

CONNECT IN THE NORTH

England & Wales · Charity number 1078829

Details

Other names	THE LEEDS COALITION
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	03127540
Registered	2000-01-10
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Office 45 Sugar Mill Business Park Oakhurst Road Leeds LS11 7HL
Phone	01132703233
Email	info@citn.org.uk
Website	www.citn.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE RELIEF OF PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES WITHIN THE LEEDS METROPOLITAN AREA AND THE NORTH OF ENGLAND

Activities: Connect in the North works to improve services and opportunities for people with learning difficulties. We offer training, research and consultancy.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Disability
- **Who:** People With Disabilities

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** LEEDS METROPOLITAN AREA AND NORTH OF ENGLAND
- Barnsley
- Bradford City
- Calderdale
- City Of Wakefield
- Kirklees
- Leeds City
- Newcastle Upon Tyne City
- North East Lincolnshire
- North Yorkshire
- Rotherham

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£152,653	£166,012	-	-
2024-03-31	£147,780	£141,796	-	-
2023-03-31	£146,796	£138,574	-	-
2022-03-31	£157,360	£138,028	-	-
2021-03-31	£154,149	£145,358	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Kenneth Fletcher		2025-05-16
Robert Stephens		2022-12-06
VICTORIA HILES		

Accounts

Connect in the North

Charity number 1078829

A company limited by guarantee number 03127540

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025



Connect in the North

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025

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Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Connect in the North

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

Name	Position	Dates
Vicky Hiles	Chairperson	
Maisie Hirschhorn		resigned 17 May 2025
Michael Buttery		
Kenny Hendy		resigned 17 May 2025
Robert Stephens	Treasurer	
Kenneth Fletcher		appointed 16 May 2025
Charity number	1078829	Registered in England and Wales
Company number	03127540	Registered in England and Wales
Registered and principal address	Bankers	
Office 45	Co-operative Bank plc	
Sugar Mill Business Park	19/20 Commercial Street	
Oakhurst Road	Leeds	
Leeds	LS1 6AL	
LS11 7HL		

Connect in the North

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2025

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors continued

Independent examiner

Katy Sargeant ACA

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and was formed on 17 November 1995. It is governed by its articles of association last amended by special resolution on 25 June 2019. The liability of the members in the event of the company being wound up is limited to a sum not exceeding £1.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are also the directors for the purposes of company law and are appointed by the members at the AGM.

Connect in the North Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects

The relief of people with learning difficulties within the Leeds Metropolitan area and the North of England.

The charity's main activities

We are a Centre for Inclusive Living led by people with learning difficulties. We work to make things better for people with learning difficulties. We help people with learning difficulties change their own lives through person centred planning. We run training in person centred thinking. We provide an information and signposting services for people with learning difficulties in Leeds.

Public benefit statement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular ensuring that people with learning difficulties have control of their own lives and equal power in the world.

Achievements and performance

All our members and board of directors of Connect in the North are people with a learning disability.

The board of directors listen to its members and want to find out what would make our members live their best life. We work to make this happen.

Connect in the North Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

Achievements and performance continued

Connect in the North has 405 members and ran 4 members events in person and on Zoom. They were a way for members to meet up and to find out what was happening in Leeds. We had a big AGM this year, over 60 people came.

In preparation for Learning Disability week we worked with Asking You to write questions for the Council Chamber Take Over. The Pass it on People got funding from Positive Changes to hire the screen in the market. We used it to share information at the Being Social Event we hosted. We held the 2nd Leeds Learning Disability Pride March in the City Centre. Over 100 people marched.

Connect in the North had a stall at the Learning Disability Picnic at Temple Newsam. Connect in the North hosts the Being Social Task Group, this is a group of people with learning difficulties, family carers and staff from different organisations. They come together to plan how we can improve the social lives of people with learning difficulties. It is part of Being Me. This is the Leeds Learning Disability Strategy. A plan to make life better for people with learning disabilities in Leeds.

Each year we organise the Being Social Information event in Kirkgate Market. It's for people with learning disabilities to find things to do in Leeds. This year we had 24 organisations sharing information about thing to do. We spoke to 311 people. Dramarama performed a Flash Mob.

The Rooots team invited the Race Equality Foundation to run an event about Annual Health Checks. The team got money from the Wharfedale Foundation Trust to work with film make Jan Wells. They are interviewing people with learning disabilities about what their religion means to them.

We ran training sessions for 169 people with learning disabilities.

Connect in the North Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

Achievements and performance continued

We ran – 3 My Life My Way Courses. They were about being part of your local community, voting and how to be a trainer.

We ran some of our Person Centred thinking workshops for staff and family carers online this year. We also ran training in person. This year we trained 162 people.

- People in Action
- Asking You
- People Matters

Training for staff and family carers

We ran training sessions for **252** members of staff and family carers.

We ran Managers Making it Happen over 6 months. We did this twice. This was for managers supporting people in Leeds.

We ran 4 programs of person-centred thinking training which included:

- 1 Page Profile and Person-Centred Review Training
- Person Centred Active Support
- Person Centred Approaches to Difficult Behaviour
- Person Centred Awareness Training
- Supporting Decision Making
- Writing Good Outcomes

Connect in the North Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

Achievements and performance continued

- Supporting People to Find Love
- Let's Talk About Loss

Through the Maze is an information and signposting service for people with learning disabilities, families and staff. This year we met with 2,443 people and had stalls at:

- Autism Acceptance Stall
- SEND - Creative Careers
- SEND – Next Choices Employment Event
- Being Social
- Picnic in the Park
- International Day of Disabled People
- Leeds Local Live Event

These are some of the things we did:

- People's Parliament
- Met Lynn Bailey from BAFF to find out about Small Sparks funding.
- Forum Central social media takeover.
- Wrote an article for Leeds Living website
- Council Chambers Takeover
- Learning Disability Pride March
- Being Social marketplace
- St Vincent's Community Centre

Connect in the North Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

Achievements and performance continued

- We met with a team that is making Leeds train station better.
- Holbeck Together

These are some of the things we did continued:

- Courtney interviewed a member of Leep1
- BAFF AGM.
- Elland Road Police HQ event.
- Woodhouse Community Centre
- Scope Community Hub

We send out 984 newsletter every 3 months. The Through the Maze website had 41,000 visits last year. We got 126 people signed up to WhatsApp. We have 710 Facebook likes.

We took part in 2 Webinars for Skills for Care.

We ran staff training for Forum Central.

Continued to host and update the Being Employed Leeds Website.

Financial review

The net expenditure for the year was £13,359, including net expenditure of £16,727 on unrestricted funds and net income of £3,368 on restricted funds.

Connect in the North Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

Reserves policy

The charity's free reserves, excluding fixed assets, at the year end were £100,003.

In the light of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) recommendations to ensure adequate cash flow, the board aims to build up unrestricted funds equivalent to six to twelve months total running costs.

At 31st March 2025 the reserves equated to just over 8 months of budgeted total running costs for 2025-26.

Connect in the North

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees report and the financial statements in accordance with the applicable law and UK Accounting Standards.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the accounts on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

Connect in the North

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2025

Statement of trustees' responsibilities continued

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

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Charities SORP (FRS102)), and in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the board of trustees on 28/8/2025

Robert Stephens (Trustee)

Connect in the North

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Connect in the North

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 14 to 26.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the charitable 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 charitable 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 ('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:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or

Connect in the North

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Connect in the North

Independent examiner's statement continued

- 3 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
- 4 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.

Katy Sargeant ACA

29/8/2025

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

Connect in the North

Statement of Financial Activities

(including summary income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2025 Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Income from:					
Grants and donations	(2)	145,245	3,801	149,046	145,485
Services Provided		1,800	-	1,800	790
Bank interest		1,807	-	1,807	1,505
Total income		<u>148,852</u>	<u>3,801</u>	<u>152,653</u>	<u>147,780</u>
Expenditure on:					
Salaries, NI and pensions	(3)	125,116	37	125,153	116,439
Other staff costs		558	-	558	485
Events and activities		465	396	861	310
Premises costs		18,713	-	18,713	18,183
Printing, stationery, post and phone		12,982	-	12,982	15,208
Other running costs		1,128	-	1,128	1,357
Insurance		2,098	-	2,098	2,475
IT costs		1,633	-	1,633	6,044
Independent examination		1,080	-	1,080	1,056
Office equipment		95	-	95	908
Marketing		367	-	367	138

Connect in the North

Statement of Financial Activities

(including summary income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes			
	2025	2025	2025	2024
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£	£
Expenditure on:				
Depreciation	474	-	474	753
Bank charges	120	-	120	120
Subscriptions	750	-	750	721
Total expenditure	<u>165,579</u>	<u>433</u>	<u>166,012</u>	<u>164,197</u>
Net income / (expenditure)	<u>(16,727)</u>	<u>3,368</u>	<u>(13,359)</u>	<u>(16,417)</u>
Fund balances brought forward	<u>116,818</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>117,358</u>	<u>133,775</u>
Fund balances carried forward	(4) <u>100,091</u>	<u>3,908</u>	<u>103,999</u>	<u>117,358</u>

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

Connect in the North

Balance sheet

as at 31 March 2025

	2025 Unrestricted £	2025 Restricted £	2025 Total £	2024 Total £
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	(5) 88	-	88	562
Total fixed assets	<u>88</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>88</u>	<u>562</u>
Current assets				
Debtors and prepayments	(6) 1,376	-	1,376	267
Cash at bank and in hand	(7) 101,839	3,908	105,747	119,912
Total current assets	<u>103,215</u>	<u>3,908</u>	<u>107,123</u>	<u>120,179</u>
Current liabilities: amounts falling due within one year				
Creditors and accruals	(8) 3,212	-	3,212	3,383
Total current liabilities	<u>3,212</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,212</u>	<u>3,383</u>
Net current assets / (liabilities)	<u>100,003</u>	<u>3,908</u>	<u>103,911</u>	<u>116,796</u>
Net assets	<u>100,091</u>	<u>3,908</u>	<u>103,999</u>	<u>117,358</u>
Funds				
Unrestricted funds	100,091	-	100,091	116,818
Restricted funds	-	3,908	3,908	540
Total funds	<u>100,091</u>	<u>3,908</u>	<u>103,999</u>	<u>117,358</u>

Connect in the North

Balance sheet

as at 31 March 2025

For the year ending 31 March 2025 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476. The trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and with FRS 102 (effective January 2019).

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 28/8/2025

Robert Stephens (Trustee)

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) and with the Charities Act 2011.

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

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

Going concern

The trustees are satisfied that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources, if it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies continued

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Where grants are related to performance and specific deliverables, they are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Expenditure and liabilities

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out the resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Taxation

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £200 are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition. Gifted assets are shown at the value to the charity on receipt.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment: over 4 years

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies continued

Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. The costs of contributions are recognised in the year they are payable.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

Leases

Rents under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the lease term or to an earlier date if the lease can be determined without financial penalty.

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 March 2025

2 Grants and donations

	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2025 Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Leeds City Council (LCC) Joint Commissioning	144,945	-	144,945	144,945
Better Action for Families (BAFF)	-	-	-	540
The Wharfedale Foundation	-	3,801	3,801	-
Other donations	300	-	300	-
	<u>145,245</u>	<u>3,801</u>	<u>149,046</u>	<u>145,485</u>

3 Staff costs and numbers

	2025 £	2024 £
Gross salaries	113,997	107,153
Social security costs	10,249	9,327
Employment allowance	(5,000)	(5,000)
Pensions	<u>5,907</u>	<u>4,959</u>
	<u>125,153</u>	<u>116,439</u>

The average number of employees during the year was 10, being an average of 3.3 full time equivalent (2024: 9.9, 3.4 FTE). There were no employees with emoluments above £60,000.

Defined contribution pension scheme

	2025 £	2024 £
Costs of the scheme to the charity for the year	5,907	4,959

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 March 2025

4 Restricted funds	Balance b/f £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Balance c/f £
BAFF Good Lives Leaders	540	-	146	-	394
The Wharfedale Foundation	-	3,801	287	-	3,514
	<u>540</u>	<u>3,801</u>	<u>433</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,908</u>

Fund name

BAFF Good Lives Leaders

The Wharfedale Foundation

Purpose of restriction

Towards carers expenses for the Good Lives Leaders visits and meetings.

