FRIENDS FOR LEISURE

England & Wales · Charity number 1068991

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	03508369
Registered	1998-04-01
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Unit R3 The Bromley Centre Bromley Road Congleton Cheshire CW12 1PT
Phone	01260275333
Email	info@friendsforleisure.org.uk
Website	www.friendsforleisure.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 1) THE RELIEF OF STRESS AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES BY PROMOTING MAINSTREAM FRIENDSHIP AND LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES2) TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC BY RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT DISABILITY AND THE IMPORTANCE OF EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

Activities: Promoting opportunities for children and young people with disabilities aged 5 to 21 in Cheshire East.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Disability
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

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Geography

- Cheshire East

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£133,112	£158,860	-	-
2024-03-31	£179,635	£167,719	-	-
2023-03-31	£136,050	£137,003	-	-
2022-03-31	£158,968	£166,950	-	-
2021-03-31	£176,507	£164,116	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
CHARLES BOOTH		2019-11-18
HEATHER PEARCE		2023-11-29
Mollie Heywood		2022-06-20
PAMELA CAREY		2021-11-24
PAUL DREW		2024-07-17

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FRIENDS FOR LEISURE

England & Wales - Charity number 1068991

Accounts

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE

Annual Report

April 2024 - March 2025

Friends for Leisure - Registered Office

Unit R3, The Bromley Centre

Bromley Road, Congleton.

Cheshire CW12 1PT

Tel: 01260 275333

Registered Charity No. 1068991
Registered Company No. 3508369

An Independent Charity

Website: www.friendsforleisure.org.uk

E-mail: info@friendsforleisure.org.uk

Friends for Leisure Aims and Objectives

Disabled children and young people have the same rights to get involved in everyday friendship and leisure activities as other children and young people.

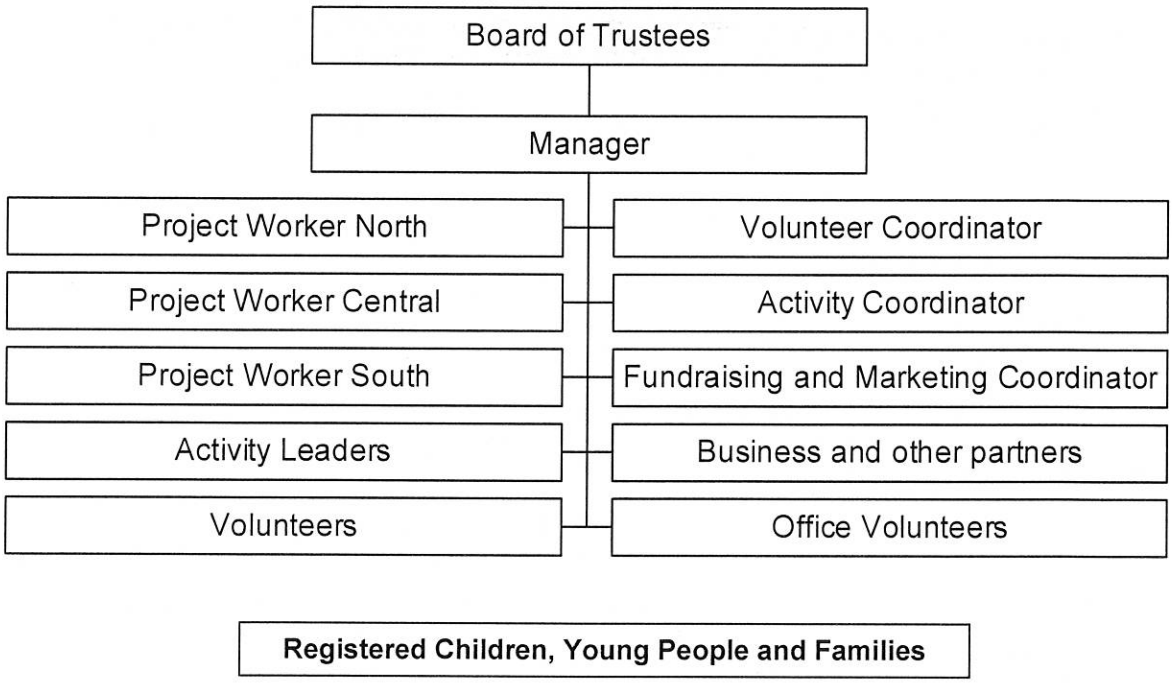
Our Aims

- To establish, promote and develop mainstream leisure and friendship opportunities for children and young people with physical, sensory and learning disabilities aged between five and twenty-one years within Cheshire East.
- To raise awareness about disability issues and the importance of equality and inclusion.

Our Objectives

- To enable disabled children and young people to have access to and participate in everyday leisure activities.
- To create opportunities for disabled children and young people to develop friendships.
- To support young volunteers to develop and maintain positive, supporting friendships with disabled children and young people.
- To provide a flexible and individual service responding to the needs and aspirations of disabled children and young people.
- To consult with disabled children, young people, parents and carers and promote their needs to providers of leisure activities.
- To ensure that our focus is always the leisure needs of the disabled young person.

Friends for Leisure Organisation Chart



Registered Children, Young People and Families

The Trustees and Staff at Friends for Leisure
April 2024 to March 2025

Trustees

P Walker - resigned 19 June 2024
P Drew - appointed 17 July 2024
C Booth
P Carey
M Heywood
H Pearce

Staff & Office Support

Gillian Jones	Manager
Sarah Gill	P/T Project Worker
Amanda Hunt	P/T Project Worker
Chloe Wilson (Jones)	P/T Project Worker
Hannah Guthrie	P/T Activity Coordinator
Sean Worth	F/T Volunteer Coordinator
Sarah Hampton	P/T Fundraising & Marketing Coordinator – from 11/07/2024
Jo Stokes	Activity Leader
Maria Potter	Activity Leader
Lesley Ingham	Activity Leader
Tess Hulme	Activity Leader
Liz Houlihan	Activity Leader
Barry Wilson	Volunteer Office Assistant
Chris Jones	Volunteer Office Assistant
Martyn Connolly	Volunteer Database Administrator
Annette Kinsella	Volunteer Database Administrator

Independent Examiner

Kime O'Brien, Accountants. Macclesfield.

Strategic Information

The trustees are its directors and carry an executive responsibility for the prudent, legal, and ethical running of the charity. Because of these responsibilities, an understanding of the structure and ethos of Friends for Leisure is required. This may be gained by involvement in the day-to-day operations of FFL, attending and observing trustee meetings, understanding the legal requirements and demands placed upon trustees and fully comprehending the underlying ethos of the charity.

Initial and refresher training in charity management is available to new and existing trustees to enable them to gain the necessary skills to perform the task effectively.

Trustees must be nominated and voted into post at the AGM (or EGM) and a third of trustees must step down each year in rotation and offer themselves for re-election should they wish to do so.

The aim is to strive for a balanced and broad spectrum of skills and experience with representation from all sectors of the charity. Professionally qualified trustees are preferred to cover the financial and legal roles. Although not subject to full audit, annual accounts and reports are professionally reviewed to ensure compliance with Charity Commission guidelines.

Friends for Leisure has a robust recruitment procedure in place whereby all staff and volunteers are subject to an appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Unsupervised contact with children and young people is not permitted until the report is received. We also require submission of two references and all trustees, paid staff and volunteers are required to sign the FFL Confidentiality Statement upon joining the organisation.

FFL continues to operate under the Every Child Matters framework and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children).

The trustees of Friends for Leisure are responsible for ensuring that those who benefit from or working with the charity are not harmed in any way through contact with it. Disabled children and young adults may be more vulnerable to abuse and neglect than their non-disabled peers.

Friends for Leisure's safeguarding policies and procedures are designed to promote children's safety and welfare in relation to their contact with the charity. We assess and manage risks, including the following areas:

- Protection of children & vulnerable adults
- Assessment of children and young people
- Planning and assessment of activities
- Photography
- Medication
- Bullying
- Social media
- Physical and emotional abuse
- Neglect
- Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation
- Domestic abuse
- Extremism
- Modern slavery
- Information sharing

The charity is committed to the inter-agency approach set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children. This statutory guidance sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and how practitioners should conduct the assessment of children.

Guidelines produced by the Charity Commission recommend that charities maintain a level of financial reserves and advise that a reserves policy is implemented to explain and justify their agreed reserves level. The trustees have approved a reserves policy. This takes into account the need to cover fluctuations in income, current and longer-term liabilities, committed expenditure and restricted funding. For this purpose, an amount equating to six months' running costs of the charity has been considered to be an appropriate and prudent minimum position and is consistent with similar organisations.

The trustees formally declare that there are no serious incidents (or other matters relating to the charity) that should be brought to the attention of the Charities Commission, that have not been reported.

Friends for Leisure Overview and Key Projects

2024-2025 was a settled year with no changes in staff. The Chair of Trustees, Paul Walker, stood down and was replaced by Paul Drew.
On 1st July 2024 we moved to new premises at The Bromley Centre in Congleton as the previous premises were sold by the landlord.
Grant criteria has been changing resulting in more charities applying for funding from smaller funders which has made the fundraising environment more challenging.

Project workers undertook 52 initial assessments and 34 reassessments with young people.

I am pleased to report on the year's achievements.

SERVICE PROVISION

Funding from Cheshire East Council remained 25% lower and the contract was extended until December 2025. Despite this reduction in funding we have still managed to continue all of our services however securing funding from other sources is becoming very competitive.

OPPORTUNITIES

Friends for Leisure has continued to deliver a range of opportunities for disabled children and young people to make friends at everyday leisure activities from which they are often excluded.

A total of 2163 hours of activities were provided in the year, with 1,520 attendances.

Unfortunately, we also had 287 non-attendances. Of these, around half cancelled after receiving the reminder and 71 did not attend or let us know.

BEFRIENDING & BUDDYING – 7 friendship links

We have made two additional friendship links between young people and volunteers this year. The benefits to our young people is apparent.

"This has been a very powerful experience where I have formed a unique bond with a family I have worked with for many years. This will have a lifelong impact on me and has allowed me to understand the type of service users I work with best and how I would like to apply my skills in a professional setting. I feel as though the impact has been significant on both [young person's] family and me. This is a relationship I hope to continue, despite the end of my volunteering experience." *(Volunteer)*

Volunteers provided 73 hours of friendship.

YOUTH GROUPS – 636 attendances (954 hours of provision)

Our Activity leaders supported these groups and, as always, did an amazing job. Young people were consulted about the activities they wanted to do.

"I just think its an excellent provision for young people with disabilities. It gives them the opportunity to socialise, to learn new things and without it a lot of the young people would struggle social and mentally. IF they don't have that stimulation. School is one thing but they need extra stimulation. I'd just like an adult group because I feel like a lot of things drop off once they're 21. But yeah it does a lot for their mental help because I noticed a massive dip in his mental health during the pandemic and I imagined a lot of other young people were the same." *(Parent)*

"Friends for Leisure has helped to provide a stable environment for [my son] to come to which has helped him with his social skills and making new connections outside of school and college over the years. Friends for Leisure put the thoughts and ideas of the young people first when deciding what activities to plan and always make them very inclusive to all ages and abilities." *(Parent)*

DRAMA GROUP – 321 attendances (481 hours of provision)

The "Friends of Falli" drama group is the highlight of the week for the young people who attend. Ian Mac and Kathryn Howard have delivered 481 hours of fun and games, as well as termly showcases. Our Activity Assistant, Liz Houlihan, provides vital support at these sessions.

"The drama club has been instrumental in [my son's] development. It's improved his communication, listening, social skills and confidence. He used Drama as his skill for both Bronze (completed 2024) and Silver (completed 2025) Duke of Edinburgh Awards.
It's one of the most inclusive clubs I've seen - encouraging children with and without language to contribute towards small productions. Their recent production of Peter Pan was wonderful!
FFL are lucky to have the support, skills, and inspiration from Ian Mac. He really cares about each child's abilities and is excellent at utilising their strengths and ideas. He, and his support team, are truly brilliant. In a time where so many charities, or clubs within them, are closing, it's important to continue supporting as many as possible. This one really can't close! It would be detrimental to the development of those most in need." *(Parent)*

"Overall I love the sessions, I'm not a "drama" person however I find the sessions to be rewarding. It's nice to be a role model for the kids and it's never the same twice! It's nice to work alongside someone to get them involved and see them slowly become more confident in themselves and start to put themselves out more. One thing that was really a pleasant surprise was just how kind the kids are to each other; they are all extremely patient and work their best to get those less confident than them involved. A comes to mind, she is always happy to volunteer to go first, O as well, he always tries his best even if it's not particularly easy for him." *(Volunteer)*

PALS – 57 attendances (86 hours of provision)

PALS (Personal and Life Skills) sessions are held throughout the year. These activities included staying safe in the community, first aid workshops, eating out and relationships.

Funding from The National Lottery Community Fund enabled us to continue to provide activities throughout the year.

TEN-PIN BOWLING – 260 attendances (325 hours of provision)

Saturday bowling at SUPERBOWL Macclesfield has always been popular and funding from The Robert Clutterbuck Charitable Trust has enabled us to offer similar sessions at the TENPIN bowling alley in Crewe throughout the year.

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES – 158 attendances (185 hours of provision)

Sessions were provided over the Easter, Summer, October and February school holidays. We provided a range of opportunities including sports, taster sessions, junk art, animal therapy including birds of prey and meals out.

"The range of activities are absolutely fabulous, and they give the opportunity for my son to take part in things that he may not get to do. The staff and volunteers are amazing and very understanding of every child's needs, and interact with them accordingly. I also find that the staff are extremely supportive to parents too.
[My son] gets such a lot out of each session. Amazing experiences and activities and chances to meet other young disabled people. He is always included as a wheelchair user. Thanks for all that you do for the young people." *(Parent)*

"Its just nice knowing that the kids are looked after and safe and giving us a break for an hour and a half, getting them independent and trying new things that they probably wouldn't try at home" *(Parent)*

COMMUNTIY ACTIVITIES – 88 attendances (132 hours of provision)

This year we provided 60 free tickets to the circus, thanks to Circus Starr and we had a Christmas disco.

VOLUNTEERING

Over this year we recruited 67 new volunteers. 96% of these were aged 25 and under.
Our volunteer coordinator, Sean, has developed great relationships with schools and colleges across the borough.

46 volunteers completed online safeguarding and training, 27 completed First Aid courses and 12 completed Signalong sessions.

68 volunteers attended at least one activity.

"During my time volunteering at FFL, I had the opportunity to work with a diverse range of young people, learning about them and seeing the joy they found in activities they might not otherwise had access to. I hope I have helped to contribute to this amazing charity. This experience also helped me develop my confidence and communication skills, both of which will be invaluable for my future career." *(Volunteer)*

"I have enjoyed volunteering so much and has been such a valuable experience that I will remember forever. Again, thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to volunteer with all of the amazing children and for all of the fun I've had at sessions." *(Volunteer)*

Volunteers gave 540 hours of help at group activities.

We also had volunteers supporting our work in other ways, and we would like to thank:

- Barry Wilson who helps with a range of jobs around the office.
- Martin Connolly and Annette Kinsella who maintain our database.
- Chris Jones, who carries out maintenance in the office and attends activities and fundraising events.

CONCLUSION

Whilst the year has been financially challenging, the children and young people are always at the centre of what we do.

We will continue to seek new funders for our existing activities as well as extending our drama offer into Congleton and Crewe.

We would like to thank all our wonderful volunteers who take time to understand and befriend our children and young people. The charity would not survive without your continued support.

Friends for Leisure is extremely grateful to the following individuals and organisations for their generous support during the year.

Thank you also to those people who have undertaken sponsored events, made regular donations by standing order, and those who have Friends for Leisure collection boxes at home.

Mr Ian Bradley
Rebecca Carey
Congleton Tangent
Gladman Developments
Holmes Chapel High School
JMW Solicitors LLP
Mr Richard Mellor
PETT Ltd

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

COMPANY REGISTERED NUMBER 3508369

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1068991

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
COMPANY INFORMATION

COMPANY NUMBER	3508369	
CHARITY NUMBER	1068991	
DIRECTORS	C Booth	
	P Carey	
	M Heywood	
	P Drew	appointed 17 July 2024
	H Pearce	
	P Walker	resigned 19 June 2024
REGISTERED OFFICE	Unit R3	
	The Bromley Centre	
	Congleton	
	Cheshire	
	CW12 1PT	

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

The directors present their report and the financial statement for the year ended 31st March 2025

After three years developing under the umbrella of Macclesfield District CVS, Friends for Leisure became a company limited by guarantee on 11th February 1998 and a registered charity on 1st April 1998.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The main focus of Friends for Leisure is to promote opportunities for children and young people with disabilities to enjoy friendships and participate in the mainstream leisure activities of their choice by providing inclusive group activities and building links with leisure groups and clubs, so that children and young people are able to become fully involved in these integrated activities with Friends for Leisure support.

DIRECTORS

The directors, who are also the trustees, who served during the year were as follows:

P Drew (appointed 17 July 2024)
P Walker (resigned 19 June 2024)
C Booth
P Carey
M Heywood
H Pearce

SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

This report was approved by the board on 4 December 2025 and signed on its behalf.



Paul Drew
Chair of Trustees

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

I am pleased to report another successful year for the charity, at a time when charities generally are struggling to survive in difficult economic circumstances. Recruitment within the sector still remains difficult, particularly for smaller charities like ours. The team once again showed great resilience, flexibility and loyalty in going the extra mile to ensure that the charity continued to supply a first class service to the children of East Cheshire.

Funding was again received from various sources, with substantial sums from Cheshire East Council through their Short Breaks for Disabled Children contract, The Garfield Weston Foundation, and the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund. We were also very grateful to receive monies from Baily Thomas Charitable Trust, Congleton Town Trust, Georgia Leigh Ogden Foundation, Felicity Wilde Charitable Trust , Masonic Charitable Foundation and Julia and Hans Rausing Charitable Trust.

We very much appreciate the continued IT support received from Prism.

This year has once again highlighted the increasingly challenging funding environment faced by charities, particularly in relation to support from local authorities and traditional funding partners. Reductions in local authority contributions, coupled with changes in funding priorities among larger funding organisations, have placed significant pressure on income streams.

As a result, our income for the year stood at £133,112, against an expenditure of £158,860, leading to a deficit of £25,748. While this shortfall reflects the wider financial pressures across the sector, the charity remains in a stable position. Our unrestricted reserves stand at £76,517; equivalent to around six months of running costs, in line with our reserves policy.

The Trustees and I remain committed to careful financial management while continuing to seek out new funding opportunities to secure the charity's long-term sustainability.

The total number of new young people registered with the charity amounted to 43, with 185 young people registered at year end. There were 7 friendship/buddy links during the year, some of which were virtual. We took on 67 new volunteers during the year who are vital to the service we provide.

Activities included youth groups in Congleton, Crewe and Macclesfield; bowling in Crewe and Macclesfield; Friends of Falli drama in Macclesfield; PALS groups in Crewe and Macclesfield; and parent and carer information sessions. Holiday activities included circus skills, meals out, bushcraft, archery and tennis.

All the trustees are very grateful for the hard work and flexibility of Gillian and the staff in providing the activities for the children we support.



Paul Drew
Chair of Trustees

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF
FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025
SET OUT ON PAGES 4 TO 11
CHARITY NUMBER 1068991 COMPANY NUMBER 3508369

We report to the charity trustees on our examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the charity's trustees of the company (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied ourselves that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, we report in respect of our examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out our examination, we have followed the directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' STATEMENT

We have completed our examination. We confirm that no material matters have come to our attention which gives us cause to believe that:

accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or

the accounts do not accord with such records; or

the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

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

1 Church Mews
Churchill Way
Macclesfield
Cheshire
SK11 6AY

Kime O'Brien Limited
Chartered Accountants

26 November 2025

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 Restricted Funds £	2025 Unrestricted Funds £	2025 Total Funds £	2024 Restricted Funds £	2024 Unrestricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £
Incoming resources							
Donations	3	-	8,438	8,438	-	7,586	7,586
Fundraising	4	-	2,066	2,066	-	2,710	2,710
Provision of service	5	72,347	-	72,347	125,256	-	125,256
Commissioned Income	6	31,488	-	31,488	35,861	-	35,861
Other grants and income	7	-	11,531	11,531	-	1,300	1,300
Activity-related income (Subs. etc)		-	2,913	2,913	-	1,855	1,855
Interest		-	4,170	4,170	-	3,493	3,493
Earned income		-	-	-	-	120	120
Gift aid		-	159	159	-	1,454	1,454
Total incoming resources		103,835	29,277	133,112	161,117	18,518	179,635
Resources expended							
Salaries		97,422	16,420	113,842	103,495	15,155	118,650
Employer National Insurance		1,048	2,289	3,337	437	2,923	3,360
Employer pension contributions	8	41	2,214	2,255	77	2,095	2,172
Travel and Subsistance (staff)		1,485	-	1,485	1,426	-	1,426
Vol expenditure		1,764	-	1,764	1,590	-	1,590
Training		-	-	-	114	-	114
Recruitment		-	-	-	171	-	171
Activities		10,710	1,078	11,788	12,708	75	12,783
Stationery		45	-	45	89	-	89
Postage		-	3	3	513	-	513
Telecommunication		1,813	-	1,813	2,195	-	2,195
Rent & utilities		8,993	-	8,993	8,335	-	8,335
Insurance		1,573	-	1,573	1,752	-	1,752
Admin.		1,725	-	1,725	2,599	-	2,599
Bank charges		-	218	218	-	224	224
Publicity and Promotion		597	-	597	657	-	657
Relocation Costs		2,328	-	2,328	-	-	-
Equipment		-	-	-	220	-	220
Parent/Carer information sessions		-	-	-	-	-	-
Total resources expended		129,544	22,222	151,766	136,378	20,472	156,850
Fundraising costs	9	4,743	2,351	7,094	7,305	3,564	10,869
Capital expenditure	10	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Costs		134,287	24,573	158,860	143,683	24,036	167,719
Net movement in funds		(30,452)	4,704	(25,748)	17,434	(5,518)	11,916
Total funds brought forward		68,172	71,813	139,985	50,738	77,331	128,069
Total funds carried forward		37,720	76,517	114,237	68,172	71,813	139,985

The notes on page 6 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
COMPANY NUMBER 3508369 (England & Wales)
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2025

		Notes	2025 £	2024 £
CURRENT ASSETS				
Bank accounts:	Deposit account		87,791	83,647
	Current account		21,854	57,181
	Petty Cash		572	1,021
Debtors		11	6,765	1,300
			116,982	143,149
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year		12	(2,745)	(3,164)
			114,237	139,985
REPRESENTED BY:				
Restricted funds				
Albert Hunt Trust			-	166
Cheshire Community Foundation Best Days			-	851
Cheshire Freemasons			-	944
Commissioned Cheshire East			6,786	18,001
Congleton Inclosure Trust			2,266	23,903
Congleton Town Trust			2,000	-
Congleton Young People's Trust			128	-
COOP Community Fund			2,853	4,497
Crewe Town Council			1,331	1,505
Edward Gostling Foundation			-	1,290
Felicity Wilde Charitable Trust			1,336	-
Garfield Weston			16,215	-
Julia and Hans Rausing Charitable Trust			1,377	3,033
Margaret Williamson Memorial Fund			290	-
Masonic Charitable Foundation			35	-
National Lottery Community Fund			-	2,976
National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund			830	4,074
NGED Community Matters Fund			-	989
Robert Clutterbuck Foundation			800	1,371
Redrow Homes North West			5	504
Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust			-	140
Sobell Foundation			-	87
Tesco Community Fund			-	920
The Russell Trust			481	1,711
True Colours Trust			-	95
William Dean Educational Trust			987	1,080
Williams Family Foundation			-	35
		13	37,720	68,172
General Funds		14	76,517	71,813
			114,237	139,985

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under the provision of Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006. The members have not required the company, under Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006, to obtain an audit for the year ended 31st March 2025. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Acr 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared and delivered in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

P. Carey

P Carey
Director
Approved by the Board on 4 December 2025.

