

Company No. 2849848  
Charity No. 1029704

# **Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust**

## **Report and Accounts**

**For the year ended 31 March 2021**

Elizabeth House  
2 Hurlock Street  
London N5 1ED

# Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

## Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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The trustees present their report and accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. They have complied with the duty to have due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission.

### LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Charity name:	Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust (also known as "Elizabeth House")
Charity registration number:	1029704
Company registration number	2849848
Registered office and operations address	Elizabeth House, 2 Hurlock Street, London N5 1ED
<b>Trustees (Directors)</b>	
Chair	Carol Glover
Treasurer	Garry Luxford
Secretary	Hayley Davidson (retired 26 November 2020)
	Ashley Hodges Jeremy Corbyn MP Mary Dakin Valerie Bossman-Quarshie Lee-Ann Richardson-Pring (appointed 30 September 2020)
<b>Centre Director (Chief Executive)</b>	Nathalie Renaud
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	Harry Nicolaou Of Harry Nicolaou & Co Limited Chartered Accountants 21 Brendon Way, Enfield, EN1 2LF
<b>Bankers</b>	CAF Bank Limited PO Box 289, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

# Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

## Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

As the Chair of Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust, I would like to thank all the staff, volunteers, trustees, funders, community members and service users who are making Elizabeth House Community Centre such a vibrant space, with strong roots into our wider neighbourhood.

This unprecedented year of pandemic has impacted on our community, but Elizabeth House demonstrated its resilience and ability to adapt to support local residents. With our regular programme of frontline services being suspended in late March 2020, Elizabeth House was transformed into a Food Hub that provided much more than weekly food boxes. The team and many committed volunteers worked hard to keep a connection with some of the most isolated and vulnerable residents in our community, reaching many who we didn't have links with prior to the pandemic.

The Food Hub and our remote support services reached over 700 residents, including many families and elderly people. Our services grew exponentially over a short period of time during the first lockdown and despite a reduced team, Elizabeth House adapted to meet vital needs in our community through weekly food support, befriending calls, referrals and online activities.

Following national restrictions, Elizabeth House continued to provide essential childcare services for vulnerable children and those of keyworkers, supporting more than 80 families over the year. Our youth provision re-opened as soon as government guidelines allowed it and our partnership project to get young people into secure IT jobs moved online, both working with over 50 young people.

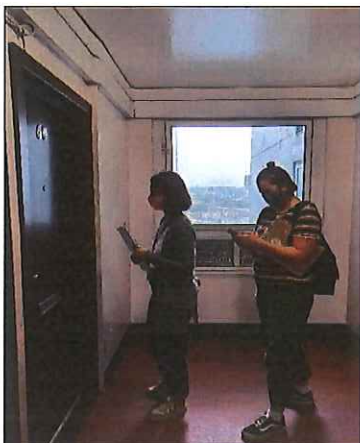
Following the Covid-19 crisis with the suspension of many of our activities in March 2020, the charity has worked hard to limit the impact on our operations, finances, staff team, service users and the wider community. Following our vital food response in the weeks and months that followed, we now have new plans for 2021-22: to empower community members and grow our Food Hub. A huge thank you to the volunteers who contributed to this much needed support network.

We are very grateful to Islington Council and the St James Trust for their multi-annual, substantial financial support. The Board also wants to thank all the donors that have supported our work during the pandemic and those who have enabled us to continue our community activities.

Again, I would like to thank the committed staff and volunteers for their hard work, as well as my fellow Trustees for sharing their skills and time to ensure Elizabeth House Community Centre made it through this crisis. Elizabeth House came out stronger with a strengthened team, new services, a wider reach and a stronger place in its community. We are proud of what Elizabeth House Community Centre has achieved over these 12 months.

Carol Glover

Chair of the Board of Trustees



Photos (clockwise from top left): (1) Food hub volunteers packaging meals, (2) volunteers sorting items for Food Hub, (3) Highbury Quadrant meadow transformed and (4) Community organisers doing home visits.

# Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

## Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

#### Governing document

The organisation is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 2 September 1993 and registered as a charity on 6 December 1993. The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which defined the objects and powers of the charitable company. It is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

#### Recruitment and appointment of trustees

The directors of the company are also charity trustees for the purposes of charity law. The trustees have developed a policy for the recruitment of trustees that ensures their collective experience and skills are best able to meet the needs of the charity. New Trustees are appointed by Board members.

Potential candidates for the Board of Trustees receive a briefing pack about the roles and responsibilities of a Trustee and have the opportunity to attend a Board meeting and visit Elizabeth House to understand its work before offering themselves for appointment. Trustees are invited to meet senior staff members and visit as many activities or projects as they are able to once they are elected.

