



Accessible Arts & Media

(A company limited by guarantee with charitable status)

Impact Report and Unaudited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025



Registered number: 03500128 (England & Wales)

Registered Charity Number: 1072902

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Accessible Arts & Media

Impact Report for year ending 31st March 2025

1 Introduction

Accessible Arts & Media (AAM) has been running arts and creative media learning projects in and around York since 1982. We believe that everyone can learn, everyone can be creative, and everyone can play a part in their local community, they just need the right support. We help people develop the skills and confidence to connect with their local community and have more of a say in the things that matter to them. And everyone has a lot of fun along the way!

Vision



Our vision is for an inclusive society. We level the playing field so everyone's given the best chance to shine.

Mission



We run a vibrant range of accessible, inclusive, high-quality, and affordable projects, from singing and signing choirs and sensory movement sessions to accessible music making groups and one-to-one creative and therapeutic sensory sessions. Our user-led projects help people find their voice and develop the confidence to use it. And they support people's wellbeing by helping them feel happy, connected and valued.



Camaraderie, collaboration, and community spirit are at the heart of everything we do. We bring our own brand of humour and a lively sense of fun to the serious business of supporting people to achieve their aspirations.



We work with disabled adults and young people, older people, people with mental ill-health and community groups across York and more widely. You'll find us delivering workshops in schools, businesses and community centres and putting smiles on faces by performing in venues from concert halls to our local supermarket. We make sure our work, knowledge and expertise have a wider impact through strong local, regional, and national networks and partnerships and the creation of learning resources.



We're experts in creating a caring environment where everyone's supported to take part in the way that suits them best. It's a space where you can be yourself. By providing tailored opportunities for personal development and learning, our projects push boundaries and challenge stereotypes around what people can achieve.

We're registered with the Information Commissioners Office and the Fundraising Regulator, reinforcing our commitment to best practice in data management and ethical fundraising. And we're accredited as a Living Wage Employer because we believe in paying a true living wage.

2 Achievements and Performance

After a successful year in 2023-24 building back from the pandemic, and with our co-founder and Creative Director Rose Kemp retiring at the end of the year, 2024-25 was focussed on consolidation, stability and continuity, and setting the foundations for the next chapter at Accessible Arts & Media (AAM).

We carried out consultations with adults and young people to understand gaps in current provision. We also explored how we can work better with a wide range of partners in the learning disability, cultural, mental health and youth sectors, to reduce and remove barriers to access and develop new activities in response to local need.

We moved premises, relocating to Clifton Explore in August 2024. Clifton Explore is a new library and community hub serving Clifton Ward, the city's 2nd most deprived Ward. As well as basing our offices at Explore, this has given us our own activity spaces and a sensory room. This creates opportunities for us to move to a more venue-based delivery model and expand our programmes from 2025 onwards.

We successfully recruited Chris Farrell as our new CEO, who joined us at the start of April 2025. With a wealth of experience within the charitable sector, especially charities working with in the health and wellbeing sector, Chris brings a new perspective to AAM. Over the coming year he will be developing a new Business Plan, alongside introducing new business processes and financial controls to improve capacity and resilience within the organisation.

All of this involved a considerable amount of change, with some programmes paused for part of the year to enable the team to manage this process. But it sees us start 2025-26 ready to thrive in an external environment that remains an ongoing challenge.

2.1 Headline Figures for 2024-25

Regular Project Activities



We supported **136 core participants** in regular creative learning and wellbeing activities



We delivered **232 regular** activity sessions



We created **639 hours** of paid employment opportunities for freelance artists

Volunteers



43 fabulous people volunteered with us



They collectively gave **682** hours of their time



Volunteers' contribution was worth **£8,593***

* calculated using the Real Living Wage of £12.60 per hour

Community Outreach



We engaged a further **424** participants and professionals in outreach workshops



We delivered **11** outreach, training and practice sharing sessions in the community



We supported **10 Trainees** (IMPs and Hands & Voices members) to plan and lead workshops for **six** organisations

Performances



We staged **6** performances, where adults and young people with learning disabilities took centre stage



We reached **2,303** people as audience members

Learning Resources



850 people accessed our free learning resources via our website

Digital Engagement



Our social media posts reached **2,531** accounts and received **298** engagements every month.

Partnerships



We worked with **46** partners across the education, cultural, voluntary, health, social care and business sectors.



