

Report of the Trustees and
Unaudited Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 March 2024
for
LONGBRIDGE CHILDCARE STRATEGY GROUP

Cooper Parry Advisory Limited
CUBO Birmingham
4th Floor
Two Chamberlain Square
Birmingham
West Midlands
B3 3AX

Contents of the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Page
Reference and Administrative Details	1
Report of the Trustees	2 to 9
Independent Examiner's Report	10
Statement of Financial Activities	11
Balance Sheet	12
Cash Flow Statement	13
Notes to the Cash Flow Statement	14
Notes to the Financial Statements	15 to 22

LONGBRIDGE CHILDCARE STRATEGY GROUP

Reference and Administrative Details
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Trustees	S Murray M Short (Chair) C J Atterbury (appointed 24/10/2023) L Haines (resigned 2/6/2023) G J Handley (resigned 5/8/2023) M Naidoo (resigned 19/7/2023) C M West (resigned 23/10/2023) L Williams (appointed 17/11/2023) R L Collins (appointed 4/7/2024)
Registered office	Hollymoor Centre 8 Manor Park Grove Northfield Birmingham West Midlands B31 5ER
Registered company number	03719730 (England and Wales)
Registered charity number	1081699
Independent examiner	Cooper Parry Advisory Limited CUBO Birmingham 4th Floor Two Chamberlain Square Birmingham West Midlands B3 3AX

Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 March 2024

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015).

Structure, governance and management

Longbridge Childcare Strategy Group is a company limited by guarantee (company number 03719730) which was incorporated on 25 February 1999 and achieved charitable status on 21 July 2000 (number 1081699). It is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 25 February 1999, as amended by special resolution on 13 December 1999.

The Trustees who held office during the year and to the date of this report are as follows:

S Murray	Appointed 02 December 2021	
M Short	Appointed 02 December 2021	
C West	Appointed 28 July 2022	Resigned 23 October 2023
G Handley	Appointed 09 January 2023	Resigned 05 August 2023
M Naidoo	Appointed 18 January 2023	Resigned 19 July 2023
L Haines	Appointed 16 January 2023	Resigned 02 June 2023
L Williams	Appointed 17 November 2023	
C J Atterbury	Appointed 24 October 2023	
R L Collins	Appointed 4 July 2024	

Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Objectives and activities

Objectives and aims

Recruitment and appointment of new Trustees

Recruitment of Trustees has been particularly successful this year and we have recruited three additional board members from a variety of professional backgrounds to reflect the needs of the charity. Having secured additional board members.

The current Trustees are full time professionals, some of whom have experience within the childcare field.

We continually encourage parents and individuals to become members of the committee, specifying the roles and responsibilities required for the provision. This is undertaken via an interview with the panel, committing to a minimum of four meetings per year and completing a DBS check.

Principal activity

The principal activity of the company continues to be the provision of quality, affordable childcare facilities and training for those supplying care services. The welfare and development of the children is paramount within all of our activities, particularly at this time.

Longbridge Childcare Strategy Group is a charity established in 1991, to be effective in Birmingham with particular reference to the Longbridge Area and its environs (the Area of Benefit).

"To advance the education and development of young children within Longbridge in particular by the provision of a comprehensive childcare service offering facilities for safe and satisfying play and to provide or to arrange for the provision of such ancillary facilities and activities which are considered necessary or desirable for the fulfilment of the objects."

The Charity includes the following powers exercisable in furtherance of the said Objects, but not otherwise;

1. To advance, whether by training or otherwise, the knowledge and professional skills of those resident in the Area of Benefit and concerned with the provision of childcare.
2. To provide practical help within the Centre services, including; advice, assistance, service, support, advocacy and information to meet the needs of those caring for children and to liaise with external bodies concerned with the matters of childcare.
3. To promote, provide and carry on or assist in the promotion, provision and carrying on of facilities of any kind pursuant to the objects and to arrange and hold meetings, conferences and lectures.