#### Organisational Structure and Governance

The Board of Trustees is responsible for overall strategy and management of the organisation. The day-to-day management of the charity, including staff and financial matters, is delegated to the Centre Director, who is supported by an Administrator, Operations and Communication Officer, Children's Activities Coordinator and Senior Youth Worker. Other employed staff and volunteers fulfil other roles in the organisation. The Centre Director has the function of Chief Executive Officer, reporting directly to the Board.

The Board of Trustees meets approximately every two months at Elizabeth House. This year, Trustees met five times, including the AGM. Meetings were well attended and trustees have continued to take an active role in supporting the staff team.

#### Risk Assessment

The Trustees periodically undertake a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed. Each year when considering the operating budget and strategic plan, the Trustees review the associated organisational risks. The senior management team also review operational systems and procedures and service area risk assessments to manage risks that are in place. We review and update our risk assessments, business continuity and emergency contingency plans annually.

### BACKGROUND AND AIMS OF THE ORGANISATION

Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust was established in its present form in 1993 to operate Elizabeth House Community Centre.

Our vision is for everyone in the local community around Elizabeth House to have a better quality of life through accessing key services, engaging in activities and connecting with others in their neighbourhood.

The charity is dedicated to providing a safe and open space, as well as inclusive and flexible services for the community. We aim to have a meaningful and positive influence on the local community. Our priority is to respond to the needs of the local community, especially people with high needs or who are underserved.

Elizabeth House's activities focus on children, young people and families. Our aim is to help working families by ensuring their children can flourish in a safe and child-friendly environment, as well as offer a dedicated space and opportunities to local young people.

The Centre also provides a range of services open to all, a place for local people to use as well as a space and support for other organisations to deliver their services and activities.

Our specific objectives are:

- Expand and improve service provision to respond to the needs in the community and improve the health and wellbeing of local people.
- Promote community cohesion and reinforce our community, by fostering positive relations and exchange, as well as providing inclusive services open to all.
- Develop services that make a lasting impact on people's life and, as a Charity, invest in those who need it the most.
- Work in partnership with local Councils, community organisations, businesses, local residents and other groups to deliver high quality services and fill gaps in services.

### ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

#### Overall reach in the community

Elizabeth House offers a safe space which is open 7 days a week, 345 days a year to serve community members. However, this year, the centre remained opened throughout the pandemic to provide essential services to residents and for our childcare and youth provisions, but the team was reduced and many of our activities were suspended. In 2020-21, the charity registered a much lower footfall due to the pandemic and the interruption of many of our face to face services.

# Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

## Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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Elizabeth House responded immediately to the Covid crisis by developing its budding Food Hub which directly served just over 700 local residents who experienced food insecurity, health issues or were socially isolated.

The previous year, the centre offered 35 regular services, activities or groups but these went down dramatically for part of the year. The charity was able to move some of its services online such as gentle exercise, telephone befriending, IT training, women's fitness classes and cooking classes.

### Services and Activities at Elizabeth House

#### • Childcare Services

Our childcare services were very disrupted during this challenging year but, following government guidelines and with the support of Islington Council's Early Years and Childcare team, we were able to run the After School Club caring for children in their school bubbles and a Holiday Playscheme. We worked hard to prioritise children of key workers and vulnerable children.

The number of children attending our services decreased dramatically because we had to limit the number of children we could care for every day. However, over the year, we supported over 80 families and cared for over 100 children with affordable or free childcare.

*"Elizabeth house is a fantastic resource for the local community. It enables me to keep working and have accessible childcare. Great and professional staff team great job guys."* Parent using the childcare services

*"I am very grateful to Elizabeth House for supporting working parents during this pandemic. Thank you."* Local parent using the After School Club

*"My children always enjoyed attending Elizabeth House, the staff are extremely caring and welcoming. As a single mother, I am very appreciative of the centre because it allows me to go out to work during the half term. The only downside I would say is that I wish the centre opens a bit later."* Parent using the Holiday Playscheme

#### • Food Hub

The Food Hub has become central to the services we provide, enabling us to reach out to and support some of the most vulnerable residents in our local area and welcome them to other community activities.

When the centre closed to the public in March 2020, we built the Food Hub to provide essential support and weekly food parcels to residents affected by food insecurity, as well as those shielding and isolated.

Over the year, Elizabeth House provided over 3,300 weekly food and essential parcels and 5,885 cooked meals to as many as 700 local residents, supported by over 80 volunteers who packed and delivered the food in our neighbourhood, making the connection between the centre and the residents isolated at home. Through food, we were able to reach out to many residents who were isolated or experiencing complex issues. During the pandemic, our small community team worked hard to provide remote support, referring residents to other services and providing wellbeing / befriending calls.

We worked with local chefs and National Food Services London to prepare fresh meals for the community, and benefited directly from the support of the Felix Project, City Harvest, local supermarkets and local residents making food donations to distribute substantial weekly food bags to up to 350 residents per week.