Towards the cost of making a film about faith.

5 Tangible assets

Cost

At 1 April 2024

Additions

At 31 March 2025

Depreciation

At 1 April 2024

Charge for year

At 31 March 2025

Net book value

At 31 March 2025

At 31 March 2024

Fixtures, fittings and equipm't £	Total £
8,795	8,795
-	-
<u>8,795</u>	<u>8,795</u>
8,233	8,233
474	474
<u>8,707</u>	<u>8,707</u>
<u>88</u>	<u>88</u>
<u>562</u>	<u>562</u>

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts continued
for the year ended 31 March 2025

6 Debtors and prepayments

Debtors
Prepayments
Other debtors

2025	2024
£	£
500	209
876	-
-	58
<u>1,376</u>	<u>267</u>

7 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank
Cash in hand

2025	2024
£	£
105,567	119,732
180	180
<u>105,747</u>	<u>119,912</u>

8 Creditors and accruals

Accruals
Taxation and social security
Other creditors

2025	2024
£	£
1,080	1,056
2,132	2,174
-	153
<u>3,212</u>	<u>3,383</u>

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts continued
for the year ended 31 March 2025

9 Related party transactions

Trustee expenses

During the year 6 trustees were paid a total of £47 in respect of travel (previous year: 1 trustee and £54).

Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

Remuneration and benefits received by key management personnel

The total employee benefits received by key management personnel were £85,423 (previous year: £82,057).

10 Operating leases

Expected future minimum lease payments over the remaining life of the lease, analysed into the period in which the commitment falls due:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Within one year	1,569	13,329
In the second to fifth years inclusive	3,118	4,687
Over five years from the balance sheet date	-	-
	<u>4,687</u>	<u>18,016</u>

Connect in the North

Statement of Financial Activities including comparatives for all funds

(including summary income and expenditure account)

for the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2024 Unrestricted funds £	2025 Restricted funds £	2024 Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Income						
Grants and donations	145,245	144,945	3,801	540	149,046	145,485
Services Provided	1,800	790	-	-	1,800	790
Bank interest	1,807	1,505	-	-	1,807	1,505
Total income	148,852	147,240	3,801	540	152,653	147,780
Expenditure						
Salaries, NI and pensions	125,116	113,259	37	3,180	125,153	116,439
Other staff costs	558	485	-	-	558	485
Events and activities	465	310	396	-	861	310
Premises costs	18,713	17,487	-	696	18,713	18,183
Printing, stationery, post and pho	12,982	15,033	-	175	12,982	15,208
Other running costs	1,128	1,348	-	9	1,128	1,357
Insurance	2,098	2,475	-	-	2,098	2,475
IT costs	1,633	6,044	-	-	1,633	6,044
Independent examination	1,080	1,056	-	-	1,080	1,056
Office equipment	95	908	-	-	95	908
Marketing	367	138	-	-	367	138

Connect in the North

Statement of Financial Activities including comparatives for all funds

(including summary income and expenditure account)

for the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025 Unrestricted funds £	2024 Unrestricted funds £	2025 Restricted funds £	2024 Restricted funds £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
Expenditure						
Depreciation	474	753	-	-	474	753
Bank charges	120	120	-	-	120	120
Subscriptions	750	721	-	-	750	721
Total expenditure	<u>165,579</u>	<u>160,137</u>	<u>433</u>	<u>4,060</u>	<u>166,012</u>	<u>164,197</u>
Net income / (expenditure)	<u>(16,727)</u>	<u>(12,897)</u>	<u>3,368</u>	<u>(3,520)</u>	<u>(13,359)</u>	<u>(16,417)</u>
Fund balances brought forward	<u>116,818</u>	<u>129,715</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>4,060</u>	<u>117,358</u>	<u>133,775</u>
Fund balances carried forward	<u>100,091</u>	<u>116,818</u>	<u>3,908</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>103,999</u>	<u>117,358</u>

Accounts

Connect in the North

Charity number 1078829

A company limited by guarantee number 03127540

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024



Connect in the North

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2024

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Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Connect in the North

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

Name**Position**

Vicky Hiles

Chairperson

Maisie Hirschhorn

Michael Buttery

Kenny Hendy

Robert Stephens

Treasurer

Charity number

1078829

Registered in England and Wales

Company number

03127540

Registered in England and Wales

Registered and principal address

Office 45

Sugar Mill Business Park

Oakhurst Road

Leeds

LS11 7HL

Bankers

Co-operative Bank plc

19/20 Commercial Street

Leeds

LS1 6AL

Connect in the North

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2024

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

Independent examiner

Katy Sargeant ACA

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and was formed on 17 November 1995. It is governed by its articles of association last amended by special resolution on 25 June 2019. The liability of the members in the event of the company being wound up is limited to a sum not exceeding £1.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are also the directors for the purposes of company law and are appointed by the members at the AGM.

Connect in the North Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2024

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects

The relief of people with learning difficulties within the Leeds Metropolitan area and the North of England.

The charity's main activities

We are a Centre for Inclusive Living led by people with learning difficulties. We work to make things better for people with learning difficulties. We help people with learning difficulties change their own lives through person centred planning. We run training in person centred thinking. We provide an information and signposting services for people with learning difficulties in Leeds.

Public benefit statement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular ensuring that people with learning difficulties have control of their own lives and equal power in the world.

Public benefit statement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our Trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

Connect in the North Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2024

Objectives and activities

Achievements and performance

Connect in the North has 396 members and ran 4 members events in person and on Zoom. They were a way for members to meet up and to find out what was happening in Leeds. We held a planning meeting in April and we asked members what work we should be doing from this we wrote a plan for the future.

Leeds Learning Disability Awareness Week in June was back in person. Connect in the North had a stall at the Learning Disability Picnic at Temple Newsam. Connect in the North organised the first Learning Disability Pride march in the centre of Leeds, there was a great turn out even in the pouring rain.

Connect in the North hosts the Being Social Task Group, this is a group of people with learning difficulties, family carers and staff from different organisations. They come together to plan how we improve the social lives of people with learning difficulties. Connect in the North ran for the second year an running an information event in Kirkgate Market in Leeds Learning Disability Week. There were 16 stalls run by different organisations in Leeds.

This year Through the Maze met a total of 1039 online, face to face and at events by running stalls. 825 people were subscribed to the quarterly newsletter.

The Through the Maze website had 29,964 visits over the year. We launched Through the Maze WhatsApp group 80 people signed up to receive weekly messages about what is happening in Leeds.

Connect in the North Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2024

Achievements and performance continued

The Pass it on People are all paid members of staff with learning disabilities visited many places in Leeds and wrote detailed articles about them in the quarterly newsletter. During the year we have been promoting the Being Employed Leeds website as much as possible.

We attended the Employment Task Group meetings. We delivered 2 presentations to the Developing You groups at The Thackray Museum and also attended SEND Next Choices (getting ready for adult life) events at Pudsey Civic Hall and The First Direct Arena.

We completed the bereavement training and submitted the final report.

In November we worked with Forum Central and ran an event about Direct Payments and Individual Service Funds. This event was a way to show how they can have more control over their support.

We also trained 122 people with learning difficulties. Training for people with learning difficulties included My Life My Way (which we did twice), Good Relationships, Scam Free and Webwise

The Rooots team ran Equality training for Age Uk and Pyramid of Arts.

We ran some of our Person Centred thinking workshops for staff and family carers online this year. We also ran training in person. This year we trained 162 people.

- Page Profiles and Person Centred Reviews
- Person Centred Active Support
- Person Centred Approach to Difficult Behaviour
- Person Centred Awareness Training

Connect in the North Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2024

Achievements and performance continued

- Person Centred Risk Assessment and Management
- Problem Solving Tools
- Supported decision making
- Support Planning for Providers
- Writing Good Outcomes
- Managers Making it Happen over 6 months

As well as our open courses we ran training for – NHS and Leeds Jewish Welfare Board.

The Pass it on People successfully bid for money to cover the cost of the hire of the screen in the Market in June 2024. This is so we can run slide show of everyone's achievements over the year at the Being Social Information Day. We are being funded by Royal Mencap's Positive Futures team.

Financial review

The net expenditure for the year was £16,417, including net expenditure of £12,897 on unrestricted funds and net expenditure of £3,520 on restricted funds.

Reserves policy

The charity's free reserves, excluding fixed assets, at the year end were £116,256.

In the light of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) recommendations to ensure adequate cash flow, the board aims to build up unrestricted funds equivalent to six to twelve months total running costs.

At 31st March 2024 the reserves equated to just over 8 months of budgeted total running costs for 2024-25.

Connect in the North

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2024

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees report and the financial statements in accordance with the applicable law and UK Accounting Standards.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the accounts on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

Connect in the North

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2024

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

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

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Charities SORP (FRS102)), and in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the board of trustees on 5/9/2024

Robert Stephens (Trustee)

Connect in the North

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Connect in the North

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 12 to to 25.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the charitable 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 charitable 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 ('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:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act;
or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or

Connect in the North

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Connect in the North

- 3 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
- 4 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.

Katy Sargeant ACA

10/9/2024

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

Connect in the North
Statement of Financial Activities
(including summary income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 Unrestricted funds £	2024 Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Income from:					
Grants and donations	(2)	144,945	540	145,485	68,944
Contracts		-	-	-	76,116
Services provided		790	-	790	1,570
Bank interest		1,505	-	1,505	166
Total income		<u>147,240</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>147,780</u>	<u>146,796</u>
Expenditure on:					
Salaries, NI and pensions	(3)	113,259	3,180	116,439	103,544
Other staff costs		485	-	485	1,042
Events and activities		310	-	310	130
Premises costs		17,487	696	18,183	17,394
Printing, stationery, post and phone		15,033	175	15,208	11,311
Other running costs		1,348	9	1,357	102
Insurance		2,475	-	2,475	2,763
IT costs		6,044	-	6,044	2,388
Independent examination		1,056	-	1,056	792

Connect in the North
Statement of Financial Activities
(including summary income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024	2024	2024	2023
		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
		funds	funds	funds	funds
		£	£	£	£
Expenditure on:					
Office equipment		908	-	908	97
Marketing		138	-	138	-
Depreciation		753	-	753	1,411
Bank charges		120	-	120	120
Subscriptions		721	-	721	702
Total expenditure		<u>160,137</u>	<u>4,060</u>	<u>164,197</u>	<u>141,796</u>
Net income / (expenditure)		<u>(12,897)</u>	<u>(3,520)</u>	<u>(16,417)</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Fund balances brought forward		<u>129,715</u>	<u>4,060</u>	<u>133,775</u>	<u>128,775</u>
Fund balances carried forward	(4)	<u>116,818</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>117,358</u>	<u>133,775</u>

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

Connect in the North **Balance sheet** **as at 31 March 2024**

		2024 Unrestricted £	2024 Restricted £	2024 Total £	2023 Total £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	(5)	562	-	562	1,315
Total fixed assets		<u>562</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>562</u>	<u>1,315</u>
Current assets					
Debtors and prepayments	(6)	267	-	267	1,922
Cash at bank and in hand	(7)	119,372	540	119,912	133,278
Total current assets		<u>119,639</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>120,179</u>	<u>135,200</u>
Current liabilities:					
amounts falling due within one year					
Creditors and accruals	(8)	3,383	-	3,383	2,740
Total current liabilities		<u>3,383</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,383</u>	<u>2,740</u>
Net current assets / (liabilities)		<u>116,256</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>116,796</u>	<u>132,460</u>
Net assets		<u>116,818</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>117,358</u>	<u>133,775</u>
Funds					
Unrestricted funds		116,818	-	116,818	129,715
Restricted funds		-	540	540	4,060
Total funds		<u>116,818</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>117,358</u>	<u>133,775</u>

Connect in the North Balance sheet as at 31 March 2024

For the year ending 31 March 2024 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476. The trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and with FRS 102 (effective January 2019).

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 5/9/2024

Robert Stephens (Trustee)

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) and with the Charities Act 2011.

