

Company Registration Number 04027621

Registered Charity Number 1086471

**COUNTY DURHAM ARTS IN EDUCATION
AGENCY TRADING AS THE FORGE**
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

REPORT AND ACCOUNTS
For the year ending 31 March 2024

**COUNTY DURHAM ARTS IN EDUCATION AGENCY
TRADING AS THE FORGE
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
*For the year ended 31 March 2024***

The Trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of company law, present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2024.

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Registered Charity Name	County Durham Arts In Education Agency (trading as The Forge)
Charity registration number	1086471
Company registration number	04027621
Registered office	The Forge, Stanley Education Centre, King Edward VIII Terrace, Stanley, County Durham, DH9 0HQ

Trustees

For the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, the Board of Trustees is the Board of Directors of the charitable company and is referred to as the Trustees throughout this report.

The Trustees of County Durham Arts In Education Agency during the period and to the date of signing this report are as follows:

Mr M Gilbey (Chair)	
Ms G Callaghan	
Mr R Cradock	Appointed 1 January 2024
Mrs S Campbell	Resigned 31 December 2023
Ms S Dixon	
Mr B Ebbatson	Deceased 19 July 2024
Ms A Nicholson	Appointed 5 February 2024
Ms R Robson	
Dr J Thomas	Appointed 1 January 2024

Company Secretary	Mr A Harrington
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Independent Examiner	Mr P O'Hara FCA, Chartered Accountant, 26 La Sagesse, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3AF
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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing Documents

County Durham Arts In Education Agency Ltd is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 5 July 2000, registered in England and Wales under company number 04027621 and governed by its Articles of Association, originally registered upon incorporation, as amended by Special Resolutions dated 26/03/2001, 23/01/2014 and 26/7/2023.

The charity was registered with the Charity Commission on 3 May 2001.

This year we undertook a full review of the governing documents of the organisation with specialist consultant Charlie Catrell. The governance documents were redrafted and submitted to the Charity Commission and Companies House in July 2023.

The Directors of the company are also Trustees of the charity.

Eligibility for membership of the charity, and membership of the Board of Trustees, is governed by the Articles of Association. There are no restrictions in the governing document on the operation of the charity other than those imposed by general charity law.

Structure and Governance

As at 31 March 2024 the charity had a Board of seven non-executive Trustees.

The Board meets a minimum of four times per year. The Executive Director is in attendance but has no voting rights. Additional committees and working groups are established from time to time to explore specific issues.

Detailed written Board reports and an agenda are prepared and circulated in advance of meetings.

Recruitment and Appointment of Board of Trustees

The minimum number of Board Members is three and the maximum is 12.

In the past, potential new Board Members were identified through a mixture of formal and informal means, including discussions and recommendations offered by Trustees, outside advisors to the organisation, peer organisations and Arts Council England as well as through a range of advertising channels. Following an extensive process, including making knowledge of vacancies public through various channels, two new trustees were recruited to the Board in 2023. As part of the Board review process, a working group was established to review our approach to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and our organisational policy and action plan was reviewed.

The Board also identified the need to reflect the characteristics and diversity of the communities we serve in the programmes we develop with those communities. To achieve this, we have identified a working group of teachers and educationalists drawn from the North Durham area. We can draw upon the support and advice from this group in service delivery on an ongoing basis.

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

Trustee Induction and Training

New Trustees are inducted by the Chair of the Board and Executive Director and are provided with a range of resources and publications to support their understanding of The Forge's activities, including the latest annual report and accounts, a full role description and information on current and past projects.

The organisation also holds periodic Board development days and Trustees are encouraged to take up training opportunities outside the organisation when they become available.

Trustees are also kept informed on an ongoing basis around developments in both the arts in education and wider charity sectors by the dissemination of relevant information and newsletters from Arts Council England and the Charity Commission.

Organisational Structure

Day-to-day responsibility for the management of the organisation is delegated to the Executive Director, who is supported by the Creative Producer and an Administrator. Line management, supervision and appraisal is undertaken of all staff to ensure the team continues to develop their skills and working practices as part of our drive to continually to improve quality.

The Board remains heavily involved in the creation and implementation of key policy.

Key Management Personnel

The Board, who give their time freely and have received no remuneration in the year in relation to their role as Trustees, have considered who are the Key Management Personnel (KMP) of the charity. Together with the Board, these KMP are those in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the activities of the charity on a day-to-day basis.

The remuneration of the KMP is reviewed annually. The Trustees benchmark against pay levels of other charities and similar organisations within the sector and the region. Pay levels are set using this information together with the budget and forecast information, ensuring that the charity can afford any proposed increases. The Board then agrees any uplift to remuneration also reflecting indices of inflation.