We received pro bono support from professionals and businesses worth **£798**

2.2 Participant and Supporter Feedback

104 adults and **32 children and young people** took part in our weekly group sessions last year. We asked them to reflect on the difference taking part has made:

100%

told us taking part makes them feel happy

100%

told us they enjoy meeting and spending time with other people

100%

said we listen to their ideas and they have a say in what happens

95%

told us they've got better at music this year

84%

told us taking part has helped them feel more confident

When we asked them what their favourite thing about our projects is, they told us:

I love helping with workshops!

Singing and being with other people like me

Being with all my friends

Joining in with the singing and signing because I can't speak or sing the words

When we spoke to participants' carers and supporters:

75% strongly agreed
and **13% agreed** that

taking part helps the person
they support be more
confident and independent

“She’s developed so much more confidence since joining - to see her help deliver a session at York university was amazing!”

12% gave a neutral response

63% strongly agreed
and **37% agreed** that

taking part is important for participants' **wellbeing**

“We see the happiness S gets from taking part and meeting other people”

63% strongly agreed and 37% agreed that

taking part helps the
person they support
develop their
communication skills

“M struggles to communicate in full sentences and with enough volume and confidence. Hands & Voices helps practise these skills”

50% strongly agreed and 50% agreed that

taking part helps the person
they support **build positive
relationships**

“She finds it hard to engage with others and build friendships groups so your sessions are brilliant to help do this”

We asked everyone to tell us the three words they'd use to describe our sessions, and this is what they told us (the larger the word, the more times it was given as a response):



2.3 Organisational Development

We've developed the following areas in 2024-25.

Governance:

- We completed a Board Skills Audit, ensuring we have the right mix of skills and experience within our Trustees. This audit will inform the recruitment of new Trustees in 2025-26.
- Our Board signed off our Inclusion, Diversity, Equality and Access (IDEA) Policy as well as reviewing our Risk Management, Reserves and Recruitment policies.

Financial Management:

- We reviewed our financial management systems and accounting practices, moving to new cloud-based accounting software to give us greater transparency and efficiency.

Staff Development:

- We supplemented our in-house training in safeguarding, accessible communication and impact measurement with external training in finance, business processes, safeguarding, sign supported communication, First Aid, Mental Health First Aid, evaluation, and inclusive music-making.

Fundraising:

We're very grateful to all the individuals and organisations who've supported our work by fundraising for and donating to AAM this year. Highlights include:

- Pool Bridge Farm organised 'Pool Bridge Has Talent' event (complete with X-Factor style judges and some brilliant performances from the Pool Bridge community) and raised £1,115 for AAM.
- We received a generous donation of £600 from long-time friends of AAM The Gateway Club.
- Students at Bootham School raised an AAM-azing £330 by running a New York-themed cafe during their run of Fame - the Musical!
- The Euphonics Ladies Choir raised £156 for AAM by holding a raffle at their Christmas concert, thank you!
- Members of Hands & Voices, IMPs and Movers & Shakers raised £1,297 in two busking performances.
- Long-time supporters JNJS Classic Soul raised £690 for AAM at one of their fantastic soul nights.
- Hands & Voices member Chelsea raised £304 for AAM by making and selling fabulous Christmas sweet treats.
- We're very grateful to the family of Ruth Kent, a long-term supporter of AAM who sadly passed away in March. Her family collected donations to AAM in memory of Ruth and raised £672.
- Our brilliant Social & Events Group, made up of project participants, supporters and volunteers, raised £543 by organising cafes at two of our gigs (with some very tasty cakes!)

2.4 Programme Outcomes

The people who take part in our programmes often face difficulty with everyday activities and can end up feeling isolated and cut off. The ongoing development of our projects focuses on supporting their wellbeing by helping them:

- learn new skills they can transfer to other parts of their lives, including education, training and employment;
- explore and connect with the world around them, in a safe, supportive, fun environment;
- learn to work and communicate with other people, making new friends along the way;
- grow the confidence to have more of a say in the things that matter to them;
- contribute to their local community through workshops and performances;
- feel happy, valued and connected.

Here are a few examples of what our amazing participants have achieved over the last year.

2.4.1 Developing Communication Skills

Communication's at the heart of all our projects.

We train our team in Total Communication, an approach that values and uses all means of communication equally. For some people, this might be speech and signing, others might use voice tone, body language and facial expression. For others it might be using pictures, or making a choice using objects. We also train our team in Intensive Interaction. It's a communication method focused on developing fundamental communication skills through playful, responsive interactions, emphasizing shared enjoyment and two-way communication.

Using Total Communication and Intensive Interaction ensures our participants can all express ideas, opinions and choices. It means they can all have a say in how their projects develop, and feel respected, heard and valued.

In **Movers and Shakers**, participants develop communication skills that might be considered a small development but actually represent big milestones.