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

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

Going concern

The trustees are satisfied that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources, if it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies continued

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Where grants are related to performance and specific deliverables, they are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Donated goods for resale are valued at the amount actually realised upon their sale.

Donated assets, facilities or services are valued at their estimated value to the charity. This is the price that the charity estimates it would pay in the open market for equivalent items; or services and facilities of equivalent utility to the charity.

Expenditure and liabilities

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out the resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Taxation

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 Accounting policies continued

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £200 are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition. Gifted assets are shown at the value to the charity on receipt.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment: over 4 years

Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. The costs of contributions are recognised in the year they are payable.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

Leases

Rents under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the lease term or to an earlier date if the lease can be determined without financial penalty.

Connect in the North
Notes to the accounts continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024

2 Grants and donations

	2024	2024	2024	2023
	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Leeds City Council (LCC) Joint Commissioning	144,945	-	144,945	68,829
Better Action for Families (BAFF)	-	540	540	-
Other donations	-	-	-	115
	<u>144,945</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>145,485</u>	<u>68,944</u>

3 Staff costs and numbers

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gross salaries	107,153	95,153
Social security costs	9,327	8,927
Employment allowance	(5,000)	(5,000)
Pensions	4,959	4,464
	<u>116,439</u>	<u>103,544</u>

The average number of employees during the year was 9.9, being an average of 3.4 full time equivalent (2023: 9.8, 3.2 FTE). There were no employees with emoluments above £60,000.

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 March 2024

3 Staff costs and numbers continued

Defined contribution pension scheme	2024	2023
	£	£
Costs of the scheme to the charity for the year	4,959	4,464

4 Restricted funds	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
BAFF Good Lives	-	540	-	-	540
LCF - Jimbo's Fund	3,314	-	3,314	-	-
Employability Hub	746	-	746	-	-
	<u>4,060</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>4,060</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>540</u>

Fund name	Purpose of restriction
BAFF Good Lives	Towards carers expenses for the Good Lives Leaders visits and meetings.
LCF - Jimbo's Fund	To provide bereavement training to people with learning difficulties and family carers.
Employability Hub	To develop a website to aid people with learning difficulties in Leeds to find employment.

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 March 2024

5 Tangible assets

Cost

At 1 April 2023

Additions

At 31 March 2024

Fixtures, fittings and
equipment

Total

£

£

8,795

8,795

-

-

8,795

8,795

Depreciation

At 1 April 2023

Charge for year

At 31 March 2024

7,480

7,480

753

753

8,233

8,233

Net book value

At 31 March 2024

562

562

At 31 March 2023

1,315

1,315

Connect in the North **Notes to the accounts continued** **for the year ended 31 March 2024**

6 Debtors and prepayments

Prepayments
Other debtors

2024	2023
£	£
209	1,922
58	-
267	1,922

7 Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank
Cash in hand

2024	2023
£	£
119,732	133,098
180	180
119,912	133,278

8 Creditors and accruals

Accruals
Taxation and social security
Other creditors

2024	2023
£	£
1,056	792
2,174	1,948
153	-
3,383	2,740

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 March 2024

9 Related party transactions continued

Trustee expenses

During the year 1 trustee was paid a total of £54 in respect of travel (previous year: nil).

Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

Details of remuneration and benefits

Remuneration and benefits received by key management personnel

The total employee benefits received by key management personnel were £74,871 (previous year: £78,476).

10 Operating leases

Expected future minimum lease payments over the remaining life of the lease, analysed into the period in which the commitment falls due:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Within one year	13,329	12,064
In the second to fifth years inclusive	4,687	997
Over five years from the balance sheet date	-	-
	<u>18,016</u>	<u>13,061</u>

Connect in the North
Statement of Financial Activities including comparatives for all funds
(including summary income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	2024 Unrestricted funds £	2023 Unrestricted funds £	2024 Restricted funds £	2023 Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Income						
Grants and donations	144,945	68,944	540	-	145,485	68,944
Contracts	-	76,116	-	-	-	76,116
Services provided	790	1,570	-	-	790	1,570
Bank interest	1,505	166	-	-	1,505	166
Total income	147,240	146,796	540	-	147,780	146,796
Expenditure						
Salaries, NI and pensions	113,259	102,500	3,180	1,044	116,439	103,544
Other staff costs	485	1,042	-	-	485	1,042
Events and activities	310	130	-	-	310	130
Premises costs	17,487	16,498	696	896	18,183	17,394
Printing, stationery, post and phone	15,033	11,192	175	119	15,208	11,311
Other running costs	1,348	102	9	-	1,357	102
Insurance	2,475	2,629	-	134	2,475	2,763
IT costs	6,044	2,388	-	-	6,044	2,388
Independent examination	1,056	792	-	-	1,056	792
Office equipment	908	97	-	-	908	97

Connect in the North
Statement of Financial Activities including comparatives for all funds
(including summary income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	2024 Unrestricted funds £	2023 Unrestricted funds £	2024 Restricted funds £	2023 Restricted funds £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Expenditure						
Marketing	138	-	-	-	138	-
Depreciation	753	1,411	-	-	753	1,411
Bank charges	120	120	-	-	120	120
Subscriptions	721	(327)	-	1,029	721	702
Total expenditure	<u>160,137</u>	<u>138,574</u>	<u>4,060</u>	<u>3,222</u>	<u>164,197</u>	<u>141,796</u>
Net income / (expenditure)	<u>(12,897)</u>	<u>8,222</u>	<u>(3,520)</u>	<u>(3,222)</u>	<u>(16,417)</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Fund balances brought forward	<u>129,715</u>	<u>121,493</u>	<u>4,060</u>	<u>7,282</u>	<u>133,775</u>	<u>128,775</u>
Fund balances carried forward	<u>116,818</u>	<u>129,715</u>	<u>540</u>	<u>4,060</u>	<u>117,358</u>	<u>133,775</u>

Accounts

Connect in the North

Charity number 1078829

A company limited by guarantee number 03127540

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the year ended 31 March 2023



West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service

Connect in the North

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2023

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Balance sheet	15 to 16
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Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Connect in the North

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2023

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

Name	Position	Dates
Vicky Hiles	Chairperson	
Maisie Hirschhorn	Treasurer	
Michael Buttery		
Leanne Johns		resigned 6 Dec 2022
Kenny Hendy		
Robert Stephens		appointed 6 Dec 2022
Company secretary	Madeleine Fahy	
Charity number	1078829	Registered in England and Wales
Company number	03127540	Registered in England and Wales
Registered and principal address		Bankers
Office 45		Co-operative Bank plc
Sugar Mill Business Park		19/20 Commercial Street
Oakhurst Road		Leeds
Leeds. LS11 7HL		LS1 6AL

Connect in the North

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2023

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

Independent examiner

Katy Sargeant ACA
West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO
Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and was formed on 17 November 1995. It is governed by its articles of association last amended by special resolution on 25 June 2019. The liability of the members in the event of the company being wound up is limited to a sum not exceeding £1.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are also the directors for the purposes of company law and are appointed by the members at the AGM.

Connect in the North Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects

The relief of people with learning difficulties within the Leeds Metropolitan area and the North of England.

The charity's main activities

We are a Centre for Inclusive Living led by people with learning difficulties. We work to make things better for people with learning difficulties. We help people with learning difficulties change their own lives through person centred planning. We run training in person centred thinking. We provide an information and signposting services for people with learning difficulties in Leeds.

Public benefit statement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular ensuring that people with learning difficulties have control of their own lives and equal power in the world.

Achievements and performance

Connect in the North ran 4 members events in person and on Zoom. They were a way for members to meet up and to find out what was happening in Leeds.

We held Get Ready for UK Parliament Week and Meet the Councillor Events. Connect in the North partnered with Asking You ran a session about local government. Participants decided what would make their lives better.

Connect in the North Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Achievements and performance continued

They wrote questions to ask their local councillors. Councillor Kevin Ritchie supported us to invite Leeds Councillors to a follow up event at Leeds Civic Hall. 12 Leeds Councillors came. They answered the questions people had written. They also spent time meeting people from their wards. We wrote a report about what councillors said. One of our members of staff shadowed a Councillor for a day.

Leeds Learning Disability Awareness Week in June was back in person. Connect in the North had a stall at the Learning Disability Picnic at Temple Newsam. Connect in the North hosts the Being Social.

Leeds Learning Disability Awareness Week in June was back in person. Connect in the North had a Task Group, this is a group of people with learning difficulties, family carers and staff from different organisations. They come together to plan how we can improve the social lives of people with learning difficulties. This year we ran an information event in Kirkgate Market in Leeds Learning Disability Week. There were 18 stalls run by different organisations in Leeds. We also had an information stall at Beeston Festival in July.

This year we were able to run the Through the Maze Drop in service in person again. We met a total of 783 online, face to face and at events by running stalls. 764 people were subscribed to the quarterly newsletter. The Through the Maze website had 26,011 visits over the year. The Pass it on People are all paid members of staff with learning disabilities visited many places in Leeds and wrote detailed articles about them in the quarterly newsletter.

Connect in the North Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Achievements and performance continued

During the year we have been promoting the Being Employed Leeds website as much as possible.

We attended the Employment Task Group meetings. We delivered 2 presentations to the Developing You groups at The Thackray Museum and also attended SEND Next Choices (getting ready for adult life) event at The First Direct Arena in June.

We are funded for 2 years to run bereavement sessions for people with learning difficulties.

We are also running sessions for family carers and professionals. We are being funded by Jimbo's Fund. We have run 3 x 6 Week courses for people with learning difficulties. We have done sessions for the Carers Reference Group, staff and People in Action.

We have run continued to run 'What's on Your Mind' with Asking You, the West Yorkshire Police and the Health Facilitation Team.

We ran a Health Day where people learnt how to get the most from their doctor and how to manage Type 2 Diabetes.

We also trained 130 people with learning difficulties. Training for people with learning difficulties included Stamp out Bullying, My Life My Way (which we ran 5 times), Good Relationships, Diversity Awareness, Campaigning and Webwise.

Rooots are a group of trainers with learning difficulties from Black and Minority Ethnic Communities. Rooots have been delivering Good to be Different – Right to be Fair. They have run it for staff teams and people supported by Aspire.

We ran some of our Person Centred thinking workshops for staff and family carers online this year. We also ran training in person. This year we trained 121 people.

Connect in the North Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Achievements and performance continued

- 1 Page Profiles and Person Centred Reviews
- Learning Disability Awareness
- Building Friendship
- Person Centred Approaches to Difficult Behaviours
- Writing Good Outcomes
- Writing Easy Read
- Web Safe Scam Free
- Good Relationships
- Active Support

As well as our open courses we ran training for Siber, Leeds Autism Service and The Carers Reference Group.

Asking You and the Pass it on People successfully bid for money to hire the screen in the Market in June 2023. This is so we can stream the People's Parliament at the Being Social Information Day.

We are being funded by Mencap's Positive Futures team.

Learning Disability England paid us to host a research focus group for people with learning difficulties from minority ethnic communities.

Connect in the North Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Financial review

The net income for the year was £5,000, including net income of £8,222 on unrestricted funds and net expenditure of £3,222 on restricted funds.

Reserves policy

The charity's free reserves, excluding fixed assets, at the year end were £128,400.

In the light of the national Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) recommendations to ensure adequate cash flow, the board aims to build up unrestricted funds equivalent to six to twelve months total running costs.

At 31st March 2023 the reserves equated to 9.8 months of budgeted total running costs for 2023-24. We recommend that the reserves are higher than six months as we know there will be future rent increases due to the large utility prices and that there could be future cuts to the Grants from the Local Authority.

Connect in the North

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees report and the financial statements in accordance with the applicable law and UK Accounting Standards.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;

- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;

- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;

- prepare the accounts on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

Connect in the North

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2023

Statement of trustees' responsibilities continued

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

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Charities SORP (FRS102)), and in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

approved by the board of trustees on 7/8/23

Maisie Hirschhorn (Trustee)

Connect in the North

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Connect in the North

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 13 to to 25.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the charitable 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 charitable 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 ('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:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act;
or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or

Connect in the North

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Connect in the North (continued)

- 3 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
- 4 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.