**Nirmala** (name has been changed) lives in N5 and has a disability which means she can't get out easily. During the first lockdown she found herself at home alone with no food in the house and unable to access the shops. She rang the council and was referred to Elizabeth House's Food Hub. We provided her with food support until March 2021 when her daughter returned and was able to shop for her. She describes her experience with the Food Hub as very good and helpful, in particular the Community Coordinator who supported her a lot during this time and was extremely helpful when she was in desperate need. 'I'm very happy. You were there to help me when I was going through a difficult time and I know you are there if I need you again'. After she asked to be removed from the support list, Nirmala sent a letter of appreciation, thanking us for our work along with a small donation.

**Melanie** (name has been changed) lost her job at the beginning of the pandemic and was struggling financially, so the food hub has really helped her. Melanie told us that it was "one less thing to be stressed about". Aside from receiving food, she felt very supported emotionally. She likes getting to know the "lovely, friendly and interesting volunteers. The staff and volunteers can't be helpful enough", wrote Melanie in a feedback form. We also secured her a laptop for job hunting which she is very grateful for. "I've been shown more kindness from strangers here than from people I've known all my life". Melanie likes that it is community based, it was very important for her to feel a sense of community during pandemic. She also appreciates the other activities offered at Elizabeth House that she can get involved in like exercise and if she needs any other kind of support, she knows that we can signpost her to relevant organisations. Finally, she mentioned that she appreciates the little things that we do, like being able to get her nails done - they really count for her. Melanie was referred to Elizabeth House's Food Hub by Help On Your Doorstep in June 2020 and she has received food support and welfare calls since.

*"I would not have known what department in the council to contact without the help I received from Elizabeth House. Everything moved quickly once I had the right support. I am happy to be able to live near my sister and my kids feel so much safer. The calls that I received from Elizabeth House just to check I was ok were so nice and really helped me to feel like I had someone to talk to. I also loved the food parcels I received and helped me at a difficult time. I also had a really nice man who delivered the food parcels to me every week. Thank you to everyone at Elizabeth House!"* R, resident in N7.

# Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

## Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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In November 2020, we recruited a team of 5 part-time Community Organisers who, because of restrictions, had a caseload of residents to contact on a regular basis. As restrictions lifted, door-knocking events were organised to meet with residents, assess needs and initiate contacts. This led to the growth of the Women Support Group, some residents were referred to the Food Hub and future activities will be planned with Community Organisers to involve local 'leaders' wanting to facilitate activities for target groups within our community.

### • Youth Services

Elizabeth House's youth services include an open access youth club opened for young people age 11 to 16 and an IT training and employability programme delivered in partnership with People's Place Community Partnership for young people age 18+.

The Youth Club had to be suspended for over 4 months but re-opened in summer 2020. Young people were very affected by the pandemic and many re-joined the Youth Club as soon as it re-opened so they could meet others and access a friendly space outside home and school. Overall, the Youth Club included 25 registered young people but attendance varied each week. The programme of activities was youth led and included a range of centre-based and community-based activities organised specifically to give young people different opportunities in a safe space and with the support of our youth team.

*Mark (his name was changed) is 13 years old and has been a member for coming up to 2 years now and sees the youth club as a place to be himself.*

*The youth club has supported Mark with activities that he has asked for. He especially enjoys music and cooking. He attends a local secondary school in Islington and has had some challenges there that he discusses with our youth workers. He has a friend who also attends the same school and comes to the youth club. Mark and his friend enjoy relaxing and getting involved with youth club activities. Mark enjoys playing football and always want to know what we have planned for sessions ahead.*

*During the pandemic, Mark has adjusted to the changes that we have implemented so that we can open the youth club. Mark is quite aware of what is going on and he is happy to support other young people and we have observed this in his behaviour. He and his brother found it difficult to study at home during the most recent lockdown. With the support of local residents, Elizabeth House was able to give Mark and his brother a laptop each so they can study from home and do their homework. They both found that the youth club gave them a safe space to leave home for a few hours and be themselves. His family was also referred to the Elizabeth House's Food Hub during the worse of the pandemic.*

HVBT and its partner Peoples Place Community Partnership (PPCP) have been working hard to develop a tech-based youth employability hub at Elizabeth House. 21CS provides disadvantaged, unemployed, or low paid young people with industry relevant training, skills, and accreditations for a career in the IT sector, meeting the needs of both young people and filling the skills shortage in the job market.