Reserves Policy

The Trustees have reviewed the charity's needs for reserves in line with the guidance issued by the Charity Commission and have established the required optimum levels of reserves for the organisation.

The Forge often requires a long lead-in time to plan programmes and projects, working within the expected programming schedules of schools, communities and artists. The reserves policy reflects the need to provide a degree of security to support planning, and to provide confidence to stakeholders that artistic plans are soundly-based and funded.

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

Reserves Policy (Cont.)

The Trustees aim firstly to hold a level of unrestricted Reserves which enables the charity to have sufficient financial resources to meet various liabilities which would crystallise if The Forge's funding were to be interrupted or withdrawn and/or it were unable to continue operating.

Unrestricted Funds – General Funds

The Trustees have allocated £110,000 to enable the organisation to meet contractual liabilities and to maintain continuity in the event of delays with receipt of funding, or severe public sector cutbacks, or schools being less likely to spend money on arts related activities.

It has allocated a dissolution fund of £35,000 which provides for the costs of dissolution should the charity be unable to continue. It will be used to pay notice periods, redundancies and the expenses of running The Forge until closure of the organisation.

The Trustees have also allocated £25,000 to cover costs to mitigate risks associated with the potential loss of long-standing post holders in a small core team, eg succession planning, appointing short term staff to bridge any gaps in staffing, external consultancy, and appointment of new post holders.

The total free reserves required by the organisation are therefore £170,000.

Unrestricted Funds – Designated Funds

In addition, the Trustees have then agreed to retain an additional allowance of £60,000 as Designated Unrestricted Funds, to enable the charity to:

- respond flexibly to issues or appropriate initiatives which might be identified outside of its annual budgeting process
- contribute match funding to the Paul Hamlyn Foundation Talking Cameras project
- contribute match funding to the Youth Festival

The charity's total unrestricted Reserves at 31 March 2024 are £237,647. The charity's 'free' unrestricted Reserves at 31 March 2024, defined as non-designated unrestricted funds, excluding the value of unrestricted Tangible Fixed Assets, are £176,541.

This policy will be reviewed by the Trustees on an annual basis as part of the charity's budgeting processes.

Fundraising Policy

The charity is required to report how it deals with fundraising from the public. The charity does not use a professional fundraiser or commercial participator to raise funds. Any monies raised direct from the public follows all guidelines set out by the Charity Commission and UK law in every respect. We respect the privacy and contact preferences of all public donors.

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

Grant Making Policy

The charity does not currently engage in grant-making activity.

Investment Policy

The Forge's cash reserves, over and above those required for day-to-day working capital, have typically been invested in a combination of a higher-rate, instant access deposit account and various fixed-term cash deposit accounts.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Charitable Purpose

County Durham Arts In Education agency's charitable objects are to foster and promote the maintenance, improvement and development of the knowledge, understanding and practice of the arts in education.

Aims & Objectives

County Durham Arts In Education Agency's charitable objects are to foster and promote the maintenance, improvement and development of the knowledge, understanding and practice of the arts in education.

The charity aims to fulfil this by creating participatory arts projects that inspire young people to become successful, confident individuals, capable of reaching their full potential and by making cultural programmes that are courageous, relevant and excellent.

Public Benefit

The Trustees understand and have discussed the implications of the provisions of the Charities Act 2006, which state that all charities must demonstrate that they are established for public benefit, and have had due regard to the public benefit guidance issued by the Charity Commission. The Trustees believe that the charity meets both of the key principles.

- Principle 1 - There must be an identifiable benefit, or benefits
- Principle 2 - Benefit must be to the public, or a section of the public

The Forge has been actively involved in a range of innovative programs throughout 2023-2024, aimed at enhancing cultural engagement, supporting creative learning, and fostering community development. Through these efforts, The Forge continues to demonstrate its commitment to enriching the cultural landscape of County Durham and empowering local communities through creative education and engagement.

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Public Benefit (Cont.)

The Forge's diverse programmes reflect a strategic focus on promoting arts education and creative development across multiple fronts. For example, our commission from Durham County Council to schedule the education programme of the **Durham International Brass Festival** showcases the agency's ability to engage a wide audience through large-scale events, reaching over 14,944 pupils across 62 schools. This initiative not only supports music education, but also reinforces the importance of cultural engagement in the broader educational landscape.