Katy Sargeant ACA

7/8/23

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

Connect in the North
Statement of Financial Activities
(including summary income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023 Unrestricted funds £	2023 Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Income from:					
Grants and donations	(2)	68,944	-	68,944	79,110
Contracts		76,116	-	76,116	76,116
Services provided		1,570	-	1,570	8,555
Bank interest		166	-	166	36
Total income		146,796	-	146,796	163,817
Expenditure on:					
Staff costs	(3)	103,542	1,044	104,586	112,633
Events and activities		130	-	130	1,570
Premises costs		16,498	896	17,394	16,754
Printing, stationery, post and phone		11,192	119	11,311	9,218
Other running costs		102	-	102	101
Insurance		2,629	134	2,763	2,562
IT costs		2,388	-	2,388	1,527

Connect in the North
Statement of Financial Activities
(including summary income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023 Unrestricted funds £	2023 Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Expenditure on:					
Professional fees		-	-	-	173
Accountancy and independent examination		792	-	792	672
Office equipment		97	-	97	616
Marketing		-	-	-	162
Depreciation		1,411	-	1,411	1,321
Bank charges		120	-	120	120
Subscriptions		(327)	1,029	702	-
		-	-	-	
Total expenditure		138,574	3,222	141,796	147,429
Net income / (expenditure)		8,222	(3,222)	5,000	16,388
Fund balances brought forward		121,493	7,282	128,775	112,387
Fund balances carried forward	(4)	129,715	4,060	133,775	128,775

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

Connect in the North **Balance sheet** **as at 31 March 2023**

	2023 Unrestricted £	2023 Restricted £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets	(5) 1,315	-	1,315	2,371
Total fixed assets	<u>1,315</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,315</u>	<u>2,371</u>
Current assets				
Prepayments	1,922	-	1,922	887
Cash at bank and in hand	(6) 129,218	4,060	133,278	128,397
Total current assets	<u>131,140</u>	<u>4,060</u>	<u>135,200</u>	<u>129,284</u>
Current liabilities:				
amounts falling due within one year				
Creditors and accruals	(7) 2,740	-	2,740	2,880
Total current liabilities	<u>2,740</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,740</u>	<u>2,880</u>
Net current assets / (liabilities)	<u>128,400</u>	<u>4,060</u>	<u>132,460</u>	<u>126,404</u>
Net assets	<u>129,715</u>	<u>4,060</u>	<u>133,775</u>	<u>128,775</u>
Funds				
Unrestricted funds	129,715	-	129,715	121,493
Restricted funds	-	4,060	4,060	7,282
Total funds	<u>129,715</u>	<u>4,060</u>	<u>133,775</u>	<u>128,775</u>

Connect in the North Balance sheet as at 31 March 2023

For the year ending 31 March 2023 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476. The trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and with FRS 102 (effective January 2019).

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on 7/8/23

Maisie Hirschhorn (Trustee)

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2023

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) and with the Charities Act 2011.

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

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

Going concern

The trustees are satisfied that there are no material uncertainties

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources, if it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2023

1 Accounting policies continued

Where grants are related to performance and specific deliverables, they are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

Expenditure and liabilities

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out the resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Taxation

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £200 are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition. Gifted assets are shown at the value to the charity on receipt.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment: over 4 years

Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. The costs of contributions are recognised in the year they are payable.

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2023

1 Accounting policies

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

Leases

Rents under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the lease term or to an earlier date if the lease can be determined without financial penalty.

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 March 2023

2 Grants and donations

	2023 Unrestricted funds £	2023 Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Leeds City Council (LCC) Joint Commissioning	68,829	-	68,829	72,653
Leeds Community Foundation (LCF)	-	-	-	5,457
Seeability	-	-	-	1,000
Other donations	115	-	115	-
	<u>68,944</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>68,944</u>	<u>79,110</u>

3 Staff costs and numbers

	2023 £	2022 £
Gross salaries	95,153	102,838
Social security costs	8,927	8,699
Employment allowance	(5,000)	(4,000)
Pensions	4,464	4,800
Other staffing costs	1,042	296
	<u>104,586</u>	<u>112,633</u>

The average number of employees during the year was 8.8, being an average of 2.6 full time equivalent (2022: 11, 3.6 FTE). There were no employees with emoluments above £60,000.

Defined contribution pension scheme

	2023 £	2022 £
Costs of the scheme to the charity for the year	4464	4800

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 March 2023

4 Restricted funds	Balance b/f £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfers £	Balance c/f £
Employability hub	1,825	-	1,079	-	746
LCF Jimbo's	5,457	-	2,143	-	3,314
	<u>7,282</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,222</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,060</u>

Fund name

Employability hub

LCF Jimbo's

Purpose of restriction

To develop a website to aid people with learning difficulties in Leeds to find employment

To provide bereavement training to people with learning difficulties and family carers.

5 Tangible assets

Fixtures, fittings and
equipment

<u>Cost</u>	£	£
At 1 April 2022	8,440	8,440
Additions	<u>355</u>	<u>355</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>8,795</u>	<u>8,795</u>
<u>Depreciation</u>		
At 1 April 2022	6,069	6,069
Charge for year	<u>1,411</u>	<u>1,411</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>7,480</u>	<u>7,480</u>
<u>Net book value</u>		
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,315</u>	<u>1,315</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>2,371</u>	<u>2,371</u>

Connect in the North **Notes to the accounts continued** **for the year ended 31 March 2023**

6 Cash at bank and in hand	2023	2022
	£	£
Cash at bank	133,098	128,217
Cash in hand	180	180
	<u>133,278</u>	<u>128,397</u>

7 Creditors and accruals	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals	792	672
Taxation and social security	1,948	2,208
	<u>2,740</u>	<u>2,880</u>

8 Related party transactions

Trustee expenses

No trustee received any expenses during this year or the previous year.

Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

Remuneration and benefits received by key management personnel

The total employee benefits received by key management personnel were £0 (previous year: £0).

Connect in the North **Notes to the accounts continued** **for the year ended 31 March 2023**

9 Operating leases

Expected future minimum lease payments over the remaining life of the lease, analysed into the period in which the commitment falls due:

Within one year

In the second to fifth years inclusive

Over five years from the balance sheet date

2023	2022
£	£
784	1,403
997	523
-	-
<u>1,781</u>	<u>1,926</u>

Connect in the North
Statement of Financial Activities including comparatives for all funds
(including summary income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	2023 Unrestricted funds £	2022 Unrestricted funds £	2023 Restricted funds £	2022 Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Income						
Grants and donations	68,944	72,653	-	6,457	68,944	79,110
Contracts	76,116	76,116	-	-	76,116	76,116
Services provided	1,570	8,555	-	-	1,570	8,555
Bank interest	166	36	-	-	166	36
Total income	146,796	157,360	-	6,457	146,796	163,817
Expenditure						
Staff costs	103,542	103,371	1,044	9,262	104,586	112,633
Events and activities	130	1,570	-	-	130	1,570
Premises costs	16,498	16,754	896	-	17,394	16,754
Printing, stationery, post and phone	11,192	9,218	119	-	11,311	9,218
Other running costs	102	100	-	1	102	101
Insurance	2,629	2,424	134	138	2,763	2,562
IT costs	2,388	1,527	-	-	2,388	1,527
Professional fees	-	173	-	-	-	173
Independent examination	792	672	-	-	792	672

Connect in the North
Statement of Financial Activities including comparatives for all funds
(including summary income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	2023 Unrestricted funds £	2022 Unrestricted funds £	2023 Restricted funds £	2022 Restricted funds £	2023 Total funds £	2022 Total funds £
Expenditure						
Office equipment	97	616	-	-	97	616
Marketing	-	162	-	-	-	162
Depreciation	1,411	1,321	-	-	1,411	1,321
Bank charges	120	120	-	-	120	120
Subscriptions	(327)	-	1,029	-	702	-
Total expenditure	138,574	138,028	3,222	9,401	141,796	147,429
Net income / (expenditure)	8,222	19,332	(3,222)	(2,944)	5,000	16,388
Fund balances brought forward	121,493	102,161	7,282	10,226	128,775	112,387
Fund balances carried forward	129,715	121,493	4,060	7,282	133,775	128,775

Accounts

Connect in the North

Charity number 1078829

A company limited by guarantee number 03127540

Annual Report and Financial Statements **for the year ended 31 March 2022**



West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service

Connect in the North

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2022

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Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Connect in the North

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2022

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

Name	Position	Dates
Vicky Hiles	Chairperson	
Maisie Hirschhorn	Treasurer	
Michael Buttery		
Leanne Johns		
Kenny Hendy		Appointed 24 February 2021
Company secretary	Madeleine Fahy	
Charity number	1078829	Registered in England and Wales
Company number	03127540	Registered in England and Wales
Registered and principal address		Bankers
Office 45		Co-operative Bank plc
Sugar Mill Business Park		19/20 Commercial Street
Oakhurst Road		Leeds
Leeds. LS11 7HL		LS1 6AL

Connect in the North

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2022

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

Independent examiner

Simon Bostrom FCIE

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and was formed on 17 November 1995. It is governed by its articles of association last amended by special resolution on 25 June 2019. The liability of the members in the event of the company being wound up is limited to a sum not exceeding £1.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are also the directors for the purposes of company law and are appointed by the members at the AGM.

Connect in the North

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2022

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects

The relief of people with learning difficulties within the Leeds Metropolitan area and the North of England.

The charity's main activities

We are a Centre for Inclusive Living led by people with learning difficulties. We work to make things better for people with learning difficulties. We help people with learning difficulties change their own lives through person centred planning. We run training in person centred thinking. We provide an information and signposting services for people with learning difficulties in Leeds.

Public benefit statement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular ensuring that people with learning difficulties have control of their own lives and equal power in the world.

Achievements and performance

An April 2021 Connect in the North became a Self-Managed team. At the beginning of the year all employees were following the Government Covid-19 guidelines to work from home and to keep safe when working in the office.

Connect in the North

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2022

Achievements and performance (continued)

All training continued online although as the rules and guidelines changed some training at the end of the year was in person or blended. We ran Person Centred Awareness Training, 1 Page Profiles, Building Friendship, Person Centred Reviews, the Trouble with Sexting, strength Based Approaches, Writing Good Outcomes, Motivating People to be Healthy and Well, Campaigning and Web Safe Scam Free. We trained 141 people both paid staff and family carers.

We also trained 152 people with learning difficulties. Training for people with learning difficulties included Stamp out Bullying, My Life My Way (which we ran 5 times), Good Relationships, Diversity Awareness, Campaigning and Webwise. We ran an event for people with learning difficulties at Leeds Council Chambers for UK Parliament week and followed up the event with a session for the International Day of People with Disabilities. We ran an online activity for Inter Faith Week. The Rooots team posted videos and presentations for Black History Month and Chinese New Year.

We worked with some adults with Learning Difficulties supporting them to plan for the future. Our current membership is 379.

In addition, we continued to use the Creative Connections digital money to help people with learning difficulties to increase their skills online skills. We did some work for Learning Disability England about Covid Impact Research and made a short film.

We held popular Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter Chats for members so they could meet their friends and make new friends, play bingo take part in the seasonal quizzes and share information about forthcoming events taking place in Leeds. The AGM for members was held on zoom.

Connect in the North

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2022

Achievements and performance (continued)

We ran an Information and Signposting service for people with learning difficulties. This includes running a telephone helpline, a weekly drop in on zoom, supporting the Pass it on People to share information across the city. The Through the Maze website has had over 23,136 unique visitors over the year. The building of the Being Employed Leeds website was complete, and we were successful in getting some money Forum Centrals money to cover the costs of maintaining and inputting of information and the running of the website for a year.

On the 1st December Connect in the North moved offices still within The Sugarmill to the office next to the training room. This move makes things a lot safer and easier when delivering training. The Training room is now equipped to deliver blended training sessions this works very well for both professionals and people with learning difficulties. To fit in with the move we changed telephone systems so that all staff members can answer the phone, make phone calls and transfer calls from wherever they are working either the office or at home. All members of staff have now got the equipment they need to work from the office or from home which leads to more flexibility and choice.