*"I was unsure about my future and through the training received from PPCP I knew what I wanted to pursue career wise. The course content was straight forward and clear. The practical applications of the knowledge was also very helpful. The training made a big impact on my life and I recommend the courses to others, they too can benefit." PPCP student*

Elizabeth House is home to a number of training sessions each week and work placement for IT students. In 2019-20, nearly 40 young people enrolled on the programme. More than 20 have successfully completed a qualification (e.g. Microsoft Technology Associate, CompTIA IT fundamentals or Google fundamentals in digital marketing) and over 10 are now in industry related paid employment. 21CS has a good retention rate leading to successful outcomes for participants (only 15% drop out with limited outcomes for participants). 95% of participants are from BAME and/or disadvantaged backgrounds.

*"It is amazing opportunity for anyone looking to branch into the IT sector even without previous knowledge or very little knowledge on IT. It's good chance to further your career, which is why I would recommend it to anyone looking for something different or just want to advance their IT knowledge further." PPCP student*

*"Training with PPCP has given me a solid career path, not only in developing my IT skills but the necessary skills for being in a work environment. Once exposed to the world of IT you will realise that the career paths are endless, especially if you have a passion for computers and technology in general." PPCP student*

### • Health and Wellbeing Services

The Charity has always prioritised health and wellbeing activities to ensure local residents could have access to free or affordable activities helping them to keep physically and mentally fit and well.

Since February 2020, Elizabeth House is part of a partnership project led by Octopus Communities (network of multi-purpose community centres in Islington) called Stay Well Live Well that enable community centres to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for their local community. Elizabeth House's plan is to focus on social isolation and food insecurity by bringing residents together, as well as mood food / healthy eating and physical activities.

The Women Only Fitness Classes moved online in April 2020, but continued to be central to the centre's weekly programme and benefitted a group of more than 20 women of all ages, abilities and from diverse backgrounds.

*"I have been participating in the online classes as soon as we went into the first lockdown last year and have continued to participate whenever we have had to move back to online rather than being at Elizabeth House in person. The exercise has been important to me in lockdown both in terms of keeping fit and keeping mentally positive. Seeing Ebony and my fellow classmates has been a boost, a connection with the outside world. If I don't exercise regularly, I find it harder to be motivated and positive in the day and find it harder managing home schooling. I am working at home and have 2 kids home schooling plus husband also working from home. Being confined to the house is difficult and we are all making sure that we exercise to keep fit and keep happy." L, local resident.*

# Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

## Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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As part of our regular health and wellbeing programme, the centre hosts and supports other groups such as a range of yoga classes, aerobics, dance and movement, multi sports for children and young people, as well as musical and creative groups. All of these activities contribute to enhancing the quality of life of local residents, and their wellbeing. Following Covid guidelines, most activities were suspended but some moved online and others were delivered in person at Elizabeth House when restrictions were eased.

Our over 50's social club was suspended during the Covid pandemic, but we were able to support some older people through online gentle exercise classes which counted an average of 15 residents each week. Some were referred to the Food Hub and received regular befriending calls from our community team. The Blue House Club for over 50's will be relaunched as soon as Covid restrictions are lifted and residents feel it is safe to reconnect in person.

*"The classes have had a big impact on my life. It's been a lifeline for me to be able to make contact with my teacher and also it's lovely to see friends that I used to meet up with at the Blue House Club." J (58 years old)*

During the height of the pandemic, we were also able to provide space for essential support groups and continued to run our Women Support Group remotely so existing and new members could stay in touch, have discussion on a range of topics and be referred to other specialist services.

*"I joined the women's group at quite a hard time in my life. I had been in a domestically violent relationship. My confidence was low and it felt like I didn't really have anywhere to speak about my experiences. I am so happy that I found the group. I loved making the bath salts. I really enjoyed doing an activity each week. I feel like I have a group of women that I can feel connected to!" N, resident in N5.*

Launched in February 2020, as part of our wellbeing offer, Elizabeth House, Octopus Communities and Islington Council have worked in partnership to improve green spaces on a local housing estate and offer access to nature activities for the local community. Our Greening Highbury Quadrant project, funded by the Mayor of London Greener City Fund and Islington Council, involve the community with the aim of improving knowledge about biodiversity and offer opportunities for local residents to access to green space, gardening and nature-based activities. When Covid restrictions allowed it, weekly sessions were organised by the Access to Nature Coordinator and residents could join as members in order to gain access to the green spaces.

### 2020-21 PROGRAMME OF ACTIVITIES

Elizabeth House worked flexibly, following government guidelines, to ensure activities could be delivered in the safe environment reducing risk for service users to a minimum. The following activities were at times suspended or moved online following Covid restrictions:

**Aerobics class** - a very dynamic and friendly class open to all every Monday.

**After School Club** - delivered by Elizabeth House, we offer an out of school childcare service for working parents for children age 4.5 to 13.