Meet Ellie:

Ellie attends our weekly Movers & Shakers sessions. She's non-verbal, with limited communication. She communicates through facial expression and physical choices. Ellie regularly attends Movers and Shakers, and when she first started coming, she would often sit clasping her toy in both hands with her head down and often with her eyes closed.
ext



Through attending Movers and Shakers, Ellie's now more communicative, using eye contact, body language and facial expressions. Rather than continually looking at her hands, Ellie now holds her head up for an increasing length of time, watching other participants as they arrive (Ellie's way of say hello), She focusses on individuals as they sing or dance and sometimes smiles at the facilitator as she arrives at sessions.

Ellie has also increased her level of engagement with different activities. Two years ago, she wouldn't hold anything other than the toy she always carried with her; however, this year she's started to make active choices to hold and play different musical instruments.

Ellie has shown her ability to choose between different instruments, to reach out her hand to take a beater to hold, and to play one of the touch-tone bells. This represents big developments.

2.4.2 Developing Musical Skills and Confidence

Our IMPs programme, Inclusive Music Projects, is for young people with disabilities. Like all our project, our Senior IMPs group, for young people aged 11+, is user-led - they tell us what they'd like to do, and we try and do it!

The group have enjoyed choosing their favourite songs to play as a band this year. They've each specialised in their chosen musical instrument, which have included accessible apps on the iPad, keyboard, singing and signing and some ukulele.

They also love writing songs, and were even asked by our friends at York Theatre Royal to write them a song for their show.

Meet Jess:



Jess is a long-standing member of Senior IMPs and has always enjoyed music. She loves singing her favourite pop songs and has a strong and steady sense of rhythm.

Over the last year at IMPs, Jess has chosen to develop her keyboard skills as her specialist instrument. She's learnt melodies and harmonies for cover songs, and also improvises with the group and creates her own tunes in jams. Jess's improvement has been incredible!

At the beginning of the year, Jess would tend to repeat a few musical phrases that she knew whenever she went to the keyboard. She's now able to play a much wider range of music, including passages that require much greater skills of memory and technique. She's also able to respond creatively to musical ideas presented by other members of the group by finding new melodies and harmonies that fit with their ideas.

Jess confidently identifies herself as a keyboard player, but is also now able to share the keyboard with other people, and try new instruments herself – something that was extremely difficult for her at the beginning of the year. Her musical memory, technical skill, confidence and ability to work independently have grown enormously throughout the year. What a superstar!

2.4.3 Developing Leadership Skills

We believe everyone should have the chance to shine. One way we do this is through giving our amazing participants centre stage and supporting them to lead activities, workshops and events.

Working with the AAM team, participants learn how to be workshop leaders. They learn the skills needed to facilitate a music workshop, including planning, communication, adapting your style and the workshop content for different groups and how to break down activities into bite-sized chunks.

They plan the workshop alongside the facilitator. They discuss who the workshop's for and choose what warm-ups to do, songs and activities to include. They then evaluate the workshop afterwards. They talk about what went well, how the workshop audience engaged, and what they'd do differently if they were to repeat the workshop.

Our trainee workshop leaders are incredible. They rarely get phased, no matter who the audience in front of them is. In workshops, they're the experts sharing their skills. This has a huge impact on both their self-esteem and on the workshop participants and their perception of people with learning disabilities.

Meet D:

D's a fabulous leader, across several of our projects. He's a member of Senior IMPs, he's volunteered at Movers and Shakers and he's part of our Socials and Events Group (participants, supporters and volunteers who help us plan and deliver gigs and fundraising events).



D has cerebral palsy and learning disabilities, which causes him to have selective mutism. Through taking part in our projects, he's gained confidence in speaking out. He now confidently conveys his ideas for project activities and is great at giving us feedback on how sessions have gone and how people interacted. New people and places are hard for D to navigate, but he's always one of the first people to volunteer to help deliver a workshop. And he's great at it

This year was no exception. He and Finn taught 100 volunteers a warm-up and a song for York CVS' Celebration Day. Not only did D teach the warm-up and song confidently, he also guided Finn – who's less experienced than him – through the workshop.

D kept Finn on track, and AAM staff didn't need to be there - D and Finn could, and did, lead it all themselves!

2.4.4 Building Confidence and New Social Connections

Our projects all place a big emphasis on social interaction.

We make sure our projects are a safe space. Participants can be their true selves, rather than having to put on a mask, which they might feel they have to do in other situations/contexts.