Financial review

The net income for the year was £16,388, including net income of £19,332 on unrestricted funds and net expenditure of £2,944 on restricted funds.

Connect in the North

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2022

Reserves policy

The charity's free reserves, excluding fixed assets, at the year end were £119,122

In the light of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations' (NCVO) recommendations to ensure adequate cash flow, the board aims to build up unrestricted funds equivalent to six months' total running costs.

At 31 March 2022 the reserves equated to 9.3 months of budgeted total running costs for 2022-23. We recommend that the reserves are higher than six months as we know there will be further future cuts to our Grant and Contract from the Local Authority. We also don't know how we are going to be affected post Covid-19 and if there will be any costs involved once all restrictions have been lifted.

At the time of signing these accounts the charity has been impacted by the global Covid-19 virus. The trustees have reassessed the charity's ability to continue for at least 12 months from the date that the accounts are approved and conclude that no material uncertainties exist that cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees report and the financial statements in accordance with the applicable law and UK Accounting Standards.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

Connect in the North

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2022

Statement of trustees' responsibilities (continued)

select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
prepare the accounts on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

Connect in the North

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2022

Statement of trustees' responsibilities (continued)

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Charities SORP (FRS102)), and in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees:

Signed: Maisie Hirschhorn..... (Trustee)

Date: 27/09/2022.....

Connect in the North

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Connect in the North

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 12 to to 26.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the charitable 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 charitable 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 ('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:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act;
or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or

Connect in the North

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Connect in the North (continued)

- 3 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
- 4 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

Signed: Simon Bostrom FCIE.....

Date: 4 October 2022.....

West Yorkshire Community Accountancy Service CIO

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

Connect in the North
Statement of Financial Activities
(including summary income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022 Unrestricted funds	2022 Restricted funds	2022 Total funds	2021 Total funds
		£	£	£	£
Income from:					
Grants and donations	(2)	72,653	6,457	79,110	77,477
Contracts		76,116	-	76,116	76,116
Services provided for charitable objectives		8,555	-	8,555	191
Bank interest		36	-	36	365
Total income		<u>157,360</u>	<u>6,457</u>	<u>163,817</u>	<u>154,149</u>
Expenditure on:					
Staff costs	(3)	103,371	9,262	112,633	101,375
Events and activities		1,570	-	1,570	3,784
Premises costs		16,754	-	16,754	16,368
Printing, stationery, post and phone		9,218	-	9,218	5,924
Other running costs		4,309	1	4,310	3,586

Connect in the North
Statement of Financial Activities
(including summary income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022 Unrestricted funds	2022 Restricted funds	2022 Total funds	2021 Total funds
		£	£	£	£
Professional fees		35	138	173	11,901
Accountancy and independent examination		672	-	672	672
Office equipment		616	-	616	94
Loss on decommissioned computer		-	-	-	233
Marketing		162	-	162	-
Depreciation		1,321	-	1,321	1,421
Total expenditure		<u>138,028</u>	<u>9,401</u>	<u>147,429</u>	<u>145,358</u>
Net income / (expenditure)		<u>19,332</u>	<u>(2,944)</u>	<u>16,388</u>	<u>8,791</u>
Fund balances brought forward		<u>102,161</u>	<u>10,226</u>	<u>112,387</u>	<u>103,596</u>
Fund balances carried forward	(4)	<u>121,493</u>	<u>7,282</u>	<u>128,775</u>	<u>112,387</u>

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

Connect in the North

Balance sheet

as at 31 March 2022

		2022 Unrestricted £	2022 Restricted £	2022 Total £	2021 Total £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	(5)	2,371	-	2,371	2,149
Total fixed assets		<u>2,371</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,371</u>	<u>2,149</u>
Current assets					
Prepayments		887	-	887	328
Cash at bank and in hand	(6)	121,115	7,282	128,397	116,277
Total current assets		<u>122,002</u>	<u>7,282</u>	<u>129,284</u>	<u>116,605</u>
Current liabilities:					
amounts falling due within one year					
Creditors and accruals	(7)	2,880	-	2,880	6,367
Total current liabilities		<u>2,880</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,880</u>	<u>6,367</u>
Net current assets		<u>119,122</u>	<u>7,282</u>	<u>126,404</u>	<u>110,238</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>121,493</u>	<u>7,282</u>	<u>128,775</u>	<u>112,387</u>
Net assets		<u>121,493</u>	<u>7,282</u>	<u>128,775</u>	<u>112,387</u>
Funds					
Unrestricted funds		121,493	-	121,493	102,161
Restricted funds		-	7,282	7,282	10,226
Total funds		<u>121,493</u>	<u>7,282</u>	<u>128,775</u>	<u>112,387</u>

Connect in the North Balance sheet as at 31 March 2022

For the year ending 31 March 2022 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476. The trustees (who also the directors for the purposes of company law) acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and with FRS 102 (effective January 2019).

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on

Date: 27/09/2022.....

Signed: ...Maisie Hirschhorn.... (Trustee)

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2022

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) and with the Charities Act 2011.

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

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

Going concern

The trustees are satisfied that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2022

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources, it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Where grants are related to performance and specific deliverables, they are accounted for as the Donated assets, facilities or services are valued at their estimated value to the charity. This is the price that the charity estimates it would pay in the open market for equivalent items; or services and facilities of equivalent utility to the charity.

Expenditure and liabilities

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out the resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2022

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Taxation

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £200 are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition. Gifted assets are shown at the value to the charity on receipt.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment - 25% straight line

Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. The costs of contributions are recognised in the year they are payable.

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2022

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

Leases

Rents under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the lease term or to an earlier date if the lease can be determined without financial penalty.

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 March 2022

2 Grants and donations

	2022	2022	2022	2021
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£	£
Leeds City Council (LCC) Joint Commissioning	72,653	-	72,653	76,477
Leeds Community Foundation Jimbo's Fund	-	5,457	5,457	-
Seeability	-	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>72,653</u>	<u>6,457</u>	<u>79,110</u>	<u>77,477</u>

3 Staff costs and numbers

	2022	2021
	£	£
Gross salaries	102,838	94,396
Social security costs	8,699	6,724
Employment allowance	(4,000)	(4,000)
Pensions	4,800	3,968
Other staffing costs	296	287
	<u>112,633</u>	<u>101,375</u>

The average number employees during the year was 11, being an average of 3.5 full time equivalent (2021: 11.5, 3.7 FTE).

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

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 March 2022

3 Staff costs and numbers (continued)

Defined contribution pension scheme	2022	2021
	£	£
Costs of the scheme to the charity for the year	4,800	3,968

4 Restricted funds

	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
Employability hub	10,226	-	8,401	-	1,825
Seeability - Creative Connections	-	1000	1000	-	-
Community Fund - Jimbo's Fund		5457	-	-	5,457
	<u>10,226</u>	<u>6,457</u>	<u>9,401</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,282</u>

Fund name

Employability hub

Purpose of restriction

To develop a website to aid people with learning difficulties in Leeds to find employment

Seeability - Creative Connections

To connect with 20 people with learning difficulties to help with IT skills.

Community Fund - Jimbo's Fund

To provide bereavement training to people with learning difficulties and family carers.

Connect in the North
Notes to the accounts continued
for the year ended 31 March 2022

5 Tangible assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
<u>Cost</u>	£	£
At 1 April 2021	6,897	6,897
Additions	1,543	1,543
Disposals	-	-
At 31 March 2022	<u>8,440</u>	<u>8,440</u>
<u>Depreciation</u>		
At 1 April 2021	4,748	4,748
Depn reversed re. disposals	-	-
Charge for year	<u>1,321</u>	<u>1,321</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>6,069</u>	<u>6,069</u>
<u>Net book value</u>		
At 31 March 2022	<u>2,371</u>	<u>2,371</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>2,149</u>	<u>2,149</u>

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 March 2022

6 Cash at bank and in hand

	2022	2021
	£	£
Co-op Bank	128,217	116,097
Cash in hand	180	180
	<u>128,397</u>	<u>116,277</u>

7 Creditors and accruals

	2022	2021
	£	£
Creditors	2,208	704
Accruals	672	5,663
	<u>2,880</u>	<u>6,367</u>

8 Related party transactions

Trustee expenses

No trustee received any expenses during this year or the previous year.

Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 March 2022

8 Related party transactions (continued)

Key management personnel

Only the trustees have authority at this key level in this reporting year, as in the previous reporting period.

There were no other related party transactions during this year or the previous year.

9 Operating leases

Expected future minimum lease payments over the remaining life of the lease, analysed into the period in which the commitment falls due:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Within one year	1,403	1,403
In the second to fifth years inclusive	523	1,926

Connect in the North
Statement of Financial Activities including comparatives for all funds
(including summary income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2022

	2022 Unrestricted funds £	2021 Unrestricted funds (restated) £	2022 Restricted funds £	2021 Restricted funds (restated) £	2022 Total funds £	2021 Total funds (restated) £
Income						
Grants and donations	72,653	76,477	6,457	1,000	79,110	77,477
Contracts	76,116	76,116	-	-	76,116	76,116
Services provided	8,555	191	-	-	8,555	191
Bank interest	36	365	-	-	36	365
Total income	<u>157,360</u>	<u>153,149</u>	<u>6,457</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>163,817</u>	<u>154,149</u>
Expenditure						
Staff costs	103,371	99,548	9,262	1,827	112,633	101,375
Events and activities	1,570	3,784	-	-	1,570	3,784
Premises costs	16,754	16,368	-	-	16,754	16,368
Printing, stationery, post, phone	9,218	5,924	-	-	9,218	5,924
Other running costs	4,309	3,572	1	14	4,310	3,586

Connect in the North
Statement of Financial Activities including comparatives for all funds
(including summary income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2022

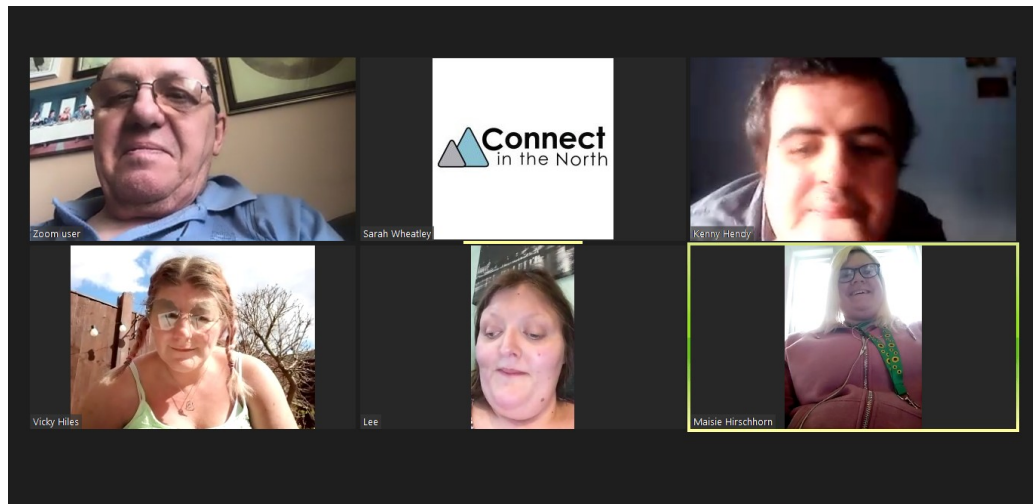
	2022	2021	2022	2021	2022	2021
	Unrestricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds	funds	funds
		(restated)		(restated)		(restated)
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Professional fees	35	2,301	138	9,600	173	11,901
Independent examination	672	672	-	-	672	672
Office equipment	616	94	-	-	616	94
Loss on decommissioned computer	-	233	-	-	-	233
Marketing	162	-	-	-	162	-
Depreciation	1,321	1,421	-	-	1,321	1,421
Total expenditure	138,028	133,917	9,401	11,441	147,429	145,358
Net income / (expenditure)	19,332	19,232	(2,944)	(10,441)	16,388	8,791
Fund balances brought forward	102,161	82,929	10,226	20,667	112,387	103,596
Fund balances carried forward	121,493	102,161	7,282	10,226	128,775	112,387

Accounts



Annual Report

2020-2021



Connect in the North Annual Report 2019/20



Chair's Report

Hello, my name's Vicky and I'm the fabulous chair of Connect in The North. Connect in The North is brilliant at what we do. We are fantastic!