**Ballet classes** - a range of weekly classes on Tuesday and Thursday for children.

**Blue House Club** – new over 50's lunch club with exercise classes and social activities open to all every Wednesday.

**Community Yoga** - a weekly open class, every Tuesday morning.

**Food Hub** – distribution of food and essential items for local residents and families every week, supported by volunteers.

**Holiday Playscheme** - a popular holiday provision for children age 4.5 to 14, 11 weeks per year, provided by Elizabeth House.

**IT training and employability programme** - run by the People's Place Community Partnership (PPCP) for young people to gain IT qualifications and secure employment.

**Kuk Sool Mon classes** – a new and already very popular martial art class launched in September 2020 and held every Thursday.

**MoveMe** – movement classes for all running at Elizabeth House.

**Safari Kickboxing** – women only Thai kickboxing class held every Tuesday evening.

**Sports School** - multi sports sessions for children aged 2-11 years, introducing them to a variety of sports under the supervision of qualified and experienced sports coaches.

**Wizzie Wizzie Code Club** - a free and popular computer coding club for 8-14 year olds who want to learn how to make their own games, websites and other programmes.

**Women only fitness classes** - delivered by a qualified Access to Sports coach, two weekly sessions completely free for women of all abilities.

**Wunderbar** – a weekly German sing along for families with babies and toddlers every week.

**Youth club** - open to all young people age 11 to 18 years old looking to take part in a wide range of activities, led by young people themselves, held on Monday and Wednesday

In addition, Elizabeth House has been hosting other community groups running training sessions or needing a space for meetings. We also support local tenants' associations by providing them space free of charge when needed.

# Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

## Trustees' Report

For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

### Organisational capacity

To offer services and support the local community, HVBT employs up to 16 members of staff across its programmes. Our team was reduced during the pandemic and the organisation benefited from the Job Retention Scheme, ensuring that some of the team members would still be paid while services were suspended or reduced.

We add social value as a local employer and create employment opportunities. As a small community organisation, HVBT is proud to be a London Living Wage employer.

This year, we were fortunate to have had over 100 volunteers supporting our emergency response services under the Food Hub. This unprecedented involvement by members of our local community has been crucial to the Charity and its ability to support some of the most vulnerable local residents over this period. The Food Hub benefitted from over 4,000 volunteer-hours over 12 months, without which Elizabeth House could not have supported local residents on the scale it has. As an organisation, we really value volunteers and endeavour to give them opportunities for training, work experience and, in some cases, opportunities leading to paid employment.

### FUTURE PLANS

Working within government guidance in the context of the pandemic, Elizabeth House remained opened throughout the Covid crisis and ensured that the most vulnerable residents in our community received some level of support.

This year has taught us that the Charity is agile and able to adapt its services to meet local needs. Through the Food Hub, Elizabeth House was able to establish links with many new residents and families from our local area who had not accessed our services prior to the pandemic. We also secured some funding to recruit Community Organisers and grow our community outreach team and are planning to prioritise community organising in order to identify local needs and community leaders who can use our space to facilitate relevant activities. We plan to train residents as Community Organisers to develop their skills and bring social change in their neighbourhood.

Our aim for 2021-22 is to develop the Food Hub to offer social eating activities, a community kitchen project, as well as launch a Food Coop as a more sustainable and dignified food support programme for the whole community. Training and employment will also be key priorities to create opportunities for local people who are unemployed, in low-paid or precarious jobs.

As a priority, the charity will seek additional funding to develop PPCP's IT training and employment programme and create more skills development and job opportunities for young people, responding to the needs of employers in the IT sectors and supporting people with low qualifications, those who are unemployed or in low paid jobs to get secure employment with recognised qualifications and skills developed through work placements in the local community.

Finally, Elizabeth House will endeavour to harness the amazing commitment of local volunteers during the Covid-19 pandemic to continue to improve access to the community centre, increase the involvement of local residents and develop new and better services.

### FINANCIAL REVIEW

Income received in the year increased by over 27% from £357,416 to £455,618. Expenditure increased by 13.5% from £346,980 to £394,463. The net movement in funds for 2021 was an influx of £61,155 (2020 £10,436).

Looking forward, the Charity will continue to make income generation a priority to ensure more projects are implemented as well as a larger surplus in future years. The Trustees also expect attendance and activities to continue to increase as the organisation's communication and fundraising plans are implemented.

The total funds carried forward in 2021 are £618,431 (2020 £557,276). Cash reserves of the Trust are £348,762 (2020 £276,824). This represents approximately 10.6 (2020 9.6) months of expenditure.

### Reserves

The trustees are aware of the need to maintain unrestricted general reserves, currently £229,535 (2020 £197,537). Furthermore the Trustees are mindful of the uncertainty of Local Authority and grant funding on which the Trust is currently dependent to deliver services, so reserves are being maintained at a relatively high level to ensure continuity of services to the local community.