The notes on page 6 to 11 form part of these financial statement.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements
The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) '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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 ' The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (as applied to small entities by section 1A of the standard)' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Company Status
The charity is a company limited by guarantee. If the charity is dissolved the trustees/members must contribute such sum (not exceeding £10 each) as may be demanded of them towards payment of the debts and liabilities of the charity.

Fund Accounting
Unrestricted Funds are 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 are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects. Any amounts not utilised are carried forward where the specific purpose or project remains part of the charity's objectives.

Restricted Funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Incoming Resources
All incoming resources are recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources, it is certain that the resources will be received, and the monetary value of incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources Expended
Resources expended are allocated to the particular activities to which they relate. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with the administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation
The trustees have reviewed the company's fixed asset capitalisation and depreciation policies. Assets such as office equipment are not considered to have any realisable value and the capitalisation thereof only serves to overstate the funds available for the beneficiaries of Friends For Leisure.

Accordingly, these assets have been written off in the year of acquisition.

Taxation
The company is exempt from any corporation tax liability due to its charitable status.

2 EMPLOYEES

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Average number of persons employed by the company	12	12

3 DONATIONS

Donations and legacies received during the year include those from the following:

Mr Ian Bradley	Holmes Chapel High School
Rebecca Carey	JMW Solicitors LLP
Congleton Tangent	Mr Richard Mellor
Gladman Developments	PETT Ltd

4 FUNDRAISING

	2025	2024
	£	£
Includes the following events:		
Carol Singing	382	-
Congleton Rotary Swimathon	-	128
Reubens Quiz Night	274	-
Sandbach Ladies Cricle	178	-
Sales of donated items	27	86
Wilmslow and District Rotary	250	-
Knutsford 10K	250	250
Money Boxes	-	55
Sponsored cycle ride (C Carsons & M Skelley)	-	1,790
Congleton Santa Float	400	343
Others	305	58
	2,066	2,710
Less fundraising costs	(7,094)	(10,869)
	(5,028)	(8,159)

Fundraising costs include the costs associated with applying for income beyond the fundraising income noted above, such as grant applications.

5 PROVISION OF SERVICE

	2025	2024
	£	£
Includes the following:-		
Active Cheshire	-	2,019
Albert Hunt Trust	-	2,000
Baily Thomas	3,000	-
BBC Children in Need	-	9,644
C4C	-	2,000
Cheshire Community Foundation Best Days	-	2,100
Congleton Inclosure Trust	-	25,000
Congleton Town Council	-	1,000
Congleton Town Trust	2,000	-
Congleton Young People's Trust	300	-
Co-op Community Fund	-	1,108
Crewe Town Council	-	1,800
Edward Gostling Foundation	-	3,775
Felicity Wilde Charitable Trust	2,000	-
Garfield Weston	20,000	-
Georgia Leigh Ogden Foundation	3,000	-
C Jones	550	-
Julia and Hans Rausing Charitable Trust	7,500	7,500
Macclesfield Town Council	-	2,000
Margaret Williamson Memorial Fund	360	-
Masonic Charitable Foundation	2,250	5,000
National Lottery Communtiy Fund	-	7,306
National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund	31,012	30,839
NGED Community Matters Fund	-	4,640
Robert Clutterbuck Foundation	-	1,700
Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust	-	3,000
Sobell Foundation	-	5,000
Tesco Community Fund	375	1,625
The Russell Trust	-	2,000
True Colours Trust	-	3,000
William Dean Educational Trust	-	1,200
	72,347	125,256

6 COMMISSIONED INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
Cheshire East Council - Short Breaks for Disabled Children	31,488	35,861
	31,488	35,861

7 OTHER GRANTS AND OTHER INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
Barbara Ward Children's Foundation	6,000	-
Martyn Bracegirdle Charitable Foundation	500	1,000
Paypal Giving Fund	31	-
Pennycress Trust	-	300
The Pixel Fund	5,000	-
	11,531	1,300

8 WORKPLACE PENSION

A workplace pension is provided through NATWEST CUSHON Trust (formerly SALVUS Master Trust).

9 Fundraising Cost

	2025 £	2024 £
Marketing and fundraising coordinator	7,094	9,056
Fundraising Expenses	-	1,813
	7,094	10,869

10 Capital Expenditure

	2025 £	2024 £
Website Development	-	-
	-	-

11 Debtors

	2025 £	2024 £
Prepayments and accrued income	6,765	1,300

12 Creditors

	2025 £	2024 £
Pension Fund	461	532
PAYE payable	14	14
Accruals and deferred income	2,270	2,618
	2,745	3,164

13 Movements of Major Funds	At 01/04/2024 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	At 31/03/25 £
Albert Hunt Trust	166	-	(166)	-
Baily Thomas	-	3,000	(3,000)	-
Cheshire Communty Foundation Best Days	851	-	(851)	-
Cheshire Freemasons	944	-	(944)	-
Commissioned Cheshire East	18,001	31,488	(42,703)	6,786
Congleton Inclosure Trust	23,903	-	(21,637)	2,266
Congleton Town Trust	-	2,000	-	2,000
Congleton Young People's Trust	-	300	(172)	128
COOP Community Fund	4,497	-	(1,644)	2,853
Crewe Town Council	1,505	-	(174)	1,331
Edward Gostling Foundation	1,290	-	(1,290)	-
Felicity Wilde Charitable Trust	-	2,000	(664)	1,336
Garfield Weston	-	20,000	(3,785)	16,215
Georgia Leigh Ogden Foundation	-	3,000	(3,000)	-
C Jones	-	550	(550)	-
Julia and Hans Rausing Trust	3,033	7,500	(9,156)	1,377
Margaret Williamson Charitable Trust	-	360	(70)	290
Masonic Charitable Foundation	-	2,250	(2,215)	35
NGED Community Matters Fund	989	-	(989)	-
National Lottery Reaching Communities	4,074	31,012	(34,256)	830
National Lottery Community Fund	2,976	-	(2,976)	-
Robert Clutterbuck Foundation	1,371	-	(571)	800
Redrow Homes North West	504	-	(499)	5
Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust	140	-	(140)	-
Sobell Foundation	87	-	(87)	-
Tesco Community Fund	920	375	(1,295)	-
The Russell Trust	1,711	-	(1,230)	481
True Colours Trust	95	-	(95)	-
William Dean Educational Trust	1,080	-	(93)	987
Williams Family Foundation	35	-	(35)	-
Total restricted funds	68,172	103,835	(134,287)	37,720
Unrestricted	71,813	29,277	(24,573)	76,517
Total Funds	139,985	133,112	(158,860)	114,237

14 GENERAL FUNDS AND RESERVES POLICY

In line with Charities Commission guidelines, the Friends for Leisure Trustees feel it prudent to keep a level of reserve for the charity.

	2025 £	2024 £
General funds show a surplus	76,517	71,813

	2025 £	2024 £
Funding Requirement:		
To cover shortfall 6 months running costs, in event of closing down the charity	80,000	85,000

15 LIMITED LIABILITY AND GUARANTORS

The liability of the members is limited to a guarantee to contribute a maximum of £10 each in the event of the company becoming insolvent.

16 COMMITMENTS AND LEASES

A lease agreement commenced on 1 July 2024 and the charity can opt out on 31 March 2025. The annual rent is £7,992 (including utilities). This continues on a rolling monthly agreement.

17 OTHER INFORMATION

Friends for Leisure is a private company limited by guarantee and incorporated in England.
Its registered office is:
Unit R3, The Bromley Centre
Bromley Road
Congleton
Cheshire
CW12 1PT

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE

England & Wales - Charity number 1068991

Accounts

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE

Annual Report

April 2023 - March 2024

Friends for Leisure - Registered Office

Unit R3, The Bromley Centre

Bromley Road, Congleton.

Cheshire CW12 1PT

Tel: 01260 275333

Registered Charity No. 1068991
Registered Company No. 3508369

An Independent Charity

Website: www.friendsforleisure.org.uk

E-mail: info@friendsforleisure.org.uk

Friends for Leisure Aims and Objectives

Disabled children and young people have the same rights to get involved in everyday friendship and leisure activities as other children and young people.

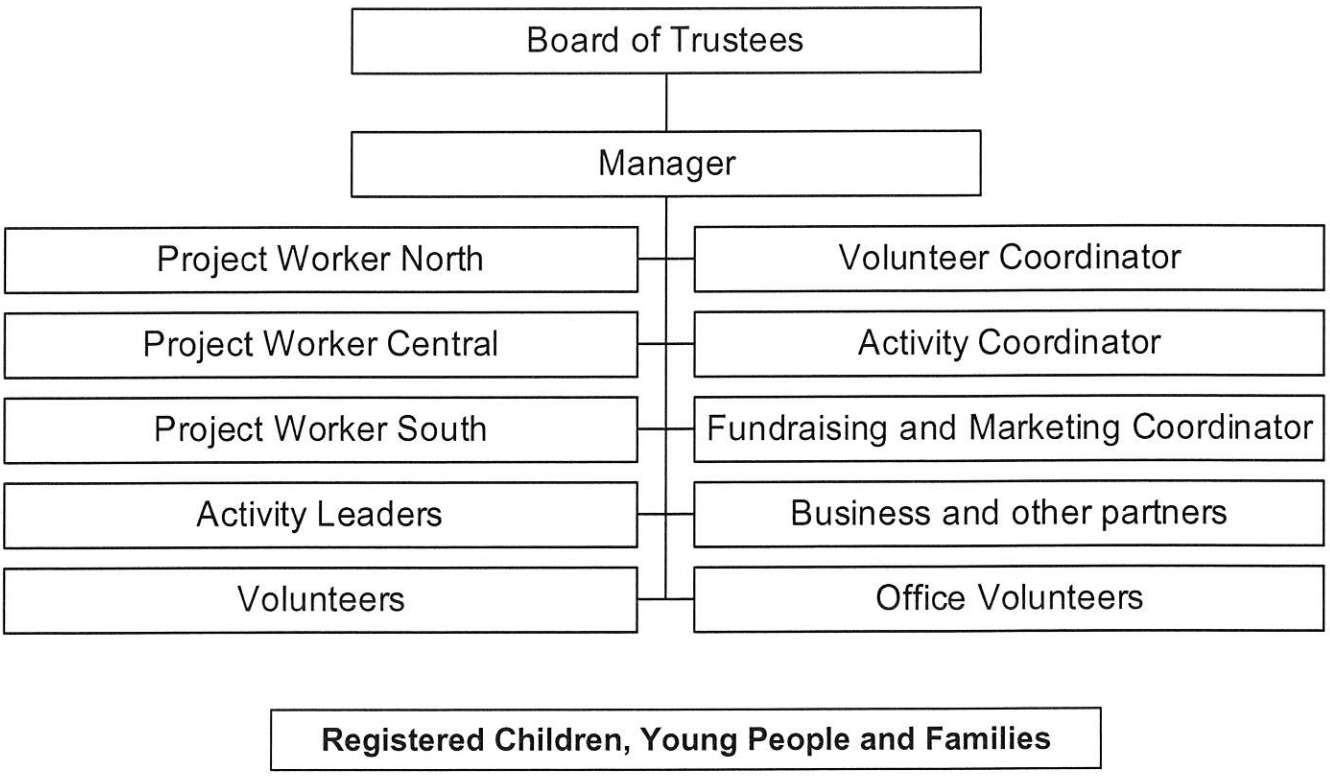
Our Aims

- To establish, promote and develop mainstream leisure and friendship opportunities for children and young people with physical, sensory and learning disabilities aged between five and twenty-one years within Cheshire East.
- To raise awareness about disability issues and the importance of equality and inclusion.

Our Objectives

- To enable disabled children and young people to have access to and participate in everyday leisure activities.
- To create opportunities for disabled children and young people to develop friendships.
- To support young volunteers to develop and maintain positive, supporting friendships with disabled children and young people.
- To provide a flexible and individual service responding to the needs and aspirations of disabled children and young people.
- To consult with disabled children, young people, parents and carers and promote their needs to providers of leisure activities.
- To ensure that our focus is always the leisure needs of the disabled young person.

Friends for Leisure Organisation Chart



The Trustees and Staff at Friends for Leisure
April 2023 to March 2024

Trustees

M Stockdale - resigned 29 November 2023
P Walker - resigned 19 June 2024
P Drew - appointed 17 July 2024
C Booth
T Slater - resigned 29 November 2023
P Carey
M Heywood
H Pearce - appointed 29 November 2023

Staff & Office Support

Gillian Jones	Manager F/T to 30/09/2023 P/T from 01/10/2023
Maggie Readman	P/T Project Worker - to 31/05/2023
Sarah Gill	P/T Project Worker
Amanda Hunt	P/T Project Worker – to 11/10/2024
Chloe Wilson (Jones)	P/T Project Worker – from 06/06/2023
Hannah Guthrie	P/T Activity Coordinator
Sean Worth	F/T Volunteer Coordinator – from 15/08/2022
Claire Addis	P/T Fundraising & Marketing Coordinator – to 09/01/2024
Jo Stokes	Activity Leader
Maria Potter	Activity Leader
Lesley Ingham	Activity Leader
Tess Hulme	Activity Leader
Cathy Florentine	Activity Leader - to 10/01/2024
Liz Houlihan	Activity Assistant
Barry Wilson	Volunteer Office Assistant
Chris Jones	Volunteer Office Assistant
Martyn Connolly	Volunteer Database Administrator
Annette Kinsella	Volunteer Database Administrator

Independent Examiner

Kime O'Brien, Accountants. Macclesfield.

Strategic Information

The trustees are its directors and carry an executive responsibility for the prudent, legal, and ethical running of the charity. Because of these responsibilities, an understanding of the structure and ethos of Friends for Leisure is required. This may be gained by involvement in the day-to-day operations of FFL, attending and observing trustee meetings, understanding the legal requirements and demands placed upon trustees and fully comprehending the underlying ethos of the charity.

Initial and refresher training in charity management is available to new and existing trustees to enable them to gain the necessary skills to perform the task effectively.

Trustees must be nominated and voted into post at the AGM (or EGM) and a third of trustees must step down each year in rotation and offer themselves for re-election should they wish to do so.

The aim is to strive for a balanced and broad spectrum of skills and experience with representation from all sectors of the charity. Professionally qualified trustees are preferred to cover the financial and legal roles. Although not subject to full audit, annual accounts and reports are professionally reviewed to ensure compliance with Charity Commission guidelines.

Friends for Leisure has a robust recruitment procedure in place whereby all staff and volunteers are subject to an appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Unsupervised contact with children and young people is not permitted until the report is received. We also require submission of two references and all trustees, paid staff and volunteers are required to sign the FFL Confidentiality Statement upon joining the organisation.

FFL continues to operate under the Every Child Matters framework and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children).

The trustees of Friends for Leisure are responsible for ensuring that those who benefit from or working with the charity are not harmed in any way through contact with it. Disabled children and young adults may be more vulnerable to abuse and neglect than their non-disabled peers.

Friends for Leisure's safeguarding policies and procedures are designed to promote children's safety and welfare in relation to their contact with the charity. We assess and manage risks, including the following areas:

- Protection of children & vulnerable adults
- Assessment of children and young people
- Planning and assessment of activities
- Photography
- Medication
- Bullying
- Social media
- Physical and emotional abuse
- Neglect
- Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation
- Domestic abuse
- Extremism
- Modern slavery
- Information sharing

The charity is committed to the inter-agency approach set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children. This statutory guidance sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and how practitioners should conduct the assessment of children.

Guidelines produced by the Charity Commission recommend that charities maintain a level of financial reserves and advise that a reserves policy is implemented to explain and justify their agreed reserves level. The trustees have approved a reserves policy. This takes into account the need to cover fluctuations in income, current and longer-term liabilities, committed expenditure and restricted funding. For this purpose, an amount equating to six months' running costs of the charity has been considered to be an appropriate and prudent minimum position and is consistent with similar organisations.

The trustees formally declare that there are no serious incidents (or other matters relating to the charity) that should be brought to the attention of the Charities Commission, that have not been reported.

Friends for Leisure Overview and Key Projects

2023-2024 was another year of staff changes but also of consolidation for new team members.

At the end of May, Maggie Readman retired. Maggie had been involved with the charity since its inception, having been on the management committee, the board of trustees, and, since September 2008, the Project Worker for the north of the borough. We wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Hannah Guthrie, our Activity Coordinator, returned from maternity leave on 1st June, on a part-time basis.

Chloe Jones (now Wilson) joined us on 6th June as a Project Worker for the south.

Our fundraising & marketing coordinator, Claire Addis, left on 9th January, having worked with us for over 5 years.

Sadly, in January 2024, Cathy Florentine, one of our Activity Leaders, passed away.

Project workers undertook 38 initial assessments and 36 reassessments with young people.

I am pleased to report on the year's achievements.

SERVICE PROVISION

Groups continued to be combined until the summer. This gave new staff the opportunity to settle into their roles.

From 1st September, funding from Cheshire East Council was reduced by 25% and this resulted in fewer activities being provided. Fortunately, we were able to secure funding from other sources to enable us to start up a monthly bowling group in Crewe.

FUNDRAISING & MARKETING

OPPORTUNITIES

Friends for Leisure has continued to deliver a range of opportunities for disabled children and young people to make friends at everyday leisure activities from which they are often excluded.

A total of 2103.5 hours of activities were provided in the year, with 1452 attendances.

Unfortunately, we also had 211 non-attendances. Of these, half made contact to let us know. 36 cancelled after receiving the reminder.

BEFRIENDING & BUDDYING

We have struggled this year make friendship links between young people and volunteers. However, two of our virtual friendships have been active.

Volunteers provided 102.5 hours of friendship.

YOUTH GROUPS – 643 attendances (959 hours of provision)

Our Activity leaders supported these groups and, as always, did an amazing job. Young people were consulted about the activities they wanted to do.

"[Our son] has only been going to youth club for a few months but he absolutely loves it; he can't wait to go every time. Not only has it been great for him, but it has been amazing for me too. For me to be able to go somewhere and leave him with lovely people and me not worrying about him while he is there. I love to see him getting to know new people who accept him for who he is. It

will be brilliant for his independence when he goes to the upcoming meal out with his friends without us." *(Parent)*

"Just wanted to email to say a big thank you for the meal out last night. [My son] really enjoyed himself and has already asked when the next one is! It's so lovely to see him socialising with other kids in that setting with no parent, phone or tablet to play on. He's really struggled with this in the past so it's a credit to the group that he feels so relaxed. Thanks again." *(Parent)*

DRAMA GROUP – 245 attendances (367.5 hours of provision)

The "Friends of Falli" drama group is the highlight of the week for the young people who attend. Ian Mac and Kathryn Howard have delivered 367.5 hours of fun and games, as well as termly showcases. Our Activity Assistant, Liz Houlihan, provides vital support at these sessions.

"For [my son and grandson], drama has increased their confidence. It helps them speak out, work as a team and follow instructions. And they love the group they are with. They talk about the people there." *(Parent)*

PALS – 43 attendances (64.5 hours of provision)

PALS (Personal and Life Skills) sessions have not ben as popular this year. The activities included cookery, drama, eating out and relationships.

Funding from The National Lottery Community Fund will enable us to continue to provide activities. We know that the young people who attend get so much from them.

"[My son] gets such a lot out of each session - amazing experiences and activities and chances to meet other young disabled people. He is always included as a wheelchair user. Thanks for all that you do for the young people." *(Parent)*

TEN-PIN BOWLING – 247 attendances (310.75 hours of provision)

Saturday bowling at SUPERBOWL Macclesfield has always been popular. Funding from The Robert Clutterbuck Charitable Trust enabled us to offer similar sessions at the TENPIN bowling alley in Crewe from November 2023.

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES – 208 attendances (302.75 hours of provision)

Sessions were provided over the Easter, Summer, October and February school holidays. We provided a range of opportunities including spots taster sessions, pottery painting, animal therapy, museum visit and meals out.

Funding from Cheshire Community Foundation Best Days also enabled us to provide some family activities, such as a climbing wall, bushcraft and archery.

"[My daughter] attended the fitness session at the leisure centre in the summer. She really enjoyed it and was able to do some exercise whilst having fun. She always loves going to Andy's sessions and the length of the session was just right for what they were doing. She enjoyed being with her friends and it was lovely to see her come out at the end of the session on her own, happy and confidently." *(Parent)*

COMMUNTIY ACTIVITIES – 66 attendances (99 hours of provision)

This year we provided 49 free tickets to the circus, thanks to Circus Starr and we had a Christmas disco.

VOLUNTEERING

Over this year we recruited 55 new volunteers. 96% of these were aged 25 and under.

Our volunteer coordinator, Sean, has developed great relationships with schools and colleges across the borough.

49 volunteers attended at least one activity.

Volunteers gave 501.5 hours of help at group activities.

We also had volunteers supporting our work in other ways, and we would like to thank:

- Barry Wilson who helps with a range of jobs around the office.

- Martin Connolly and Annette Kinsella who maintain our database.
- Chris Jones, who carries out maintenance in the office and attends activities and fundraising events.

CONCLUSION

Bringing in new staff and losing long-standing team members was testing, but I am delighted to report that by the end of the year everyone was working together to deliver the great service that Friends for Leisure is known for.

The sudden loss of Cathy Florentine was a huge shock to us all and she has been sadly missed, but often and fondly remembered.

I would like to thank all staff members, volunteers and trustees for their commitment to the charity.

The year ahead will be difficult and we will prioritise recruitment of a fundraiser.

Having been at Albert Chambers for fifteen years, we have decided to move to new premises when the current lease expires at the end of July.

Friends for Leisure is extremely grateful to the following individuals and organisations for their generous support during the year.

Thank you also to those people who have undertaken sponsored events, made regular donations by standing order, and those who have Friends for Leisure collection boxes at home.

Mr I Bradley
In memory of
Delyth Crean

Mr M Dwire

Mr J Hunt

Mrs I
Jeffers

JMW Solicitirs
LLP

Macclesfield College
students

Wilmslow & District
Rotary

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

COMPANY REGISTERED NUMBER 3508369

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1068991

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
COMPANY INFORMATION

COMPANY NUMBER	3508369
CHARITY NUMBER	1068991
DIRECTORS	C Booth P Carey M Heywood P Drew appointed 17 July 2024 H Pearce appointed 29 November 2023 T Slater resigned 29 November 2023 M Stockdale resigned 29 November 2023 P Walker resigned 19 June 2024
REGISTERED OFFICE	Unit R3 The Bromley Centre Congleton Cheshire CW12 1PT

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

The directors present their report and the financial statement for the year ended 31st March 2024

After three years developing under the umbrella of Macclesfield District CVS, Friends for Leisure became a company limited by guarantee on 11th February 1998 and a registered charity on 1st April 1998.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The main focus of Friends for Leisure is to promote opportunities for children and young people with disabilities to enjoy friendships and participate in the mainstream leisure activities of their choice by providing inclusive group activities and building links with leisure groups and clubs, so that children and young people are able to become fully involved in these integrated activities with Friends for Leisure support.