Activities April 2023 - March 2024

2023 - 2024 has been an eventful year for Longbridge Childcare Strategy Group, continuing our dedication to providing high-quality child care and support for vulnerable children and their families in the South of Birmingham. This report reflects the achievements, challenges, and milestones over the past year, as we continue to work towards creating a nurturing and safe environment for every child in our care.

Our mission at Longbridge Childcare Strategy Group is to put 'Children First' by ensuring that every child has access to affordable, high-quality childcare, and to support their development emotionally, socially, and academically. At our 3 childcare settings Alphabets @ Hollymoor, Alphabets @ Hollyhill and Alphabets @ Cofton, we envision a world where every child, regardless of background, can grow in a caring and supportive environment that fosters their full potential.

Alphabets @ Holly Hill Nursery has a Good grade from Ofsted. The nursery is due to move into the main Frankley Plus Children's Centre building in April 2024 to continue being able to provide a stable and secure environment for the children and families in the area. Following the lease agreement with our current building not being renewed.

Alphabets @ Cofton has a Good grade from Ofsted. This provision is an Out of School club and Pre-School. Providing before and after school care and holiday playscheme services which has continued to be popular with children and families attending the adjoining primary school.

Alphabets @ Hollymoor gained a Good grade from Ofsted. continues to operate in the Hollymoor Centre. Working in partnership with other childcare professionals and the local children's centres, to meet each child's individual needs.

Key Achievements in 2023 - 2024

Growth in Reach: This year, we expanded our reach to serve more children and families than in previous years.

Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Early Childhood Development: The children that left our settings in July 2023 to go on to Primary Schools made positive steps towards securing the Early Years Foundation Stage early learning goals. Our children showed improved cognitive and social skills, preparing them for a strong start in school.

Training: We provided training for our staff team. This included First Aid, Safeguarding, Food Safety, Apprenticeship Schemes supporting 5 new workers into the childcare workforce.

Nutritional Programs: With support of the Winter Food Aid, we ensured that 100% of the children using our childcare services received nutritious snacks and meals, contributing to better health and well-being. A series of food hampers were also sent with the parents / carers to help support the continual issue of low income families and the continual struggle of child poverty.

Support for Children with Special Educational Needs: Our settings identified a significant amount of children within our care as having additional needs. These children were supported with a host of interventions to help them navigate their early years experiences. This included targeted small group or 1-2-1 sessions to support listening and attention, speech and language development, behaviour management strategies and emotional wellbeing. These interventions were able to be implemented by the successful attainment of ISEY funding. This year we have had several successful ISEY funding claims.

Partnerships: We continue to partner with Cofton Primary School to offer breakfast club and after school club care to 45 children per week. We also continue to partner with Holly Hill School to provide breakfast club provision to 10 children per morning. We also worked in conjunction to provide a wrap around service to the children that attended Holly Hill nursery.

Restructuring of Management: In August 2023 the Project Manager's job role changed with a focus on bid writing becoming their primary focus and developing into a fully remote position.

The Finance & Operations Manager's role was tailored to her specific areas of expertise and focusing on the development of the Hollymoor Centre within the local community, as a hub for community projects.

In November 2023 the recruitment of the Area Manager took place in which their role would be to oversee the day to day running of the childcare settings supporting the setting based Managers.

Challenges and Learnings

Funding Constraints

The children that attend our settings are primarily funded by the Early Education Funding entitlement which was increased, but unfortunately not at the rate in which the National Minimum Wage was increased. Therefore this prompted us to strengthen our fundraising strategies and strengthen the need to call on the expertise of the project manager as the bid writer.

Staffing Shortages

The childcare sector still continues to face staff shortages. To help counteract this we have worked in partnerships with local colleges to provide their students with quality placements and therefore in turn helping us to recruit more qualified staff.

Impact of Economic Conditions

Inflation and increased living costs affected both our families and operational expenses.