The Trustees are conscious of the need to have unrestricted designated funds for building maintenance (£26,437), staffing (£10,000), staff training (£5,000,) and equipment (£5,000).

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the trustees on 15/10/21 and signed on their behalf by:

  
Carol Glover  
Chair

# Independent Examiner's report to the trustees of Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

I report on the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2021 set out on pages 9 to 16.

## Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

## Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

## Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention to indicate that:

- accounting records have not been kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006;
- the accounts do not accord with such records;
- where accounts are prepared on an accruals basis, whether they fail to comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006, or are not consistent with the Charities SORP (FRS102);
- any matter which the examiner believes should be drawn to the attention of the reader to gain a proper understanding of the accounts.



Harry Nicolaou FCA  
Of Harry Nicolaou and Co Limited  
Chartered Accountants  
21 Brendon Way  
Enfield EN1 2LF

15 October 2021

# Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

## Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)

For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

	Note	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds £
<b>INCOME FROM:</b>					
Donations and legacies		21,946	-	21,946	3,005
Charitable activities:					
Grants	2	271,095	89,140	360,235	175,826
After School Club income		-	18,467	18,467	66,776
Playschemes income		-	15,981	15,981	54,470
Users hire of premises		-	1,137	1,137	35,046
Project hire of premises		-	10,967	10,967	8,075
Management and supervision of projects		-	8,136	8,136	4,842
Other income		-	17,831	17,831	13,277
Provision for doubtful debts		-	-	-	(4,889)
Investments:					
Bank interest		-	918	918	988
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>293,041</b>	<b>162,577</b>	<b>455,618</b>	<b>357,416</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON:</b>					
Charitable activities:					
Staff costs	3	134,255	77,668	211,923	205,008
Premises costs	4	17,084	23,285	40,369	77,457
Activities costs	5	101,275	16,865	118,140	40,211
Other costs	6	6,172	(738)	5,434	5,308
Governance costs	7	8,546	10,051	18,597	18,996
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>		<b>267,332</b>	<b>127,131</b>	<b>394,463</b>	<b>346,980</b>
<b>Net income for the year</b>	9	<b>25,709</b>	<b>35,446</b>	<b>61,155</b>	<b>10,436</b>
Transfers between funds	16	3,448	(3,448)	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>		<b>29,157</b>	<b>31,998</b>	<b>61,155</b>	<b>10,436</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		313,302	243,974	557,276	546,840
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	16	<b>342,459</b>	<b>275,972</b>	<b>618,431</b>	<b>557,276</b>

Net income for the year also comprises the net income for the year for Companies Act purposes.

# Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

Company No. 2849848

## Balance Sheet

As at 31 March 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	11	302,127	312,174
<b>Total fixed assets</b>		<b>302,127</b>	<b>312,174</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	12	21,860	16,040
Cash at bank and in hand		348,762	276,824
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>370,622</b>	<b>292,864</b>
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	13	<b>(54,318)</b>	<b>(47,762)</b>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<b>316,304</b>	<b>245,102</b>
<b>Total assets less current liabilities and net assets</b>	14	<b>618,431</b>	<b>557,276</b>
<b>The funds of the charity:</b>			
<b>Restricted funds</b>		<b>342,459</b>	<b>313,302</b>
<b>Unrestricted income funds:</b>			
General funds		229,535	197,537
Designated funds		46,437	46,437
		<b>275,972</b>	<b>243,974</b>
<b>Total charity funds</b>	16	<b>618,431</b>	<b>557,276</b>

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 and that members have not required the company to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Act.

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

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions in Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

Approved by the directors on 15/10/21

And signed on their behalf by:

Carol Glover

Carol Glover  
Chair

# Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

## Notes to the Accounts

For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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### 1. Accounting Policies

#### Basis of accounting

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

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for twelve months from authorising these accounts and have decided that the charity is able to continue as a going concern.

#### Income recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, there is sufficient certainty of receipt and so it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

#### Expenditure recognition

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

Expenditure is accounted for exclusive of VAT.

#### Fund accounting

Restricted funds are grants, donations and other incoming resources which are to be used for specific purposes as laid down by the donor. Expenditure which meets these criteria is charged to the fund.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.

Unrestricted funds are grants, donations and other incoming resources receivable for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose and are available as general funds.

#### Governance costs

Governance costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.

#### Fixed assets

Fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Items of equipment and fittings are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £300.

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of each asset, less its estimated residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Buildings	2% on cost
Equipment and fittings	33.33% on cost

#### Debtors

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

#### Creditors

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

#### Operating leases

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities as incurred over the term of the lease.

#### Pension costs

The costs of the defined contribution arrangements are charged to the SOFA as incurred.

# Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

## Notes to the Accounts

For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

### 2. Grants

	Restricted	Unrestricted	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Jack Petchey Foundation	750	-	750	250
St James's Trust	25,000	-	25,000	25,000
LB Islington	15,813	33,000	48,813	5,936
LB Islington - EYDCP (After School Club)	15,300	-	15,300	15,300
LB Islington - EYDCP (Playschemes)	22,086	-	22,086	10,883
LBI (VCS)	42,500	-	42,500	40,000
Small Change Big Impact	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Octopus	25,958	-	25,958	9,843
Highbury Roundhouse	14,737	-	14,737	9,569
Local Initiatives Fund	1,000	-	1,000	500
HMRC - Job Retention Scheme	-	56,140	56,140	2,715
London Communities Foundation	34,188	-	34,188	-
Mayor of London Greener City Fund	17,096	-	17,096	-
CAF Resilience Fund	19,608	-	19,608	-
Paddington Development Trust	1,880	-	1,880	-
Manor Gardens Welfare Trust	3,514	-	3,514	-
Martin Lewis	5,500	-	5,500	-
Cripplegate Foundation	5,000	-	5,000	-
The Grocers Charitable Trust	5,000	-	5,000	-
National Lottery Community Fund	9,999	-	9,999	-
Tesco Bags of Help	1,166	-	1,166	-
Royal Bank of Scotland	-	-	-	90
Awards for All	-	-	-	9,990
UK Power Networks Power Partner	-	-	-	20,000
Sports Islington	-	-	-	975
London Marathon Charitable Trust	-	-	-	19,775
	<u>271,095</u>	<u>89,140</u>	<u>360,235</u>	<u>175,826</u>

### 3. Staff costs

	2021 £	2020 £
Salaries and wages	205,246	198,241
Social security costs	12,297	12,201
Pension costs	4,000	4,117
Other staffing costs	5,380	5,453
	<u>226,923</u>	<u>220,012</u>
<b>Consisting of:</b>		
Charitable project staff costs	211,923	205,008
Charitable governance staff costs (Note 7)	15,000	15,004
	<u>226,923</u>	<u>220,012</u>

The average weekly number of employees during the year was 14.4

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 per annum.

### 4. Premises costs

	2021 £	2020 £
Cleaning, maintenance, health and safety, repairs	14,362	50,057
Insurance	3,624	3,658
Light and heat	2,272	3,989
Business rates and water rates	10,064	9,706
Depreciation of buildings	10,047	10,047
	<u>40,369</u>	<u>77,457</u>

# Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

## Notes to the Accounts

For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

### 5. Activities costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Hire of premises	10,300	8,075
Management and supervision of projects	8,136	4,842
Event fees, outings, art and craft materials etc	18,204	8,196
Office equipment, materials, printing, stationery & postage	2,782	2,899
Travel, volunteer, food hub, project equipment and sundry expenses	33,726	6,690
Telephone, internet and website	1,057	1,277
Equipment hire and maintenance	1,616	2,194
IT development, maintenance and support	2,481	1,520
Tutors' costs	39,838	4,518
	<u>118,140</u>	<u>40,211</u>

### 6. Other costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Bank charges	138	100
Subscriptions	109	1,820
Canteen expenses	-	144
Consultancy fees	2,737	2,684
Fundraising	2,450	560
	<u>5,434</u>	<u>5,308</u>

### 7. Governance costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Salaries and wages (Note 3)	15,000	15,004
Independent Examiner's fee	3,400	2,500
Consultancy fees	-	1,350
Telephone	176	130
Other expenses	21	12
	<u>18,597</u>	<u>18,996</u>

### 8. Transactions with trustees

No remuneration was paid to the trustees in their role as trustee during the year and no expenses were reimbursed to them. The trustees together with their family members have no beneficial interest either directly or indirectly in any contract of the charity.

### 9. Net incoming resources for the year

	2021	2020
	£	£
This is stated after charging:		
Depreciation (Note 11)	10,047	10,047
Independent Examiner's fee: (Note 7)	3,400	2,500
	<u></u>	<u></u>

### 10. Taxation

The charity has no corporation tax liability because income from its activities is in pursuance of its charitable objectives and all income is applied for charitable purposes.

# Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

## Notes to the Accounts

For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

### 11. Tangible fixed assets

	Freehold land and buildings £	Equipment and fittings £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 April 2020	502,299	70,699	572,998
Additions	-	-	-
<b>At 31 March 2021</b>	<b>502,299</b>	<b>70,699</b>	<b>572,998</b>
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 April 2020	190,125	70,699	260,824
Charge for the year	10,047	-	10,047
<b>At 31 March 2021</b>	<b>200,172</b>	<b>70,699</b>	<b>270,871</b>
<b>Net book value</b>			
At 31 March 2021	302,127	-	302,127
At 31 March 2020	312,174	-	312,174

The market value of freehold land and buildings is significantly more than the carrying value and has been estimated by the trustees to be over £1m.