Meeting each week allows participants to get to know each other and form friendships. Performances each term gives them the chance to bring their friends and family together for a dance at our Barn Dance Bash, or to showcase what they've been up to in our Big Spring Showcase.

Regular social activities are held throughout the year, especially in the summer holidays. Our regular sessions take a break over the summer. We run regular social activities so participants have a chance to keep in touch with their friends, try something new and reduce any anxieties they might have about returning to project routines after a break.

Meet Chelsea:



Chelsea is one of the newest members of our Hands and Voices choir, joining us in September 2024.

When Chelsea's Mum first got in touch with us, she mentioned that she has anxiety and depression alongside her other disabilities and 'she may not speak to anyone directly to begin with and eye contact is unusual but she communicates verbally'.

When Chelsea started, she wasn't confident speaking to anyone but her Mum. She kept her head down and didn't make eye contact with anyone. Fast forward a few months and Chelsea is a different person!

Initially, Chelsea started to chat more with Hannah and Anna, our Hands and Voices facilitators. Then she started to speak out in front of the whole choir about a fundraising event she'd done for Hands and Voices.

New places and faces are a real challenge for Chelsea. But because of the kindness of the other Hands and Voices members, and the routine and stability the group has provided, she felt able to come to her first performance, which was our Barn Dance in October.

It was a new building for her, an unknown structure of a performance and a big audience, and she smashed it - she got up and performed and was brilliant! She gained so much confidence that she wanted to become a workshop leader.

She led her first workshop in March at The University of York, for postgraduate students studying Community Music. She was confident, speaking loudly and clearly, giving eye contact, and even joking with Jodie, our Project Assistant, in front of the group of students. The students who took part gave Chelsea really positive feedback, including: “I really loved the insights you offered and was really pleased you shared your experiences”, “You did really great!” and “Supercalifragilistic!”.

Safe to say, this won't be the last workshop Chelsea leads!

Through Hands and Voices, Chelsea has become a confident and social member of the group. She'll now happily say hello and have conversations with other members, and will often joke about with the facilitators (she's great at keeping us on our toes!!)

2.4.5 Reducing Stress and Anxiety

At the start of 2025, we were able to reintroduce our iMUSE programme in its own dedicated sensory room at our new home at Clifton Explore.

iMUSE provides a safe, relaxing and creative space where people can connect with the world around them and take control of their wellbeing. It's a 1-to-1 therapeutic multi-sensory experience, aimed at reducing anxiety and stress levels.

What this means for Carrie:

We were blown away earlier in the year when Carrie, one of our iMUSE participants, presented us with a collage she created to bring to life what iMUSE means to her. She tells us **“It's like I have control... It's easier to be myself for a bit”**, and what a wonderful way to express this!



3 Future Plans

Priorities for 2025-26 include:

- Reviewing our three-year ambition and business plan in line with the needs identified in the consultations we completed in 2024-25.
- Recruiting new Trustees to further strengthen our Board.
- Building our Community Engagement programme and working with partners to ensure all those who might benefit from our support know about us and can access it.
- Building our stakeholder engagement through our work with the NHS, City of York Council, the Combined Authority and providers across the region to align our services with priorities in health and social care.
- Fundraising for the expansion of our sensory programme.
- Continuing to expand our facilities at Clifton Explore through securing funds to fit sensory sound and light equipment in our breakout room.
- Improving access and inclusion by fitting a ceiling hoist in our iMUSE room.

Accessible Arts & Media

Report of the Trustees and Unaudited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

The Board of Trustees, who are also Directors of the charity for the purpose of the Companies Act 2006, present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025. The financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities, Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2015).

1 Structure, Governance and Management

a) Governing document

Accessible Arts & Media (AAM) is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status, governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 27th January 1998. In the event of the charity being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 and any assets left over must be given to another similar group.

b) Appointment of trustees

The directors of the company are also trustees of the charity. Under the requirement of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, trustees can be voted onto the board at trustee meetings and members of the organisation can be elected as trustees.

c) Trustee induction and training

New trustees are inducted into the charity, including: their legal obligations under charity and company law, the content of the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the committee and decision-making processes, the business plan and recent financial performance of the charity. During the induction they will have an opportunity to meet key employees and other trustees and to visit project sessions. They are also encouraged to attend appropriate external training events in order to develop their role.

d) Organisation

Trustees meet a minimum of four times a year, with a Finance and Risk sub-group meeting between full Board meetings. AAM is not a 'membership' charity in the legal sense of the word.

A Creative Director is appointed by the trustees to manage the day-to-day operations of the charity. To ensure the effective running of AAM, the Creative Director has delegated authority, within the terms of delegation approved by the trustees, for operational matters including finance, employment and artistic programming.