DIRECTORS

The directors, who are also the trustees, who served during the year were as follows:

M Stockdale (resigned 29 November 2023)
P Walker (resigned 19 June 2024)
C Booth
T Slater (resigned 29 November 2023)
P Carey
M Heywood
H Pearce (appointed 29 November 2023)

SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

This report was approved by the board on 10 December 2024 and signed on its behalf.

Paul Drew
Chair of Trustees

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

I am pleased to report another successful year for the charity, at a time when charities generally are struggling to survive in difficult economic circumstances. Recruitment within the sector still remains difficult, particularly for smaller charities like ours. The team once again showed great resilience, flexibility and loyalty in going the extra mile to ensure that the charity continued to supply a first class service to the children of East Cheshire.

Funding was again received from various sources, with substantial sums from Cheshire East Council through their Short Breaks for Disabled Children contract, BBC Children In Need, Congleton Inclosure Trust, and the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund. We were also very grateful to receive monies from Active Cheshire; Albert Hunt Charitable Trust, Cheshire Community Foundation Best Days Fund, Crewe Town Council, C4C, Macclesfield Town Council, the Masonic Charitable Foundation, the Russell Trust, the Sobell Foundation, True Colours Trust, and the William Dean Educational Trust.

Other support has been received from Prism with IT and Thrive with marketing.

The general financial status of the charity remains the same with income slightly exceeding expenditure. Income was £179,635 against expenditure of £167,719. The unrestricted reserves now stand at £71,813 being around 6 months' running costs, which is in keeping with the policy of the charity.

The total number of new young people registered with the charity amounted to 40, with 197 young people registered at year end. By year end we had 32 young people on our waiting list for 1-1 friendships. There were 7 friendship/buddy links during the year, some of which were virtual. We took on 55 new volunteers during the year who are vital to the service we provide.

Activities included youth groups in Congleton, Crewe and Macclesfield; bowling in Crewe and Macclesfield; Friends of Falli drama in Macclesfield; PALS groups in Crewe and Macclesfield; and parent and carer information sessions. Holiday activities included circus skills, meals out, bushcraft, archery, tennis and a visit to the museum.

All the trustees are very grateful for the hard work and flexibility of Gillian and the staff in providing the activities for the children we support.



Paul Drew
Chair of Trustees

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF
FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024
SET OUT ON PAGES 4 TO 11
CHARITY NUMBER 1068991 COMPANY NUMBER 3508369

We report to the charity trustees on our examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the charity's trustees of the company (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied ourselves that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, we report in respect of our examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out our examination, we have followed the directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' STATEMENT

We have completed our examination. We confirm that no material matters have come to our attention which gives us cause to believe that:

accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or

the accounts do not accord with such records; or

the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

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

1 Church Mews
Churchill Way
Macclesfield
Cheshire
SK11 6AY

10 December 2024

Kime O'Brien Limited
Chartered Accountants

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 Restricted Funds £	2024 Unrestricted Funds £	2024 Total Funds £	2023 Restricted Funds £	2023 Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £
Incoming resources							
Donations	3	-	7,586	7,586	-	5,582	5,582
Fundraising	4	-	2,710	2,710	-	3,611	3,611
Provision of service	5	125,256	-	125,256	80,621	-	80,621
Commissioned Income	6	35,861	-	35,861	41,984	-	41,984
Other grants and income	7	-	1,300	1,300	-	1,100	1,100
Activity-related income (Subs. etc)		-	1,855	1,855	-	1,618	1,618
Interest		-	3,493	3,493	-	668	668
Earned income		-	120	120	-	-	-
Gift aid		-	1,454	1,454	-	866	866
Total incoming resources		161,117	18,518	179,635	122,605	13,445	136,050
Resources expended							
Salaries		103,495	15,155	118,650	79,191	10,282	89,473
Employer National Insurance		437	2,923	3,360	1,253	1,198	2,451
Employer pension contributions	8	77	2,095	2,172	414	575	989
Travel and Subsistance (staff)		1,426	-	1,426	824	40	864
Vol expenditure		1,590	-	1,590	1,068	491	1,559
Training		114	-	114	50	-	50
Recruitment		171	-	171	444	759	1,203
Activities		12,708	75	12,783	10,265	85	10,350
Stationery		89	-	89	71	-	71
Postage		513	-	513	832	18	850
Telecommunication		2,195	-	2,195	2,058	-	2,058
Rent & utilities		8,335	-	8,335	8,188	-	8,188
Insurance		1,752	-	1,752	1,752	-	1,752
Admin.		2,599	-	2,599	2,103	103	2,206
Bank charges		-	224	224	-	208	208
Publicity and Promotion		657	-	657	2,833	272	3,105
Equipment		220	-	220	188	795	983
Parent/Carer information sessions		-	-	-	160	-	160
Total resources expended		136,378	20,472	156,850	111,694	14,826	126,520
Fundraising costs	9	7,305	3,564	10,869	6,505	3,898	10,403
Capital expenditure	10	-	-	-	-	80	80
Total Costs		143,683	24,036	167,719	118,199	18,804	137,003
Net movement in funds		17,434	(5,518)	11,916	4,406	(5,359)	(953)
Total funds brought forward		50,738	77,331	128,069	46,332	82,690	129,022
Total funds carried forward		68,172	71,813	139,985	50,738	77,331	128,069

The notes on page 6 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
COMPANY NUMBER 3508369 (England & Wales)
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2024

		Notes	2024 £	2023 £
CURRENT ASSETS				
Bank accounts:	Deposit account		83,647	29,674
	Current account		57,181	130,252
	Petty Cash		1,021	358
Debtors		11	1,300	319
			143,149	160,603
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year		12	(3,164)	(32,534)
			139,985	128,069
REPRESENTED BY:				
Restricted funds				
Albert Hunt Trust			166	-
BBC Children in Need			-	4,452
C4C			-	31
Cheshire Community Foundation Main Grant				1,051
Cheshire Community Foundation Best Days			851	-
Cheshire East Council COVID-19 Response & Recovery Grant			-	339
Cheshire Freemasons			944	4,040
Commissioned Cheshire East			18,001	28,143
Congleton Inclosure Trust			23,903	356
Congleton Town Council			-	-
Congleton Town Trust			-	283
COOP Community Fund			4,497	3,865
Crewe Town Council			1,505	-
Edward Gostling Foundation			1,290	-
Julia and Hans Rausing Charitable Trust			3,033	-
Macclesfield Town Council			-	116
Margaret Williamson Memorial Fund			-	247
National Lottery Community Fund			2,976	-
National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund			4,074	4,823
NGED Community Matters Fund			989	-
Postcode Community Trust Magic Little Grant			-	500
Robert Clutterbuck Foundation			1,371	-
Redrow Homes North West			504	1,000
Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust			140	-
Sobell Foundation			87	-
Tesco Community Fund			920	233
The Russell Trust			1,711	416
True Colours Trust			95	-
William Dean Educational Trust			1,080	-
Williams Family Foundation			35	843
		13	68,172	50,738
General Funds		14	71,813	77,331
			139,985	128,069

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under the provision of Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006. The members have not required the company, under Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006, to obtain an audit for the year ended 31st March 2024. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Acr 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared and delivered in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

P. Carey

P Carey
Director
Approved by the Board on 10 December 2024.

The notes on page 6 to 11 form part of these financial statement.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102) '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 (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 ' The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (as applied to small entities by section 1A of the standard)' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

Company Status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. If the charity is dissolved the trustees/members must contribute such sum (not exceeding £10 each) as may be demanded of them towards payment of the debts and liabilities of the charity.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted Funds are 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 are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects. Any amounts not utilised are carried forward where the specific purpose or project remains part of the charity's objectives.

Restricted Funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources, it is certain that the resources will be received, and the monetary value of incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources Expended

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activities to which they relate. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with the administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

The trustees have reviewed the company's fixed asset capitalisation and depreciation policies. Assets such as office equipment are not considered to have any realisable value and the capitalisation thereof only serves to overstate the funds available for the beneficiaries of Friends For Leisure.

Accordingly, these assets have been written off in the year of acquisition.

Taxation

The company is exempt from any corporation tax liability due to its charitable status.

2 EMPLOYEES

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Average number of persons employed by the company	12	9

3 DONATIONS

Donations and legacies received during the year include those from the following:

Mr I Bradley
In memory of Delyth Crean
Mr M Dwire
Mr J Hunt
Mrs I Jeffers
JMW Solicitirs LLP
Macclesfield College students
Wilmslow & District Rotary

4 FUNDRAISING

	2024	2023
	£	£
Includes the following events:		
Carol Singing	-	312
Congleton Rotary Swimathon	128	-
Debbie Douglas Sky Dive	-	370
London Marathon sponsorship	-	1,686
Sales of donated items	86	113
Waitrose	-	400
Knutsford 10K	250	250
Money Boxes	55	-
Sponsored cycle ride C Carsons & M Skelley)	1,790	-
Congleton Santa Float	343	394
Others	58	86
	2,710	3,611
Less fundraising costs	(10,869)	(10,403)
	(8,159)	(6,792)

Fundraising costs include the costs associated with applying for income beyond the fundraising income noted above, such as grant applications.

5 PROVISION OF SERVICE

	2024	2023
	£	£
Includes the following:-		
Active Cheshire	2,019	851
Albert Hunt Trust	2,000	-
Arnold Clarke Community Fund	-	2,000
BBC Children in Need	9,644	19,788
C4C	2,000	-
Cheshire Community Foundation Main Grants	-	2,500
Cheshire Community Foundation Best Days	2,100	-
Congleton Inclosure Trust	25,000	-
Congleton Town Council	1,000	1,000
Congleton Town Trust	-	1,000
Co-op Community Fund	1,108	3,865
Crewe Town Council	1,800	-
Edward Gostling Foundation	3,775	-
Georgia Leigh Ogden Foundation	-	300
Julia and Hans Rausing Charitable Trust	7,500	-
Macclesfield Town Council	2,000	-
Margaret Williamson Memorial Fund	-	440
Masonic Charitable Foundation	5,000	5,000
National Lottery Communtiy Fund	7,306	-
National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund	30,839	29,254
NGED Community Matters Fund	4,640	-
Postcode Community Trust Magic Little Grant	-	500
Redrow Homes North West	-	1,000
Robert Clutterbuck Foundation	1,700	-
Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust	3,000	-
St James's Place Foundation	-	2,500
SMF/DCMS Community Match Challenge	-	8,623
Sobell Foundation	5,000	-
Tesco Community Fund	1,625	-
The Russell Trust	2,000	2,000
True Colours Trust	3,000	-
William Dean Educational Trust	1,200	-
	125,256	80,621

6 COMMISSIONED INCOME

	2024	2023
	£	£
Cheshire East Council - Short Breaks for Disabled Children	35,861	41,984
	35,861	41,984

7 OTHER GRANTS AND OTHER INCOME

	2024	2023
	£	£
Blakemore Foundation	-	100
BBC Children in Need	-	250
Congleton Young People's Trust	-	250
Martyn Bracegirdle Charitable Foundation	1,000	500
Pennycress Trust	300	-
	1,300	1,100

8 WORKPLACE PENSION

A workplace pension is provided through the SALVUS Master Trust.

9 Fundraising Cost

	2024 £	2023 £
Marketing and fundraising coordinator	9,056	10,388
Fundraising Expenses	1,813	15
	10,869	10,403

10 Capital Expenditure

	2024 £	2023 £
Website Development	-	80
	-	80

11 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Prepayments and accrued income	1,300	319

12 Creditors

	2024 £	2023 £
Pension Fund	532	-
PAYE payable	14	14
Accruals and deferred income	2,618	32,520
	3,164	32,534

13 Movements of Major Funds	At 01/04/2023 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	At 31/03/24 £
Active Cheshire	-	2,019	(2,019)	-
Albert Hunt Trust	-	2,000	(1,834)	166
BBC Children in Need	4,452	9,644	(14,096)	-
C4C	31	2,000	(2,031)	-
Cheshire Community Foundation Main Grants	1,051	-	(1,051)	-
Cheshire Community Foundation Best Days	-	2,100	(1,249)	851
CEC COVID Response & Recovery Grant	339	-	(339)	-
Cheshire Freemasons	4,040	-	(3,096)	944
Commissioned Cheshire East	28,143	35,861	(46,003)	18,001
Congleton Inclosure Trust	356	25,000	(1,453)	23,903
Congleton Town Council	-	1,000	(1,000)	-
Congleton Town Trust	283	-	(283)	-
COOP Community Fund	3,865	1,108	(476)	4,497
Crewe Town Council	-	1,800	(295)	1,505
Edward Gostling Foundation	-	3,775	(2,485)	1,290
Julia and Hans Rausing Trust	-	7,500	(4,467)	3,033
Macclesfield Town Council	116	2,000	(2,116)	-
Margaret Williamson Charitable Trust	247	-	(247)	-
Masonic Charitable Foundation	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
NGED Community Matters Fund	-	4,640	(3,651)	989
National Lottery Reaching Communities	4,823	30,839	(31,588)	4,074
National Lottery Community Fund	-	7,306	(4,330)	2,976
Postcode Community Trust Magic Little Grant	500	-	(500)	-
Robert Clutterbuck Foundation	-	1,700	(329)	1,371
Redrow Homes North West	1,000	-	(496)	504
Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust	-	3,000	(2,860)	140
Sobell Foundation	-	5,000	(4,913)	87
Tesco Community Fund	233	1,625	(938)	920
The Russell Trust	416	2,000	(705)	1,711
True Colours Trust	-	3,000	(2,905)	95
William Dean Educational Trust	-	1,200	(120)	1,080
Williams Family Foundation	843	-	(808)	35
Total restricted funds	50,738	161,117	(143,683)	68,172
Unrestricted	77,331	18,518	(24,036)	71,813
Total Funds	128,069	179,635	(167,719)	139,985

14 GENERAL FUNDS AND RESERVES POLICY

In line with Charities Commission guidelines, the Friends for Leisure Trustees feel it prudent to keep a level of reserve for the charity.

	2024 £	2023 £
General funds show a surplus	71,813	77,331

	2024 £	2023 £
Funding Requirement:		
To cover shortfall 6 months running costs, in event of closing down the charity	85,000	85,000

15 LIMITED LIABILITY AND GUARANTORS

The liability of the members is limited to a guarantee to contribute a maximum of £10 each in the event of the company becoming insolvent.

16 COMMITMENTS AND LEASES

On 1 September 2019 the Charity entered into a lease agreement for office accommodation. The lease expired on 31 July 2024. The annual rent was £6,500. A new lease agreement commenced on 1 July 2024 with a new landlord and the charity can opt out on 31 March 2025. The annual rent is £7,992 (including utilities).

17 OTHER INFORMATION

Friends for Leisure is a private company limited by guarantee and incorporated in England.
Its registered office is:
Unit R3, The Bromley Centre
Bromley Road
Congleton
Cheshire
CW12 1PT

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE

England & Wales - Charity number 1068991

Accounts

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE

Annual Report

April 2022 - March 2023

Friends for Leisure - Registered Office

Ground Floor, Albert Chambers

Canal Street, Congleton.

Cheshire CW12 4AA

Tel: 01260 275333

Registered Charity No. 1068991
Registered Company No. 3508369

An Independent Charity

Website: www.friendsforleisure.org.uk

E-mail: info@friendsforleisure.org.uk

Friends for Leisure Aims and Objectives

Disabled children and young people have the same rights to get involved in everyday friendship and leisure activities as other children and young people.

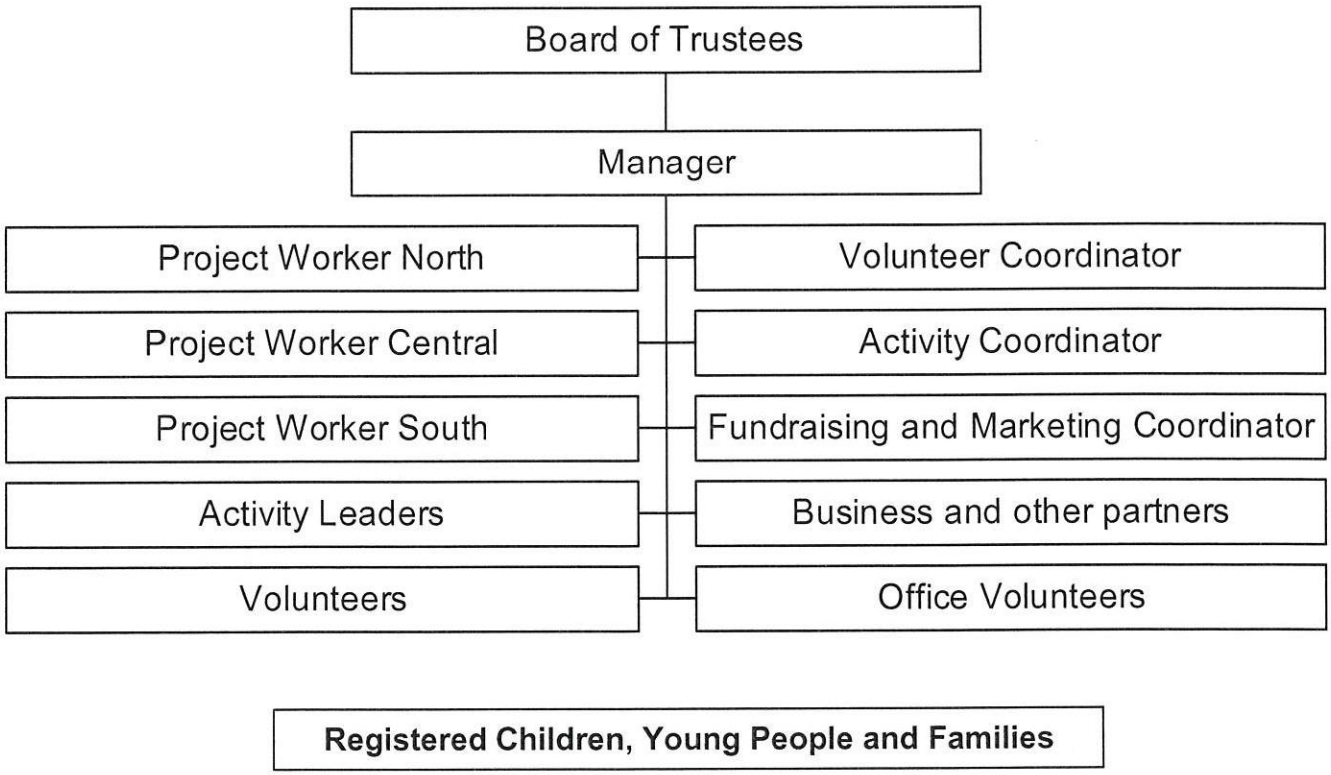
Our Aims

- To establish, promote and develop mainstream leisure and friendship opportunities for children and young people with physical, sensory and learning disabilities aged between five and twenty-one years within Cheshire East.
- To raise awareness about disability issues and the importance of equality and inclusion.

Our Objectives

- To enable disabled children and young people to have access to and participate in everyday leisure activities.
- To create opportunities for disabled children and young people to develop friendships.
- To support young volunteers to develop and maintain positive, supporting friendships with disabled children and young people.
- To provide a flexible and individual service responding to the needs and aspirations of disabled children and young people.
- To consult with disabled children, young people, parents and carers and promote their needs to providers of leisure activities.
- To ensure that our focus is always the leisure needs of the disabled young person.

Friends for Leisure Organisation Chart



The Trustees and Staff at Friends for Leisure
April 2022 to March 2023

Trustees

Paul Walker (Chairman)
Mel Stockdale
Charles Booth
Tim Slater
Pam Carey (Treasurer)
Mollie Heywood (from 20/06/2022)

Staff & Office Support

Gillian Jones	F/T Manager
Maggie Readman	P/T Project Worker
Lisa Nixon	P/T Project Worker – to 10/04/2022
Hannah Booth	P/T Project Worker – from 05/09/2022 to 15/12/2022
Sarah Gill	P/T Project Worker – from 13/02/2023
Amanda Hunt	P/T Project Worker – from 07/03/2023
Hannah Guthrie	F/T Activity Coordinator
Lizzie Fry	F/T Volunteer Coordinator – to 20/05/2022
Sean Worth	F/T Volunteer Coordinator – from 15/08/2022
Claire Addis	P/T Fundraising & Marketing Coordinator
Jo Stokes	Activity Leader
Maria Potter	Activity Leader
Lesley Ingham	Activity Leader
Tess Hulme	Activity Leader
Cathy Florentine	Activity Leader
Liz Houlihan	Activity Assistant – from 15/10/2022
Barry Wilson	Volunteer Office Assistant
Chris Jones	Volunteer Office Assistant
Martyn Connolly	Volunteer Database Administrator
Annette Kinsella	Volunteer Database Administrator

Independent Examiner

Kime O'Brien, Accountants. Macclesfield.

Strategic Information

The trustees are its directors and carry an executive responsibility for the prudent, legal, and ethical running of the charity. Because of these responsibilities, an understanding of the structure and ethos of Friends for Leisure is required. This may be gained by involvement in the day-to-day operations of FFL, attending and observing trustee meetings, understanding the legal requirements and demands placed upon trustees and fully comprehending the underlying ethos of the charity.

Initial and refresher training in charity management is available to new and existing trustees to enable them to gain the necessary skills to perform the task effectively.

Trustees must be nominated and voted into post at the AGM (or EGM) and a third of trustees must step down each year in rotation and offer themselves for re-election should they wish to do so.

The aim is to strive for a balanced and broad spectrum of skills and experience with representation from all sectors of the charity. Professionally qualified trustees are preferred to cover the financial and legal roles. Although not subject to full audit, annual accounts and reports are professionally reviewed to ensure compliance with Charity Commission guidelines.

Friends for Leisure has a robust recruitment procedure in place whereby all staff and volunteers are subject to an appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Unsupervised contact with children and young people is not permitted until the report is received. We also require submission of two references and all trustees, paid staff and volunteers are required to sign the FFL Confidentiality Statement upon joining the organisation.

FFL continues to operate under the Every Child Matters framework and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children).

The trustees of Friends for Leisure are responsible for ensuring that those who benefit from or working with the charity are not harmed in any way through contact with it. Disabled children and young adults may be more vulnerable to abuse and neglect than their non-disabled peers.

Friends for Leisure's safeguarding policies and procedures are designed to promote children's safety and welfare in relation to their contact with the charity. We assess and manage risks, including the following areas:

- Protection of children & vulnerable adults
- Assessment of children and young people
- Planning and assessment of activities
- Photography
- Medication
- Bullying
- Social media
- Physical and emotional abuse
- Neglect
- Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation
- Domestic abuse
- Extremism
- Modern slavery
- Information sharing

The charity is committed to the inter-agency approach set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children. This statutory guidance sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and how practitioners should conduct the assessment of children.

