
Connex Community Support
(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Connex Community Support
(A company limited by guarantee)

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Connex Community Support
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**REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE CHARITY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

Trustees	Mrs T Sullivan, Chair Ms S Gourlay, Vice Chair Mr D H Brindley Dr P E Davies (resigned 24 July 2023) Mr S Fussell Mr R Shaw Mr M Starzec Mr A Thompson Mr J C Wood Mr G A Gorsuch Mrs C Sadler (appointed 1 December 2022)
Company registered number	02918492
Charity registered number	1067193
Registered office	16 Eagle Parade Buxton Derbyshire SK17 6EQ
Company secretary	Ms G L Geddes
Key management personnel	G Geddes - Chief Executive A Knirsch - Chief Operating Officer J Short - Dales Services Manager (to August 2022) N Warwick Fisher - Dales Services Manager (from August 2022) K Shenton - Registered Manager and Joint Head of Care & Support CYP J McDonald - Joint Head of Care & Support CYP C Gregory - Head of Care & Support OA H Gunn - Head of Transport H Eskriett - Accounts Manager
Independent auditors	Bates Weston Audit Ltd Statutory Auditors Chartered Accountants Canal Street Derby DE1 2RJ
Bankers	Santander Bootle L30 4GB

Connex Community Support
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TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023.

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 UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (effective 1 January 2019).

Objectives and activities

Charitable objects

The objects of the charity, as stated in its governing document are as follows:

- (i) To broker, promote and support voluntary work in local organisations
- (ii) To offer direct services to assist vulnerable people
- (iii) To champion and promote volunteering in the wider community

Aims of the charity

The overall aim of Connex Community Support is to encourage voluntary activity to support stronger and more cohesive communities, and to provide services that enable vulnerable people to live more independent and fulfilled lives.

Our charitable objects have two main beneficiaries: individuals who use our direct services; and voluntary and community groups (and indirectly, their beneficiaries).

Through the services we provide directly to individual beneficiaries, we enable vulnerable people to live more independent and fulfilled lives.

Working with individuals, voluntary and community groups, our volunteer brokerage and volunteering development activities encourage voluntary activity to support stronger and more cohesive communities.

The public benefits identified above are evidenced through:

- Reports on performance/levels of service which measure the number of beneficiaries supported and number and nature of interventions provided.
- Feedback from individual service users, including evaluation of personal outcomes/benefits, impact and quality of service.
- Feedback from local voluntary and community organisations including outcomes of our interventions /support/services, impact on their work, and quality of service.

The trustees have paid due regard to the general guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake, and when reviewing our aims and objectives in planning future activities. In particular, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they have set.

Connex Community Support delivers the following activities to meet these aims:

- Volunteer brokerage – supporting people to find a volunteering role
- Volunteering development – supporting voluntary organisations in the management and support of their volunteers
- Domiciliary care and support for older people
- Personal care and support in the community for children and adults with a disability and/or additional support needs
- Transport to medical and hospital appointments
- Befriending, Digital Inclusion and practical help to reduce social isolation and support independent living

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

- Home from Hospital support, to assist people after a stay in hospital
- Wheelchair loans and hearing aid battery distribution
- Home maintenance, house and hoarding clearance service
- The Breadline – short-term financial hardship assistance
- Payroll services for small organisations

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Objectives

2022-23 has been a steady year, with services re-building their client base as life returned to normality after Covid.

Some services saw a significant increase in demand whilst for others, recovery was, and continues to be slow.

During the year our services have helped over 2750 people. We helped people of all ages and the support we provided ranged from one-off assistance, to daily, weekly or fortnightly low-level practical help, and for our more complex care clients, to 24/7 personal care. As always, our staff and volunteers have shown extraordinary dedication and professionalism throughout, endorsing Connex's reputation as an organisation that really cares about those we help and how we help them.

Our work in helping older people who are less confident in using digital technology to make the most of their mobile phones, tablets and laptops has really taken off in the Derbyshire Dales. Based in community venues, including Ashbourne's new Pavilion, our 'Tea, Talk & Tech' cafés have over 100 members, and are supported by our Tea, Talk & Tech Coordinator and a team of volunteers.

Thanks to local fundraising efforts in response to concerns around escalating energy and food costs, we were able to introduce 'The Breadline' hardship fund. This fund offered short term financial support to families in the Buxton area to help them manage through a crisis. The scheme supported 123 families during the year, with applications peaking between January and March 2023.