With the retirement of the long term Creative Director at the end of the financial year, from 1st April 2025 AAM will be led by our new Chief Executive.

2 Trustees' Financial Review for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

a) Financial Summary

The 2024-25 financial year continued to be one of consolidation as we navigated our way through the ongoing cost of living crisis, challenging economic climate, and the resulting impact on both our participants and our operating costs.

We closed the year with a £10,424 deficit compared to a £5 surplus the previous year. This was almost entirely linked to non-recurrent recruitment costs.

We're holding £58,642 in reserve at the close of the year of which £33,000 has been designated for managed closure costs leaving £25,642 free reserve.

The Finance Sub-Group met quarterly to monitor and mitigate any financial risk and adjust budgets and forecasts accordingly and Trustees were reassured that the charity managed to deliver a solid performance, with income and expenditure broadly in line, despite the continued challenging external landscape.

Grant funding (from trusts and foundations, Lottery and public funds) continued to be our main source of income. Given the competition for funding from these sources, we saw a slight decrease in this area, with total income achieved at £146,351. However, feedback from unsuccessful bids has highlighted the volume of applications funders are receiving, rather than raising any concerns about the quality of our application. And we were reassured a number of our key funders confirmed they would continue to be willing to consider multi-year requests.

Earned income increased by 32%, from £10,465 to £13,800. This was a particular success, given that a number of programmes were put on hold due to funding and the move to Clifton Explore .

With 'A Night to Remember' - our biggest community fundraising event for a number of years - moving to a biannual basis, we saw a fall in Community Fundraising income from £13,200 to £5,465. A Night to Remember returns in 2025 and AAM has been confirmed as one of the beneficiary charities. Further community fundraising activities confirmed for 2025-26 include an English Channel Swim by the brother of one of our longstanding participants and a Yorkshire 3 Peaks challenge, taken on by a team of staff, supporters and volunteers.

In line with our recognition of income policy, £69,250 of income from donations and grants has been removed from 2024-25 and will be charged back in 2025-26. This is because donors have specified the grant is to be spent in a future accounting period or when the pre-conditions of the grant have been met.

b) Raising Funds

AAM's primary fundraising activity consists of grant applications to private trusts and foundations and Lottery funders, written by our Creative Director, Development Manager and Programme Manager. We're very grateful to the individuals and organisations who raised funds for AAM this year. And we're equally indebted to the individuals who make regular and one-off donations to support our work. We stage our own AAM fundraising events and activities, with 'Lets Party' in March 2025, to mark the retirement of our Creative Director, a highlight of the year.

AAM is registered with the Fundraising Regulator, and we're committed to the standards set out in the Fundraising Code of Practice, reinforcing our commitment to best practice in fundraising. A link to our complaints procedure is included in the fundraising section of our website so members of the public can notify us of any complaints linked to our fundraising. We received no complaints this year and there were no compliance issues in relation to the Fundraising Code of Practice.

This has been another active year for AAM in terms of raising funds. We're particularly indebted to the following organisations and programmes for supporting our work with grants to the sum of £146,351:

Barchester's Charitable Foundation
Benenden Health
The Calmcott Trust
The Charles & Elsie Sykes Trust
City of York Council
CL & JS Cadbury Trust
D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
Edgar E Lawley Foundation
The Feoffees of St Crux
The Feoffees of St Michael's Spurriergate
Garfield Weston Foundation
Green Hall Foundation
Handicapped Children's Action Group
The Igen Trust
The Lilian and Kenneth Harrison Trust
Norman Collinson Charitable Trust
Pavers Foundation
Postcode Neighbourhood Trust
The Purey Cust Trust
Rix Thompson Rothenberg Foundation
The Sylvia & Colin Shepherd Charitable Trust
Two Ridings Community Foundation
Whitwam Family Charitable Foundation
Youth Music

3 Policies and Risk Management

a) Pay policy

The pay of staff is reviewed annually and normally increased in line with average earnings and benchmarked against comparable pay levels in other similar organisations. As an organisation, we are committed to the Real Living Wage and registered as a Living Wage Employer in 2017.

