

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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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.

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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		<u>138,574</u>	<u>3,222</u>	<u>141,796</u>	<u>147,429</u>
Net income / (expenditure)		<u>8,222</u>	<u>(3,222)</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>16,388</u>
Fund balances brought forward		<u>121,493</u>	<u>7,282</u>	<u>128,775</u>	<u>112,387</u>
Fund balances carried forward	(4)	<u>129,715</u>	<u>4,060</u>	<u>133,775</u>	<u>128,775</u>

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

Cost

At 1 April 2022

Additions

At 31 March 2023

Fixtures, fittings and
equipment

Total

£

8,440

355

8,795

£

8,440

355

8,795

Depreciation

At 1 April 2022

Charge for year

At 31 March 2023

6,069

1,411

7,480

6,069

1,411

7,480

Net book value

At 31 March 2023

1,315

1,315

At 31 March 2022

2,371

2,371

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