Funding for our low-level support services, notably befriending, digital inclusion and practical help continues to be a challenge – with increasing dependency on smaller local charitable trusts to help support delivery. However, demand for these services has increased, as has their importance. With referrals becoming more complex, we are left to plug the gaps resulting from unprecedented pressures on NHS acute services, GPs and Social Care provision.

Working with our colleagues in the NHS, Connex piloted a 'short notice' hospital discharge transport service in the High Peak in January to March 2023. The service helped reduce the pressure on hospital beds and the ambulance service, and reduced the waiting times patients experienced in hospital discharge lounges. The pilot proved successful and we hope to further develop the service in the future.

In a highly competitive and uncertain market, Connex works hard to develop and refine its 'charged for' services – these services help the more vulnerable in our community, but also help spread the overhead costs of the organisation. Alongside the income we generate, the grant support we receive from our funders is essential in helping us to sustain, grow and broaden our charitable activities.

We are extremely grateful to the following organisations and donors for their valuable support during the year: The Bingham Trust, Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Freemasons, Derby & Derbyshire ICB, Hall Bank Trust, High Peak Borough Council, Lottery Community Fund, Macmillan Cancer Support, National Grid Fuel Poverty Fund, NFU Mutual, Robert Bowmer Trust, Waitrose Community Fund and a number of individual donations from members of the public.

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Staff, Volunteers and Trustees

There is no doubt that the stresses and pressures of delivering our services throughout Covid took its toll on our staff and volunteer teams.

Despite some volunteers deciding to have a break from volunteering, we have 230 wonderful volunteers who continued to support our many services. All have shown tremendous generosity and kindness. They have given friendship and social contact to those who are lonely and isolated, and have provided essential practical help including IT support, shopping, transport, prescription collections, dog walking and numerous other tasks to help people better cope in times of crisis or health challenges. They all give their time for free – but their combined volunteering hours equate to a jaw dropping wage bill that is equivalent to £284,400.

The national shortage of care staff, so often mentioned in the press and social media, was mirrored within Connex. Several of our staff were fatigued and wanted a career change, tempted by roles in the retail and hospitality sectors that offered less responsibility. We are however proud to have retained a strong team of very dedicated and passionate people who care greatly for those they support. The recruitment of more care staff and volunteers however remains a key priority.

Our experienced Board of Trustees met throughout the year, providing valuable support to the organisation and to the Chief Executive and the Chief Operating Officer.

During the year, we were delighted to welcome Graham Gorsuch and Carrie Sadler as new trustees. Both bring really useful insight and experience to the organisation, Graham having previously worked with the Care Quality Commission and Carrie, as a GP. Aside from their trustee roles, they are both also volunteers with our befriending services.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The year saw a decrease in incoming funds and a drop in related expenditure, resulting in a deficit of £75,591.

This resulted in overall reserves at 31 March 2023 decreasing to £598,721, of which £17,250 is allocated to restricted funds, leaving £581,471 retained as unrestricted funds and designated funds.

£284,865 of the unrestricted reserves has been designated for specific items of expenditure leaving available reserves at 31 March 2023 of £296,606.

It is the policy of the charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six months' core expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

As at 31 March 2023, we had free reserves of £285,134, which satisfies the obligations of the current reserves policy.

Risk Management

The Trustees recognise the importance of Risk Management within the framework of governance and internal control. The Trustees continue to review the major risks to which the charity is exposed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. A risk management policy has been implemented comprising:

- A regular review of systems and procedures to mitigate those risks identifies in the review.
- The implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should any of these risks materialise. These are found in the Business Continuity Plan.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Plans for future periods

We will continue to work with the Cranfield Trust to ensure that our longer-term strategies ensure that Connex is financially resilient, our services continue to be relevant and that the wider public, funders and those that need our help know about us.

We will continue to support vulnerable people in our community, and we will modify and adapt our services as needs change, adapting to the changing environment in which we operate.

We will continue to lobby for better recognition and recompense for those working in the care industry. Building on our strong reputation as a supportive and caring employer, Connex will expand our staff and volunteer workforce.

We will continue to promote volunteering, helping to recruit volunteers to sustain Connex's own services as well as those across our geographical area.