Guidelines produced by the Charity Commission recommend that charities maintain a level of financial reserves and advise that a reserves policy is implemented to explain and justify their agreed reserves level. The trustees have approved a reserves policy. This takes into account the need to cover fluctuations in income, current and longer-term liabilities, committed expenditure and restricted funding. For this purpose, an amount equating to six months' running costs of the charity has been considered to be an appropriate and prudent minimum position and is consistent with similar organisations.

The trustees formally declare that there are no serious incidents (or other matters relating to the charity) that should be brought to the attention of the Charities Commission, that have not been reported.

FFL's strategic direction statement is reviewed on a quarterly basis and is included at Appendix 2 of this report.

Friends for Leisure Overview and Key Projects

2022-2023 was a year of change, particularly in terms of staffing at the charity.

In April, Lisa Nixon, who had been a Project Worker for 12 years, left to take up a role within the NHS. In May, our Volunteer Coordinator, Lizzie Fry, left to follow a dream to train as a nurse. We wish them both well.

In September, Hannah Guthrie, our Activity Coordinator, began her maternity leave. We congratulate her on the birth of a beautiful baby girl.

Remaining staff worked tirelessly to cover the absences and provide the best possible service to young people and their families and to volunteers. Unfortunately, from September we had to combine some of the groups.

The first new addition to the team, Sean Worth, joined us in August. He took on the role of Volunteer Coordinator. Sean has been a friend and supporter of the charity for many years.

In September, Hannah Booth joined as a Project Worker. She moved on in December.

In October, Liz Houlihan joined us as an Activity Assistant. She supports drama and bowling in Macclesfield.

In February, Sarah Gill took up the position of Project Worker (North). Sarah brings lots of experience of working with young people and their families and is a welcome addition to the team.

In March, Amanda Hunt joined as Project Worker (Central). Amanda has previously worked in the SEND department of a local high school and has a wealth of personal knowledge and experience of autism.

I am pleased to report on the year's achievements.

SERVICE PROVISION

Although all our activities were provided face-to-face, staffing shortages meant that we had to reduce the number of sessions we delivered. In consultation with Cheshire East Council, we decided to combine the youth groups in Congleton and Macclesfield and combine Crewe youth group with Saturday Club.

Whilst the combining of the groups was not ideal, it was the best solution in difficult circumstances.

FUNDRAISING & MARKETING

As always, raising funds to sustain the charity is a priority. Our fundraising and marketing coordinator, Claire, has done a sterling job for us again this year, especially in accessing funds to support the continuation of group activities.

Donations were 20% lower than the previous year. This position is being reported by a growing number of charities.

The cost of marketing and promotion increased from the previous financial year. We were fortunate to receive funding to replace our banners.

OPPORTUNITIES

Friends for Leisure has continued to deliver a range of opportunities for disabled children and young people to make friends at everyday leisure activities from which they are often excluded.

As reported above, the number of sessions had to be reduced because of staffing shortages.

"My daughter has additional needs, and she goes to Friends for Leisure every other Thursday evening. Every other week it's different. Sometimes that have someone take animals in; they do arts & crafts, etc. She loves it. You need to contact them and basically join her up, then just book onto each session. They do a lot in the holidays in the summer. They really are a great bunch & the staff are amazing." *(Post by a parent on Facebook)*

There were a total of 1942 hours of activities provided in the year, with 1258 attendances. Amazingly, this is only a 10% reduction on the previous year.

BEFRIENDING & BUDDYING

Although there were no new links in the year, it was amazing to see some of the virtual relationships develop into face-to-face friendships. The benefits to young people are apparent.

"Both of my children have FFL buddies- (1 face to face and 1 virtually) who they enjoy and look forward to speaking to/spending time with. My daughter's buddy is a fantastic role model & she would describe her like a big sister which is so lovely to hear. We have met for coffee or a walk when able & [my daughter] really values having her buddy. [My son] has developed a virtual friendship with his buddy. He is pleased that he has an older friend who he can chat & laugh with over video calls. He is so pleased to have a buddy like his sister & he would like to meet her in person one day. *(Parent)*

Volunteers provided 135 hours of friendship.

YOUTH GROUPS – 648 attendances

Despite having to combine our groups the range of opportunities provided this year was incredible and young people have enjoyed meeting up with their friends to have fun.

We have consulted with young people and volunteers at all the groups to find out what they would like to do.

None of these sessions would be possible without the support of our amazing Activity Leaders.

"The youth club meetings that our daughter attends are fun, engaging and varied. She plots them on her calendar and looks forward to the events as they approach. It has been helpful to know what is coming up so that we can prepare e.g., raised bed in the garden for her to grow the vegetable seeds she planted, getting an outfit ready for a themed night. Thank you to all volunteers." *(Parent)*

DRAMA GROUP – 207 attendances

The "Friends of Falli" drama group is the highlight of the week for the young people who attend. Ian Mac and Kathryn Howard have delivered 310 hours of fun and games, as well as termly showcases.

"[Our son] loves coming to Drama and asks to go each Monday. The work Ian and the team does is brilliant. It helps the children make friends, interact in different ways and to express themselves in a safe, structured environment. There is always much laughter afterwards as the children as head out of the hall, which is a joy to hear. Thank you so much." *(Parent)*

PALS – 111 attendances

Activities to develop Personal and Life Skills (PALS) were delivered in Macclesfield and Crewe. Sessions included meals out, life skills, drugs and alcohol awareness, self-defence, and safety.

"The PALS activity was well-organised and filled the whole time, whilst being achievable for the young people". *(Volunteer)*

SATURDAY CLUBS & BOWLING – 147 attendances

Crewe Saturday Club was merged with the youth group. Bowling in Macclesfield was as popular as ever.

"I have two children who access Friends for Leisure and they both love it. They predominantly do bowling but have accessed other groups from time to time. They get to socialise with others who understand them. The staff, many of whom are volunteers are sensitive, caring and understanding as well as patient and this has been great for my children." *(Parent)*

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES – 120 attendances

Sessions were provided over the Easter, Summer, October and February school holidays. Funding from Active Cheshire enabled us to focus on sporty and active sessions, including trampolining, multi-sports, football skills and tennis. We also enjoyed afternoon tea, brunch and Halloween crafts.

"FFL is very important to my son as it gets him out of his bedroom (isolation) mixing with other young people and adults. It gives him fun things to do and exercise, which he needs. He is also making friends, as he only got 2 friends. And it helps with social interactions. Thank you so much for your help." *(Parent)*

VOLUNTEERING

Over this year we recruited 49 new volunteers. 96% of these were aged 25 and under.
Our new Volunteer Coordinator, Sean, built excellent relationships with schools and colleges across Cheshire East.

38 volunteers completed online safeguarding training and 11 volunteers undertook training in Sign-a-Long, which was provided by Park Lane Special School.
Our aim is to provide a positive and rewarding experience for volunteers and to support them in achieving their personal development goals.

"I just wanted to say how grateful I am to have had your support and guidance whilst volunteering at Friends for Leisure. You have always made me feel supported and you have helped me to grow as a person. I cannot thank you enough. I wish you the best." *(Volunteer exit interview)*

Volunteers gave 365 hours of help at group activities.

We also had volunteers supporting our work in other ways, and we would like to thank:

- Barry Wilson who helps with a range of jobs around the office.
- Martin Connolly and Annette Kinsella who maintain our database.
- Chris Jones, who carries out maintenance in the office and attends activities and fundraising events.

COMMUNTIY ACTIVITIES – 14 attendances

Funding from The Georgia Leigh Ogden Foundation enabled us to take a group of young people and parents/carers to see the pantomime at Daneside Theatre in Congleton.

"Thank you so much for getting and paying for the panto tickets. J and [his PA] really enjoyed it. J said it was very funny. It was nice for him to do something different and be out on a Saturday evening." *(Parent)*

PARENT/CARER INFORMATION SESSIONS – 15 attendances

Three virtual sessions were provided for parents and carers. Cheshire East Information & Advice Service (CEIAS) delivered two sessions covering topics including choosing a school and the EHCP process. Rebecca Kinnear from Eden Therapy & Wellbeing Services delivered a mindfulness session and supported participants with their feelings of "parent guilt".

CONCLUSION

There is no doubt that the challenges of staffing shortages and recruitment dominated the year. However, thanks to the dedication of staff we were still able to provide an excellent service to young people and their families.

New members of the team have quickly settled into their roles, and I am feeling positive about the future of Friends for Leisure.

I would like to thank all staff members, volunteers and trustees for their commitment to the charity.

Friends for Leisure is extremely grateful to the following individuals and organisations for their generous support during the year.

Thank you also to those people who have undertaken sponsored events, made regular donations by standing order, and those who have Friends for Leisure collection boxes at home.

Mr I Bradley
Mrs B Brough
Mr P Cain
Mrs D Douglas
Mr M Dwire
Mr G Hayes
Mrs J Hodkinson
Mr W Jaffe
Kings School, Macclesfield
Mr Mrs P Machin
Rumba, Congleton
Run North West
Sutton St. James Church
Mr P B Wilson
Wilmslow & District Rotary

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

COMPANY REGISTERED NUMBER 3508369

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1068991

THESE ACCOUNTS FORM APPENDIX 1 TO THE FULL ANNUAL REPORT

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
COMPANY INFORMATION

COMPANY NUMBER	3508369
CHARITY NUMBER	1068991
DIRECTORS	M Stockdale P Walker C Booth T Slater P Carey M Heywood
REGISTERED OFFICE	Albert Chambers Canal Street Congleton Cheshire CW12 4AA

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

The directors present their report and the financial statement for the year ended 31st March 2023

After three years developing under the umbrella of Macclesfield District CVS, Friends for Leisure became a company limited by guarantee on 11th February 1998 and a registered charity on 1st April 1998.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The main focus of Friends for Leisure is to promote opportunities for children and young people with disabilities to enjoy friendships and participate in the mainstream leisure activities of their choice by providing inclusive group activities and building links with leisure groups and clubs, so that children and young people are able to become fully involved in these integrated activities with Friends for Leisure support.

DIRECTORS

The directors, who are also the trustees, who served during the year were as follows:

M Stockdale
P Walker
C Booth
T Slater
P Carey
M Heywood

SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

This report was approved by the board on 29 November 2023 and signed on its behalf.

Paul Walker
Chair of Trustees

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

I am pleased to report another successful year for the charity, which has survived many changes in staff, thanks to the team covering posts which became vacant during the year. Recruitment was challenging, and youth groups had to be combined halfway through the year due to staff shortages. The team showed great flexibility and loyalty in going the extra mile, to ensure that the charity continued to supply a first-class service to the children of Cheshire East.

Funding was again received from various sources, with substantial sums from Cheshire East Council through their Short Breaks for Disabled Children contract, BBC Children in Need, and the National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund. We were also very grateful to receive monies from Active Cheshire, Arnold Clarke Community Fund, Cheshire Community Foundation, Congleton Town Council, Congleton Town Trust, the Co-op Community Fund, the Georgia Leigh Ogden Foundation, Margaret Williamson Memorial Fund, the Masonic Charitable Foundation, the Postcode Community Trust, Redrow Homes, the St James Place Foundation, the Russell Trust, the Blakemore Foundation, Congleton Young People's Trust, and the Martyn Bracegirdle Charitable Foundation. Particular thanks also for the large sum raised by the SMF/DCMS Community Match Challenge.

Other support has been received from Prism with IT and Thrive with marketing.

The general financial status of the charity remains the same with income and expenditure almost matching each other, with income of £136,050 against expenditure of £137,003. The unrestricted reserves now stand at £77,331 being just under 6 months running costs, which is in keeping with the policy of the charity.

The total number of new young people registered with the charity amounted to 26, with 221 young people registered at year end. By year end we had 30 young people on our waiting list for 1-1 friendships. There were 10 friendship/ buddy links during the year, half of which were virtual. Encouragingly, we took on 49 new volunteers during the year, who are vital to the service which we provide.

Activities included a Congleton theatre trip funded by the Georgia Leigh Ogden Foundation, bowling in Macclesfield, Friends of Falli drama in Macclesfield, PALS groups in Crewe and Macclesfield, and parent and carer information sessions.

Holiday activities included afternoon teas in Congleton and Crewe, trampolining in Congleton, multi sports in Macclesfield, meals out across the borough, Halloween arts and crafts, clay creations, tennis, football and disco events.



Paul Walker
Chair of Trustees

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF
FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023
SET OUT ON PAGES 4 TO 11
CHARITY NUMBER 1068991 COMPANY NUMBER 3508369

We report to the charity trustees on our examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the charity's trustees of the company (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied ourselves that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, we report in respect of our examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out our examination, we have followed the directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' STATEMENT

We have completed our examination. We confirm that no material matters have come to our attention which gives me cause to believe that:

accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or

the accounts do not accord with such records; or

the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

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

1 Church Mews
Churchill Way
Macclesfield
Cheshire
SK11 6AY

29 September 2023

Kime O'Brien Limited
Chartered Accountants

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 Restricted Funds £	2023 Unrestricted Funds £	2023 Total Funds £	2022 Restricted Funds £	2022 Unrestricted Funds £	2022 Total Funds £
Incoming resources							
Donations	3	-	5,582	5,582	-	9,258	9,258
Fundraising	4	-	3,611	3,611	-	4,132	4,132
Provision of service	5	80,621	-	80,621	79,716	-	79,716
Commissioned Income	6	41,984	-	41,984	54,101	-	54,101
Other grants and income	7	-	1,100	1,100	128	7,032	7,160
Activity-related income (Subs. etc)		-	1,618	1,618	-	1,951	1,951
Interest		-	668	668	-	23	23
Earned income		-	-	-	-	250	250
Gift aid		-	866	866	-	2,377	2,377
Total incoming resources		122,605	13,445	136,050	133,945	25,023	158,968
Resources expended							
Salaries		79,191	10,282	89,473	91,223	24,080	115,303
Employer National Insurance		1,253	1,198	2,451	1,766	3,085	4,851
Employer pension contributions	8	414	575	989	340	1,646	1,986
Travel and Subsistance (staff)		824	40	864	1,026	7	1,033
Vol expenditure		1,068	491	1,559	940	672	1,612
Governance		-	-	-	-	-	-
Training		50	-	50	20	-	20
Recruitment		444	759	1,203	176	-	176
Activities		10,265	85	10,350	11,552	552	12,104
Stationery		71	-	71	131	-	131
Postage		832	18	850	1,127	-	1,127
Telecommunication		2,058	-	2,058	2,005	-	2,005
Rent & utilities		8,188	-	8,188	8,022	-	8,022
Insurance		1,752	-	1,752	1,752	-	1,752
Admin.		2,103	103	2,206	2,205	458	2,663
Bank charges		-	208	208			
Publicity and Promotion		2,833	272	3,105	1,392	20	1,412
Equipment		188	795	983	-	-	-
Other expenditure		-	-	-	-	-	-
Parent/Carer information sessions		160	-	160	51	-	51
Total resources expended		111,694	14,826	126,520	123,728	30,520	154,248
Fundraising costs	9	6,505	3,898	10,403	10,242	2,310	12,552
Capital expenditure	10	-	80	80	75	75	150
Total Costs		118,199	18,804	137,003	134,045	32,905	166,950
Net movement in funds		4,406	(5,359)	(953)	(100)	(7,882)	(7,982)
Total funds brought forward		46,332	82,690	129,022	46,432	90,572	137,004
Total funds carried forward		50,738	77,331	128,069	46,332	82,690	129,022

The notes on page 6 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
COMPANY NUMBER 3508369 (England & Wales)
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2023

		Notes	2023 £	2022 £
CURRENT ASSETS				
Bank accounts:	Deposit account		29,674	29,157
	Current account		130,252	104,025
	Petty Cash		358	758
Debtors		11	319	10
			160,603	133,950
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year		12	(32,534)	(4,928)
			128,069	129,022
REPRESENTED BY:				
Restricted funds				
Albert Hunt Trust			-	2,000
Baily Thomas Charitable Trust			-	2,332
BBC Children in Need			4,452	1,951
BBC Children in Need Next Steps			-	72
C4C			31	900
Card Factory Foundation			-	122
Cheshire Community Foundation Main Grant			1,051	-
Cheshire East Council COVID-19 Response & Recovery Grant			339	623
Cheshire Freemasons			4,040	5,438
Commissioned Cheshire East			28,143	14,519
Congleton Inclosure Trust			356	1,137
Congleton Town Trust			283	-
COOP Community Fund			3,865	230
Crewe Town Council			-	1,621
Edward Gostling Foundation			-	2,172
Georgia Leigh Ogden Foundation			-	1,732
Macclesfield Town Council			116	1,130
Margaret Williamson Memorial Fund			247	-
National Lottery Community Fund			-	2,550
National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund			4,823	-
NCompass Carers' Choice Grant			-	1,041
Ncompass Take a Break Grant			-	2,406
Postcode Community Trust Magic Little Grant			500	-
Redrow Homes North West			1,000	-
Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust			-	1,500
SMF/DCMS Community Match Challenge			-	424
Tesco Community Fund			233	770
The Russell Trust			416	-
William Dean Trust			-	174
Williams Family Foundation			843	1,488
		13	50,738	46,332
General Funds		14	77,331	82,690
			128,069	129,022

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under the provision of Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006. The members have not required the company, under Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006, to obtain an audit for the year ended 31st March 2023. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Acr 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared and delivered in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

P. Carey

P Carey
Director
Approved by the Board on 29/11/2023

The notes on page 6 to 11 form part of these financial statement.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with FRS102. The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (as applied to small entities by section 1A of the standard).

Company Status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. If the charity is dissolved the trustees/members must contribute such sum (not exceeding £10 each) as may be demanded of them towards payment of the debts and liabilities of the charity.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted Funds are 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 are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects. Any amounts not utilised are carried forward where the specific purpose or project remains part of the charity's objectives.

Restricted Funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources, it is certain that the resources will be received, and the monetary value of incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources Expended

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activities to which they relate. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with the administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

The trustees have reviewed the company's fixed asset capitalisation and depreciation policies. Assets such as office equipment are not considered to have any realisable value and the capitalisation thereof only serves to overstate the funds available for the beneficiaries of Friends For Leisure.

Accordingly, these assets have been written off in the year of acquisition.

Taxation

The company is exempt from any corporation tax liability due to its charitable status.

2 EMPLOYEES

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Average number of persons employed by the company	9	12

3 DONATIONS

Donations and legacies received during the year include those from the following:

Mr I Bradley
Mrs B Brough
Mr P Cain
Mr M Dwire
Mr G Hayes
Mrs J Hodkinson
King's School, Macclesfield
Mr Mrs P Machin
RUMBA Congleton
Sutton St James Church
Mr PB Wilson
Wilmslow & District Rotary

4 FUNDRAISING

	2023	2022
	£	£
Includes the following events:		
Captain Tom 100 Challenge	-	340
Carol Singing	312	432
Congleton Rotary Swimathon	-	-
Debbie Douglas Sky Dive	370	169
London Marathon sponsorship	1,686	-
Raffles	-	115
Sales of donated items	113	158
Waitrose	400	400
Knutsford 10K	250	250
Money Boxes		235
Congleton Santa Float	394	491
Virtual London Marathon	-	1,462
Others	86	80
	3,611	4,132
Less fundraising costs	(10,403)	(12,552)
	(6,792)	(8,420)

Fundraising costs include the costs associated with applying for income beyond the fundraising income noted above, such as grant applications.

5 PROVISION OF SERVICE

	2023	2022
	£	£
Includes the following:-		
Active Cheshire	851	-
Albert Hunt Trust	-	2,000
Arnold Clarke Community Fund	2,000	-
Baily Thomas Charitable Trust	-	3,000
BBC Children in Need	19,788	19,288
BBC Children in Need Next Steps	-	7,540
C4C	-	900
Card Factory Foundation	-	1,000
Cheshire Community Foundation Main Grants	2,500	-
Cheshire Community Foundation Pandemic Recovery Grant	-	1,870
Cheshire Freemasons	-	6,000
Congleton Inclosure Trust	-	1,500
Congleton Town Council	1,000	-
Congleton Town Trust	1,000	-
Co-op Community Fund	3,865	-
Crewe Town Council	-	1,521
Edward Gostling Foundation	-	3,000
Georgia Leigh Ogden Foundation	300	3,000
Macclesfield Town Council	-	1,380
Margaret Williamson Memorial Fund	440	-
Masonic Charitable Foundation	5,000	-
National Lottery Communtiy Fund	-	9,300
National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund	29,254	-
NCompass Carers' Choice Grant	-	1,640
NCompass Take a Break Grant	-	3,653
Postcode Community Trust Magic Little Grant	500	-
Redrow Homes North West	1,000	-
Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust	-	1,500
St James's Place Foundation	2,500	-
SMF/DCMS Community Match Challenge	8,623	8,624
Tesco Community Fund	-	1,500
The Russell Trust	2,000	-
William Dean Trust	-	-
Williams Family Foundation	-	1,500
	80,621	79,716

6 COMMISSIONED INCOME

	2023	2022
	£	£
Cheshire East Council - Short Breaks for Disabled Children	41,984	54,101
	41,984	54,101

7 OTHER GRANTS AND OTHER INCOME

	2023	2022
	£	£
Arnold Clarke Community Fund	-	1,000
Blakemore Foundation	100	-
BBC Children in Need	250	-
Congleton Young People's Trust	250	200
Equilibrium Charitable Foundation	-	5,000
HMRC Job Retention Grant	-	128
Lee Bakirgian Family Trust	-	300
Marketing & Publicity	-	32
Martyn Bracegirdle Charitable Foundation	500	500
	1,100	7,160

8 WORKPLACE PENSION

A workplace pension is provided through the SALVUS Master Trust.