It's been a tough year for everybody, but we have got through it! We are still here because we are doing a good job.

The Connect in the North team has done really well self-managing. Self-managing is where you do it all yourself, where you don't have a manager. You work as a team, sharing the work out. You look at your skills, see what people are good at and match them jobs they can do. So Madeleine took on the finances, Luke is good at media and websites, Sarah is good at board meetings, organising and doing all the training.

Self-management gives us more control so you can do what you need to do.

Since Covid we have run our sessions on zoom, so that people don't feel left out. We have been able to include everyone by supporting people to go on zoom. We made an easy-read sheet and helped individual people.

You can follow Connect in the North on YouTube where we've got lots of videos, as well as other social media.

During lockdown I enjoyed taking part in Countdown and Bingo sessions online for our members, and Sarah did a quiz on Fridays. We also ran our training courses online, including My Life, My Way. You can read about all the other things we got up to in the rest of this annual report.

The board continued to meet on zoom, but we are looking to go back to the office soon. The zoom meetings have worked well because we've been able to do our work. But it's left a massive pile of things for me to sign!

I want to say a massive thank you to all the staff for all their hard work throughout the year, and the board of directors for working well online. I know it's been hard, but we got through it. If it wasn't for you guys we wouldn't have achieved so much.

I hope we have an even better year next year. Keep up the good work and let's get bigger and better!

Thank you for reading and hope to see you again soon for another cracking year

Vicky Hiles

Treasurer's Report



It has been a different year for Connect in the North. The Covid-19 Pandemic and Cathy retiring changed how Connect in the North runs. In September 2020, Madeleine Fahy took over doing the accounts.

We used some of the restricted employability hub money as we designed the employment Leeds website.

We bought a new laptop and a tablet so that working from home could be easier for Luke and Tania. This has slightly increased our depreciation charge.

Overall we have £112,387 total resources (including money at the bank and equipment) to carry forwards but £10,226 has to be used to complete the designing of the employment hub website and launching it during Leeds Learning Disability week June 2021.

We had £100,012 of free reserves at 31st March 2021 which excludes fixed assets as they cannot be spent.

In 2021-22 we plan to spend the same amount as we get in. We have been told by Leeds City Council that the Making it Happen Grant will be cut by 10% with more cuts to Making it Happen in 2022-23. We are on course to the end of June.

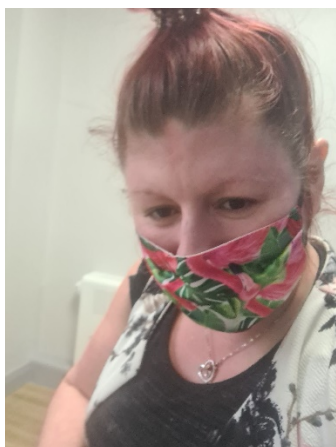
We are looking to make bids for other funding. Madeleine is working with Claire Welling from WYCAS to produce a 3 year budget forecast. This is so that with the cuts that Leeds City Council are making, everyone can see how Connect in the North will perform over the next few years of uncertainty.

Maisie Hirschhorn - (Treasurer)

2020/2021		Funds Carried forward to 2021/22
Income	£154,149	Restricted £10,226
Spent	£145,358	General (Free Reserves) £100.012
		Fixed Assets £2,149 Total Funds £112,387

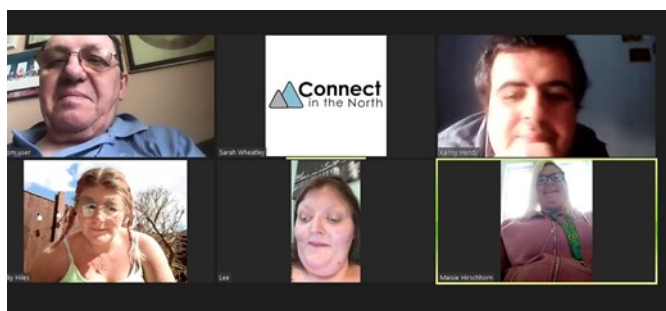
The full details are in our independently examined accounts for 2020/21. You can get a copy of the accounts from the Connect in the North office.

Connect in the North's Aim

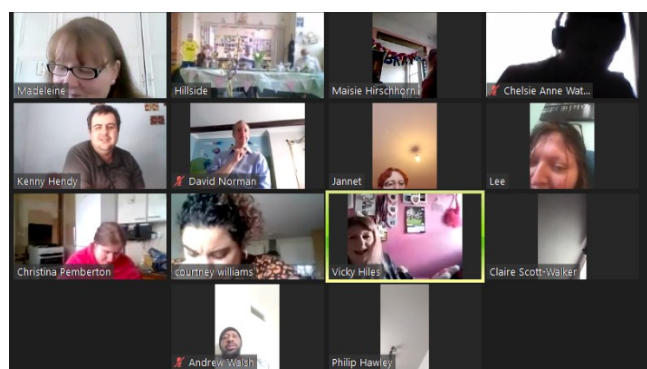


We want people with learning difficulties to have control of their own lives and equal power in the world.

We are led by people with learning difficulties. Our Board are all people with learning difficulties.



The Board listens to members to find out what would make their lives better. We make sure that our plans for future work will make the lives of people with learning difficulties better.



By the end of March 2021 we had 384 members. That is 9 more than at the same time last year.

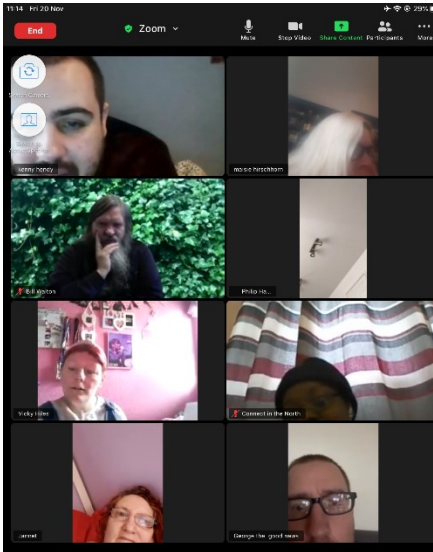


This year has been very different because of the coronavirus which changed everything we do.

We are proud that we found new ways to keep in touch with our members and were able to keep working.

Some of the things we did last year

1st April 2020 → 31st March 2021



Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting had to be held online this year because of COVID 19.

We welcomed Leanne Johns to the board and said goodbye to Mark Clayforth and Elysia Smith.



We were sad to see Mark and Elysia leave as they have brought so much to the organisation.



It was great to see the return of Leanne who had been a director from 2016-2019



After the main business we had a quiz. We also said goodbye to Cathy Wintersgill who retired after working for Connect in the North for over 25 years. It has been a year of great change.



Michael Buttery



Maisie



Leanne Johns



Vicky

Becoming a Self-Managed Team

Connect in the North decided to become a self-managing team when Cathy retired.

This means Connect in the North no longer has 1 person in charge. Members of staff are responsible for different parts of the company.



Madeleine has taken over the accounts and the role of company secretary.



Sarah is responsible for supporting the board, Pass it on People and Making it Happen.



Luke is in control of the Through the Maze newsletter, websites and social media.



Tania is responsible for checking the website is up to date.

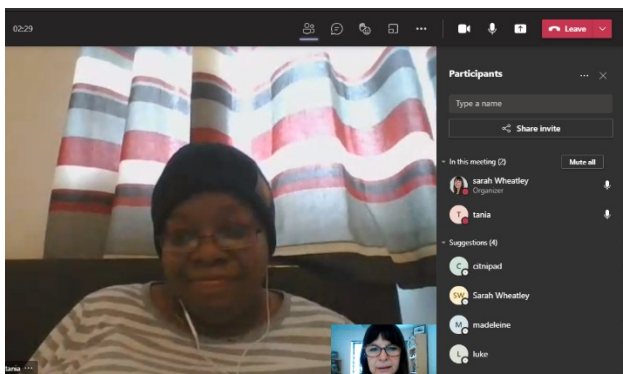


The board and staff team worked with Buurtzorg England and Ireland to make sure they could work as a self managed team.



The board asked the team trial being a self-managed team for 6 months to see if it worked. The team reported to the board every month. At the end of March the board were confident it was working well.

Working during COVID 19



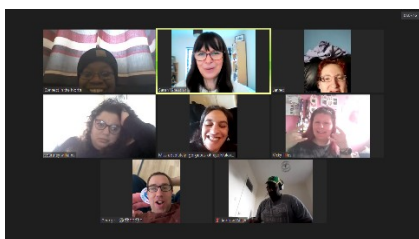
At the end of March 2020 we all had to work from home.

COVID 19 brought many challenges for Connect in the North but it also brought lots of opportunities.

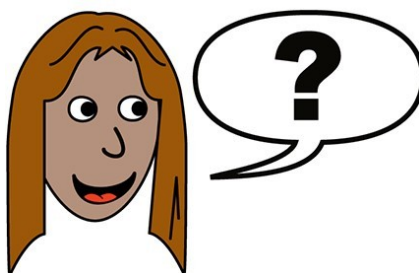


Organisations across Leeds were very quick to support people with learning difficulties to get online and connect with others.

We supported over 50 people with learning difficulties to learn how to use Zoom to connect with others.



We were able to work closely with our members throughout the year. Our members took part in research and focus groups.



- Research about COVID for DPO – Equality Together
- COVID impact research – Learning Disability England
- Health Easy Read Research – Leeds University
- How to involve people with learning difficulties on Boards - Grace Eyre Foundation

Through the Maze

Through the Maze is an information and signposting service for adults with learning disabilities, family carers and professionals in Leeds.



We have a telephone help line
☎ 0113 270 3233



The Ask Us **Drop In** service every Monday afternoon.

The Drop In runs 12.30 PM → 3.00 PM



This year we have had to run the Drop In on Zoom. We also arranged private appointments with people.



Pass it on People meet to find out what's going on in Leeds. They share information with people they know.

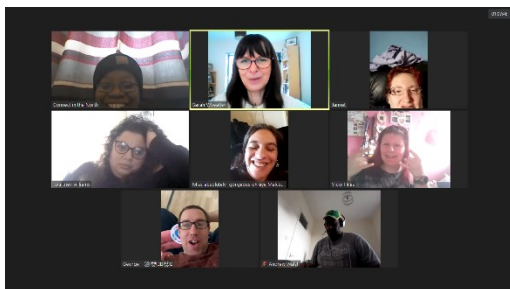
This year most the places we planned to visit had to be cancelled because of COVID 19.



We had to meet outside or in smaller groups.

When we were in total lockdown we met on zoom.

We interviewed Beckie from Leep 1, Maisie from the Skyfallers, Andrew



from the Outsiders and attended the Learning Disability Conference.

The Pass it on People have made lots of vlogs about what they've learnt to do in lockdown and staying Healthy and well.

They have advised on the Through the Maze newsletter and the Employment Hub.

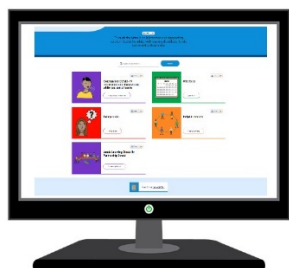


A **quarterly newsletter**.

This year the newsletter was a great source of information about services and events for people with learning disabilities. We included activities to do at home for people who couldn't get online.



A **website** with information about events and services.