We will work with our partners in the High Peak and the Derbyshire Dales Alliances, to deliver infrastructure support to the wider voluntary sector and strengthen community activity.

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee which re-registered as Connex Community Support on 13 December 2018, having been previously registered as Voluntary and Community Services Peaks and Dales. 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.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Under the company's articles, the trustees are known as members of the Management Committee. The members of the Committee are elected for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected at the next AGM.

New trustees are appointed on the basis that they have appropriate skills and knowledge commensurate with the governance of a Charitable Company, and have knowledge and experience relating to the voluntary sector, our service provision, the area of benefit or communities of interest, or have other specific areas of knowledge or experience that have been identified by the Trustees as valuable to the governance of the Charity.

The Board of Trustees is periodically subject to a skills audit exercise to identify training needs and gaps on the Board that can be filled through recruitment.

None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

Management

The trustees delegate a large amount of the day to day decisions involved in the running of the Charity to the paid staff, and in particular to the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive reports directly to the Board. Decisions that will have a significant financial or operational impact, or that will make significant changes to the way the charity is governed and administered are referred to the Board.

Meetings

The Board meets quarterly, with sub-group specialist meetings scheduled between the Board meeting dates. These sub-groups provide support to the Chief Executive, and make best use of the specialist skills our trustees

TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

bring to the organisation.

Induction and training of trustees

All Trustees are familiar with the work of the organisation as many have been directly involved through their volunteering work and through quarterly project and service reports. Newly recruited Trustees meet the Chair of the organisation and attend a short training session with the Chief Executive and key staff. These sessions include:

- Learning about the organisation and its aims and objective, finding out about the various projects we run and meeting the staff involved in these projects
- Being given a Trustee's task description and the last 2 years' annual reports, including finances, future plans and developments. This information is supported by the provision of a Trustee Induction Pack and ongoing information from the Charity Commission, and legal updates relevant to the activities of the charity.

Staff remuneration

In determining staff salaries, the Board consider staff remuneration in similar charities and use these as a benchmark in determining salaries paid within Connex Community Support.

Approved by order of the members of the board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Mrs T Sullivan
(Chair of Trustees)
Date: 13 November 2023

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STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Trustees (who are also the directors of the charity for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' 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 charity and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, 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 of the Charities SORP (FRS 102);
- make judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards (FRS 102) have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

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

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CONNEX COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Connex Community Support (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of financial activities, the Balance sheet, the Statement of cash flows and the related notes, 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 March 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 Auditors' 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 United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council'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.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the Annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' 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.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CONNEX COMMUNITY SUPPORT
(CONTINUED)

Opinion 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 for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- 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 our 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 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 Trustees' 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 Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes 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.

Auditors' 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 Auditors' 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:

Based on our understanding of the charity and industry in which it operates, we considered those laws and

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF CONNEX COMMUNITY SUPPORT
(CONTINUED)

regulations that have a direct impact on the preparation of the financial statements such as the Companies Act 2006. Audit procedures performed by the engagement team included:

- Enquiry of management around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias.

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. This 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 for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our Auditors' 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 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 its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Wayne Thomas ACA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of

Bates Weston Audit Ltd

Statutory Auditors

Chartered Accountants

Canal Street

Derby

DE1 2RJ

23 November 2023

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**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	Note	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	32,184	95,222	127,406	98,841
Charitable activities	3	1,980	1,537,764	1,539,744	1,742,106
Investments		-	8,612	8,612	580
Other income		-	19,339	19,339	47
Total income		34,164	1,660,937	1,695,101	1,841,574
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4	45,712	1,724,980	1,770,692	1,796,841
Total expenditure		45,712	1,724,980	1,770,692	1,796,841
Net (expenditure)/income		(11,548)	(64,043)	(75,591)	44,733
Transfers between funds	12	(13,200)	13,200	-	-
Net movement in funds		(24,748)	(50,843)	(75,591)	44,733
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		41,998	632,314	674,312	629,579
Net movement in funds		(24,748)	(50,843)	(75,591)	44,733
Total funds carried forward		17,250	581,471	598,721	674,312

The Statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes on pages 14 to 29 form part of these financial statements.