### 12. Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Prepayments and accrued income	2,672	4,715
Other debtors	19,188	11,325
	<b>21,860</b>	<b>16,040</b>

### 13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Taxation and social security	5,387	4,993
Deferred income	1,914	-
Other creditors	8,311	5,269
Accruals	3,706	2,500
Loan (secured)	35,000	35,000
	<b>54,318</b>	<b>47,762</b>

The loan is interest free and secured by a charge over the land and buildings.  
Deferred income comprises grants received in advance of the period to which they are intended.

### 14. Analysis of net assets between funds

	Restricted funds £	Unrestricted funds £	Total funds £
Fixed assets	302,127	-	302,127
Current assets	75,332	295,290	370,622
Current liabilities	(35,000)	(19,318)	(54,318)
	<b>342,459</b>	<b>275,972</b>	<b>618,431</b>

# Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

## Notes to the Accounts

For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

### 15. Operating lease commitments

As at 31 March 2021 the company has total future commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Not later than one year	1,408	1,408
Later than one year and not later than five years	3,168	4,576
	<u>4,576</u>	<u>5,984</u>

### 16. Statement of funds

	At 1 April 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	Transfers between funds £	At 31 March 2021 £
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Buildings Fund	277,173	-	(10,047)	-	267,126
Salaries Fund	-	42,500	(42,500)	-	-
Children's Fund	-	62,386	(61,981)	13,167	13,572
Youth Club Fund	2,917	20,487	(13,606)	-	9,798
Roof Renovation Fund	284	-	-	-	284
Wildlife Fund	864	-	-	(864)	-
Section 106 Fund	770	-	-	(770)	-
Solar Panel Fund	7,086	-	(1,423)	(5,663)	-
Womens Fitness Fund	291	-	-	-	291
Stay Well Live Fund	6,510	24,291	(17,675)	-	13,126
Greening Highbury Quadrant Fund	1,935	17,096	(19,433)	402	-
Baby Massage Fund	2,208	-	-	(2,208)	-
Blue House Club Fund	8,821	-	(4,321)	-	4,500
Lunch & Play Fund	2,893	-	(3,438)	545	-
Active Spaces Fund	170	-	-	-	170
Great Get Together Fund	98	-	-	-	98
Energy Project (LBI) Fund	519	-	-	(519)	-
Energy Project (GLA) Fund	19	-	-	(19)	-
Feasibility Study Fund	623	-	-	(623)	-
Big Alliance Fund	121	-	-	-	121
Covid Response Fund	-	61,934	(45,233)	-	16,701
Food Hub Fund	-	31,693	(17,310)	-	14,383
Equipment Fund	-	1,166	(782)	-	384
IT Training and Employability Fund (in partnership with PPCP)	-	31,488	(29,583)	-	1,905
	<u>313,302</u>	<u>293,041</u>	<u>(267,332)</u>	<u>3,448</u>	<u>342,459</u>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
General funds	197,537	162,577	(127,131)	(3,448)	229,535
Designated funds:					
Building Maintenance Fund	26,437	-	-	-	26,437
Staff Redundancy and Sickness Fund	10,000	-	-	-	10,000
Staff Training Fund	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
Equipment Fund	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
	<u>243,974</u>	<u>162,577</u>	<u>(127,131)</u>	<u>(3,448)</u>	<u>275,972</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>557,276</u>	<u>455,618</u>	<u>(394,463)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>618,431</u>

# Highbury Vale Blackstock Trust

## Notes to the Accounts

For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

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### 16 *continued*

#### **Details of restricted funds**

**The Buildings Fund** represents the cost and improvement of Elizabeth House less loan and accumulated depreciation.

**The Children's Fund** is to provide education and activities for children during term time after school and during school holidays.

**The Youth Club Fund** is to provide education and activities for young people.

**Stay Well Live Well Fund:** Working with Octopus Communities and Islington-based Community Hubs, we have launched phase 2 of the Stay Well Live Well project providing community activities promoting health and wellbeing, supporting residents affected by food insecurity and growing our food hub.

**The Covid Response Fund** is focussed on supporting vulnerable residents who had to shield and were isolated. The support was provided by the Elizabeth House (who had to suspend its regular services) and by a team of Community Organisers who were recruited for this purpose.

**The Food Hub Fund** is a comprehensive support service for isolated residents and those affected by food insecurity. The service began when the first lockdown was announced and was supported by 100 volunteers. Elizabeth House provided weekly food packages and cooked meals to hundreds of residents each week for the duration of the pandemic.

### 17. **Pension costs**

The charity participates in defined contribution workplace pension arrangements for members of staff. The employer contribution rate is 3% and the cost for the year was £4,000. There was no outstanding amount at the year end.