Future Goals

Expansion Plans

- Now with the expansion of the Early Education Entitlement for 9 month old funding coming into place from September 2024, we are going to expand by opening a new baby room within Alphabets @ Hollymoor nursery, aiming to increase the number of children we currently care for by another 6 places being created.
- Extend the age range that can be cared for at Alphabets @ Cofton to incorporate being able to look after children from the age of 2 years.
- Implementation of a nursery management app to help streamline processes within the nurseries.

Strengthening Partnerships

- Build stronger relationships with local businesses and schools encouraging the usage of our nurseries by its stakeholders and their linked parents / carers.
- Continue to engage the community with fundraising events and volunteer opportunities.

Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Central Office - Negotiations regarding the Lease for the building were unresolved during this period and will now continue as a priority for the next year. The condition of the building remains stable, LCSG has continued to complete emergency repairs as and when needed.

The centre has continued to see an increased uptake in community events to include crafts, exercise classes, meeting place for the over 50's and a space for new mothers. We have identified the need for further grants and bids to maintain the building in regard to the roof, heating and promoting a more energy efficient centre. We will be prioritising these actions over the next 2 years.

Management

The Board continued to work with staff throughout the year to investigate potential changes which could benefit the organisation. Through consultation, priority was placed on building a larger Board which reflects the community and holds specialisms which can support the development and growth of LCSG.

LCSG Priorities for this year were;

- To monitor and evaluate the services we provide on a regular basis in order to maximise the benefits we provide to the individual children and young people in our care, their families and the local community.
- To develop a whole family approach identifying services and funding opportunities which will support the needs of the community.
- To maintain the 'Good' quality of childcare services as graded by Ofsted.
- To market LCSG services widely across the local areas.
- To monitor Running Costs and Funding/Income opportunities to maintain sustainability.
- To improve and upgrade our IT facilities and online presence. Offer training and support for the team based on their individual skills.

This Report has shown that we continue to maintain quality services and support children and families. We also worked in partnership with other organisations and the Local Authority. The organisation continues to move forward optimistically with plans for future growth and development.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Objectives and activities

Social Impact Report April 2023 - March 2024

During this year LCSG has provided quality childcare and family support for families including disadvantaged children needing special educational needs and safeguarding support, young adults, women, men, senior members of the community and single parents. Access to these services has been a powerful tool in addressing the effects from social disadvantage brought about by poor housing and living in areas of poverty. We continue to work with those in our community who are isolated and vulnerable; this is typically those on the lowest incomes. By offering welfare support to the most in need, quality childcare and family support has enabled individuals to access work or training courses, increase their hours or take on new opportunities. This has helped them to move out of poverty, improve their lives and enhance their children's long-term life chances.

LCSG have been active in Birmingham with a primary focus on Northfield West Heath and Frankly Great Park which the Birmingham Indices of deprivation 2019 ranked as among the 10% most deprived areas nationally. The wards are faced with a growing number of families living in poverty due to the cost-of-living crisis. We engage with these hard-to-reach families and individuals offering a fun, safe but stimulating environment along with a programme of activities designed to foster a sense of community and wellbeing.

LCSG has given extra social support to over 320 local families throughout the year. Our records show that 79% of the children attracted Pupil Premium and or Deprivation funding this rises to 90% in Frankley. 913 people have accessed support through our community centre and out of term social activities and projects. (1,268 people each year face to face in total) Birmingham City Council continues to recognise the centre as a 'warm welcome' venue. In addition to this we have provided hampers and support packs which include online support to 4,000 families receiving benefit support or have additional needs.

LCSG continues to assess and support the children who come into our care. Communication remains a major concern especially for children who have English as an additional language. Using communication assessment strategies and tools we work in partnership with the parents to identify the child's communication needs and put an early intervention plan into place. This is a service made available for every child. The children and young people we have supported for the last 2 years have included those who have experienced trauma (they may be having counselling or play therapy). Children and young people with a Health Care Action Plan. Looked after children and young people, Children, and young people from prisoner families. Children and young people with parents/carers or a sibling who suffers from health problems or a disability which impact on the child's quality of life. (This can include mental health), children and young people with parents/carers who are rehabilitating from an addiction. The numbers of children with extended needs (SEND) have dramatically increased. The areas of concern include difficulties hearing, mild to moderate learning disability, developmental disability i.e., autism or autism spectrum disorder. Parents are increasingly asking for support in managing their child's behaviour.