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REGISTERED NUMBER: 02918492

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	9	11,472	30,292
		<u>11,472</u>	<u>30,292</u>
Current assets			
Debtors	10	229,078	295,227
Cash at bank and in hand		471,583	546,689
		<u>700,661</u>	<u>841,916</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	(113,412)	(197,896)
Net current assets		<u>587,249</u>	<u>644,020</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>598,721</u>	<u>674,312</u>
Total net assets		<u><u>598,721</u></u>	<u><u>674,312</u></u>
Charity funds			
Restricted funds	12	17,250	41,998
Unrestricted funds			
Designated funds	12	284,865	255,276
General funds	12	296,606	377,038
		<u>581,471</u>	<u>632,314</u>
Total funds		<u><u>598,721</u></u>	<u><u>674,312</u></u>

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Mrs T Sullivan
 (Chair of Trustees)
 Date: 22 November 2023

Mr R Shaw
 Trustee

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STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash used in operating activities	15	(83,718)	42,600
Cash flows from investing activities			
Dividends, interests and rents from investments		8,612	580
Proceeds from the sale of tangible fixed assets		-	700
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-	(6,284)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		8,612	(5,004)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(75,106)	37,596
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		546,689	509,093
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	16	471,583	546,689

The notes on pages 14 to 29 form part of these financial statements

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) - 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 2019), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Connex Community Support meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

1.2 Company status

Connex Community Support is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 1. 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.

1.3 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.4 Income

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

Receipt of a legacy is recognised when it is probable that it will be received and the fair value of the amount receivable, which will generally be the expected cash amount to be distributed to the charity, can be reliably measured.

Grants are included in the Statement of financial activities when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. Where income is received in advance of entitlement of receipt, its recognition is deferred and included in creditors as deferred income. Where entitlement occurs before income is received, the income is accrued.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Other income is recognised in the period in which it is receivable and to the extent the goods have been provided or on completion of the service.

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.5 Expenditure (continued)

the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Expenditure on charitable activities is incurred on directly undertaking the activities which further the charity's objectives, as well as any associated support costs.

All expenditure is inclusive of irrecoverable VAT.

1.6 Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives.

Depreciation is provided on the following basis:

Leasehold improvements	-	over the length of the lease
Motor vehicles	-	25% straight line
Office equipment	-	25% straight line
Computer equipment	-	33% straight line

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount and are recognised in the Statement of financial activities.

1.8 Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

1. Accounting policies (continued)

1.9 Cash at bank and in hand

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

1.10 Pensions

Payments to the defined contributions retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expenses as they fall due.

1.11 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which 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.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the Trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

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 costs 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.

2. Income from donations and legacies

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Grant funding for core activities				
High Peak Borough Council	-	11,788	11,788	5,000
Derbyshire County Council (Infection Control)	-	22,677	22,677	32,302
Derbyshire County Council (WRRF)	-	-	-	25,195
Hall Bank Trust	-	-	-	5,500
NHS Derby & Derbyshire ICB	-	23,081	23,081	-
Robert Bowmer Trust	10,000	-	10,000	-
Derbyshire Dales CVS	12,216	-	12,216	-
SW Main Community Matters	9,968	-	9,968	-
HMRC - Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	-	-	4,139
	32,184	57,546	89,730	72,136

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

2. Income from donations and legacies (continued)

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Donations and gifts	-	37,676	37,676	21,705
Legacies	-	-	-	5,000
Total 2023	<u>32,184</u>	<u>95,222</u>	<u>127,406</u>	<u>98,841</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>98,841</u>	<u>98,841</u>	

3. Income from charitable activities

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Transport & Car Scheme	-	129,523	129,523	142,476
Home Maintenance	-	48,795	48,795	76,815
Care (Older People)	-	176,394	176,394	173,486
Care (CYP)	-	879,996	879,996	953,978
Handy Van	-	-	-	134,171
Readycall	-	183,452	183,452	142,611
Home from Hospital	-	64,804	64,804	38,857
Other	1,980	54,800	56,780	79,712
	<u>1,980</u>	<u>1,537,764</u>	<u>1,539,744</u>	<u>1,742,106</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>53,278</u>	<u>1,688,828</u>	<u>1,742,106</u>	