This year we made changes to the website to show the latest news about COVID 19 and activities people could do at home.

www.through-the-maze.org.uk

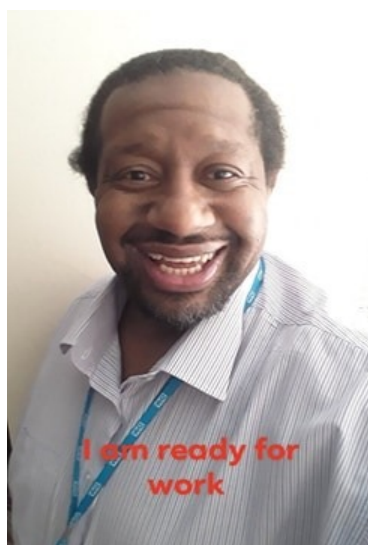
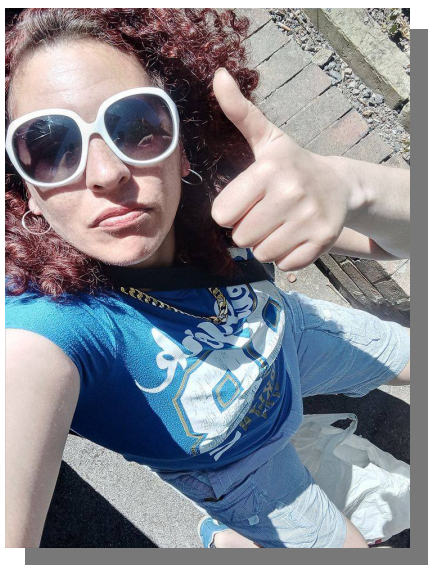
Learning Disability Week



Learning Disability Week was held online this year.

Organisations worked hard to deliver lots of activities throughout the week.

This year we ran Learning Disability Pride online. Many people shared pictures showing what they were proud of.



Good Lives Leaders



Tania is one of the Good Lives Leaders. They are people with learning difficulties and family carers. They visit services and talk to the people who live there.

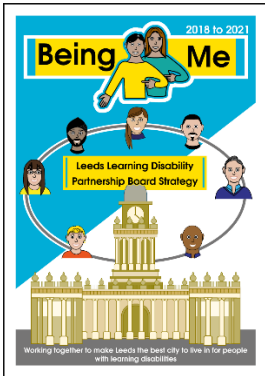
This year we weren't able to visit people's homes because it wasn't safe.

Being Social

We run the Being Social Task Group.



This is a group of people with learning difficulties, family carers and staff from different organisations. They come together to plan how we can improve the social lives of people with learning difficulties.



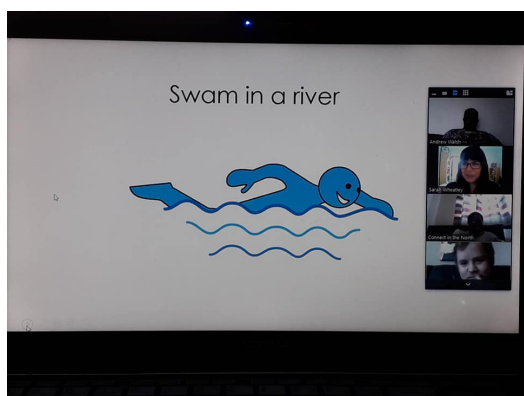
It is part of the Leeds plan to improve the lives of people with learning difficulties. The plan is called the **Being Me** strategy.



This year we ran the meetings on Zoom. We found out about how all of us have adapted what we do to work with people safely. We sent out a survey to providers. 11 organisations told us what they could do to support people with learning difficulties connect with others during this time.

Kenny Hendy joined the group as the new co-chair.

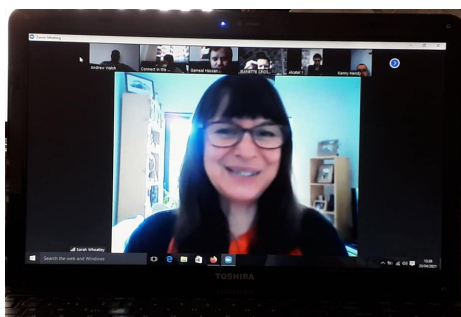
Training for people with learning difficulties



At the start of lockdown we supported lots of our members to use Zoom. We ran a timetable of fun activities such as; Countdown, 20 questions, Comedy Club, bingo and quizzes. It helped people get confident online.



We ran some sessions with Leep 1 about web safety and relaxation. We ran Friendship Training and a Web safety session for Aspire. We ran The Trouble with Sexting for People in Action.



We trained 149 people with learning difficulties online. This training included My Life My Way, Webwise, Running your own Zoom meetings, the Trouble with Sexting and Stamp Out Bullying.



What's on Your Mind

We've hosted a monthly event with Asking You for people with learning difficulties to ask the West Yorkshire Police and the Health Facilitation Team questions about COVID 19

Roots



The Tania ran Stamp Out Bullying training online. We ran sessions about being safe online and Zoom with the Roots team.

Person centred thinking training in Leeds



We ran our person centred thinking workshops for people working in Leeds online this year.

This is paid for by Leeds Joint Commissioning Service.

This year we trained 152 people.



The courses we ran –

- Person Centred Reviews
- Building Friendship
- Webwise for staff
- The Trouble with Sexting
- Knowing your way around Zoom
- Hosting your own Zoom Meeting
- Person Centred Approaches to Difficult Behaviour



As well as our open courses we also ran training for –

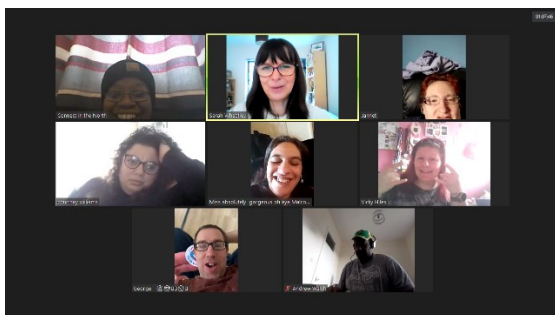
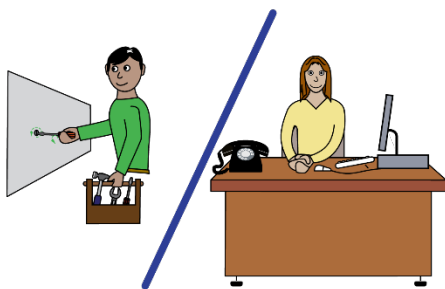
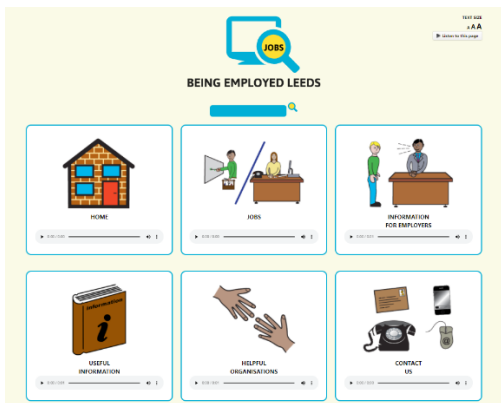
- Aspire cbs
- Ivy Dene
- Hamara

Other training and work people paid us for



- We finished the work that was funded by 100% Digital to help more people with learning difficulties get online.
- We were funded by Creative Connections to support people who are socially isolated.

Employment Website



Connect in the North were asked by Leeds City Council and The Employment Task Group to design and build an accessible employment website.

This is to help people with learning difficulties find job vacancies in Leeds.

The website will have accessible information to help people find training and courses that will help people prepare to find a job.

Connect in the North got advice and help from people with learning difficulties and professionals to help design the website and to help make sure it is accessible.

The website will be managed by Connect in the North for the first year. Hopefully some more funding will become available so Connect in the North can continue managing it. The website will be finished and be available for people to use in 2021.

www.BeingEmployedLeeds.org.uk

Thank you

	Gill Crawshaw supports Vicky Hiles in the role of Conn in the North chair.
	Claire Welling from WYCAS (West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service) supports our treasurer.
	Sam Clark from Learning Disability England who had been supporting Cathy.
	Bill Walton for supporting Rooots.

Thank you to the following for their financial support:

Funder	Project or activity funded
100% Digital	Digital Inclusion
Creative Connections	Supporting people to be less socially isolated
Leeds Joint Commissioning Service	Making it Happen in Leeds -Person centred Planning and Thinking
Leeds Joint Commissioning Service	Through the Maze – information and signposting service

Registered office: Connect in the North Office 42 Sugar Mill Oakhurst Road Leeds LS11 7HL ☎: 0113 270 3233 ✉: info@citn.org.uk Website: www.citn.org.uk Charity number 1078829 Company number 3127540	Bankers – Co-operative Bank Plc 19/20 Commercial Street Leeds LS1 6AL Independent Examiners – WYCAS Stringer House 34 Lupton Street Leeds LS10 2QW ☎ 0113 270 6291
--	--

Contact us

	By phone	 0113 270 3233
	Write to	Connect in the North Sugar Mill Oakhurst Road Leeds LS11 7HL
	By email	✉ info@citn.org.uk ✉ ttm@citn.org.uk
	Facebook	http://www.facebook.com/CintN www.facebook.com/throughthemazeleeds
	Twitter	@ConnectintNorth @ThroughTheMaze
	Websites	www.citn.org.uk www.through-the-maze.org.uk

Connect in the North

Charity number 1078829

A company limited by guarantee number 03127540

Annual Report and Financial Statements **for the year ended 31 March 2021**



West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service

Connect in the North

Annual Report and Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021

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Prepared by West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service

Connect in the North

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2021

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

The trustees during the financial year and up to and including the date the report was approved were:

Name	Position	Dates
Vicky Hiles	Chairperson	
Maisie Hirschhorn	Treasurer	
Michael Buttery		
Leanne Johns		Appointed 20 November 2020
Kenny Hendy		Appointed 24 February 2021
Mark Clayforth		Resigned 20 November 2020
Elysia Randall		Resigned 20 November 2020
Company secretary	Madeleine Fahy	Appointed 15th September 2020
Charity number	1078829	Registered in England and Wales
Company number	03127540	Registered in England and Wales

Registered and principal address

Office 42
Sugar Mill Business Park
Oakhurst Road
Leeds. LS11 7HL

Bankers

Co-operative Bank plc
19/20 Commercial Street
Leeds
LS1 6AL

Connect in the North

Trustees' report for the year ended 31 March 2021

Reference and administrative details of the charity, its trustees and advisors

Independent examiner

Claire Welling

West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service

Stringer House

34 Lupton Street

Leeds

LS10 2QW

Structure, governance and management

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and was formed on 17 November 1995. It is governed by its articles of association last amended by special resolution on 25 June 2019. The liability of the members in the event of the company being wound up is limited to a sum not exceeding £1.

Method of recruitment and appointment of trustees

The trustees of the charity are also the directors for the purposes of company law and are appointed by the members at the AGM.

Connect in the North

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2021

Objectives and activities

The charity's objects

The relief of people with learning difficulties within the Leeds Metropolitan area and the North of England.

The charity's main activities

We are a Centre for Inclusive Living led by people with learning difficulties. We work to make things better for people with learning difficulties. We help people with learning difficulties change their own lives through person centred planning. We run training in person centred thinking. We provide an information and signposting services for people with learning difficulties in Leeds.

Public benefit statement

In setting our objectives and planning our activities our trustees have given serious consideration to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit and in particular ensuring that people with learning difficulties have control of their own lives and equal power in the world.

Achievements and performance

In April 2020, all employees continued to work from home due to the Covid-19 pandemic. All training continued online, using zoom or teams. We ran training for people working in Leeds on person centred thinking and person centred approaches to supporting people with learning difficulties. We trained 152 people, both paid staff and family carers.

Connect in the North

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2021

Achievements and performance (continued)

We also training 149 people with learning difficulties. Training for people with learning difficulties included Stamp out Bullying, My Life My Way, Webwise, Running your own Zoom meetings and The Trouble with Sexting.

We worked with some adults with Learning Difficulties supporting them to plan for the future.

We increased our membership to 384.

In addition, we got 50 new people with learning difficulties online to connect using the Creative Connections and the 100% digital money.

We ran social activities for people with learning difficulties, which included weekly quizzes, Countdown, laughter and joke sessions and bingo. The AGM for members was held on zoom.

We ran an Information and Signposting service for people with learning difficulties. This includes running a telephone helpline, a weekly drop in on zoom, supporting people with learning difficulties to share information online. The Through the Maze website has had over 19,208 unique visitors over the year. The website had an extra page added to it for activities to do at home.