We rolled out Workplace Pensions for all staff in January 2017. Trustees sought external advice before approving employee and employer contributions. Employees contribute 3% of their salary to which AAM adds a further 5%.

b) Investment Powers and Policy

Under the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the Charitable Company has the power to make any investments that the Trustees see fit. However, the Charitable Company did not hold any investments during the year ended 31 March 2025, nor does it have any investment plans for the immediate future.

c) Reserves Policy

It is the Trustees' policy to designate funds to cover planned commitments for future charitable activities and, as far as is possible, for unplanned events. The charity is dependent upon grants, donations, fundraising and earned income to meet expenditure which, as detailed above, is subject to fluctuating economic circumstances. Trustees have therefore noted the importance to AAM of building a reserve from unrestricted sources of income. Trustees also recognise that many supporters only wish to make a direct contribution to project activity costs, as opposed to core running costs and the cost of growing our reserve. Therefore, we will continue to make general fundraising appeals and applications to support the general costs of the organisation, including operating costs, as well as enabling us to make a contribution to our unrestricted reserves thus supporting the future sustainability of the charity.

Trustees recognise the need for different types of Reserves, as follows:

Restricted funds – to hold in reserve funding which has been provided by external organisations or individuals for specific purposes.

Designated funds - to hold in reserve unrestricted income which Trustees have designated for a specific purpose.

Closure Costs - The Board has designated £33k to meet contractual liabilities should the organisation have to close. These include redundancy payments, amounts due to creditors, rents payable and other non-cancellable lease and loan commitments. Trustees would also wish to support beneficiaries in transitioning to other services. Trustees believe that this work would be undertaken by AAM staff during their periods of notice, prior to closure.

Unrestricted Reserves:

- **Other Needs (External Factors):**

- to meet unexpected costs of a material nature such as legal costs or unexpected and substantial non-capital purchases;
- to allow the charity to change or modify its operation to respond to adverse external factors over which AAM has no control.

- **Other Needs (AAM-led):**

- to enable the charity to pursue new funding opportunities where some level of up-front investment is required to be able to secure such funding;
- to pilot new projects which have the potential to lead to viability through external funding;
- to make a capital purchase, including software, that will enable AAM to expand an existing or develop a new project or activity.

The Level of Reserves:

- Regarding **Closure Costs**, Trustees believe it is prudent to hold an unrestricted reserve that would allow the charity to be wound up should the need arise. The level of such reserve will be reviewed annually but is currently set at £45k.
- Regarding **Restricted Funds**, this reserve will always reflect income which has been received for a specific purpose but not yet spent.
- Regarding **Designated Funds**, this reserve is generally received as unrestricted funds then designated by the Board for a specific purpose.
- Regarding **Other Needs (External and AAM-led)**, Trustees will aim to build an unrestricted reserve which would be sufficient to address these objectives. The level of this reserve will be reviewed annually in order that the annual budget can make appropriate provision if it needs increasing.

Our Reserves Policy is reviewed annually. The Finance and Risk sub-group meet quarterly to consider performance against the reserve policy objective and report back at quarterly Board meetings (finance is a standing agenda item), including:

- an assessment of the amount of unrestricted reserve available;
- making recommendations for further improving the level of reserve that AAM currently holds;
- assessment of any potential shortfall now and in the future; and
- reviewing the planned specific fundraising aimed at building an emergency operating reserve in adverse economic conditions.

d) Risk Management

The Trustees have considered the risks affecting the organisation, particularly those concerning the flow of funds to meet the programmes, the importance of key personnel, the extent to which the annual business and strategic development plans change and the management of new risks as they arise and allowing the level of reserve to fall below what is considered prudent.

The Trustees have a risk management strategy that comprises of:

- An annual review of the risks affecting the organisation by the Board, with quarterly reviews by the Finance and Risk Committee;
- The establishment and implementation of policies, systems and procedures to mitigate against those risks identified in the annual review;
- Reserves policy.

4 Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Company law requires the Directors (Trustees) to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company and of the income and expenditure of the company for the year. In preparing those financial statements, the directors (trustees) are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charities SORP;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- State whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue on that basis.

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

Disclosure of information

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

- There is no relevant information of which the Charity's Independent Examiner is unaware;
- The Trustees have taken the necessary steps to be aware of the information which would be relevant for independent examination purposes and have communicated them to the Independent Examiner.

The Trustees have taken advantage of the exemption available to small companies, including the audit exemption (as detailed on the balance sheet).