9 Fundraising Cost

	2023 £	2022 £
Marketing and fundraising coordinator	10,388	12,444
Fundraising Expenses	15	108
	10,403	12,552

10 Capital Expenditure

	2023 £	2022 £
Website Development	80	150
	80	150

11 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Prepayments and accrued income	319	10

12 Creditors

	2023 £	2022 £
Pension Fund	-	473
PAYE payable	14	-
Accruals and deferred income	32,520	4,455
	32,534	4,928

13 Movements of Major Funds	At 01/04/2022 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	At 31/03/23 £
Active Cheshire	-	851	(851)	-
Albert Hunt Trust	2,000	-	(2,000)	-
Arnold Clarke	-	2,000	(2,000)	-
BBC Children in Need	1,951	19,788	(17,287)	4,452
BBC Children in Need Next Steps	72	-	(72)	-
Baily Thomas Charitable Trust	2,332	-	(2,332)	-
C4C	900	-	(869)	31
Card Factory Foundation	122	-	(122)	-
Cheshire Communty Foundation Main Grants	-	2,500	(1,449)	1,051
CEC COVID Response & Recovery Grant	623	-	(284)	339
Cheshire Freemasons	5,438	-	(1,398)	4,040
Commissioned Cheshire East	14,519	41,984	(28,360)	28,143
Congleton Inclosure Trust	1,137	-	(781)	356
Congleton Town Council	-	1,000	(1,000)	-
Congleton Town Trust	-	1,000	(717)	283
COOP Community Fund	230	3,865	(230)	3,865
Crewe Town Council	1,621	-	(1,621)	-
Edward Gostling Foundation	2,172	-	(2,172)	-
Georgia Leigh Ogden Foundation	1,732	300	(2,032)	-
Macclesfield Town Council	1,130	-	(1,014)	116
Margaret Williamson Charitable Trust	-	440	(193)	247
Masonic Charitable Foundation	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
National Lottery Reaching Communities	-	29,254	(24,431)	4,823
National Lottery Community Fund	2,550	-	(2,550)	-
NCompass Carers' Choice Grant	1,041	-	(1,041)	-
NCompass Take a Break Grant	2,406	-	(2,406)	-
Postcode Community Trust Magic Little Grant	-	500	-	500
Redrow Homes North West	-	1,000	-	1,000
St. James's Place Foundation	-	2,500	(2,500)	-
Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust	1,500	-	(1,500)	-
SMF/DCMS Community Match Challenge	424	8,623	(9,047)	-
Tesco Community Fund	770	-	(537)	233
The Russell Trust	-	2,000	(1,584)	416
William Dean Trust	174	-	(174)	-
Williams Family Foundation	1,488	-	(645)	843
Total restricted funds	46,332	122,605	(118,199)	50,738
Unrestricted	82,690	13,445	(18,804)	77,331
Total Funds	129,022	136,050	(137,003)	128,069

14 GENERAL FUNDS AND RESERVES POLICY

In line with Charities Commission guidelines, the Friends for Leisure Trustees feel it prudent to keep a level of reserve for the charity.

	2023 £	2022 £
General funds show a surplus	77,331	82,690

	2023 £	2022 £
Funding Requirement:		
To cover shortfall 6 months running costs, in event of closing down the charity	85,000	85,000

15 LIMITED LIABILITY AND GUARANTORS

The liability of the members is limited to a guarantee to contribute a maximum of £10 each in the event of the company becoming insolvent.

16 COMMITMENTS AND LEASES

On 1 September 2019 the Charity entered into a lease agreement for office accommodation. The lease will expire on 31 July 2024. The annual rent is £6,500.

17 OTHER INFORMATION

Friends for Leisure is a private company limited by guarantee and incorporated in England.
Its registered office is:
Albert Chambers
Canal Street
Congleton
Cheshire
CW12 4AA

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
STRATEGIC DIRECTION STATEMENT
2022 - 2023

BUSINESS AREA	OBJECTIVE	FOCUS & PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY	SUCCESS FACTORS	ACHIEVEMENTS BY year ending 31/03/2023
SERVICE PROVISION	Ensure that service provision is reviewed regularly.	**P1.** Maintain equitable spread of service provision across the borough, responding to identified local need.	Trustees & manager	Equitable and appropriate service offer to all registered young people.	**Return to pre-COVID delivery methods.** **Service provision reviewed and reduced due to staffing shortages, with approval of CEC contract manager.**
PARTNERSHIP WORKING	Continue to build and develop alliances with relevant organisations across the borough. Build relationships with the business community	**P2.** Identify relevant opportunities for collaborative working, including VCFS organisations and leisure providers. **P2.** Promote FFL within the business community to: • secure funding • connect skills and expertise.	All staff and trustees	FFL working with other relevant agencies from all sectors.	**The general economic situation and staffing shortages have reduced opportunities for new partnerships.** **We have continued to maintain a relationship with Franklyn Financial Management.** **Thrive Creative and Prism have continued to offer services, partly pro-bono.** **Local venues and providers continue to be used to support service delivery.**
RESOURCES	Ensure that physical and human resources are in place. Ensure that numbers and skills of staff are maximised to provide the service.	**P1.** Continuous review of office equipment and other physical resources to enable staff team to carry out their duties. **P1.** Maintain the correct balance of skills within the team to enable professional service provision.	Manager and trustees	FFL service is sustainable and professional.	**Recruitment has remained challenging.** **Activity Coordinator on maternity leave from 1/9/22.** **New volunteer coordinator in post from 15/8/22.** **New Activity Assistant from 14/10/22 to support bowling and drama.** **Remaining office staff covering activities as much as possible.**

Appendix 2

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
STRATEGIC DIRECTION STATEMENT
2022 - 2023

BUSINESS AREA	OBJECTIVE	FOCUS & PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY	SUCCESS FACTORS	ACHIEVEMENTS BY year ending 31/03/2023
FINANCES & FUNDING	Ensure that adequate and sustainable funds are in place, in terms of: • current funding meeting immediate needs • being fully aware of funders' requirements and conditions	**P1.** Undertake rigorous research of funders' individual priorities and changing conditions to inform future applications. **P1.** Improve knowledge of national and local information to prepare for applications.	Trustees, manager and fundraising coordinator	Secure financial future of the charity. Medium- and longer-term funding plans are in place.	**Funders included Cheshire East Council, Cheshire Community Foundation, Georgia Leigh Ogden Foundation, Steve Morgan Foundation, BBC Children in Need, National Lottery Community Fund, Masonic Charitable Foundation, Russell Trust, Arnold Clark Community Fund, Redrow Homes and COOP Community Fund.** **Finance and funding information is seen regularly by the trustees.** **Contact has been maintained with funders during the year.** **Staff, trustees and volunteers have been involved in community fundraising.**
OUTCOMES	Ensure that YP are given positive social opportunities for fun and friendship. Plan activities specifically to improve young people's mental health and well-being. Support families to help their children achieve their potential.	**P1.** Define baselines, outputs and outcomes. **P1.** Review and refresh evaluation systems to demonstrate impact for YP, volunteers and families. Ensure that outcomes reflect: • Ethos of FFL • Requirements of funders • CEC young people's plan and national priorities.	All staff. Involve parents, children and other relevant agencies.	YP and families report improved outcomes. Staff fully aware of evaluation process. Funders satisfied with evidence provided.	**All activities have been planned to ensure positive experiences for all participants.** **Funding reports have been well received because of the evidence provided.** **Specific activities have focused on mental health and well-being of young people.**

Appendix 2

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
STRATEGIC DIRECTION STATEMENT
2022 - 2023

BUSINESS AREA	OBJECTIVE	FOCUS & PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY	SUCCESS FACTORS	ACHIEVEMENTS BY year ending 31/03/2023
PARTICIPATION OF SERVICE USERS	Ensure that children & YP participate in the strategic and operational planning, development and monitoring of services	**P1.** Ensure that: • Parents/carers are represented on the board of trustees. • Families are kept informed of changes within the organisation.	Chair of trustees All staff and trustees	YP and families are participating in the strategic planning and implementation of FFL's services.	**Parents of current and past young people on the Board.** **Young people and families have been asked to give feedback and suggestions for future activities throughout the year. This information has been used in the process of planning activities.** **Families have been advised of staffing changes.**
INFORMATION AND ADVICE	Promote information and advice that is accessible and appropriate. Signpost/refer families to other appropriate services.	**P2.** Make sure that information held by FFL is up to date. **P2.** Review the means by which families are kept informed.	All Manager and marketing co-ord.	Robust system of relevant and current information and guidance.	**Updates have been made to the website.** **Information about other relevant services is regularly e-mailed to families and posted on Facebook.**
TRAINING	Ensure that staff, volunteers and trustees are trained appropriately.	**P2.** All staff to identify relevant training needs. **P2.** Trustees to access relevant training and development opportunities **P2.** Volunteer training programme is maintained.	Manager & staff Trustees Volunteer co-ord.	All staff, volunteers and trustees are competent and confident in their roles.	**Safeguarding training has been provided for all volunteers via the Cheshire East on-line Learning Lounge.** **New staff have attended relevant training.** **Volunteer training programme is in hand.**

Appendix 2

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
STRATEGIC DIRECTION STATEMENT
2022 - 2023

BUSINESS AREA	OBJECTIVE	FOCUS & PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY	SUCCESS FACTORS	ACHIEVEMENTS BY year ending 31/03/2023
VOLUNTEERS	Ensure that volunteers are recruited, trained, mentored, supported and valued.	**P1.** Demonstrate the impact of volunteering on: • Volunteers • FFL	Manager and Volunteer Co-ord.	Volunteers are retained and valued. Evaluation will inform future funding bids and demonstrate positive outcomes to funders.	**49 new volunteers were recruited.** **High schools and colleges have welcomed volunteer recruitment presentations.** **Two volunteers continue to support the database on a weekly basis.**
MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS	Ensure that FFL is promoted positively at a strategic and local level. Make better use of social media.	**P1.** Promote FFL in a positive way across the borough. **P1.** All staff to seek out and attend relevant networking/PR opportunities.	Trustees and staff	FFL is recognised across Cheshire East by all relevant stakeholders	**Home-working and the general economic situation have reduced opportunities to promote the charity.** **Paul and Gillian represented FFL at Chamber of Commerce events.** **Fundraising and Marketing Coordinator has continued to promote the charity and endeavoured to create new business relationships.** **Marketing materials have been refreshed.**
RISK MANAGEMENT	Ensure that a process is in place to identify, monitor and manage potential risks to minimize the negative impact they may have on FFL.	**P1.** Ensure that the risk register is a working document.	Manager All staff & trustees	FFL can identify which risks pose the biggest threat and there are guidelines for handling them.	**The risk register is a working document and is reviewed regularly.** **The impact of staffing changes was discussed regularly by staff and trustees.** **Changes to service delivery were approved by the contract manager at Cheshire East Council.** **Financial risk matters are reviewed monthly by the manager and trustees.**

Appendix 2

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
STRATEGIC DIRECTION STATEMENT
2022 - 2023

BUSINESS AREA	OBJECTIVE	FOCUS & PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY	SUCCESS FACTORS	ACHIEVEMENTS BY year ending 31/03/2023
SAFEGUARDING	Ensure that culture, policies, procedures and practice have a clear focus on effective safeguarding.	**P1.** Regular reviews of activities, risk assessments, policy and procedures. **P1.** Ensure that providers comply with FFL policy. **P1.** Ensure that staff, volunteers and trustees are adequately trained and have up-to-date guidance relating to safeguarding. **P1.** Maintain relevant professional links and networks to ensure that FFL stays up to date with national and local safeguarding policy.	All staff & trustees Manager	Parents/carers are confident in FFL's ability to keep their child safe.	**Regular venues have provided risk assessments and insurance documents have been reviewed.** **Online safeguarding training has been undertaken by 38 volunteers.** **Safeguarding policy and procedure have been reviewed and expanded. Families have been advised of the amendments.** **Online bulletins are received from NSPCC, INEQUE SAFEGUARDING and CHESHIRE POLICE. These are circulated to staff and trustees.**

Appendix 2

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE

England & Wales - Charity number 1068991

Accounts

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE

Annual Report

April 2021 - March 2022

Friends for Leisure - Registered Office

Ground Floor, Albert Chambers

Canal Street, Congleton.

Cheshire CW12 4AA

Tel: 01260 275333

Registered Charity No. 1068991
Registered Company No. 3508369

An Independent Charity

Website: www.friendsforleisure.org.uk

E-mail: info@friendsforleisure.org.uk

Friends for Leisure Aims and Objectives

Disabled children and young people have the same rights to get involved in everyday friendship and leisure activities as other children and young people.

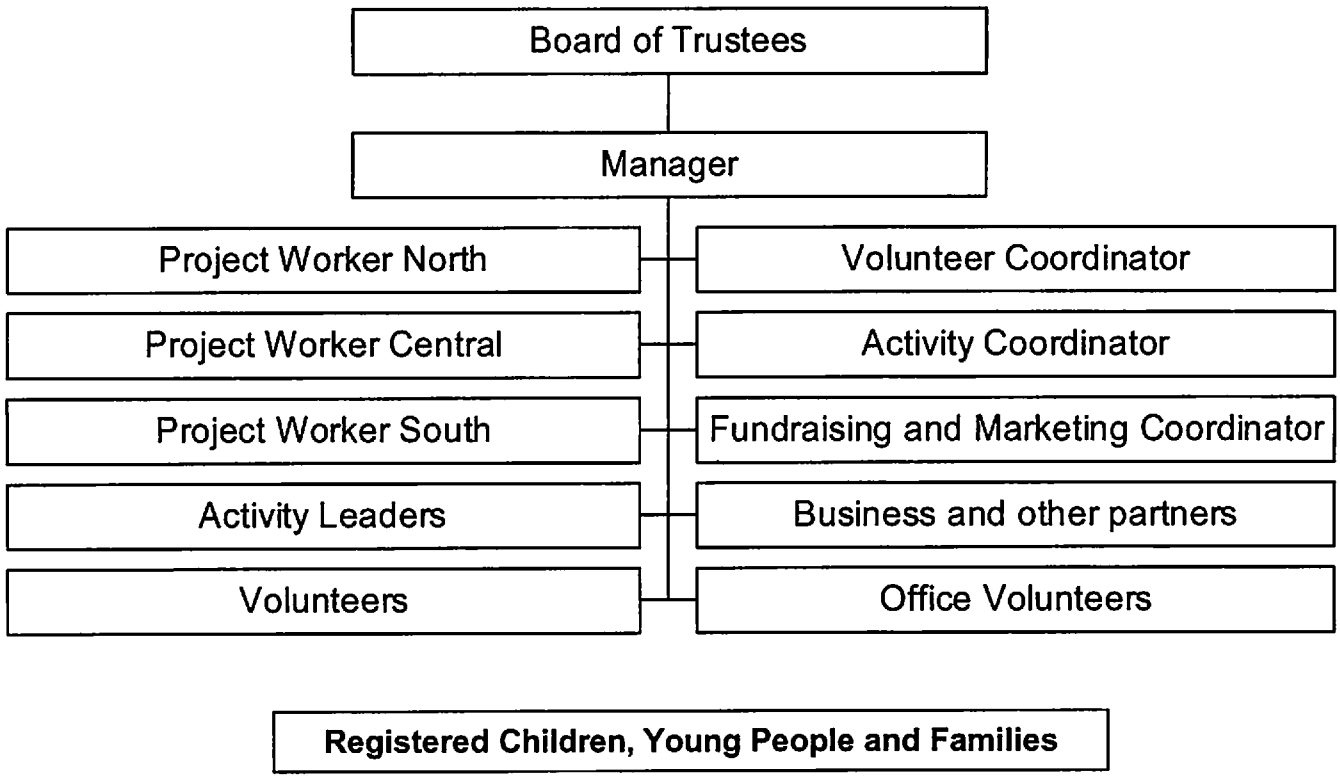
Our Aims

- To establish, promote and develop mainstream leisure and friendship opportunities for children and young people with physical, sensory and learning disabilities aged between five and twenty-one years within Cheshire East.
- To raise awareness about disability issues and the importance of equality and inclusion.

Our Objectives

- To enable disabled children and young people to have access to and participate in everyday leisure activities.
- To create opportunities for disabled children and young people to develop friendships.
- To support young volunteers to develop and maintain positive, supporting friendships with disabled children and young people.
- To provide a flexible and individual service responding to the needs and aspirations of disabled children and young people.
- To consult with disabled children, young people, parents and carers and promote their needs to providers of leisure activities.
- To ensure that our focus is always the leisure needs of the disabled young person.

Friends for Leisure Organisation Chart



The Trustees and Staff at Friends for Leisure
April 21 to March 2022

Trustees

Paul Walker (Chairman)
Mel Stockdale
David Powell (to 24/11/21)
John Wilde (to 24/11/21)
Charles Booth
Tim Slater
Pam Carey (Treasurer) (from 24/11/21)

Staff & Office Support

Gillian Jones	F/T Manager
Maggie Readman	P/T Project Worker
Lisa Nixon	P/T Project Worker
Frankie Goodwin	P/T Project Worker – to 1/10/21
Hannah Guthrie	F/T Activity Coordinator
Lizzie Fry	F/T Volunteer Coordinator
Claire Addis	P/T Fundraising & Marketing Coordinator
Sue Bowden	Activity Leader – to 31/08/21
Jo Stokes	Activity Leader
Maria Potter	Activity Leader
Lesley Ingham	Activity Leader
Tess Hulme	Activity Leader
Cathy Florentine	Activity Leader
Pam Carey	Volunteer Treasurer – to 23/11/21
Claire Hodkinson	Volunteer Office Assistant – to 31/08/21
Barry Wilson	Volunteer Office Assistant
Chris Jones	Volunteer Office Assistant
Martyn Connolly	Volunteer Database Administrator – from October 2021
Annette Kinsella	Volunteer Database Administrator – from October 2021

Independent Examiner

Kime O'Brien, Macclesfield. (Accountants)

Strategic Information

The trustees are its directors and carry an executive responsibility for the prudent, legal, and ethical running of the charity. Because of these responsibilities, an understanding of the structure and ethos of Friends for Leisure is required. This may be gained by involvement in the day-to-day operations of FFL, attending and observing trustee meetings, understanding the legal requirements and demands placed upon trustees and fully comprehending the underlying ethos of the charity.

Initial and refresher training in charity management is available to new and existing trustees to enable them to gain the necessary skills to perform the task effectively.

Trustees have to be nominated and voted into post at the AGM (or EGM) and a third of trustees must step down each year in rotation and offer themselves for re-election should they wish to do so.

The aim is to strive for a balanced and broad spectrum of skills and experience with representation from all sectors of the charity. Professionally qualified trustees are preferred to cover the financial and legal roles. Although not subject to full audit, annual accounts and reports are professionally reviewed to ensure compliance with Charity Commission guidelines.

Friends for Leisure has a robust recruitment procedure in place whereby all staff and volunteers are subject to an appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Unsupervised contact with children and young people is not permitted until the report is received. We also require submission of two references and all trustees, paid staff and volunteers are required to sign the FFL Confidentiality Statement upon joining the organisation.

FFL continues to operate under the Every Child Matters framework and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children).

The trustees of Friends for Leisure are responsible for ensuring that those who benefit from or working with the charity are not harmed in any way through contact with it. Disabled children and young adults may be more vulnerable to abuse and neglect than their non-disabled peers.

Friends for Leisure's safeguarding policies and procedures are designed to promote children's safety and welfare in relation to their contact with the charity. We assess and manage risks, including the following areas:

- Protection of children & vulnerable adults
- Assessment of children and young people
- Planning and assessment of activities
- Photography
- Medication
- Bullying
- Social media
- Physical and emotional abuse
- Neglect
- Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation
- Domestic abuse
- Extremism
- Modern slavery

The charity is committed to the inter-agency approach set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children. This statutory guidance sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and how practitioners should conduct the assessment of children

Guidelines produced by the Charity Commission recommend that charities maintain a level of financial reserves and advise that a reserves policy is implemented to explain and justify their agreed reserves level. The trustees have approved a reserves policy. This takes into account the need to cover fluctuations in income, current and longer-term liabilities, committed expenditure and restricted

funding. For this purpose, an amount equating to six months' running costs of the charity has been considered to be an appropriate and prudent minimum position and is consistent with similar organisations.

The trustees formally declare that there are no serious incidents (or other matters relating to the charity) that should be brought to the attention of the Charities Commission, that have not been reported.

FFL's strategic direction statement is reviewed on a quarterly basis and is included at Appendix 2 of this report.

Friends for Leisure Overview and Key Projects

This year brought several challenges for the charity.

COVID restrictions continued to affect service delivery and the impact on young people and their families became more apparent as we began to deliver activities face-to-face again.

Recruiting to replace staff and covering absences were particularly testing. However, remaining staff showed tremendous resilience and our service provision continued.

I am delighted to report on some of the year's highlights.

SERVICE PROVISION

This year 60 new young people registered with us, which is almost back to pre-pandemic numbers.

Project workers carried out 60 initial assessments and 27 reassessments; thereby ensuring that we have the most up-to-date information about young people.

FUNDRAISING & MARKETING

As always, we strive to raise funds to sustain the charity. Our fundraising and marketing coordinator, Claire, worked remotely from Spain for much of the year, but continued to submit applications and maintain excellent relationships with our funders.

A successful application to the National Lottery will enable us to continue our volunteering programme.

OPPORTUNITIES

Friends for Leisure has continued to deliver a range of opportunities for disabled children and young people to make friends at everyday leisure activities from which they are often excluded. During the year we were acutely aware of the anxieties and loneliness that had been felt by many of our registered young people because of COVID lockdowns and restrictions.

In accordance with Government guidance, we delivered all activities virtually until May. During the half-term holiday, we were able to invite young people to join their friends for picnics in the park. Zoom sessions continued through June, and then most activities were delivered face-to-face from July onwards.

Our new Short Breaks contract with Cheshire East Council commenced on 1st June.

"Friends for Leisure has been a lifeline to us as a family and to so many others, especially over the last year or so in lockdown." *(Parent)*

BEFRIENDING & BUDDYING

Most of the befriending and buddying provision was virtual. However, as restrictions were lifted, some friendships followed a hybrid model, with a mixture of online and face-to-face contact.

"J has loved talking to C (virtual volunteer befriender). They've enjoyed watching films together and games and chats. It's been lovely for J, and he's looked forward to it. J hasn't any friends to call from school or anyone to come over, so it has been lovely to have some company for him. C is so easy to talk to and is just an all-round lovely person. Thank you to all for making it happen. A lovely idea for children who don't have friends to call and spend time with." *(Parent)*

Volunteers provided 220 hours of friendship with individual young people.

YOUTH GROUPS (virtual and face-to-face) – 653 attendances

Our virtual sessions delivered a range of exciting activities to engage young people when life was very uncertain. Once we were able to meet up in person, we began to see friendships renewed and lots of happy faces!

"A loves the FFL Zoom sessions & we love hearing her laughter as she catches up with everyone. The sessions have been an absolute highlight of an otherwise very stressful time." *(Parent)*

DRAMA GROUP – 222 attendances

The "Friends of Falli" group continued on Monday evenings, led by Jude Theatre CIC. We are grateful to COOP shoppers in Macclesfield, who supported this group through the Local Community Fund initiative. Our thanks go to Ian MacKay and the team at Jude Theatre CIC for their support.

"I am so glad [my daughter] has your groups as they brighten up her life - she would be feeling rather bored and sad without them I think." *(Parent)*

PALS (Personal and Life Skills) – 94 attendances

These new sessions were delivered in Macclesfield and Crewe during school holidays and at weekends. Activities were designed to develop personal and life skills and were funded by Cheshire East Council (Macclesfield) and N-Compass (Crewe). Sessions included drama, mindfulness, cycle riding and maintenance, fitness, healthy lifestyles, and life support awareness.

"The PALS sessions have been great; really well thought out and ideal for my son." *(Parent)*

"I really enjoyed it; I thought it was brilliant. I would love to do something similar again in the future. I tasted gnocchi and learned more ways to keep healthy and fit. I love making new friends and it made me feel cheerful and I was very happy after the session telling my mum all about it. I enjoyed asking questions and it has made me think about healthier foods." *(Young person)*

SATURDAY CLUBS & BOWLING – 208 attendances

Our Saturday morning groups were as popular as ever. It was wonderful to see the regulars returning as well as lots of new faces!

"W has desperately missed attending group activities. He loves FFL and has especially missed bowling." *(Parent)*

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES – 193 attendances

Easter sessions were delivered virtually and included a disco, a magic show, a personal training sessions and afternoon tea.