The work continued in developing a new website called Being Employed Leeds to help more people with learning difficulties in Leeds find paid work.

In September 2020 the paid director retired and Madeleine Fahy took over the responsibility of doing the accounts.

Financial review

The net income for the year was £8,791, including net income of £19,232 on unrestricted funds and net expenditure of £10,441 on restricted funds.

Connect in the North

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2021

Reserves policy

The charity's free reserves, excluding fixed assets, at the year end were £100,012.

In the light of the National Council for Voluntary Organisations' (NCVO) recommendations to ensure adequate cash flow, the board aims to build up unrestricted funds equivalent to six months' total running costs.

At 31 March 2021 the reserves equated to 7.7 months of budgeted total running costs for 2021-22. We recommend that the reserves are higher than six months as we know there will be further future cuts to our Grant and Contract from the Local Authority. We also don't know how we are going to be affected post Covid-19 and if there will be any costs involved once all restrictions have been lifted.

At the time of signing these accounts the charity has been impacted by the global Covid-19 virus. The trustees have reassessed the charity's ability to continue for at least 12 months from the date that the accounts are approved and conclude that no material uncertainties exist that cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees report and the financial statements in accordance with the applicable law and UK Accounting Standards.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial accounts for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

Connect in the North

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2021

Statement of trustees' responsibilities (continued)

select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
prepare the accounts on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

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

Connect in the North

Trustees' report (continued) for the year ended 31 March 2021

Statement of trustees' responsibilities (continued)

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities (Charities SORP (FRS102)), and in accordance with the special provisions of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Signed on behalf of the board of trustees:

Signed: Maisie Hirschhorn (Trustee)

Date: 17/8/2021

Connect in the North

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Connect in the North

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 11 to to 25.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees of the charitable 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 charitable 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 ('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:

- 1 accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act;
or
- 2 the accounts do not accord with those records; or

Connect in the North

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Connect in the North (continued)

- 3 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
- 4 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

Signed: Claire Welling

Date: 23/8/2021

West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
Leeds
LS10 2QW

Connect in the North
Statement of Financial Activities
(including summary income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021 Unrestricted funds £	2021 Restricted funds £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds (restated) £
Income from:					
Grants and donations	(2)	76,477	1,000	77,477	98,877
Contracts		76,116	-	76,116	76,115
Services provided for charitable objectives		191	-	191	540
Bank interest		365	-	365	399
Donated goods		-	-	-	50
Total income		<u>153,149</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>154,149</u>	<u>175,981</u>
Expenditure on:					
Staff costs	(3)	99,548	1,827	101,375	118,640
Events and activities		3,784	-	3,784	6,771
Premises costs		16,368	-	16,368	16,344
Printing, stationery, post and phone		5,924	-	5,924	4,525
Other running costs		3,572	14	3,586	3,324

Connect in the North
Statement of Financial Activities
(including summary income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

Notes

	2021 Unrestricted funds	2021 Restricted funds	2021 Total funds	2020 Total funds (restated)
	£	£	£	£
Professional fees	2,301	9,600	11,901	205
Accountancy and independent examination	672	-	672	697
Office equipment	94	-	94	179
Loss on decommissioned computer	233	-	233	-
Depreciation	1,421	-	1,421	1,379
Total expenditure	133,917	11,441	145,358	152,064
Net income / (expenditure)	19,232	(10,441)	8,791	23,917
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	19,232	(10,441)	8,791	23,917
Fund balances brought forward	82,929	20,667	103,596	79,679
Fund balances carried forward	102,161	10,226	112,387	103,596

(4)

All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

Connect in the North **Balance sheet** **as at 31 March 2021**

		2021 Unrestricted £	2021 Restricted £	2021 Total £	2020 Total £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	(5)	2,149	-	2,149	2,688
Total fixed assets		<u>2,149</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,149</u>	<u>2,688</u>
Current assets					
Prepayments		328	-	328	318
Cash at bank and in hand	(6)	101,251	15,026	116,277	101,482
Total current assets		<u>101,579</u>	<u>15,026</u>	<u>116,605</u>	<u>101,800</u>
Current liabilities:					
amounts falling due within one year					
Creditors and accruals	(7)	1,567	4,800	6,367	672
Total current liabilities		<u>1,567</u>	<u>4,800</u>	<u>6,367</u>	<u>672</u>
Net current assets		<u>100,012</u>	<u>10,226</u>	<u>110,238</u>	<u>101,128</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>102,161</u>	<u>10,226</u>	<u>112,387</u>	<u>103,816</u>
Net assets		<u>102,161</u>	<u>10,226</u>	<u>112,387</u>	<u>103,816</u>
Funds					
Unrestricted funds		102,161	-	102,161	82,929
Restricted funds		-	10,226	10,226	20,667
Total funds		<u>102,161</u>	<u>10,226</u>	<u>112,387</u>	<u>103,596</u>

Connect in the North Balance sheet as at 31 March 2021

For the year ending 31 March 2021 the charitable company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the charitable company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476. The trustees (who also the directors for the purposes of company law) acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regime and with FRS 102 (effective January 2019).

The financial statements were approved by the board of trustees on

Date: 17/8/2021

Signed: Maisie Hirschhorn (Trustee)

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Accounting policies

Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019) and with the Charities Act 2011.

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

Additional staff expenditure of £220 in the 2019-20 financial year has been identified and the 2020 comparative figures restated to reflect this.

There has been no change to the accounting policies since last year.

No changes have been made to the accounts for previous years.

Going concern

The trustees are satisfied that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Incoming resources

All incoming resources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when the charity becomes entitled to the resources, it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources and the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SOFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the resources.

Where grants are related to performance and specific deliverables, they are accounted for as the Donated assets, facilities or services are valued at their estimated value to the charity. This is the price that the charity estimates it would pay in the open market for equivalent items; or services and facilities of equivalent utility to the charity.

Expenditure and liabilities

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out the resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Taxation

As a charity the organisation benefits from rates relief and is generally exempt from income tax and capital gains tax but not from VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the cost of those items to which it relates.

Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets costing more than £200 are capitalised and included at cost including any incidental expenses of acquisition. Gifted assets are shown at the value to the charity on receipt.

Depreciation is provided on all tangible fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the cost on a straight line basis over their expected useful economic lives as follows:

Fixtures, fittings and equipment - 25% straight line

Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution scheme for the benefit of its employees. The costs of contributions are recognised in the year they are payable.

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2021

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the accounts.

Leases

Rents under operating leases are charged on a straight line basis over the lease term or to an earlier date if the lease can be determined without financial penalty.

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 March 2021

2 Grants and donations

	2021	2021	2021	2020
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	funds	funds	funds	funds
	£	£	£	£
Leeds City Council (LCC) Joint Commissioning	76,477	-	76,477	76,477
LCC	-	-	-	22,400
Seeability	-	1,000	1,000	-
	<u>76,477</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>77,477</u>	<u>98,877</u>

3 Staff costs and numbers

	2021	2020
	£	£
Gross salaries	94,396	106,955
Social security costs	6,724	8,387
Employment allowance	(4,000)	(3,000)
Pensions	3,968	4,965
Other staffing costs	287	1,333
	<u>101,375</u>	<u>118,640</u>

The average number employees during the year was 11.5, being an average of 3.7 full time equivalent (2019: 12, 4.1 FTE).

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

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 March 2021

3 Staff costs and numbers (continued)

Defined contribution pension scheme	2021	2020
	£	£
Costs of the scheme to the charity for the year	3,968	4,965

4 Restricted funds	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Transfers	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£	£
100% Digital	683	-	683	-	-
Employability hub	19,984	-	9,758	-	10,226
Seeability	-	1,000	1,000	-	-
	<u>20,667</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>11,441</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>10,226</u>

Fund name	Purpose of restriction
100% Digital	To get more people with learning difficulties online
Employability hub	To develop a website to aid people with learning difficulties in Leeds to find employment
Seeability	To support people with learning disabilities, autism and sight loss who are most at risk of loneliness because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 March 2021

5 Tangible assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment	Total
<u>Cost</u>	£	£
At 1 April 2020	9,002	9,002
Additions	1,115	1,115
Disposals	<u>(3,220)</u>	<u>(3,220)</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>6,897</u>	<u>6,897</u>
<u>Depreciation</u>		
At 1 April 2020	6,314	6,314
Depn reversed re. disposals	(2,987)	(2,987)
Charge for year	<u>1,421</u>	<u>1,421</u>
At 31 March 2021	<u>4,748</u>	<u>4,748</u>
<u>Net book value</u>		
At 31 March 2021	<u>2,149</u>	<u>2,149</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>2,688</u>	<u>2,688</u>

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 March 2021

6 Cash at bank and in hand

	2021	2020
	£	£
Co-op Bank	116,097	101,082
Cash in hand	180	400
	<u>116,277</u>	<u>101,482</u>

7 Creditors and accruals

	2021	2020
	£	£
Creditors	704	-
Accruals	5,663	672
	<u>6,367</u>	<u>672</u>

8 Related party transactions

Trustee expenses

No trustee received any expenses during this year or the previous year.

Trustee remuneration and benefits

No trustee received any remuneration or benefit during this or the previous year.

Connect in the North

Notes to the accounts continued

for the year ended 31 March 2021

8 Related party transactions (continued)

Key management personnel

Only the trustees have authority at this key level in this reporting year, as in the previous reporting period.

There were no other related party transactions during this year or the previous year.

9 Operating leases

Expected future minimum lease payments over the remaining life of the lease, analysed into the period in which the commitment falls due:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Within one year	1,403	1,403
In the second to fifth years inclusive	1,926	3,328

Connect in the North
Statement of Financial Activities including comparatives for all funds
(including summary income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

	2021 Unrestricted funds £	2020 Unrestricted funds (restated) £	2021 Restricted funds £	2020 Restricted funds (restated) £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds (restated) £
Income						
Grants and donations	76,477	76,477	1,000	22,400	77,477	98,877
Contracts	76,116	76,115	-	-	76,116	76,115
Services provided	191	540	-	-	191	540
Bank interest	365	399	-	-	365	399
Donated goods	-	50	-	-	-	50
Total income	<u>153,149</u>	<u>153,581</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>22,400</u>	<u>154,149</u>	<u>175,981</u>
Expenditure						
Staff costs	99,548	117,984	1,827	656	101,375	118,640
Events and activities	3,784	6,771	-	-	3,784	6,771
Premises costs	16,368	16,344	-	-	16,368	16,344
Printing, stationery, post, phone	5,924	4,525	-	-	5,924	4,525
Other running costs	3,572	3,324	14	-	3,586	3,324
Professional fees	2,301	205	9,600	-	11,901	205

Connect in the North
Statement of Financial Activities including comparatives for all funds
(including summary income and expenditure account)
for the year ended 31 March 2021

	2021 Unrestricted funds £	2020 Unrestricted funds (restated) £	2021 Restricted funds £	2020 Restricted funds (restated) £	2021 Total funds £	2020 Total funds (restated) £
Expenditure						
Accountancy	672	697	-	-	672	697
Office equipment	94	179	-	-	94	179
Loss on decommissioned computer	233	-	-	-	233	-
Depreciation	1,421	1,379	-	-	1,421	1,379
Total expenditure	<u>133,917</u>	<u>151,408</u>	<u>11,441</u>	<u>656</u>	<u>145,358</u>	<u>152,064</u>
Net income / (expenditure)	19,232	2,173	(10,441)	21,744	8,791	23,917
Transfers between funds	-	1,077	-	(1,077)	-	-
Net movement in funds	19,232	3,250	(10,441)	20,667	8,791	23,917
Fund balances brought forward	82,929	79,679	20,667	-	103,596	79,679
Fund balances carried forward	<u>102,161</u>	<u>82,929</u>	<u>10,226</u>	<u>20,667</u>	<u>112,387</u>	<u>103,596</u>

Connect in the North

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Connect in the North (continued)

- 3 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
- 4 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

Signed:  Name: Claire Welling

Date: 23/8/2021

West Yorkshire Community Accounting Service

Stringer House
34 Lupton Street
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LS10 2QW