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

4. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

Summary by fund type

	Restricted 2023 £	Unrestricted 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Transport & Car Scheme	-	151,344	151,344	121,579
Home Maintenance	11,968	59,027	70,995	78,389
Care (Older People)	-	177,983	177,983	174,278
Care (CYP)	-	844,560	844,560	932,050
Handy Van	-	194	194	127,799
Readycall	-	148,362	148,362	113,650
Home from Hospital	-	35,250	35,250	32,295
Other	33,744	308,260	342,004	216,801
	<u>45,712</u>	<u>1,724,980</u>	<u>1,770,692</u>	<u>1,796,841</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u><u>57,396</u></u>	<u><u>1,739,445</u></u>	<u><u>1,796,841</u></u>	

5. Analysis of expenditure by activities

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Transport & Car Scheme	137,822	13,522	151,344	121,579
Home Maintenance	70,386	609	70,995	78,389
Care (Older People)	174,829	3,154	177,983	174,278
Care (CYP)	834,609	9,951	844,560	932,050
Handy Van	-	194	194	127,799
Readycall	139,370	8,992	148,362	113,650
Home from Hospital	34,501	749	35,250	32,295
Other	61,272	280,732	342,004	216,801
	<u>1,452,789</u>	<u>317,903</u>	<u>1,770,692</u>	<u>1,796,841</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u><u>1,534,375</u></u>	<u><u>262,466</u></u>	<u><u>1,796,841</u></u>	

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

5. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of direct costs

	Transport & Car Scheme 2023 £	Home Maintenance 2023 £	Care (Older People) 2023 £	Care (CYP) 2023 £	Handy Van 2023 £
Staff costs	57,857	53,068	162,406	800,660	-
Depreciation	5,728	-	-	-	-
Direct project costs	820	12,825	-	1,496	-
Travelling	58,417	1,528	11,251	23,060	-
Motor Expenses	5,898	2,965	-	-	-
Training and recruitment	-	-	1,172	9,393	-
Volunteer expenses	9,102	-	-	-	-
	<u>137,822</u>	<u>70,386</u>	<u>174,829</u>	<u>834,609</u>	<u>-</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>103,846</u>	<u>76,390</u>	<u>165,871</u>	<u>883,506</u>	<u>121,453</u>

	Readycall 2023 £	Home from Hospital 2023 £	Other 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Staff costs	110,461	32,437	45,352	1,262,241	1,378,178
Depreciation	-	-	-	5,728	5,727
Direct project costs	25	276	9,105	24,547	24,277
Travelling	2,013	-	-	96,269	100,143
Motor Expenses	-	-	-	8,863	6,994
Training and recruitment	705	37	3,413	14,720	5,728
Volunteer expenses	26,166	1,751	3,402	40,421	13,328
	<u>139,370</u>	<u>34,501</u>	<u>61,272</u>	<u>1,452,789</u>	<u>1,534,375</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>97,458</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>54,386</u>	<u>1,534,375</u>	

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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5. Analysis of expenditure by activities (continued)

Analysis of support costs

	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Staff costs	182,014	136,916
Depreciation	13,040	13,501
Premises costs	37,656	37,935
Equipment leasing	822	3,112
Administration costs	48,381	49,853
Subscriptions	10,884	5,098
Bank Charges	1,604	1,363
Bad debts	3,332	4,495
Professional fees	10,570	1,181
Governance costs	9,600	9,012
	317,903	262,466

6. Auditors' remuneration

	2023 £	<i>2022 £</i>
Audit fees	7,200	3,206
Fees payable to the charity's auditor in respect of:		
Accountancy	2,400	5,806

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

7. Staff costs

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	1,310,974	1,395,390
Social security costs	97,567	82,727
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	35,714	36,977
	<u>1,444,255</u>	<u>1,515,094</u>

During the year, the charity made statutory redundancy payments totaling £nil (2022: £24,380).

The average number of persons employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Employees	86	98

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

The remuneration of key management personnel is as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Aggregate compensation	289,436	233,995

8. Trustees' remuneration and expenses

During the year, no Trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2022 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2023, mileage expenses totaling £39 were reimbursed to 1 Trustee (2022 - £NIL to Trustee).