The Trustees declare that they have approved the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts on XXX and were signed on behalf of the charity's Trustees by:

Signature:



Full name: Lucy Galliard

Position: Chair of Trustees

Date: 22nd August 2025

5 Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Accessible Arts & Media

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Accessible Arts & Media for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

Karen Wood (ACMA)



Outsource independent examination service
The Hiscox Building
Peaseholme Green
York
YO1 7P7

Date: 22nd August 2025

6. Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st March 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
		£	£	£	£
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	8.2.1	73,099	5,600	78,699	42,151
Charitable activities	8.2.2	8,397	94,237	102,634	171,636
Other trading activities	8.2.3	6,890	-	6,890	15,370
Investments	8.2.4	2,106	-	2,106	6,000
		-	-	-	-
Total income	8.2	90,492	99,837	190,329	235,157
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	8.3.1	4,350	12,609	16,959	16,138
Charitable activities	8.3.2	103,961	79,833	183,794	219,014
		-	-	-	-
Total expenditure	8.3	108,311	92,442	200,753	235,152
Net gains/(losses) on investments					
Net income/(expenditure)		(17,819)	7,395	(10,424)	5
Gross transfers between funds		7,395	- 7,395	-	-
Net movement in funds		(10,424)	-	(10,424)	5
Total funds brought forward		69,066	-	69,066	69,061
Total funds carried forward		58,642	-	58,642	69,066

7. Balance Sheet as of 31st March 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	8.6.1	3846	2772
Total Fixed Assets		<u>3846</u>	<u>2772</u>
Current Assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		139032	147892
Debtors & Prepayments	87	60	819
Total Current Assets		<u>139092</u>	<u>148711</u>
Current Liabilities: Amounts falling due within one year			
Creditors and accruals	88	(84296)	(82417)
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		<u>54796</u>	<u>66294</u>
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		<u>58642</u>	<u>69066</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Unrestricted Funds (General)		25642	24066
Unrestricted Funds (Designated)		33000	45000
Restricted Funds		-	-
Total Funds Carried Forward	89	<u>58642</u>	<u>69066</u>

The trustees are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the financial statements for the year by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act.

The directors (trustees) acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- ensuring the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company at the end of each financial year and of its profit and loss for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies and with the 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 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

The financial statements were approved by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Lucy Galliard, Chair of Trustees



8. Notes to the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2025

8.1 Basis of preparation

8.1.1 Basis of accounting

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost convention and the 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 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)).

8.1.2 Change of basis of accounting

All accounting policies (valuation rules and methods of accounting) have remained the same except depreciation. The accounting estimate for depreciation is based on straight line basis.

8.1.3 Change to previous accounts

There have been no changes in the basis for accounting over the year.

Accounting policies

8.2 Income and endowments

Recognition of income

Income from donations and grants is recognised when the charity is entitled to the funds, the receipt is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from donations and grants, is included in Incoming resources when these are receivable, except as follows:

- When donors specify that donations and grants given to the charity must be used in the future accounting periods;
- The income is deferred until those periods when donors impose conditions which have to be fulfilled before the charity becomes entitled to use such income;
- The income is deferred and not included in incoming resources until the pre-conditions for use have been met.

Income from charitable activities is recognised over the period to which the income relates.

Incoming resources with related expenditure

Where incoming resources have related expenditure, the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the charity has evidence of entitlement to the resources and receipt is probable.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

8.3 Expenditure and Liabilities

Expenditure

Expenditure is included in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis.

Raising funds

Cost of raising funds comprise those costs associated with attracting voluntary income.

Charitable activities

Charitable activities expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources.

Assets

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity

All fixed assets except software are depreciated over a 7-year period. Software is depreciated over a 3-year period. Where items that would ordinarily be classed as fixed assets are purchased as part of a grant for a specific project/restricted fund, they are written off over the period of time covered by the grant.

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.

Restricted funds are funds which can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor.

8.4 Expenses & fees

No trustees received a remuneration for services rendered during the year, nor were any trustees' out of pocket expenses reimbursed.

8.4.1 Fees for examination of the accounts

	2025	2024
	£	£
Independent Examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts	600	600

8.5 Staff costs and emoluments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Gross salaries	85,368	115,920
Employers National Insurance	1,389	3,837
Employer's pension Contributions	3,940	3,131
	<u>90,697</u>	<u>122,888</u>
Average number of employees (full time equivalent)	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>

8.6 Fixed assets

8.6.1 Tangible fixed assets

Cost or valuation

	Office Equipment £	Workshop Equipment £	Total £
At 1st April 2024	4,619	7,040	11,659
Additions	-	2,500	2,500
At 31st March 2025	<u>4,619</u>	<u>9,540</u>	<u>14,159</u>

Depreciation

	£	£	£
At 1st April 2024	3,974	4,913	8,887
Charge for the year	645	781	1,426
At 31st March 2025	<u>4,619</u>	<u>5,694</u>	<u>10,313</u>

Net Book Value

	£	£	£
At 31st March 2025	<u>-</u>	<u>3,846</u>	<u>3,846</u>
At 31st March 2024	<u>645</u>	<u>2,127</u>	<u>2,772</u>