LCSG employs thirty employees on a range of employment contracts which include full time, part time and term time only. We work in partnership with the Birmingham Playcare Network (BPCN) who run a scrap store from our centre which recycles donations from individuals and businesses throughout Birmingham they employ eight part-time staff and fifty volunteers. BPCN also facilitates short courses and projects from the Hollymoor Centre. These projects are aimed at addressing a social need which brings in vulnerable people. They hold a biweekly craft group for people over 50 years old and a mother and baby club supporting young mums. Four hundred people visit ScrapStore each month 4,800 each year. We have a scout group and a dance academy group. We also have a school onsite called Flexible Learning which is for children who find attending mainstream education a challenge. Each of the occupants of the Hollymoor Centre refer individuals and groups to LCSG. We work together to offer the best help and support. In total over 12,342 people in the community benefited from our combined services. This partnership has enhanced our connection with families in the local community and strengthened the support we are able to give, we have found that we are able to attract a larger number of families who would have been harder to reach out to. By bringing them into our community we can work in partnership with other professionals and services to make a real change to their lives. An example of the professionals we work with are Health Visitors, Social Workers, Police, Health Care Professionals, teachers, and housing organisations. We also work in partnership with the Children's Centres, Special Educational Needs co-ordinators and Speech and Language Therapists. In addition, we support parents back into training by providing flexible childcare packages in partnership with the colleges.

LCSG employees are childcare practitioners who are experienced in connecting with and supporting people who are vulnerable and who often find it hard to trust anybody. Forming a partnership with them in support of their children helps to build a bond of trust. The parents/carers are grateful to have the opportunity to talk their problems through with the child's key person. The key person will then signpost them or help them find the help available. The key people have an extensive training program available to them which includes training in managing trauma, mental health first aid, drug and alcohol rehabilitation, domestic violence, and a range of safeguarding courses. This is to provide the socially supported families with the highest quality of care and advice available.

Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Objectives and activities

During the summer LCSG were able to capitalise on the new team of Playworkers who were employed last year. This included the development of a team of seven young adults aged between 16 to 18 years old who were very enthusiastic and committed to providing a summer scheme full of fun and friendship for the young children in their care. These young people gained valuable work experience, made new friends, and had a valuable experience of employment and managing their own money.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children remain to be an integral factor in all LCSG's management procedures. This commitment is deeply embedded in the general ethos of LCSG who aim to continue to foster a culture of vigilance and care. The number of qualified Designated Safeguarding Leads has increased to give the team the skills and confidence to act appropriately and with confidence when they need to. LCSG's induction pack has also been revised to strengthen new employee's knowledge and understanding of what is expected from them as a member of the team. The members of the group have all continued to adhere to government guidelines but share this responsibility as a team. The care and wellbeing of individuals remains our top priority.

Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Financial review

Financial position

The financial review of the year to 31st March 2024 shows the charity has faced challenges, as in the previous year, it's been somewhat of a concern for the industry as a whole. Due to the Early Years recruitment crisis we have found it increasingly difficult to recruit in order to expand on numbers.

Our focus was to increase uptake within each of the settings, to plan an attractive advertising strategy in order for the Centre to become more known and to alleviate any financial strains that were not needed within the charity. This has been somewhat successful, we have seen a significant increase at Alphabets@Cofton. The managers are using a variety of methods in order to attract new clients and the centre is receiving more traction.

Funded rates provided by the Government have always been significantly lower than needed, however consultations during this year provided positive news that the age in which children receive funding would be lowered, hours extended to 30 and a rise in the funding rates. This will have a positive impact on the 24/25 accounts.