The organisation's leadership in delivering the Artsmark Training for Schools and the Artsmark Place-Based Pilot Programme illustrates its commitment to providing sustainable frameworks for arts education, particularly in underrepresented areas. The pilot programme, focused on schools in semi-rural, economically disadvantaged regions, highlights the innovative use of the Artsmark framework to address specific local challenges, such as limited access to cultural resources and a lack of cultural capital among pupils.

By positioning schools as co-researchers, The Forge fosters a collaborative approach that empowers educators and ensures that the programme's outcomes are relevant and impactful.

The **Talking Cameras** programme, funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, provides a model of inclusive, SEND-focused arts education that leverages co-creation and shared learning methodologies. The involvement of a diverse team of artists, teachers, and staff in developing the programme underscores The Forge's emphasis on fostering a community of enquiry, where different stakeholders contribute to a shared understanding and expertise. This programme's success in upskilling both artists and teaching staff demonstrates the potential of arts education to build capacity and enhance educational practices.

Similarly, participatory programmes like **Home** and the **Stanley Young People's Programme** emphasise The Forge's dedication to community-driven creative projects. These initiatives not only provide artistic opportunities for children and young people, but also address broader social issues, such as identity, belonging, and representation. The use of photography, writing, and animation in these projects allows participants to explore personal and communal narratives, fostering both self-expression and social cohesion.

Furthermore, The Forge's strategic collaboration with organisations like Karbon Homes on projects such as the **Fair Foundations Strategy** demonstrates its role in driving cultural regeneration and community revitalisation. By combining research-based approaches with creative programming, The Forge helps local stakeholders envision new possibilities for cultural and social development in the region.

The **Partnership Investment Programme** and the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Audit** reflect The Forge's commitment to addressing broader societal challenges, such as mental health and sustainable development, through culture-led initiatives. These programmes not only highlight the potential of the arts to contribute to public health and sustainability objectives, but also position The Forge as a leader in the field of cultural education and policy innovation.

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Public Benefit (Cont.)

The Forge's extensive range of programmes over the past year demonstrates its strategic commitment to advancing arts education, cultural engagement, and community development in County Durham. From large-scale events like the Durham International Brass Festival to targeted initiatives addressing social, educational, and economic inequalities, The Forge leverages its expertise to make a significant impact across various domains. By fostering partnerships, promoting inclusivity, and championing creative expression, The Forge continues to play a vital role in shaping the cultural and educational landscape of the region. Looking ahead, the organisation is well-positioned to further its mission of enriching lives through the arts, creating lasting change, and inspiring future generations.

All of these benefits are clear, evidenced and relate directly to the charity's aims. In addition, the Trustees do not consider that any significant detriment or harm flows from The Forge's work.

Risk Management

The Trustees regularly review the major governance, operational and financial risks which the charity faces as part of its annual business planning process and confirm that systems have been established to mitigate these risks. Current circumstances have brought new risks, which the Board is actively reviewing as part of a fresh look at the place and role of The Forge in a post-COVID world.

We have a risk management strategy in place which comprises:

- an annual review of the strategic risks the charity may face via the business plan
- the establishment of systems and procedures to mitigate any risks identified
- the implementation of procedures designed to minimise any potential impact on the charity should those risks materialise.

The Trustees are satisfied that appropriate financial systems and controls and employment policies and practices are in place.

The Trustees have for some years considered the key risks facing the charity and the mitigating actions taken to be as follows:

Long-term absence/resignation of Executive Director, Creative Producer or Trustees

- Increasing artistic team improves succession plans for Executive Director
- Increasing Trustees improves resilience and Trustee succession planning
- Increased Board capacity supports Creative Producer absence / recruitment.

Not achieving income targets (trusts and foundations, earned income, individual giving):

- Development of a strategic plan to support further diversification of funding
- Collaboration with national and international partners improves awareness of relevant commissioning and funding opportunities.

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Risk Management (Cont.)

Not achieving audience targets:

- Developing a teacher advisory group to support alignment of programme with schools' needs
- Ongoing review of relevance and value of programme
- Developing a robust marketing plan for every project
- Collaborating with venue partners and Audience Agency, to analyse data
- Increased understanding of audiences informs effective marketing.

Not delivering artistic excellence:

- Engaging a highly experienced artist as a mentor for major projects' creative teams
- Implementation of the Arts Council's Quality Principles for children and young people (CYP)
- Collaborating with exceptional artists
- Sharing work-in-progress with audiences and peers to gain critical feedback
- Evaluating artistic achievements and shortcomings for every project
- Creating plans to continually improve artistic practice.