"J thoroughly enjoyed the virtual picnic and came down with a huge smile and was really upbeat all afternoon. Thanks so much for organising and running it.

I find all the sessions J attends through FFL are so well organised and thought through and even though J isn't very good at explaining what he did, I can hear the giggles and his mood changes after the event." *(Parent)*

Over the summer, we delivered 2 virtual sessions and 8 activities in various locations across the borough.

"A's had an amazing time with FFL; completely taken out of his comfort zone with every activity he's done. As far as summer holiday activities have gone yours have to be the most outstanding of them all, very well organised, completely structured and a very tired young man too, from our point of view fantastic!" *(Parent)*

In October, sessions were delivered in Sandbach, Macclesfield and Congleton.

In February 2022, young people enjoyed dance fitness in Crewe and tested their Ninja warrior skills in Congleton.

PARENT/CARER INFORMATION SESSION – 19 attendances

Thanks to funding from N-Compass, were able to deliver two sessions.

A virtual marketplace session was delivered on 28/01/2022 and a face-to-face marketplace event was held in Macclesfield on 8/2/22. We would like to thank all the organisations who attended and made these sessions so successful.

There were over 2155 hours of delivery, with a total of 1389 attendances at group activities during the year – an increase of 33% from the previous year.

VOLUNTEERING

Friends for Leisure's volunteer programme comprises the recruitment, training, and ongoing support of volunteers.

During the period of this report, recruitment was still curtailed because of COVID restrictions. However, we were still able to recruit 25 new volunteers; 92% of whom were aged 25 and under.

Young volunteers gain essential skills from their experience, and many tell us that it has helped with UCAS and job applications.

"Since joining FFL I have definitely gained in confidence and the 1-1 buddy scheme really helped me to be able to reach out and keep in contact with people during the lockdowns. I do also feel I have given back, although it may not have been quite the time I thought, I feel that I made the most of it." *(Young volunteer)*

"[The thing I am enjoying the most is] the ability to make a difference to others and see their progress e.g., seeing them more engaged in activities, speaking to more people willingly, being more confident in themselves. Seeing how a young person may sometimes come in who doesn't want to be there that week but see them leave with a happy smile on their face (or even prizes in their hands!)." *(Young volunteer)*

Volunteers were offered on-line and face-to-face training and there were 31 attendances at safeguarding and virtual friendships courses.

33 volunteers gave over 393 hours of their time supporting group activities during the year.

We also had volunteers supporting our work in other ways, and we would like to thank:

- Barry Wilson, Martin Connolly, and Annette Kinsella who maintain our database.
- Pam Carey, our treasurer (until 24/11/2021 when she joined the board of trustees).
- Claire Hodkinson (until 31/08/2021) who helped in the office.
- Chris Jones, who carries out maintenance in the office and supports activities.

STAFFING

Two staff left us during the year.

Sue Bowden, one of our Activity Leaders, retired in August. Sue had been a valued member of the team for 9 years and has been missed by everyone. We wish her a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

Frankie, one of our Project Workers, left us in October to start up her own business. We wish her well with her new project.

10 staff members undertook training in Epilepsy awareness.

CONCLUSION

Despite all the challenges we have faced during this year, especially staffing shortages, I am proud to report that Friends for Leisure has continued to deliver the services that young people and their families rely on.

As the charity's manager I am fortunate to work with such a professional, talented, and resourceful team of staff, a dedicated board of trustees and amazing volunteers.

Gillian Jones
Charity manager

Friends for Leisure is extremely grateful to the following individuals and organisations for their generous support during the year.

Thank you also to those people who have undertaken sponsored events, including the Virtual London Marathon, made regular donations by standing order, and those who have Friends for Leisure collection boxes at home.

Astbury Golf Club	Miss K Khan
Mr I Bradley	Knutsford 10K
Bramhall Runners	Macclesfield College
Mrs K Cubley	Mr Mrs P Machin
Mr M Dwire	Mr D Pickering
Mrs D Franklin	Springfield School
Mrs J Hodkinson	Miss B Stockdale
In memory of Andy Hulme	Mr P Walker
Miss A Holland	Watermill School
Miss J Kelly	Mr P B Wilson

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

COMPANY REGISTERED NUMBER 3508369

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1068991

THESE ACCOUNTS FORM APPENDIX 1 TO THE FULL ANNUAL REPORT

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
COMPANY INFORMATION

COMPANY NUMBER	3508369
CHARITY NUMBER	1068991
DIRECTORS	M Stockdale P Walker J Wilde - resigned 24 November 2021 D Powell - resigned 24 November 2021 C Booth T Slater C Carey - appointed 24 November 2021 M Heywood - appointed 20 June 2022
REGISTERED OFFICE	Albert Chambers Canal Street Congleton Cheshire CW12 4AA

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

The directors present their report and the financial statement for the year ended 31st March 2022

After three years developing under the umbrella of Macclesfield District CVS, Friends for Leisure became a company limited by guarantee on 11th February 1998 and a registered charity on 1st April 1998.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The main focus of Friends for Leisure is to promote opportunities for children and young people with disabilities to enjoy friendships and participate in the mainstream leisure activities of their choice by building links with leisure groups and clubs, so that children and young people are able to become fully involved in these integrated activities with Friends for Leisure support.

DIRECTORS

The directors, who are also the trustees, who served during the year were as follows:

M Stockdale
P Walker
J Wilde (resigned 24 November 2021)
D Powell (resigned 24 November 2021)
C Booth
T Slater
P Carey (appointed 24 November 2021)

SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

This report was approved by the board on 28 November 2022 and signed on its behalf.

PM Walker

Paul Walker
Chair of Trustees

During the last 12 months, we have once again had to endure the consequences of the COVID pandemic, and like other charities, as with many other sectors, we have found it difficult to recruit, which has meant our current staff have had to work tirelessly, often carrying out tasks outside their normal roles, to allow the charity to continue to provide our services.

We again received major funding from both Cheshire East Council and from BBC Children in Need. We also received important funding from The Steve Morgan Foundation (match funded by the Department for Digital Culture Media and Sport), Cheshire Freemasons, Cheshire Community Foundation, Albert Hunt Trust, Baily Thomas Charitable Trust, Card Factory Foundation, C4C, Congleton Inclosure Trust, Crewe Town Council, Edward Gosling Foundation, Georgia Leigh Ogden Foundation, Macclesfield Town Council, National Lottery Community Fund, NCompass, Sir Jules Thorn Charity Trust, Tesco Community Fund and the Williams Family Foundation.

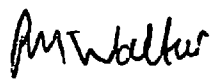
Prism have continued to give IT support which has been invaluable and Thrive Creative have again been a great help in marketing the charity.

The general financial status of the charity remains steady. Income received totalled £158,968 and expenditure amounted to £166,950. This left the charity with unrestricted reserves of £82,690 thus allowing the charity to maintain running costs in accordance with the policy of the charity of about six months.

The total number of new young people registered amounted to 60, with 249 young people registered at the year end. As of year-end there were 39 young people on our waiting list for one-to-one friendships. We maintained 5 friendship links, 3 buddy links and 15 virtual friendships during the year as well as holding 10 link meetings (all but one being virtual). There were 25 new volunteers joining us during the year, down on usual numbers due to COVID. A total of 133 individual young people attended at least one activity.

Activities included an extensive summer programme with a mix of virtual face to face activities, which included tennis at Prestbury tennis club, a puppet making workshop, a climbing tower, indoor archery, karate, and a bike ride.

As always, our gratitude should be noted to Gillian and the staff for their efforts during a very challenging year.



Paul Walker
Chair of Trustees
12 July 2022

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF FRIENDS FOR LEISURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022 SET OUT ON PAGES 4 TO 11 CHARITY NUMBER 1068991 COMPANY NUMBER 3508369

We report to the charity trustees on our examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2022.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the charity's trustees of the company (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied ourselves that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, we report in respect of our examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out our examination, we have followed the directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' STATEMENT

We have completed our examination. We confirm that no material matters have come to our attention which gives me cause to believe that:

accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or

the accounts do not accord with such records; or

the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

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

1 Church Mews
Churchill Way
Macclesfield
Cheshire
SK11 6AY

28 November 2022



Kime O'Brien Limited
Chartered Accountants

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022 Restricted Funds £	2022 Unrestricted Funds £	2022 Total Funds £	2021 Restricted Funds £	2021 Unrestricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £
Incoming resources							
Donations	3	-	9,258	9,258	-	10,047	10,047
Fundraising	4	-	4,132	4,132	-	2,979	2,979
Provision of service	5	79,716	-	79,716	123,898	-	123,898
Commissioned Income	6	54,101	-	54,101	28,673	-	28,673
Other grants and income	7	128	7,032	7,160	3,612	5,074	8,686
Activity-related income (Subs. etc)		-	1,951	1,951	-	955	955
Interest		-	23	23	-	33	33
Earned income		-	250	250	-	-	-
Gift aid		-	2,377	2,377	-	1,236	1,236
Total incoming resources		133,945	25,023	158,968	156,183	20,324	176,507
Resources expended							
Salaries		91,223	24,080	115,303	102,530	12,854	115,384
Employer National Insurance		1,766	3,085	4,851	3,564	5,255	8,819
Employer pension contributions	8	340	1,646	1,986	1,014	1,107	2,121
Travel and Subsistance (staff)		1,026	7	1,033	299	13	312
Vol expenditure		940	672	1,612	884	-	884
Governance		-	-	-	18	-	18
Training		20	-	20	744	120	864
Recruitment		176	-	176	-	-	-
Activities		11,552	552	12,104	2,855	-	2,855
Emergency Activities (COVID)		-	-	-	2,585	-	2,585
Stationery		131	-	131	174	-	174
Postage		1,127	-	1,127	388	5	393
Telecommunication		2,005	-	2,005	1,980	-	1,980
Rent & utilities		8,022	-	8,022	7,761	-	7,761
Insurance		1,752	-	1,752	1,641	-	1,641
Admin.		2,205	458	2,663	1,849	-	1,849
Publicity and Promotion		1,392	20	1,412	389	-	389
Equipment		-	-	-	1,192	52	1,244
Other expenditure		-	-	-	-	15	15
Parent/Carer information sessions		51	-	51	622	-	622
Total resources expended		123,728	30,520	154,248	130,489	19,421	149,910
Fundraising costs	9	10,242	2,310	12,552	10,482	2,674	13,156
Capital expenditure	10	75	75	150	1,050	-	1,050
Total Costs		134,045	32,905	166,950	142,021	22,095	164,116
Net movement in funds		(100)	(7,882)	(7,982)	14,162	(1,771)	12,391
Total funds brought forward		46,432	90,572	137,004	32,270	92,343	124,613
Total funds carried forward		46,332	82,690	129,022	46,432	90,572	137,004

The notes on page 6 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
COMPANY NUMBER 3508369 (England & Wales)
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2022

		Notes	2022 £	2021 £
CURRENT ASSETS				
Bank accounts:	Deposit account		29,157	29,144
	Current account		104,025	107,347
	Petty Cash		758	128
Debtors		11	10	385
			133,950	137,004
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year		12	(4,928)	-
			129,022	137,004
REPRESENTED BY:				
Restricted funds				
Albert Hunt Trust			2,000	860
Bally Thomas Charitable Trust			2,332	-
BBC Children in Need			1,951	2,016
BBC Children in Need Next Steps			72	216
British Science Association			-	82
C4C			900	166
Card Factory Foundation			122	-
Cheshire Community Foundation iWill Fund			-	233
Cheshire Community Foundation Main Grant			-	3,581
Cheshire East Council COVID-19 Response & Recovery Grant			623	834
Cheshire Freemasons			5,438	-
Cheshire Police Safer Communities			-	224
Commissioned Cheshire East			14,519	8,897
Congleton Inclosure Trust			1,137	-
Congleton Town Trust			-	500
COOP Community Fund			230	4,715
Crewe Town Council			1,621	769
Edward Gostling Foundation			2,172	-
Garfield Weston Foundation Fund			-	10,577
Georgia Leigh Ogden Foundation			1,732	-
Macclesfield Town Council			1,130	-
Morrisons Foundation			-	116
MOTO in the Community			-	674
National Lottery Awards 4 All			-	1,357
National Lottery Community Fund			2,550	394
NCompass Carers' Choice Grant			1,041	-
Ncompass Take a Break Grant			2,406	-
Rotary Club of Wilmslow Dean			-	295
Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust			1,500	-
Sobell Foundation			-	3,894
Steve Morgan Foundation			-	1,745
SMF/DCMS Community Match Challenge			424	-
Tesco Community Fund			770	1,006
The Russell Trust			-	2,408
True Colours Trust			-	273
William Dean Trust			174	600
Williams Family Foundation			1,488	-
		13	46,332	46,432
General Funds		14	82,690	90,572
			129,022	137,004

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under the provision of Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006. The members have not required the company, under Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006, to obtain an audit for the year ended 31st March 2022. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Acr 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared and delivered in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

M.J. Stockdale 12.12.22.

M Stockdale
Director
Approved by the Board on 28 November 2022

The notes on page 6 to 11 form part of these financial statement.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with FRS102. The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (as applied to small entities by section 1A of the standard).

Company Status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. If the charity is dissolved the trustees/members must contribute such sum (not exceeding £10 each) as may be demanded of them towards payment of the debts and liabilities of the charity.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted Funds are 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 are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects. Any amounts not utilised are carried forward where the specific purpose or project remains part of the charity's objectives.

Restricted Funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources, it is certain that the resources will be received, and the monetary value of incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources Expended

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activities to which they relate. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with the administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

The trustees have reviewed the company's fixed asset capitalisation and depreciation policies. Assets such as office equipment are not considered to have any realisable value and the capitalisation thereof only serves to overstate the funds available for the beneficiaries of Friends For Leisure.

Accordingly, these assets have been written off in the year of acquisition.

Taxation

The company is exempt from any corporation tax liability due to its charitable status.

2 EMPLOYEES

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Average number of persons employed by the company	12	13

3 DONATIONS

Donations and legacies received during the year include those from the following:

Astbury Golf Club	Miss J Kelly
Mr I Bradley	Macclesfield College students
Bramhall Runners	Mr Mrs P Machin
Mrs K Cubley	Springfield School pupils
Mr M Dwire	Mr PM Walker
Miss A Holland	Watermill School
In memory of the late Andy Hulme	Mr PB Wilson

4 FUNDRAISING

	2022	2021
	£	£
Includes the following events:		
Captain Tom 100 Challenge	340	-
Carol Singing	432	-
Congleton Rotary Swimathon	-	234
Debbie Douglas Sky Dive	169	-
Raffles	115	-
Sales of donated items	158	166
Waitrose	400	667
Knutsford 10K	250	-
Money Boxes	235	34
Congleton Santa Float	491	-
Virtual London Marathon	1,462	-
2.6 Challenge	-	1,797
Others	80	81
	4,132	2,979
Less fundraising costs	(12,552)	(13,156)
	(8,420)	(10,177)

Fundraising costs includes the costs associated with applying for income beyond the fundraising income noted above, such as grant applications.

5 PROVISION OF SERVICE

	2022	2021
	£	£
Includes the following:-		
Albert Hunt Trust	2,000	2,000
Baily Thomas Charitable Trust	3,000	-
BBC Children in Need	19,288	18,324
BBC Children in Need Next Steps	7,540	5,261
C4C	900	300
CAF Emergency Fund	-	995
Card Factory Foundation	1,000	-
Cheshire Community Foundation COVID Grant	-	6,048
Cheshire Community Foundation Main Grants	-	7,538
Cheshire Community Foundation Pandemic Recovery Grant	1,870	-
CCF/DCMS Community Match Challenge	-	1,400
Cheshire East Council COVID-19 Response & Recovery Grant	-	1,000
Cheshire East Council Early Help Grant	-	2,707
Cheshire Freemasons	6,000	-
Congleton Inclosure Trust	1,500	-
Congleton Town Council		264
Congleton Town Trust		1,000
Co-op Community Fund		2,565
Crewe Town Council	1,521	-
Edward Gostling Foundation	3,000	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	20,000
Georgia Leigh Ogden Foundation	3,000	-
Macclesfield Town Council	1,380	-
Morrisons Foundation	-	600
National Lottery Awards 4 All	-	7,250
National Lottery Communtiy Fund	9,300	4,875
NCompass Carers' Choice Grant	1,640	-
Ncompass Take a Break Grant	3,653	-
Rotary Club of Wilmslow Dean	-	295
Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust	1,500	-
Sobell Foundation	-	5,000
St James's Place Foundation	-	2,500
Steve Morgan Foundation	-	5,527
Steve Morgan Foundation COVID Emergency Fund	-	7,436
SMF/DCMS Community Match Challenge	8,624	17,247
Tesco Community Fund	1,500	1,166
The Russell Trust	-	2,000
William Dean Trust		600
Williams Family Foundation	1,500	-
	79,716	123,898

6 COMMISSIONED INCOME

	2022	2021
	£	£
Cheshire East Council - Short Breaks for Disabled Children	54,101	28,673
	54,101	28,673

7 OTHER GRANTS AND OTHER INCOME

	2022	2021
	£	£
Arnold Clarke Community Fund	1,000	-
Congleton Young People's Trust	200	-
Ecclesiastical Charities Trust		1,000
Equilibrium Charitable Foundation	5,000	-
HMRC Job Retention Grant	128	3,612
Lee Bakirgian Family Trust	300	300
Leeds Building Society	-	1,000
Marketing & Publicity	32	324
Martyn Bracegirdle Charitable Foundation	500	500
Pennycress Trust	-	300
Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust	-	1,250
Warburtons COVID Grant	-	400
	7,160	8,686

8 WORKPLACE PENSION

A workplace pension is provided through the SALVUS Master Trust.

9 Fundraising Cost

	2022 £	2021 £
Marketing and fundraising coordinator	12,444	12,628
Fundraising Expenses	108	528
	12,552	13,156

10 Capital Expenditure

	2022 £	2021 £
Website Development	150	1,050
	150	1,050

11 Debtors

	2022 £	2021 £
Prepayments and accrued income	10	385

12 Creditors

	2022 £	2021 £
Pension Fund	473	-
Accruals and deferred income	4,455	-
	4,928	-

13 Movements of Major Funds	At 01/04/21 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	At 31/03/22 £
Albert Hunt Trust	860	2,000	(860)	2,000
BBC Children in Need	2,016	19,288	(19,353)	1,951
BBC Children in Need Next Steps	216	7,540	(7,684)	72
Baily Thomas Charitable Trust	-	3,000	(668)	2,332
British Science Association	82	-	(82)	-
C4C	166	900	(166)	900
CAF Emergency Fund	-	-	-	-
Card Factory Foundation	-	1,000	(878)	122
Cheshire Community Foundation COVID Grant	-	-	-	-
Cheshire Community Foundation #I Will Fund	233	-	(233)	-
Cheshire Communty Foundation Main Grants	3,581	-	(3,581)	-
Cheshire Community Foundation Pandemic Recovery Grant	-	1,870	(1,870)	-
CCF/DCMS Community Match Challenge	-	-	-	-
CEC COVID Response & Recovery Grant	834	-	(211)	623
Cheshire East Council Early Help Grant	-	-	-	-
Cheshire East Council New Homes Bonus	-	-	-	-
Cheshire Freemasons	-	6,000	(562)	5,438
Cheshire Police Safer Communities Fund	224	-	(224)	-
Commissioned Cheshire East	8,897	54,101	(48,479)	14,519
Congleton Inclosure Trust	-	1,500	(363)	1,137
Congleton Town Trust	500	-	(500)	-
COOP Community Fund	4,715	-	(4,485)	230
Crewe Town Council	769	1,521	(669)	1,621
Edward Gostling Foundation	-	3,000	(828)	2,172
Garfield Weston Foundation	10,577	-	(10,577)	-
Georgia Leigh Ogden Foundation	-	3,000	(1,268)	1,732
HMRC Job Retention Grant	-	128	(128)	-
Macclesfield Town Council	-	1,380	(250)	1,130
Morrisons Foundation	116	-	(116)	-
MOTO in Community Trust	674	-	(674)	-
National Lottery Awards 4 All	1,357	-	(1,357)	-
National Lottery Community Fund	394	9,300	(7,144)	2,550
NCompass Carers' Choice Grant	-	1,640	(599)	1,041
Ncompass Take a Break Grant	-	3,653	(1,247)	2,406
Rotary Club of Wilmslow Dean	295	-	(295)	-
Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust	-	1,500	-	1,500
Sobell Foundation	3,894	-	(3,894)	-
Steve Morgan Foundation	1,745	-	(1,745)	-
SMF/DCMS Community Match Challenge	-	8,624	(8,200)	424
Tesco Community Fund	1,006	1,500	(1,736)	770
The Russell Trust	2,408	-	(2,408)	-
True Colours Trust	273	-	(273)	-
William Dean Trust	600	-	(426)	174
Williams Family Foundation	-	1,500	(12)	1,488
Total restricted funds	46,432	133,945	(134,045)	46,332
Unrestricted	90,572	25,023	(32,905)	82,690
Total Funds	137,004	158,968	(166,950)	129,022

14 GENERAL FUNDS AND RESERVES POLICY

In line with Charities Commission guidelines, the Friends for Leisure Trustees feel it prudent to keep a level of reserve for the charity.

	2022 £	2021 £
General funds show a surplus	82,690	90,572

	2022 £	2021 £
Funding Requirement:		
To cover shortfall 6 months running costs, in event of closing down the charity	85,000	85,000

15 LIMITED LIABILITY AND GUARANTORS

The liability of the members is limited to a guarantee to contribute a maximum of £10 each in the event of the company becoming insolvent.

16 COMMITMENTS AND LEASES

On 1 September 2019 the Charity entered into a lease agreement for office accommodation. The lease will expire on 31 July 2024. The annual rent is £6,500.