During this time, we looked at ways in which we could save money in all areas, as some employees moved on to new ventures, roles were able to be dissolved amongst the team. Managers were given more insight into budgets and more training was provided, this helped to identify trigger points within the budgets and where money was being spent. Increased costs with the food and utilities have been the biggest challenge and managers have been encouraged to research cheaper alternatives.

At the Directors meeting in February 2023 a 2% wage rise was agreed for deputy managers and managers, with a 1% increase for all other roles however this did not include the 5.8% increase due to the NMW rises.

EEE Funding rates were again released late into the month. The formula had been written for the next 3 financial years which would be looked at every 12 months. This has since been reviewed to incorporate the new childcare options from 9 months old.

After the success we had previously had with the HAF programme and the uptake for childcare provision out of term on a downturn, it was decided that if possible to attract new opportunities and bids in regard to offering a completely free service, to not only allow us to keep in consistent contact with our vulnerable families but to also take the strain financially off our service users. A National grid bid was granted at £8852 and a Winter food aid grant of £5000 where we were able to provide exciting opportunities for the families in the local area to come together and for us to provide a safe, warm and welcoming environment. We were able to provide a food parcel for each family registered with us to include a healthy balanced meal and recipe ideas. This supported the children's welfare out of term when the families were facing the most challenging times due to the cost of living.

The HAF Programme continued throughout 23/24 for 24 sessions over the academic year, this is now offered in all 3 settings bringing in over £19,000 of support for our most vulnerable children.

We continued to operate within our aims of training, and we offered employees a chance to upskill within Early years leadership, with this the government gave an incentive payment of £800 per employee.

We have continued to use The Hollymoor site in connection with BPCN for a series of group gatherings including Create and Craft fairs, group gatherings and training, generating more footfall to the area and subsequently more recognition in the area. This resulted in many of the rooms that were vacant being booked within the day which was another area we have tapped into to secure consistent income into the charity. We are seeing a year on year growth within the centre income due to word of mouth from the service users. We will continue to advertise any gaps within the day to ensure we have consistent bookings within the building.

In conclusion the settings have shown a decreased uptake in paid childcare places with fees at all 3 sites lower than the previous year, however we have also seen an increase of funded support at all 3 sites compared to the previous year. This is welcome news to the charity, however as we are governed by the rates and cannot charge top up fees we have very tight margins as we see more and more children accessing the funded support and not the paid services.

key triggers are still the out of core hours (before 9am and after 3pm) We are hoping the introduction of the funded package to support working parents up to 30 hours per week from September 2025 will alleviate these hours.

Managers are now covering parts of the ratio without the additional need to pay for staff. Managers have a clear understanding of the required numbers of children needed in order to break even per hour. This is set out each year at the AGM. We have also introduced a more robust system in order to attract more funding opportunities for the charity and now have a dedicated person to write and submit grants and bids to attract the additional income the charity needs.

We have again seen an increase year on year in regard to increased salary costs, we also received more historical debts that were not previously reported in regard to ongoing negotiations with BCC about service charges. It is noted that the rent has significantly increased at 2 of the sites, with a payment plan set over the next 12 months for 1 of the sites.

Our main concerns are the large year on year increases in National Minimum Wage, rising food and resources costs, rising utility costs to include internet and telephone, repayment of historical debts and preparing for the new government incentives of offering childcare options to children from the age of 9 months.

Report of the Trustees
for the year ended 31 March 2024

Due to the recruitment crisis within the sector, it will be imperative to have an attractive package to recruit and retain employees within this new challenge we are about to face.

Reserves policy

Given the current net liabilities position, the reserves policy of the company is under review. The short-term priority is to eliminate the net liabilities. In the medium term, the trustees intend to agree a policy for maintaining unrestricted funds which will balance the group's day to day cash flow needs, while allowing for suitable investment in staff and resources which will benefit the group in the longer term.

Funds in deficit

The financial statements show a deficit in total funds of £79,800 as at 31 March 2024 (2023 - deficit of £57,548).