8.7 Debtors and prepayments

	2025	2024
	£	£
Debtors and prepayments		
Trade debtors	-	819
Prepaid insurance	60	-
	<u>60</u>	<u>819</u>

8.8 Creditors and accruals	2025	2024
Analysis of creditors falling due within one year	£	£
Trade creditors	11,407	3,761
PAYE & NI	1,106	-
Renson liability	1,841	-
Accrued payroll & expenses	692	600
Deferred income	69,250	78,056
	<u>84,296</u>	<u>82,417</u>

8.9 Movement of funds

8.9.1 Movement of major funds

2025

Fund Name	Balance b/fwd	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Balance c/fwd
Unrestricted Funds (General)					
General Unrestricted funds	24,066	90,492	108,311	19,395	25,642
Designated funds	45,000	-	-	(12,000)	33,000
	<u>69,066</u>	<u>90,492</u>	<u>108,311</u>	<u>7,395</u>	<u>58,642</u>
Restricted Funds					
Hands and Voice	-	33,606	27,497	(6,109)	-
iMUSE (Mental Wellbeing)	-	14,000	5,962	(8,038)	-
Sensory	-	7,270	16,509	9,239	-
Inclusive Music Projects	-	44,961	42,474	(2,487)	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>99,837</u>	<u>92,442</u>	<u>(7,395)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Funds	<u>69,066</u>	<u>190,329</u>	<u>200,753</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,642</u>

Transfer between funds

Designated funds have been reduced by £12,000.

Surplus funds have been transferred from restricted to unrestricted funds to cover core running costs with the donor's permission.

2024

Fund name	Balance b/fwd	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Balance c/fwd
Unrestricted funds (General)					
General unrestricted funds	24,061	52,072	55,699	3,632	24,066
Designated funds	45,000	-	-	-	45,000
	<u>69,061</u>	<u>52,072</u>	<u>55,699</u>	<u>3,632</u>	<u>69,066</u>
Restricted Funds					
Adult (Learning Disability)	-	37,515	44,406	6,891	-
IMPs (York)	-	54,270	47,872	(6,398)	-
iMUSE (Mental Wellbeing)	-	49,844	45,719	(4,125)	-
General running costs	-	41,456	41,456	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>183,085</u>	<u>179,453</u>	<u>(3,632)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Funds	<u><u>69,061</u></u>	<u><u>235,157</u></u>	<u><u>235,152</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>69,066</u></u>

8.9.2 Details of Funds Held

Unrestricted Funds (General)

The General fund is unrestricted and available for the general purposes of the Charity.

Unrestricted Funds (Designated)

The Designated fund is for closure costs

Restricted Funds

The restricted funds are only available for the purposes specified for each fund, which are:

Hands and Voice

A creative programme for local adults with learning disabilities including: Hands & Voices, inclusive singing and signing choir to help adults with communication and learning difficulties communicate through music and performance and Movers & Shakers, a group of learning-disabled adults who like to get together to sing, play, dance, and have fun.

iMUSE (Mental Wellbeing)

A year-round programme of fun, inclusive music activities for disabled and non-disabled children and young people from York and the surrounding area.

Sensory

iMUSE provides a space where people can relax, forget the outside world and feel their stress and anxiety reduce

Inclusive Music Projects

Funding that has been secured to cover our organisational running costs

Net assets between funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2025
Balances at 31st March 2025	£	£	£
Fixed assets	3,846	-	3,846
Current assets	139,092	-	139,092
Current liabilities	(84,296)		(84,296)
	<u>58,642</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>58,642</u>
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024
Balances at 31st March 2024	£	£	£
Fixed assets	2,772	-	2,772
Current assets	148,711	-	148,711
Current liabilities	(82,417)		(82,417)
	<u>69,066</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>69,066</u>

9 Legal and Administrative Information

Incorporated: England 27th January 1998
Registered Company Number: 03500128 (England and Wales)
Registered Charity Number: 1072902

Registered and principal office

Clifton Explore
Rawcliffe Drive
York
YO30 6NS

Trustees

L Corker (resigned 16th August 2024)
L Galliard
E Jones (resigned 10th May 2024)
S Middleton (resigned 26th February 2025)
PMJ Baumann
ME Cross
J Anderton
DC Martin

Company Secretary

Ms R Kent

Independent examiner

Outsource
The Hiscox Building
Peaseholme Green
York
YO1 7P7

Bankers

Virgin Money
10-12 Paragon Street
Hull
HU1 3ND