17 OTHER INFORMATION

Friends for Leisure is a private company limited by guarantee and incorporated in England.
Its registered office is:
Albert Chambers
Canal Street
Congleton
Cheshire
CW12 4AA

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
STRATEGIC DIRECTION STATEMENT
2021 - 2022

BUSINESS AREA	OBJECTIVE	FOCUS & PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY	SUCCESS FACTORS	ACHIEVEMENTS BY year ending 31/03/2022
SERVICE PROVISION	Ensure that service provision is reviewed regularly.	**P1.** Maintain equitable spread of service provision across the borough, responding to identified local need.	Trustees & manager	Equitable and appropriate service offer to all registered young people.	**All delivery virtual until May 2021; then outdoor activities only. Back to face-to-face for the summer holiday programme and continuing.** **We extended our PALS programme to the Crewe area and delivered some parent/carer information sessions.**
PARTNERSHIP WORKING	Continue to build and develop alliances with relevant organisations across the borough. Build relationships with the business community	**P2.** Identify relevant opportunities for collaborative working; including VCFS organisations and leisure providers. **P2.** Promote FFL within the business community in order to: • secure funding • recruit apprentice volunteers • connect skills and expertise	All staff and trustees	FFL working with other relevant agencies from all sectors.	**There have been fewer opportunities to promote the charity because of post-COVID restrictions.** **We have continued to maintain a relationship with Franklyn Financial Management.** **Thrive Creative and Prism have continued to offer their services free of charge.** **Venues within the community have been used to provide opportunities for young people.**
RESOURCES	Ensure that physical and human resources are in place. Ensure that numbers and skills of staff are maximised to provide the service.	**P1.** Continuous review of office equipment and other physical resources to enable staff team to carry out their duties. **P1.** Maintain the correct balance of skills within the team to enable professional service provision.	Manager and trustees	FFL service is sustainable and professional.	**The fundraiser worked remotely from Spain from September 2021 to March 2022, then from various parts of the UK.** **Sue Bowden retired in August 2021 and Frankie Goodwin left in October 2021.** **Recruitment has been challenging.**

Appendix 2

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
STRATEGIC DIRECTION STATEMENT
2021 - 2022

BUSINESS AREA	OBJECTIVE	FOCUS & PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY	SUCCESS FACTORS	ACHIEVEMENTS BY year ending 31/03/2022
FINANCES & FUNDING	Ensure that adequate and sustainable funds are in place, in terms of: • current funding meeting immediate needs • being fully aware of funders' requirements and conditions	**P1.** Undertake rigorous research of funders' individual priorities and changing conditions to inform future applications. **P1.** Improve knowledge of national and local information to prepare for applications.	Trustees, manager and fundraising coordinator	Secure financial future of the charity. Medium- and longer-term funding plans are in place.	**Funders included Sir Jules Thorn Foundation, Albert Hunt Trust, Card Factory Foundation, Cheshire East Council, Congleton Town Council, Georgia Leigh Ogden Foundation, Steve Morgan Foundation, BBC Children in Need, National Lottery N-Compass and Williams family Foundation.** **Finance and funding information is seen regularly by the trustees.** **Funding reports have been submitted.** **We have been commissioned by Cheshire East Council to deliver Short Breaks from 1/6/21 for 3 years.**
OUTCOMES	Ensure that YP are given positive social opportunities for fun and friendship. Support families to help their children achieve their potential.	**P1.** Define baselines, outputs and outcomes **P1.** Review and refresh evaluation systems to demonstrate impact for YP, volunteers and families. Ensure that outcomes reflect: • Ethos of FFL • Requirements of funders • CEC young people's plan and national priorities.	All staff. Involve parents, children and other relevant agencies.	YP and families report improved outcomes. Staff fully aware of evaluation process. Funders satisfied with evidence provided.	**All activities have been planned to ensure positive experiences for all participants.** **Funding reports have been well received because of the evidence provided.**

Appendix 2

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
STRATEGIC DIRECTION STATEMENT
2021 - 2022

BUSINESS AREA	OBJECTIVE	FOCUS & PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY	SUCCESS FACTORS	ACHIEVEMENTS BY year ending 31/03/2022
PARTICIPATION OF SERVICE USERS	Ensure that children & YP participate in the strategic and operational planning, development and monitoring of services	**P1.** Ensure that: • Parents/carers are represented on the board of trustees • Families are kept informed of changes within the organisation • Designated trustee works with staff team to identify good practice	Chair of trustees All staff and trustees Designated trustee	YP and families are participating in the strategic planning and implementation of FFL's services.	**Young people and families have been asked to give feedback throughout the year.** **Families have been advised of staffing changes.**
INFORMATION AND ADVICE	Promote information and advice that is accessible and appropriate. Signpost/refer families to other appropriate services.	**P2.** Make sure that information held by FFL is up to date. **P2.** Review the means by which families are kept informed.	All Manager and marketing co-ord.	Robust system of relevant and current information and guidance.	**Our Other Services leaflet has been updated to reflect new commissioned services, etc.** **Updates have been made to the website.**
AWARENESS	Develop training services to improve awareness of disability issues and promote inclusion.	**P1.** Establish links with schools and colleges to promote the sale of training services. **P2.** Support leisure and play providers to promote integration and inclusion.	Manager, Activity co-ordinator & designated trustee.	Using education to: promote integration; challenge physical and attitudinal barriers to inclusion; and celebrate diversity.	**We have been unable to go into schools because of ongoing COVID restrictions.**

Appendix 2

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
STRATEGIC DIRECTION STATEMENT
2021 - 2022

BUSINESS AREA	OBJECTIVE	FOCUS & PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY	SUCCESS FACTORS	ACHIEVEMENTS BY year ending 31/03/2022
TRAINING	Ensure that staff, volunteers and trustees are trained appropriately.	**P2.** All staff to identify relevant training needs. **P2.** Trustees to access relevant training and development opportunities **P2.** Volunteer training programme is maintained.	Manager & staff Trustees Volunteer co-ord.	All staff, volunteers and trustees are competent and confident in their roles.	**Safeguarding training has been provided for volunteers via the Cheshire East on-line Learning Lounge.** **All staff received online Epilepsy training. This was provided by an NHS Epilepsy specialist nurse.**
VOLUNTEERS	Ensure that volunteers are recruited, trained, mentored, supported and valued.	**P1.** Demonstrate the impact of volunteering on: • Volunteers • FFL	Manager and Volunteer Co-ord.	Volunteers are retained and valued Evaluation will inform future funding bids and demonstrate positive outcomes to funders.	**25 new volunteers were recruited. This was up on the previous year, but schools were reluctant to have visitors.** **Two new office volunteers were recruited to help with the database.**
MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS	Ensure that FFL is promoted positively at a strategic and local level. Make better use of social media.	**P1.** Promote FFL in a positive way across the borough. **P1.** Each trustee to develop a marketing/PR strategy to promote the charity **P1.** All staff to seek out and attend relevant networking/PR opportunities	Trustees and staff	FFL is recognised across Cheshire East by all relevant stakeholders	**Closed Facebook pages for young people and parents/carers used extensively during this year.** **There were few face-to-face opportunities to promote the charity because of post-COVID restrictions.** **Paul and Gillian represented FFL at Chamber of Commerce events.**

Appendix 2

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
STRATEGIC DIRECTION STATEMENT
2021 - 2022

BUSINESS AREA	OBJECTIVE	FOCUS & PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY	SUCCESS FACTORS	ACHIEVEMENTS BY year ending 31/03/2022
SAFEGUARDING	Ensure that culture, policies, procedures and practice have a clear focus on effective safeguarding.	**P1.** Regular reviews of activities, risk assessments, policy and procedures. **P1.** Ensure that providers comply with FFL policy. **P1.** Ensure that staff, volunteers and trustees are adequately trained and have up-to-date guidance relating to safeguarding. **P1.** Maintain relevant professional links and networks to ensure that FFL stays up to date with national and local safeguarding policy.	All staff & trustees Manager	Parents/carers are confident in FFL's ability to keep their child safe.	**All activity risk assessments were reviewed as COVID guidance changed.** **Regular venues have provided insurance documents.** **Safeguarding training has been undertaken by 27 volunteers. This course is to be mandatory in future.**
RISK MANAGEMENT	Ensure that a process is in place to identify monitor and manage potential risks in order to minimize the negative impact they may have on FFL.	**P1.** Draw up a risk register and consult with staff and trustees on content. **P1.** Ensure that the risk register is a working document.	Manager All staff & trustees	FFL can identify which risks pose the biggest threat and there are guidelines for handling them.	**The risk register is a working document and is reviewed regularly.** **Changing COVID guidance was incorporated into the risk register.** **The impact of staffing changes was discussed regularly by staff and trustees. Changes to service delivery were approved by the contract manager at Cheshire East Council.**

Appendix 2

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
STRATEGIC DIRECTION STATEMENT
2021 - 2022

BUSINESS AREA	OBJECTIVE	FOCUS & PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY	SUCCESS FACTORS	ACHIEVEMENTS BY year ending 31/03/2022
COVID-19 RESPONSE	Ensure that the charity's response complies with all Government guidance and that the safety of young people, volunteers and staff is considered.	**P1.** Involve staff and trustees in the return-to-work risk assessment. Ensure that it is incorporated into all working practices.	Manager, trustees and staff		**Trustee meetings continued to be held via Zoom.** **All activities were delivered virtually until May 2021.**
		P1. Adapt working practices in areas where face-to-face delivery is no longer possible/practicable.	Manager and staff		**All relevant staff were consulted on the safe resumption of working in the office.** **Staff have adopted a hybrid approach to home and office-based working.**
	Ensure that funds are secured to enable continuity of service – in whatever format is appropriate.	**P1.** Research all potential funding sources.	Fundraising coordinator and trustees.		**We received some COVID recovery funding.**

Appendix 2

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE

England & Wales - Charity number 1068991

Accounts

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE

Annual Report

April 2020 - March 2021

Friends for Leisure - Registered Office

Ground Floor, Albert Chambers

Canal Street, Congleton.

Cheshire CW12 4AA

Tel: 01260 275333

Registered Charity No. 1068991
Registered Company No. 3508369

An Independent Charity

Website: www.friendsforleisure.org.uk

E-mail: info@friendsforleisure.org.uk

Friends for Leisure Aims and Objectives

Disabled children and young people have the same rights to get involved in everyday friendship and leisure activities as other children and young people.

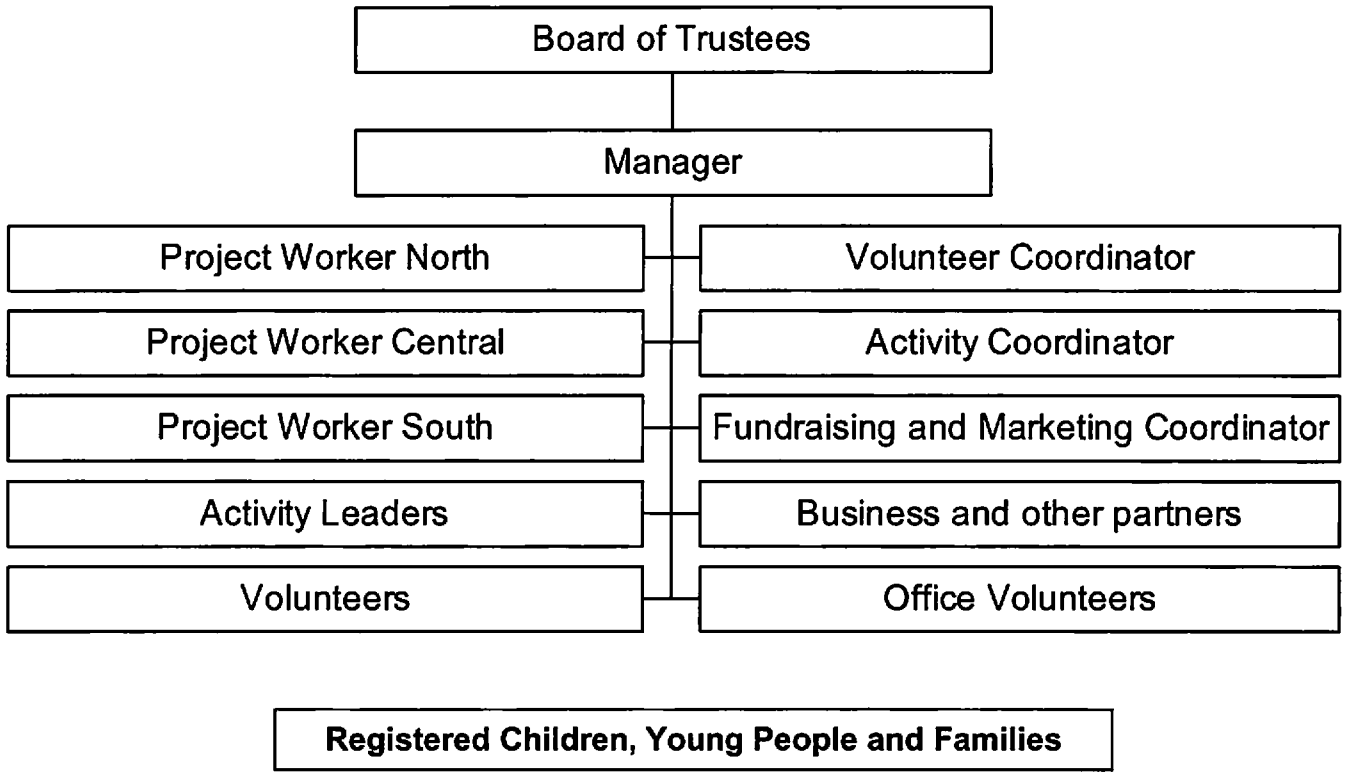
Our Aims

- To establish, promote and develop mainstream leisure and friendship opportunities for children and young people with physical, sensory and learning disabilities aged between five and twenty-one years within Cheshire East.
- To raise awareness about disability issues and the importance of equality and inclusion.

Our Objectives

- To enable disabled children and young people to have access to and participate in everyday leisure activities.
- To create opportunities for disabled children and young people to develop friendships.
- To support young volunteers to develop and maintain positive, supporting friendships with disabled children and young people.
- To provide a flexible and individual service responding to the needs and aspirations of disabled children and young people.
- To consult with disabled children, young people, parents and carers and promote their needs to providers of leisure activities.
- To ensure that our focus is always the leisure needs of the disabled young person.

Friends for Leisure Organisation Chart



The Trustees and Staff at Friends for Leisure
April 2019 to March 2020

Trustees

Paul Walker (Chairman)
Mel Stockdale
David Powell
John Wilde
Charles Booth
Tim Slater (from 1/12/2020)

Staff & Office Support

Gillian Jones	F/T Manager
Maggie Readman	P/T Project Worker
Lisa Nixon	P/T Project Worker
Frankie Goodwin	P/T Project Worker
Hannah Guthrie	F/T Activity Coordinator
Lizzie Fry	F/T Volunteer Coordinator
Claire Addis	P/T Fundraising & Marketing Coordinator
Sue Bowden	Activity Leader
Jo Stokes	Activity Leader
Maria Potter	Activity Leader
Lesley Ingham	Activity Leader
Tess Hulme	Activity Leader
Cathy Florentine	Activity Leader
Pam Carey	Volunteer Treasurer
Claire Hodkinson	Volunteer Office Assistant
Barry Wilson	Volunteer Office Assistant
Chris Jones	Volunteer Office assistant

Independent Examiner

Kime O'Brien, Macclesfield. (Accountants)

Strategic Information

The trustees are its directors and carry an executive responsibility for the prudent, legal, and ethical running of the charity. Because of these responsibilities, an understanding of the structure and ethos of Friends for Leisure is required. This may be gained by involvement in the day-to-day operations of FFL, attending and observing trustee meetings, understanding the legal requirements and demands placed upon trustees and fully comprehending the underlying ethos of the charity.

Initial and refresher training in charity management is available to new and existing trustees to enable them to gain the necessary skills to perform the task effectively.

Trustees have to be nominated and voted into post at the AGM and a third of trustees must step down each year in rotation and offer themselves for re-election should they wish to do so.

The aim is to strive for a balanced and broad spectrum of skills and experience with representation from all sectors of the charity. Professionally qualified trustees are preferred to cover the financial and legal roles. Although not subject to full audit, annual accounts and reports are professionally reviewed to ensure compliance with Charity Commission guidelines.

Friends for Leisure has a robust recruitment procedure in place whereby all staff and volunteers are subject to an appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check. Unsupervised contact with children and young people is not permitted until the report is received. We also require submission of two references and all trustees, paid staff and volunteers are required to sign the FFL Confidentiality Statement upon joining the organisation.

FFL continues to operate under the Every Child Matters framework and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 (a guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children).

The trustees of Friends for Leisure are responsible for ensuring that those who benefit from or working with the charity are not harmed in any way through contact with it. Disabled children and young adults may be more vulnerable to abuse and neglect than their non-disabled peers.

Friends for Leisure's safeguarding policies and procedures are designed to promote children's safety and welfare in relation to their contact with the charity. We assess and manage risks, including the following areas:

- Protection of children & vulnerable adults
- Assessment of children and young people
- Planning and assessment of activities
- Photography
- Medication
- Bullying
- Social media
- Physical and emotional abuse
- Neglect
- Child Sexual Exploitation and Child Criminal Exploitation
- Domestic abuse
- Extremism
- Modern slavery

The charity is committed to the inter-agency approach set out in Working Together to Safeguard Children. This statutory guidance sets out how organisations and individuals should work together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and how practitioners should conduct the assessment of children

Guidelines produced by the Charity Commission recommend that charities maintain a level of financial reserves and advise that a reserves policy is implemented to explain and justify their agreed reserves level. The trustees have approved a reserves policy. This takes into account the need to cover fluctuations in income, current and longer-term liabilities, committed expenditure and restricted funding. For this purpose, an amount equating to six months' running costs of the charity has been considered to be an appropriate and prudent minimum position and is consistent with similar organisations.

The trustees formally declare that there are no serious incidents (or other matters relating to the charity) that should be brought to the attention of the Charities Commission, that have not been reported.

FFL's strategic direction statement is reviewed on a quarterly basis and is included at Appendix 2 of this report.

Friends for Leisure is extremely grateful to the following individuals and organisations for their generous support during the year.

Thank you also to those people who have undertaken sponsored events, made regular donations by standing order, and those who have Friends for Leisure collection boxes at home.

Amazon Smile donors
APEM Limited
Mr Ian Bradley
Mr Mrs P Carmichael
Mr Matt Dwire
In memory of the late Norah Farrington
Franklyn Financial Management
Miss E Fry
Mr Mrs M Henderson
Mrs J F Jenkins
Mr Chris Jones
Keele University Nursing Students
Mrs L Kershaw
Macclesfield College
In memory of the late Ian Moncur
Rotary Club of Congleton Swimathon
Mr W Sequiera
Mr R Shaw
Miss G Stockdale
UNITE Union
West Park Drive COOP
Mr J Wilde
Mr B Wilson
Youth in Action

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE

A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

COMPANY REGISTERED NUMBER 3508369

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1068991

THESE ACCOUNTS FORM APPENDIX 1 TO THE FULL ANNUAL REPORT

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
COMPANY INFORMATION

COMPANY NUMBER	3508369
CHARITY NUMBER	1068991
DIRECTORS	M Stockdale P Walker J Wilde D Powell C Booth T Slater - appointed 1 December 2020
REGISTERED OFFICE	Albert Chambers Canal Street Congleton Cheshire CW12 4AA

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
TRUSTEES REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

The directors present their report and the financial statement for the year ended 31st March 2021

After three years developing under the umbrella of Macclesfield District CVS, Friends for Leisure became a company limited by guarantee on 11th February 1998 and a registered charity on 1st April 1998.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITY

The main focus of Friends for Leisure is to promote opportunities for children and young people with disabilities to enjoy friendships and participate in the mainstream leisure activities of their choice by building links with leisure groups and clubs, so that children and young people are able to become fully involved in these integrated activities with Friends for Leisure support.

DIRECTORS

The directors, who are also the trustees, who served during the year were as follows:

M Stockdale
P Walker
J Wilde
D Powell
C Booth
T Slater (appointed 1 December 2020)

SMALL COMPANY PROVISIONS

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions within Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

This report was approved by the board on 24/11/2021 and signed on its behalf.

Paul Walker
Chair of Trustees

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

This year has been a difficult year for Friends for Leisure. All charities, small and large have struggled to survive the pandemic. Many have shed staff as a consequence. We have been lucky to retain all of our very special and loyal team.

We again received funding from Cheshire East Council through both their Short Term Breaks programme, and, as with other funders, a COVID specific grant. Other important sources of income have been received from BBC Children in Need, including help from their Next Steps Programme, The Steve Morgan Foundation, St James's Place Foundation, Cheshire Community Foundation (iWill Fund), the Russell Trust, the Sobell Foundation, the Albert Hunt Trust, the CAF Emergency Fund, the CO-OP Community Fund, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the National Lottery through both their Awards for All scheme and their Community Fund (in partnership with HM Governement), the Tesco Community Fund, the Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust, Leeds Building Society and The Ecclesiastical Charities Trust.

Prism have continued to give IT support which has been invaluable, and Thrive Creative have been a great help with regard to marketing the charity.

The general financial status of the charity remains steady. Income received totalled £176,507 and expenditure amounted to £164,116. This left the charity with unrestricted reserves of £90,572 thus allowing the charity to maintain running costs in accordance with the policy of the charity of about six months. It has been a remarkable effort to maintain the unrestricted funds at this level during a pandemic. Unrestricted funds are there to enable a charity like ours to cope with emergencies, yet we have emerged from the pandemic in similar financial health to when we entered it.

The total number of new young people registered amounted to 14, with 224 young people registered at the year end. As of year-end there were 47 young people on our waiting list for one-to-one friendships. We maintained 15 friendship links, 4 buddy links and 7 virtual links during the year as well as holding 10 link meetings, of which 3 were face to face and 7 were virtual. There were 19 new volunteers joining us during the year. Some of these numbers are clearly down on last year, directly because of the pandemic. Once it is over, we hope to climb back up to the numbers previously achieved.

The staff were remarkable in their speedy response to the issues and restrictions created by the pandemic. Contact was maintained with all families and activities were created online. Happy packs were sent out to our young people, their families, and our volunteers. This was a huge success. We also held parent/carer information sessions and created a virtual befriending programme.

I am proud to say that the charity became 25 years of age on 29th July 2020.Those who created the charity, and worked for it in the early days were fondly remembered, particularly Barry Wilson, without whom the charity would not exist today. It was unfortunate that the celebrations had to be on Facebook, but Hannah and the rest of the staff organised well attended activity sessions throughout the day, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed our birthday, albeit remotely!

As always, our gratitude should be noted to Gillian and the staff for their efforts during a very difficult year.



Paul Walker
Chair of Trustees
08 July 2021

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF
FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021
SET OUT ON PAGES 4 TO 11
CHARITY NUMBER 1068991 COMPANY NUMBER 3508369

We report to the charity trustees on our examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 31 March 2021.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND BASIS OF REPORT

As the charity's trustees of the company (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law), you are responsible for the the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

Having satisfied ourselves that the accounts of the Company are not required to be audited for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, we report in respect of our examination of your charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the 2011 Act"). In carrying out our examination, we have followed the directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS' STATEMENT

We have completed our examination. We confirm that no material matters have come to our attention which gives me cause to believe that:

accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or

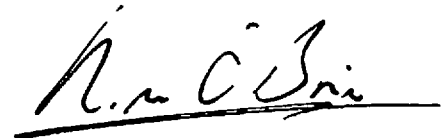
the accounts do not accord with such records; or

the accounts do not comply with relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS102).