Going concern

The Trustees have considered a period of at least 12 months from the date of approval of these financial statements and consider that the charity will be able to continue to attract sufficient funding and manage its expenditure levels accordingly. The Group has access to a £10,000 overdraft facility that was renewed in December 2022 for a further 12 months. As such, the Trustees are content that the accounts can be prepared on the going concern basis.

Structure, governance and management

Risk management

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

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

The Trustees, who are also Directors of the Charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report 21 November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



M Short - Trustee

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Longbridge Childcare Strategy Group ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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
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.



James Howard ACCA
The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales

Cooper Parry Advisory Limited
CUBO Birmingham
4th Floor
Two Chamberlain Square
Birmingham
West Midlands
B3 3AX

21 November 2024

Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2024

		Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
	Notes				
Income and endowments from					
Donations and legacies	2	-	15	15	16
Charitable activities	3				
Charitable activities					
		533,504	-	533,504	477,064
Total		533,504	15	533,519	477,080
Expenditure on					
Charitable activities	4				
Charitable activities					
		-	-	-	181
Wages and National Insurance		420,398	-	420,398	396,740
Consumables and staff expenses		22,858	-	22,858	19,702
Repairs, research and maintenance		8,504	-	8,504	8,670
Rent, rates, heat and light		64,774	-	64,774	47,917
Bank and professional charges		978	-	978	306
Telephone, stationery & advertising		9,593	-	9,593	8,733
Sundry expenses		3,482	-	3,482	4,318
Other grant expenditure		20,269	-	20,269	11,173
Motor Vehicles Expenses		174	-	174	481
Other		4,726	15	4,741	4,723
Total		555,756	15	555,771	502,944
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(22,252)	-	(22,252)	(25,864)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		(59,133)	1,585	(57,548)	(31,684)
Total funds carried forward		(81,385)	1,585	(79,800)	(57,548)

Continuing operations

All income and expenditure has arisen from continuing activities.

Balance Sheet
31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	10	12,854	-	12,854	15,774
Current assets					
Debtors	11	6,620	-	6,620	5,411
Cash at bank and in hand		17,721	1,585	19,306	28,881
		<u>24,341</u>	<u>1,585</u>	<u>25,926</u>	<u>34,292</u>
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	12	(118,580)	-	(118,580)	(107,614)
Net current assets/(liabilities)		<u>(94,239)</u>	<u>1,585</u>	<u>(92,654)</u>	<u>(73,322)</u>
Total assets less current liabilities		<u>(81,385)</u>	<u>1,585</u>	<u>(79,800)</u>	<u>(57,548)</u>
NET ASSETS/(LIABILITIES)		<u>(81,385)</u>	<u>1,585</u>	<u>(79,800)</u>	<u>(57,548)</u>
Funds	13				
Unrestricted funds				(81,385)	(59,133)
Restricted funds				1,585	1,585
Total funds				<u>(79,800)</u>	<u>(57,548)</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2024.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

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

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to charitable companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 21 November 2024 and were signed on its behalf by:



M Short - Trustee

LONGBRIDGE CHILDCARE STRATEGY GROUP

Cash Flow Statement
for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	1	<u>(7,755)</u>	<u>3,462</u>
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		<u>(7,755)</u>	<u>3,462</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		<u>(1,820)</u>	<u>(1,703)</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(1,820)</u>	<u>(1,703)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period		<u>(9,575)</u>	<u>1,759</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		<u>28,881</u>	<u>27,122</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		<u><u>19,306</u></u>	<u><u>28,881</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

Notes to the Cash Flow Statement
for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Reconciliation of net expenditure to net cash flow from operating activities

	2024 £	2023 £
Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)	(22,252)	(25,864)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	4,740	4,723
Increase in debtors	(1,209)	(1,641)
Increase in creditors	10,966	26,244
Net cash (used in)/provided by operations	(7,755)	3,462

2. Analysis of changes in net funds

	At 1/4/23 £	Cash flow £	At 31/3/24 £
Net cash			
Cash at bank and in hand	28,881	(9,575)	19,306
	28,881	(9,575)	19,306
Total	28,881	(9,575)	19,306

Notes to the Financial Statements
for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting policies

Basis of preparing the financial statements

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland', the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Going concern

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the academy trust to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of authorisation for issue of the financial statements.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis. The trustees have reviewed and considered relevant information, including the annual budget and future cash flows in making their assessment. Based on these assessments, given the measures that could be undertaken to mitigate the current adverse conditions, and the current resources available, the trustees have concluded that they can continue to adopt the going concern basis in preparing the annual report and accounts.