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

9. Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold improve- ments £	Motor vehicles £	Office equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2022	19,583	40,855	22,875	84,179	167,492
Disposals	-	-	(21,675)	(39,820)	(61,495)
At 31 March 2023	<u>19,583</u>	<u>40,855</u>	<u>1,200</u>	<u>44,359</u>	<u>105,997</u>
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2022	19,583	30,354	22,500	64,763	137,200
Charge for the year	-	5,728	300	12,740	18,768
On disposals	-	-	(21,675)	(39,768)	(61,443)
At 31 March 2023	<u>19,583</u>	<u>36,082</u>	<u>1,125</u>	<u>37,735</u>	<u>94,525</u>
Net book value					
At 31 March 2023	<u>-</u>	<u>4,773</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>6,624</u>	<u>11,472</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>-</u>	<u>10,501</u>	<u>375</u>	<u>19,416</u>	<u>30,292</u>

10. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Due within one year		
Trade debtors	119,505	165,636
Other debtors	98,213	123,295
Prepayments	11,360	6,296
	<u>229,078</u>	<u>295,227</u>

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11. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	4,182	3,828
Other taxation and social security	21,080	21,442
Other creditors	5,596	20,331
Accruals and deferred income	82,554	152,295
	<u>113,412</u>	<u>197,896</u>
	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred income at 1 April 2022	32,448	25,427
Resources deferred during the year	(32,448)	(25,427)
Amounts released from previous periods	-	32,448
	<u>-</u>	<u>32,448</u>

Deferred income relates to grants received in advance of the period to which they relate.

12. Statement of funds

Statement of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Donations allocated to be spent next year	66,975	56,038	(50,603)	-	72,410
Contingency fund	176,301	-	-	14,454	190,755
Unfunded hours	12,000	-	(3,500)	-	8,500
Tameside WRRF	-	-	-	7,312	7,312
DCC - Young Connections	-	-	-	5,888	5,888
	<u>255,276</u>	<u>56,038</u>	<u>(54,103)</u>	<u>27,654</u>	<u>284,865</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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12. Statement of funds (continued)

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
General funds					
General Funds	377,038	1,604,899	(1,670,877)	(14,454)	296,606
Total Unrestricted funds	632,314	1,660,937	(1,724,980)	13,200	581,471
Restricted funds					
DCC - Young Connections	5,888	-	-	(5,888)	-
The National Lottery Community Fund	11,401	-	(11,401)	-	-
Comic Relief	8,791	-	(8,791)	-	-
Alan's fundraising pot	472	-	(472)	-	-
Digital Connection (Readycall)	6,134	12,216	(9,100)	-	9,250
WRRF Tameside	7,312	-	-	(7,312)	-
Foundation Derbyshire	2,000	-	(2,000)	-	-
Platform Housing for TTT	-	1,020	(1,020)	-	-
Robert Bowmer Trust	-	10,000	(2,500)	-	7,500
Bingham Trust Befriending	-	960	(460)	-	500
National Grid	-	9,968	(9,968)	-	-
	41,998	34,164	(45,712)	(13,200)	17,250
Total of funds	674,312	1,695,101	(1,770,692)	-	598,721

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

12. Statement of funds (continued)

Restricted Funds

DCC Young Connections is funding granted to enable Connex to develop and run a Junior Youth Club for disabled children.

The National Lottery Community Fund is for Co-Ordination and delivery of the Covid response group Buxton Street by Street.

Comic Relief have provided funding for the "Alive and Kickin" befriending service that provides social contact to older vulnerable people.

Alan's fundraising pot is held on behalf of Alan Thompson, who is undertaking fundraising challenges and donating funds raised to help Connex achieve its objectives.

Digital Connection (Readycall) is funding for delivery of a digital inclusion project in the Derbyshire Dales.

WRRF Tameside is a fund to support staff recruitment and retention in Tameside, in the face of the national social care staff shortage.

Foundation Derbyshire was received to fund the purchase of a new home maintenance vehicle.

Platform Housing for TTT is funds received to aid the delivery of the digital inclusion project in the Derbyshire Dales.

Robert Bowmer Trust has granted funds for the delivery of Connex's Buxton based Befriending service, helping to reduce loneliness and social isolation amongst older people.

Bingham Trust Befriending Grant was received to support transport costs to enable participation in social activities delivered by the Buxton based Befriending service.

Designated Funds

Contingency fund is unrestricted funds that have been set aside to cover the cost of staff redundancy if the charity was unable to gain the funding required to continue as a going concern.

Unfunded hours fund comprises funds set aside to cover the costs of any staff hours that are not covered by specific grants/service contract agreements.

