

13. Stocks

	2020 £	2019 £
Goods for resale	3,243	5,336

14. Debtors

	2020 £	2019 £
Trade debtors	27,611	47,668
Prepayments	15,674	19,173
Other debtors	47,893	-
	91,178	66,841

15. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £	2019 £
First Ark	24,430	22,967
Trade creditors	63,627	88,165
Social security and other taxes	59,621	28,430
Other creditors	304,519	209,912
Accruals and deferred income	24,169	37,686
	476,366	387,160

16. Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	2020 £	2019 £
First Ark	56,992	69,269
Bounce Back Loan	47,646	-
	104,638	69,269

The following liabilities disclosed under creditors falling due after more than one year is secured by a debenture with floating charge:

	2020 £	2019 £
First Ark	56,992	69,269
	56,992	69,269

On 29 March 2018 First Ark advanced the charity £120,000 repayable in monthly instalments over 5 years at a rate of interest of 8.5%.

17. Creditors - Capital instruments

Creditors include finance capital which is due to be repaid as follows:	2020 £	2019 £
Amounts payable:		
In one year or less or on demand	24,430	22,967
In more than one year but no more than two years	35,674	25,018
In more than two years but not more than five years	61,060	44,251
Over five years	7,904	-
	129,068	92,236

18. Commitments under operating leases

At 31 July 2020 the charity had future total commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:	Assets other than land and buildings 2020 £	2019 £
Within one year	10,912	10,912
Between two and five years	8,108	19,020
	19,020	29,932

19. Endowment funds

	As at 1 August 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	As at 31 July 2020 £
Permanent endowments:					
Property fund	2,790,875	-	(38,057)	-	2,752,818

19. Endowment funds [Continued]

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	As at 1 August 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	As at 31 July 2019 £
Permanent endowments:					
Property fund	2,828,932	-	(38,057)	-	2,790,875

20. Restricted funds

	As at 1 August 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	As at 31 July 2020 £
Liverpool City Council Nursery capital	3,043	-	(563)	-	2,480
Liverpool City Region - Single Investment Fund (Capital Investment)	2,282,838	-	(24,143)	-	2,258,695
	2,285,881	-	(24,706)	-	2,261,175

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

20. Restricted funds

	As at 1 August 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	As at 31 July 2019 £
National Lottery - Award for All	-	9,800	(9,800)	-	-
DWP Foundation	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
Liverpool City Council Nursery capital	4,057	-	(1,014)	-	3,043
Church Urban Fund	-	12,000	(12,000)	-	-
Social Investment Business - Reach Fund	-	8,450	(8,450)	-	-
P J Holt	-	3,745	(3,745)	-	-
Liverpool City Region - Single Investment Fund (Capital Investment)	1,963,409	323,952	(4,523)	-	2,282,838
	1,967,466	359,947	(41,532)	-	2,285,881

The restricted fund balances relate to specific projects and events run by the charity and in accordance with the conditions of the grant.

21. Unrestricted funds

	As at 1 August 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	As at 31 July 2020 £
General fund	(290,366)	949,690	(1,007,731)	-	(348,407)

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	As at 1 August 2018 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer between funds £	As at 31 July 2019 £
General fund	(145,849)	1,061,606	(1,206,123)	-	(290,366)

22. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current liabilities £	Creditors due after one year £	Total £
Endowment fund	2,752,818	-	-	2,752,818
Restricted fund	2,261,175	-	-	2,261,175
Unrestricted funds	49,674	(293,443)	(104,638)	(348,407)
	5,063,667	(293,443)	(104,638)	4,665,586

Comparative information in respect of the preceding period is as follows:

	Tangible fixed assets £	Net current liabilities £	Creditors due after one year £	Total £
Endowment fund	2,790,875	-	-	2,790,875
Restricted fund	2,285,881	-	-	2,285,881
Unrestricted funds	64,542	(285,639)	(69,269)	(290,366)
	5,141,298	(285,639)	(69,269)	4,786,390

23. Related party transactions

Blackburne House is related to Women's Technology Training Limited by virtue of common directors and influence. Both these charities operate from the same Registered Office. During the year Blackburne House charged rent and services of £136,194 (2019 £89,600), £5,462 for childcare and related allowances (2019 £14,241) and £117,129 for other administration and project costs (2019 £50,068). During the year Women's Technology Training Limited charged Blackburne House £823 (2019 £1,204) for administration costs.

The above exclude VAT on vatable items.

During the year, the charity carried out capital refurbishment work on the building to the cost of £Nil (2019 £323,952), which was received from Women's Technology Training Limited.

At the year-end Blackburne House owed Women's Technology Training Limited £214,052 (2019 debtor £83,097).

Included in creditors is a loan from Women's Technology Training Limited for £58,710 (2019 £58,710) which is due to be repaid as agreed by the trustees.

24. Pension scheme contributions

The charity operates a defined contributions pension scheme for its employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions paid by the charity to the defined contribution scheme which amounted to £15,231 (2019 £13,926).

25. Deferred income

	Under 1 year	2020	2019
	£	£	£
At 1 August 2019	6,750	6,750	15,945
Additions	-	-	3,000
Amounts released to income	(3,000)	(3,000)	(12,195)
At 31 July 2020	3,750	3,750	6,750

Income has been deferred when it is received in advance of the period to which it relates or where performance of the activities to which it relates have not yet been undertaken.

26. Company limited by guarantee

The company is limited by guarantee and has no share capital.

On winding up of the company each member will contribute £1.

27. Capital commitments

There are no capital commitments as at 31st July 2020 (2019 £Nil).

28. Analysis of changes in net debt	Balance at 1st August 2019 £	Cashflows £	Non-cash Changes £	Balance at 31st July 2020 £
Long term borrowings	69,269	-	35,369	104,638
Short term borrowings	22,967	36,832	(35,369)	24,430
Total liabilities	92,236	36,832	-	129,068
Cash and cash equivalent	(29,344)	(59,158)	-	(88,502)
Total net debt	62,892	(22,326)	-	40,566