Income

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

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

Charitable activities

Costs of charitable activities are incurred on the charity's childcare operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.

Tangible fixed assets

All fixed assets are initially recognised at cost.

Depreciation

Depreciation of fixed assets is calculated to write off their cost of valuation less any residual value over their estimated useful lives as follows:

Improvements to leasehold property	- 20% p.a. straight line basis
Office equipment	- 15% p.a. reducing balance
Fixture and fittings	- 25% p.a. reducing balance
Computer equipment	- 25% p.a. reducing balance

Taxation

The charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

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

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting policies - continued

Fund accounting

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the charity for particular purpose. The cost of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Hire purchase and leasing commitments

Assets obtained under hire purchase contracts or finance leases are capitalised in the Balance Sheet. Those held under hire purchase contracts are depreciated over their estimated useful lives. Those held under finance leases are depreciated over their estimated useful lives or the lease term, whichever is shorter.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the charitable company's pension scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

2. Donations and legacies

Grants Received

	2024	2023
Restricted	£	£
Bournville College	-	18
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	18
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Unrestricted	£	£
	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	-	18
	<hr/>	<hr/>

3. Income from charitable activities

Charitable activities

	2024	2023
Childcare services	£	£
Centre income	58,274	62,060
Nursery fees - government funded	470,027	408,939
Government support grants	5,200	6,063
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	533,501	477,062
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024

4. Resources expended

	2024 £		2023 £	
	Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund	Unrestricted fund	Restricted fund
Wages and national insurance	413,593	-	396,740	-
Accountancy and independent examination	6,193	-	2,486	-
Bank and professional charges	318	-	306	-
Consumables and staff expenses	34,027	-	21,040	-
Insurance	9,139	-	8,210	-
Depreciation	4,726	15	1,285	18
Pensions	6,805	-	6,358	-
Rent, rates, heat and light	64,774	-	47,917	-
Repairs, research and maintenance	6,588	-	8,851	-
Telephone, stationary and advertising	9,593	-	8,733	-
Bad debt write off	-	-	1,000	-
	<u>555,756</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>502,926</u>	<u>18</u>

5. Support costs

	Finance	Governance costs	Totals
	£	£	£
Bank and professional charges	318	660	978
Other grant expenditure	-	5,533	5,533
	<u>318</u>	<u>6,193</u>	<u>6,511</u>

6. Net income/(expenditure)

Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):

	2024 £	2023 £
Independent examiners' fees	5,533	4,723
Depreciation - owned assets	4,740	1,303

7. Trustees' remuneration and benefits

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2024 nor for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees expenses paid in the year

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024

8. Staff costs

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	413,593	390,382
Other pension costs	6,805	6,358
	<u>420,398</u>	<u>396,740</u>

The average monthly number of employees during the year was as follows:

	2024 28	2023 30
Administrative staff	<u>28</u>	<u>30</u>

No employees received emoluments in excess of £60,000.