Donations allocated to be spent next year are donations from the current year that the charity has designated to spend on certain projects during the next financial year.

DCC Young Connections and WRRF Tameside are restricted fund underspends where funders have permitted their repurposing.

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

12. Statement of funds (continued)

Statement of funds - prior year

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2021 £</i>	<i>Income £</i>	<i>Expenditure £</i>	<i>Transfers in/out £</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2022 £</i>
Unrestricted funds					
Designated funds					
Donations allocated to be spent next year	10,000	80,667	(23,692)	-	66,975
Contingency fund	99,340	-	-	76,961	176,301
Unfunded hours	82,500	-	(70,500)	-	12,000
	<u>191,840</u>	<u>80,667</u>	<u>(94,192)</u>	<u>76,961</u>	<u>255,276</u>
General funds					
General Funds	399,873	1,707,629	(1,645,253)	(85,211)	377,038
Total Unrestricted funds	<u>591,713</u>	<u>1,788,296</u>	<u>(1,739,445)</u>	<u>(8,250)</u>	<u>632,314</u>
Restricted funds					
DCC - Young Connections	2,944	2,944	-	-	5,888
The National Lottery Community Fund	11,022	34,140	(33,761)	-	11,401
Comic Relief	23,900	-	(15,109)	-	8,791
Alan's fundraising pot	-	-	-	472	472
Digital Connection (Readycall)	-	6,882	(8,526)	7,778	6,134
WRRF Tameside	-	7,312	-	-	7,312
Foundation Derbyshire	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
	<u>37,866</u>	<u>53,278</u>	<u>(57,396)</u>	<u>8,250</u>	<u>41,998</u>
Total of funds	<u>629,579</u>	<u>1,841,574</u>	<u>(1,796,841)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>674,312</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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13. Summary of funds

Summary of funds - current year

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Designated funds	255,276	56,038	(54,103)	27,654	284,865
General funds	377,038	1,604,899	(1,670,877)	(14,454)	296,606
Restricted funds	41,998	34,164	(45,712)	(13,200)	17,250
	<u>674,312</u>	<u>1,695,101</u>	<u>(1,770,692)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>598,721</u>

Summary of funds - prior year

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Designated funds	191,840	80,667	(94,192)	76,961	255,276
General funds	399,873	1,707,629	(1,645,253)	(85,211)	377,038
Restricted funds	37,866	53,278	(57,396)	8,250	41,998
	<u>629,579</u>	<u>1,841,574</u>	<u>(1,796,841)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>674,312</u>

14. Analysis of net assets between funds

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Restricted funds 2023 £	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	-	11,472	11,472
Current assets	17,250	683,411	700,661
Creditors due within one year	-	(113,412)	(113,412)
Total	<u>17,250</u>	<u>581,471</u>	<u>598,721</u>

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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

14. Analysis of net assets between funds (continued)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	<i>Restricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	-	30,292	30,292
Current assets	41,998	799,918	841,916
Creditors due within one year	-	(197,896)	(197,896)
Total	41,998	632,314	674,312

15. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income/expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(75,591)	44,733
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	18,768	19,928
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	(8,612)	(580)
Loss/(profit) on the sale of fixed assets	52	(700)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	66,149	(77,543)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(84,484)	56,762
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(83,718)	42,600

16. Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand	471,583	546,689
Total cash and cash equivalents	471,583	546,689

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

17. Analysis of changes in net debt

	At 1 April 2022	Cash flows	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	546,689	(75,106)	471,583
	<u>546,689</u>	<u>(75,106)</u>	<u>471,583</u>

18. Financial commitments, guarantees and contingent liabilities

Santander UK Plc holds a fixed legal charge over a deposit of £14,000 which makes up part of the charity's bank balance.

19. Pension commitments

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the group in an independently administered fund.

The charge to the profit and loss in respect of the defined contribution scheme was £35,714 (2022 - £36,977).

At 31 March 2023 the charity's pension contributions payable were £2,649 (2022: £5,716), which were paid over after the reporting date.

20. Related party transactions

During the year, the charity rented office space from Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Service, a charity in which Ms G L Geddes (Company secretary) is a trustee. The total rent paid during the year was £2,300 (2022: £2,520). The charity also received £18,108 from Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Service for the Tea, Tech and Talk project.