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

1 Church Mews
Churchill Way
Macclesfield
Cheshire
SK11 6AY



Kime O'Brien Limited
Chartered Accountants

29 September 2021

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021 Restricted Funds £	2021 Unrestricted Funds £	2021 Total Funds £	2020 Restricted Funds £	2020 Unrestricted Funds £	2020 Total Funds £
Incoming resources							
Donations	3	-	10,047	10,047	-	15,919	15,919
Fundraising	4	-	2,979	2,979	-	5,542	5,542
Provision of service	5	123,898	-	123,898	86,246	-	86,246
Commissioned Income	6	28,673	-	28,673	38,230	-	38,230
Other grants and income	7	3,612	5,074	8,686	-	6,521	6,521
Activity-related income (Subs. etc)		-	955	955	-	9,432	9,432
Interest		-	33	33	-	201	201
Earned income		-	-	-	-	225	225
Gift aid		-	1,236	1,236	-	1,545	1,545
Total incoming resources		156,183	20,324	176,507	124,476	39,385	163,861
Resources expended							
Salaries		102,530	12,854	115,384	85,476	29,026	114,502
Employer National Insurance		3,564	5,255	8,819	914	7,580	8,494
Employer pension contributions	8	1,014	1,107	2,121	-	1,917	1,917
Travel and Subsistance (staff)		299	13	312	2,958	377	3,335
Vol expenditure		884	-	884	3,397	25	3,422
Governance		18	-	18	-	88	88
Training		744	120	864	-	150	150
Recruitment		-	-	-	-	284	284
Activities		2,855	-	2,855	12,418	161	12,579
Emergency Activities (COVID)		2,585	-	2,585	-	-	-
Stationery		174	-	174	228	25	253
Postage		388	5	393	408	254	662
Telecommunication		1,980	-	1,980	1,710	339	2,049
Rent & utilities		7,761	-	7,761	6,649	1,238	7,887
Insurance		1,641	-	1,641	773	850	1,623
Admin.		1,849	-	1,849	1,997	636	2,633
Publicity and Promotion		389	-	389	500	820	1,320
Equipment		1,192	52	1,244	255	60	315
Other expenditure		-	15	15	-	-	-
Parent/Carer information sessions		622	-	622	350	-	350
Total resources expended		130,489	19,421	149,910	118,033	43,830	161,863
Fundraising costs	9	10,482	2,674	13,156	4,879	4,976	9,855
Capital expenditure	10	1,050	-	1,050	-	43	43
Total Costs		142,021	22,095	164,116	122,912	48,849	171,761
Net movement in funds		14,162	(1,771)	12,391	1,564	(9,464)	(7,900)
Total funds brought forward		32,270	92,343	124,613	30,706	101,807	132,513
Total funds carried forward		46,432	90,572	137,004	32,270	92,343	124,613

The notes on page 6 to 11 form part of these financial statements.

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
COMPANY NUMBER 3508369 (England & Wales)
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31ST MARCH 2021

		Notes	2021 £	2020 £
CURRENT ASSETS				
Bank accounts:	Deposit account		29,144	29,110
	Current account		107,475	123,271
Debtors		11	385	11
			137,004	152,392
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year		12	-	(27,779)
			137,004	124,613
REPRESENTED BY:				
Restricted funds				
Albert Hunt Trust			860	-
BBC Children in Need			2,016	2,668
BBC Children in Need Next Steps			216	-
British Science Association			82	82
C4C			166	-
Cheshire Community Foundation iWill Fund			233	3,619
Cheshire Community Foundation Main Grant			3,581	-
Cheshire East Council Early Help Grant			-	(2,207)
Cheshire East Council COVID-19 Response & Recovery Grant			834	-
Cheshire Police Safer Communities			224	372
Commissioned Cheshire East			8,897	1,009
Congleton Town Trust			500	-
COOP Community Fund			4,715	2,204
Crewe Town Council			769	2,275
CRH Charitable Trust			-	11,250
Felicity Wilde Charitable Trust			-	419
Garfield Weston Foundation Fund			10,577	-
John Swire 1989 Charitable Trust			-	880
Macclesfield Town Council			-	6
Morrisons Foundation			116	-
MOTO in the Community			674	1,169
National Lottery Awards 4 All			1,357	-
National Lottery Community Fund			394	-
New Homes Bonus			-	713
Rotary Club of Wilmslow Dean			295	-
Sobell Foundation			3,894	3,607
Steve Morgan Foundation			1,745	806
Tesco Community Fund			1,006	-
The Russell Trust			2,408	493
True Colours Trust			273	2,905
William Dean Trust			600	-
		13	46,432	32,270
General Funds		14	90,572	92,343
			137,004	124,613

The directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the requirement to obtain an audit under the provision of Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006. The members have not required the company, under Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006, to obtain an audit for the year ended 31st March 2021. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Acr 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

The accounts have been prepared and delivered in accordance with the special provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

M J Stockdale

M Stockdale
Director
Approved by the Board on 25/11/2021

The notes on page 6 to 11 form part of these financial statement.

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of Preparation of Financial Statements

The accounts have been prepared under the historic cost convention and in accordance with FRS102. The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (as applied to small entities by section 1A of the standard).

Company Status

The charity is a company limited by guarantee. If the charity is dissolved the trustees/members must contribute such sum (not exceeding £10 each) as may be demanded of them towards payment of the debts and liabilities of the charity.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted Funds are 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 are funds set aside by the trustees out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects. Any amounts not utilised are carried forward where the specific purpose or project remains part of the charity's objectives.

Restricted Funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purposes. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund.

Incoming Resources

All incoming resources are recognised once the charity has entitlement to the resources, it is certain that the resources will be received, and the monetary value of incoming resources can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Resources Expended

Resources expended are allocated to the particular activities to which they relate. Governance costs are those incurred in connection with the administration of the charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

The trustees have reviewed the company's fixed asset capitalisation and depreciation policies. Assets such as office equipment are not considered to have any realisable value and the capitalisation thereof only serves to overstate the funds available for the beneficiaries of Friends For Leisure.

Accordingly, these assets have been written off in the year of acquisition.

Taxation

The company is exempt from any corporation tax liability due to its charitable status.

2 EMPLOYEES

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Average number of persons employed by the company	13	13

3 DONATIONS

Donations and legacies received during the year include those from the following:

APEM Limited	Macclesfield College
Mr I Bradley	Mr W Sequiera
Mr M Dwire	Mr R Shaw
In memory of the late Norah Farrington	Miss G Stockdale
Miss E Fry	Unite Union
Mr Mrs MJ Henderson	West Park Drive COOP
Mrs JF Jenkins	Mr J Wilde
Mr C Jones	Mr PB Wilson
Mrs L Kershaw	Youth in Action

4 FUNDRAISING

	2021	2020
	£	£
Includes the following events:		
Handforth Dean Christmas Carols	-	463
Congleton Music Festival	-	337
Congleton Rotary Swimathon	234	-
Sales of donated items	166	148
Waitrose	667	730
Charity Stalls	-	416
Money Boxes	34	251
Congleton Santa Float	-	300
Wilmslow Swimathon	-	527
Tour de France Challenge	-	2,088
2.6 Challenge	1,797	-
Others	81	282
	2,979	5,542
Less fundraising costs	(13,156)	(9,855)
	(10,177)	(4,313)

Fundraising costs includes the costs associated with applying for income beyond the fundraising income noted above, such as grant applications.

5 PROVISION OF SERVICE	2021	2020
	£	£
Includes the following:-		
Albert Hunt Trust	2,000	-
BBC Children in Need	18,324	19,893
BBC Children in Need Next Steps	5,261	-
C4C	300	-
CAF Emergency Fund	995	-
Cheshire Community Foundation COVID Grant	6,048	-
Cheshire Community Foundation iWill Fund	-	5,000
Cheshire Community Foundation Main Grants	7,538	-
CCF/DCMS Community Match Challenge	1,400	-
Cheshire East Council COVID-19 Response & Recovery Grant	1,000	-
Cheshire East Council Early Help Grant	2,707	-
Cheshire East Council New Homes Bonus	-	10,331
Cheshire Police Safer Communities Fund	-	886
Congleton Town Council	264	230
Congleton Town Trust	1,000	-
Co-op Community Fund	2,565	2,307
Crewe Town Council	-	2,350
CRH Charitable Trust	-	15,000
Felicity Wilde Charitable Trust	-	1,000
Garfield Weston Foundation	20,000	-
John Swire 1989 Charitable Foundation	-	5,000
Leeds Building Society Charitable Foundation	-	490
Localgiving and Postcode Community Trust	-	500
Morrisons Foundation	600	-
MOTO in Community Trust	-	2,500
National Lottery Awards 4 All	7,250	-
National Lottery Communtiy Fund	4,875	-
Rotary Club of Wilmslow Dean	295	-
Sobell Foundation	5,000	5,000
St James's Place Foundation	2,500	-
Steve Morgan Foundation	5,527	6,559
Steve Morgan Foundation COVID Emergency Fund	7,436	-
SMF/DCMS Community Match Challenge	17,247	-
Tesco Community Fund	1,166	-
The Russell Trust	2,000	4,000
True Colours Trust	-	5,000
Warburtons Community Grant	-	200
William Dean Trust	600	-
	123,898	86,246

6 COMMISSIONED INCOME	2021	2020
	£	£
Cheshire East Council - Short Breaks for Disabled Children	28,673	38,230
	28,673	38,230

7 OTHER GRANTS AND OTHER INCOME	2021	2020
	£	£
Cheshire Community Foundation President's Award	0	1,200
Congleton Young Peoples Trust Ltd	0	200
Ecclesiastical Charities Trust	1,000	0
HMRC Job Retention Grant	3,612	0
Lee Bakirgian Family Trust	300	0
Leeds Building Society	1,000	0
Marketing & Publicity	324	121
Martyn Bracegirdle Charitable Foundation	500	0
Pennycress Trust	300	0
Royal London Community Matters Fund	0	5,000
Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust	1,250	0
Warburtons COVID Grant	400	0
	8,686	6,521

8 WORKPLACE PENSION

A workplace pension is provided through the SALVUS Master Trust.

9 Fundraising Cost

	2021	2020
	£	£
Marketing and fundraising coordinator	12,628	9,548
Fundraising Expenses	528	307
	13,156	9,855

10 Capital Expenditure

	2021	2020
	£	£
Website Development	1,050	43
	1,050	43

11 Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	385	11

12 Creditors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Pension Fund	-	529
Accruals and deferred income	-	27,250
	-	27,779

13 Movements of Major Funds	At 01/04/20 £	Incoming resources £	Outgoing resources £	At 31/03/21 £
Albert Hunt Trust	-	2,000	(1,140)	860
BBC Children in Need	2,668	18,324	(18,976)	2,016
BBC Children in Need Next Steps	-	5,261	(5,045)	216
British Science Association	82	-	-	82
C4C	-	300	(134)	166
CAF Emergency Fund	-	995	(995)	-
Cheshire Community Foundation COVID Grant	-	6,048	(6,048)	-
Cheshire Community Foundation #i Will Fund	3,619	-	(3,386)	233
Cheshire Communty Foundation Main Grants	-	7,538	(3,957)	3,581
CCF/DCMS Community Match Challenge	-	1,400	(1,400)	-
CEC COVID Response & Recovery Grant	-	1,000	(166)	834
Cheshire East Council Early Help Grant	(2,207)	2,707	(500)	-
Cheshire East Council New Homes Bonus	713	-	(713)	-
Cheshire Police Safer Communities Fund	372	-	(148)	224
Commissioned Cheshire East	1,009	28,673	(20,785)	8,897
Congleton Town Council	-	264	(264)	-
Congleton Town Trust	-	1,000	(500)	500
COOP Community Fund	2,204	2,565	(54)	4,715
Crewe Town Council	2,275	-	(1,506)	769
CRH Charitable Trust	11,250	-	(11,250)	-
Felicity Wilde Charitable Trust	419	-	(419)	-
Garfield Weston Foundation	-	20,000	(9,423)	10,577
HMRC Job Retention Grant	-	3,612	(3,612)	-
John Swire 1989 Charitable Foundation	880	-	(880)	-
Macclesfield Town Council	6	-	(6)	-
Morrisons Foundation	-	600	(484)	116
MOTO in Community Trust	1,169	-	(495)	674
National Lottery Awards 4 All	-	7,250	(5,893)	1,357
National Lottery Community Fund	-	4,875	(4,481)	394
Rotary Club of Wilmslow Dean	-	295	-	295
Sobell Foundation	3,607	5,000	(4,713)	3,894
St James's Place Foundation	-	2,500	(2,500)	-
Steve Morgan Foundation	806	5,527	(4,588)	1,745
Steve Morgan Foundation COVID Emergency Fund	-	7,436	(7,436)	-
SMF/DCMS Community Match Challenge	-	17,247	(17,247)	-
Tesco Community Fund	-	1,166	(160)	1,006
The Russell Trust	493	2,000	(85)	2,408
True Colours Trust	2,905	-	(2,632)	273
William Dean Trust	-	600	-	600
Total restricted funds	32,270	156,183	(142,021)	46,432
Unrestricted	92,343	20,324	(22,095)	90,572
Total Funds	124,613	176,507	(164,116)	137,004

14 GENERAL FUNDS AND RESERVES POLICY

In line with Charities Commission guidelines, the Friends for Leisure Trustees feel it prudent to keep a level of reserve for the charity.

	2021 £	2020 £
General funds show a surplus	90,572	92,343

	2021 £	2020 £
Funding Requirement:		
To cover shortfall 6 months running costs, in event of closing down the charity	85,000	85,000

15 LIMITED LIABILITY AND GUARANTORS

The liability of the members is limited to a guarantee to contribute a maximum of £10 each in the event of the company becoming insolvent.

16 COMMITMENTS AND LEASES

On 1 September 2019 the Charity entered into a lease agreement for office accommodation. The lease will expire on 31 July 2024 and the Charity has the benefit of a break clause, where the lease can be terminated in 1 August 2022. Notice to termintae the lease must be given no later than 31 January 2022. The annual rent is £6,500.

17 OTHER INFORMATION

Friends for Leisure is a private company limited by guarantee and incorporated in England.
Its registered office is:
Albert Chambers
Canal Street
Congleton
Cheshire
CW12 4AA

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
STRATEGIC DIRECTION STATEMENT
2020 - 2021

BUSINESS AREA	OBJECTIVE	FOCUS & PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY	SUCCESS FACTORS	ACHIEVEMENTS BY year ending 31/03/2021
SERVICE PROVISION	Ensure that service provision is reviewed regularly.	**P1.** Maintain equitable spread of service provision across the borough, responding to identified local need.	Trustees & manager	Equitable and appropriate service offer to all registered young people.	**All delivery virtual from March 2020.** **Some face-to-face group activities resumed from the beginning of September when COVID guidance allowed. Virtual sessions continued.** **The 25th anniversary day on 29th July was given over to on-line activities.**
PARTNERSHIP WORKING	Continue to build and develop alliances with relevant organisations across the borough. Build relationships with the business community	**P2.** Identify relevant opportunities for collaborative working; including VCFS organisations and leisure providers. **P2.** Promote FFL within the business community to: • secure funding • recruit apprentice volunteers • connect skills and expertise	All staff and trustees	FFL working with other relevant agencies from all sectors.	**Virtual sessions have been delivered by existing and new partner providers.** **We have continued to maintain a relationship with Franklyn Financial Management.** **We were unable to develop our relationship with MOTO Services in Knutsford due to lockdown, but we hope to revive this when restrictions are lifted.**
RESOURCES	Ensure that physical and human resources are in place. Ensure that numbers and skills of staff are maximised to provide the service.	**P1.** Continuous review of office equipment and other physical resources to enable staff team to carry out their duties. **P1.** Maintain the correct balance of skills within the team to enable professional service provision.	Manager and trustees	FFL service is sustainable and professional.	**Staff worked from home to comply with COVID safety guidance, using Splashtop Business.** **No staff changes during this year.** **On-line staff training has been undertaken.**

Appendix 2

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
STRATEGIC DIRECTION STATEMENT
2020 - 2021

BUSINESS AREA	OBJECTIVE	FOCUS & PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY	SUCCESS FACTORS	ACHIEVEMENTS BY year ending 31/03/2021
FINANCES & FUNDING	Ensure that adequate and sustainable funds are in place, in terms of: • current funding meeting immediate needs • being fully aware of funders' requirements and conditions	**P1.** Undertake rigorous research of funders' individual priorities and changing conditions to inform future applications. **P1.** Improve knowledge of national and local information to prepare for applications.	Trustees, manager and fundraising coordinator	Secure financial future of the charity. Medium- and longer-term funding plans are in place.	**Funders included Sir Jules Thorn Foundation, Albert Hunt Trust, Cheshire East Council, Congleton Town Council, Steve Morgan Foundation, BBC Children in Need, National Lottery Community Fund, DCMS, St. James's Place Foundation, Russell Trust and TESCO.** **Trustees regularly updated on fundraising..** **Contact has been maintained with funders during the year and funding reports have been submitted.** **We have been commissioned by Cheshire East Council to deliver Short Breaks from 1/8/21 for 3 years.**
OUTCOMES	Ensure that YP are given positive social opportunities for fun and friendship. Support families to help their children achieve their potential.	**P1.** Define baselines, outputs and outcomes **P1.** Review and refresh evaluation systems to demonstrate impact for YP, volunteers and families. Ensure that outcomes reflect: • Ethos of FFL • Requirements of funders • CEC young people's plan and national priorities.	All staff. Involve parents, children and other relevant agencies.	YP and families report improved outcomes. Staff fully aware of evaluation process. Funders satisfied with evidence provided.	**During lockdown 1100 happy packs were sent out to young people, volunteers, and parents/carers.** **Project workers have been undertaking reviews with families and it has become apparent that many people have struggled with mental ill-health. Safeguarding issues have also been reported.** **An on-line survey was set up to measure the impact of services during lockdown. The feedback has been very positive.**

Appendix 2

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
STRATEGIC DIRECTION STATEMENT
2020 - 2021

BUSINESS AREA	OBJECTIVE	FOCUS & PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY	SUCCESS FACTORS	ACHIEVEMENTS BY year ending 31/03/2021
PARTICIPATION OF SERVICE USERS	Ensure that children & YP participate in the strategic and operational planning, development and monitoring of services	**P1.** Ensure that: • Parents/carers are represented on the board of trustees • Families are kept informed of changes within the organisation • Designated trustee works with staff team to identify good practice	Chair of trustees All staff and trustees Designated trustee	YP and families are participating in the strategic planning and implementation of FFL's services.	**Young people have been asked to suggest activities – both virtual and face-to-face.** **Contact has been made with all volunteers and families during lockdown. We have been surprised to discover how many families do not respond to e-mails, so, where necessary, contact has been made by telephone or post.**
INFORMATION AND ADVICE	Promote information and advice that is accessible and appropriate. Signpost/refer families to other appropriate services.	**P2.** Make sure that information held by FFL is up-to-date. **P2.** Review the means by which families are kept informed.	All Manager and marketing co-ord.	Robust system of relevant and current information and guidance.	**Information about relevant services has been included in all Happy Packs. We have also signposted families to appropriate counselling services where appropriate.**
AWARENESS	Develop training services to improve awareness of disability issues and promote inclusion.	**P1.** Establish links with schools and colleges to promote the sale of training services. **P2.** Support leisure and play providers to promote integration and inclusion.	Manager, Activity co-ordinator & designated trustee.	Using education to: promote integration; challenge physical and attitudinal barriers to inclusion; celebrate diversity;	**Schools and colleges have not allowed visitors.**

Appendix 2

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
STRATEGIC DIRECTION STATEMENT
2020 - 2021

BUSINESS AREA	OBJECTIVE	FOCUS & PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY	SUCCESS FACTORS	ACHIEVEMENTS BY year ending 31/03/2021
TRAINING	Ensure that staff, volunteers and trustees are trained appropriately.	**P2.** All staff to identify relevant training needs. **P2.** Trustees to access relevant training and development opportunities **P2.** Volunteer training programme is maintained.	Manager & staff Trustees Volunteer co-ord.	All staff, volunteers and trustees are competent and confident in their roles.	**Staff have undertaken on-line training in:** • **safeguarding,** • **volunteer management and leadership,** • **digital safeguarding,** • **positions of trust,** • **county criminal exploitation,** • **sexual imagery.** **Safeguarding training has been provided for volunteers via the Cheshire East on-line Learning Lounge.**
VOLUNTEERS	Ensure that volunteers are recruited, trained, mentored, supported and valued.	**P1.** Demonstrate the impact of volunteering on: • Volunteers • FFL	Manager and Volunteer Co-ord.	Volunteers are retained and valued Evaluation will inform future funding bids and demonstrate positive outcomes to funders.	**Volunteer recruitment was virtual, with Lizzie taking part in Zoom sessions. Charles and Lizzie developed a range of videos for this.** **Many school and college students had to concentrate on their education because of COVID restrictions.** **A virtual befriending scheme was piloted, where volunteers do not have to live in the same are as the young people. Facebook adverts were used to seek applications. Interviews, inductions, and training were held via Zoom.**

Appendix 2

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
STRATEGIC DIRECTION STATEMENT
2020 - 2021

BUSINESS AREA	OBJECTIVE	FOCUS & PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY	SUCCESS FACTORS	ACHIEVEMENTS BY year ending 31/03/2021
MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS	Ensure that FFL is promoted positively at a strategic and local level. Make better use of social media.	**P1.** Promote FFL in a positive way across the borough. **P1.** Each trustee to develop a marketing/PR strategy to promote the charity **P1.** All staff to seek out and attend relevant networking/PR opportunities	Trustees and staff	FFL is recognised across Cheshire East by all relevant stakeholders	**Closed Facebook pages for young people and parents/carers used extensively during this year.** **There were few opportunities to promote the charity because of COVID restrictions.**
SAFEGUARDING	Ensure that culture, policies, procedures and practice have a clear focus on effective safeguarding.	**P1.** Regular reviews of activities, risk assessments, policy and procedures. **P1.** Ensure that providers comply with FFL policy. **P1.** Ensure that staff, volunteers and trustees are adequately trained and have up-to-date guidance relating to safeguarding. **P1.** Maintain relevant professional links and networks to ensure that FFL stays up-to-date with national and local safeguarding policy.	All staff & trustees Manager	Parents/carers are confident in FFL's ability to keep their child safe.	**The activity risk assessment policy has been revised.** **As we have resumed face-to-face sessions, COVID-safety risk assessments have been carried out; especially in relation to office working and activity venues.**

Appendix 2

FRIENDS FOR LEISURE
STRATEGIC DIRECTION STATEMENT
2020 - 2021

BUSINESS AREA	OBJECTIVE	FOCUS & PRIORITY	RESPONSIBILITY	SUCCESS FACTORS	ACHIEVEMENTS BY year ending 31/03/2021
RISK MANAGEMENT	Ensure that a process is in place to identify monitor and manage potential risks in order to minimize the negative impact they may have on FFL.	**P1.** Draw up a risk register and consult with staff and trustees on content. **P1.** Ensure that the risk register is a working document.	Manager All staff & trustees	FFL can identify which risks pose the biggest threat and there are guidelines for handling them.	**The risk register is a working document and is reviewed regularly.**
COVID-19 RESPONSE	Ensure that the charity's response complies with all Government guidance and that the safety of young people, volunteers and staff is considered. Ensure that funds are secured to enable continuity of service – in whatever format is appropriate.	**P1.** Involve staff and trustees in the return to work risk assessment. Ensure that it is incorporated into all working practices. **P1.** Adapt working practices in areas where face-to-face delivery is no longer possible/practicable. **P1.** Research all potential funding sources.	Manager, trustees and staff Manager and staff Fundraising coordinator and trustees.		**The COVID return-to-work risk assessment is reviewed regularly with the trustees and staff team.** **Virtual delivery has continued in order to maintain COVID-safety.** **As we have resumed face-to-face sessions, COVID-safety risk assessments have been carried out, especially in relation to venues.** **Trustees were tasked with researching funding opportunities, including corporate sponsorship.** **Claire applied for funds to cover salaries and core costs. This protected unrestricted reserves.** **Staff meetings and trustee meetings continue to be held via Zoom.**

Appendix 2