9. Comparatives for the statement of financial activities

	Unrestricted fund £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
Income and endowments from			
Donations and legacies	(2)	18	16
Charitable activities			
Charitable activities			
	477,064	-	477,064
Total	<u>477,062</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>477,080</u>
Expenditure on			
Charitable activities			
Charitable activities			
	181	-	181
Wages and National Insurance	396,740	-	396,740
Consumables and staff expenses	19,702	-	19,702
Repairs, research and maintenance	8,670	-	8,670
Rent, rates, heat and light	47,917	-	47,917
Bank and professional charges	306	-	306
Telephone, stationery & advertising	8,733	-	8,733
Sundry expenses	4,318	-	4,318
Other grant expenditure	11,173	-	11,173
Motor Vehicles Expenses	481	-	481
Other	4,705	18	4,723
Total	<u>502,926</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>502,944</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	(25,864)	-	(25,864)
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	(33,269)	1,585	(31,684)
Total funds carried forward	<u>(59,133)</u>	<u>1,585</u>	<u>(57,548)</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024

10. Tangible fixed assets

	Improvements to property £	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
Cost					
At 1 April 2023	120,994	21,898	57,132	17,875	217,899
Additions	-	1,135	-	685	1,820
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2024	120,994	23,033	57,132	18,560	219,719
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2023	110,734	18,486	56,954	15,951	202,125
Charge for year	3,420	682	44	594	4,740
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2024	114,154	19,168	56,998	16,545	206,865
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net book value					
At 31 March 2024	6,840	3,865	134	2,015	12,854
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2023	10,260	3,412	178	1,924	15,774
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Fixed assets, included in the above, which are held under hire purchase contracts or finance leases are as follows:

	Improvements to property £
Cost	
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	38,825
	<hr/>
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2023	28,565
Charge for year	3,420
	<hr/>
At 31 March 2024	31,985
	<hr/>
Net book value	
At 31 March 2024	6,840
	<hr/>
At 31 March 2023	10,260
	<hr/>

11. Debtors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	6,620	5,411
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024

12. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	9,826	5,103
Social security and other taxes	60,074	54,741
Other creditors	11,024	11,000
Deferred income	114	129
Accrued expenses	37,542	36,641
	<u>118,580</u>	<u>107,614</u>

13. Movement in funds

	At 1/4/23	Net movement in funds	At 31/3/24
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	(59,133)	(22,252)	(81,385)
Restricted funds			
Restricted general fund	1,585	-	1,585
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>(57,548)</u>	<u>(22,252)</u>	<u>(79,800)</u>

Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	533,504	(555,756)	(22,252)
Restricted funds			
Restricted general fund	15	(15)	-
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>533,519</u>	<u>(555,771)</u>	<u>(22,252)</u>

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/22	Net movement in funds	At 31/3/23
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	(33,269)	(25,864)	(59,133)
Restricted funds			
Restricted general fund	1,585	-	1,585
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>(31,684)</u>	<u>(25,864)</u>	<u>(57,548)</u>

Notes to the Financial Statements - continued
for the year ended 31 March 2024

13. Movement in funds - continued

Comparative net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	477,062	(502,926)	(25,864)
Restricted funds			
Restricted general fund	18	(18)	-
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>477,080</u>	<u>(502,944)</u>	<u>(25,864)</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined position is as follows:

	At 1/4/22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/24 £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	(33,269)	(48,116)	(81,385)
Restricted funds			
Restricted general fund	1,585	-	1,585
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>(31,684)</u>	<u>(48,116)</u>	<u>(79,800)</u>

A current year 12 months and prior year 12 months combined net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
General fund	1,010,566	(1,058,682)	(48,116)
Restricted funds			
Restricted general fund	33	(33)	-
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>1,010,599</u>	<u>(1,058,715)</u>	<u>(48,116)</u>

14. Related party disclosures

During the year ended 31 March 2018 the trustees loaned £9,000 to the company, this remains within other creditors as at 31 March 2024.

There were no Trustee's expenses paid in the year (shown in note 6) and no other related party transactions occurred for the year ended 31 March 2024. There were no Trustee's expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Key management personnel consists of the trustees only, whose remuneration is shown within note 6.

15. Ultimate controlling party

The charity was under the control of the Board of Trustees in the current and previous year.

16. Share capital

The company is limited by guarantee of its members and does not have any share capital. In the event the company is wound up, the members who are also the trustees, have a liability in respect of the guarantee, limited to £1 per member.