The Trustees also manage the general financial risks arising by ensuring that:

- Prudent budgets have been set for the next financial year
- The charity maintains a low-cost base
- Regular management accounts are provided, showing the performance against budget
- Contingency plans are in place for the actions which would be taken if income appears unlikely to reach its target
- Reserves policies have been adopted which provide an appropriate amount of uncommitted Reserves which will always enable the charity to meet all its liabilities even if income targets are not achieved.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Achievements in the Year

We believe in the power of creativity to shape young minds and strengthen communities. Last year's initiatives are perfect examples of this commitment, each program a story of discovery, growth, and connection.

Working with Durham County Council to deliver the Durham International Brass Festival

The 2023 Durham International BRASS Festival Education programme was a great success, running from Tuesday, July 11 to Friday, July 14. Over these four days, ten brass bands visited 62 schools across County Durham, engaging with 14,944 pupils. Feedback from the schools was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the festival's impact on students' cultural education and appreciation for music. Durham County Council, the commissioning organisation, expressed their delight with the programme's outcomes and the enthusiasm it generated in the community.

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Achievements in the Year (Cont.)

Artsmark Training for Schools

During Spring and Summer 2023, we continued to play a leading role in delivering the Artsmark programme in the North East. Our work helped schools integrate creative learning into their curricula until Autumn 2023, when we transitioned this responsibility to Goldsmiths, University of London, Arts Council England's new delivery partner for the national award programme.

Continuing our relationship with Artsmark and Arts Council England

After completing our Artsmark delivery contract, we were awarded a new place-based pilot programme commission by Arts Council England (ACE). This initiative aims to explore how the Artsmark framework can better support schools in semi-rural, economically disadvantaged areas. We are partnering with two schools in Stanley, Shield Row Primary School and Annfield Plain Junior School, to identify how Artsmark can help overcome place-based barriers and enhance pupils' cultural capital. Both schools are positioned as co-researchers in this two-year programme, and findings will be disseminated widely across various networks to support broader learning and impact.

Talking Cameras: A New SEND Programme

We have successfully completed the first two terms of our new Paul Hamlyn Foundation funded SEND programme, "Talking Cameras," at two Dales settings: Blythdale and Ashdale. Artists Madeleine Waller, Lindsay Duncanson, and Victoria Doyle collaborated closely with teachers to deliver this innovative programme. At its inception, we established a "Community of Enquiry" involving teachers, senior leaders, teaching assistants, artists, and The Forge staff to ensure shared agency and ownership. A series of training sessions were scheduled to support skills development. This included induction training for artists, photography skills training for school staff, and photovoice training shared across both groups, fostering a common understanding and upskilling all participants.

Throughout the year, our artists worked with various classes to test new approaches for engaging children with their curriculum, building their confidence and creativity. The results of this work were shared with parents and the wider school community through scheduled events. In recognition of our expertise in developing authentic co-creations, The Forge was invited to present the "Talking Cameras" project and its Community of Enquiry methodology to other Paul Hamlyn Foundation Arts-Based Learning grantees in March 2024.

Exploring the Meaning of Home

In partnership with Karbon Homes, we embarked on a journey to explore what "home" means to children in Stanley. Two schools, Annfield Plain Junior School and St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, became the creative hubs where photographer Madeleine Waller and writer Dr Bob Beagrie guided the students through photography and writing exercises. The children captured their thoughts, feelings, and images of home, turning them into powerful works of art. The project culminated in a large-scale public exhibition on the walls of the Old Board School in Stanley.

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Achievements in the Year (Cont.)

This event, held in March 2024, was more than just an art show; it was a celebration of the children's voices and their ability to convey the significance of home in ways that resonated deeply with the community. The launch event was lively, with children from St Joseph's acting as cub reporters and photographers, documenting the event for their school newspaper. The project not only showcased their creative talents, but also strengthened their ties to their community.

Amplifying Young Voices in Stanley

Our commitment to engaging young people in Stanley continued with a new programme for older youth at South Stanley Youth Club. Responding to ongoing conversations with local organisations like PACT House, we developed a six-week photography workshop specifically for LGBTQI+ youth (ages 17-21). Led by photographer Lindsay Duncanson, the workshops provided a safe space for young people to explore their identities and develop new skills. The sessions were a hit, inspiring participants to express themselves through the lens of a camera. To ensure our future programmes are aligned with the needs of Stanley's youth, we also conducted in-depth research, including interviews and surveys with youth club attendees and leaders. The findings from this research will help shape future creative programmes, ensuring they remain relevant and impactful.

Bringing Democracy to Life Through Animation

Understanding democracy is essential for young citizens, but teaching it in an engaging way can be challenging. Thanks to a grant from the Speaker's Art Fund, we co-developed a unique animation project with animator Sheryl Jenkins and the Deputy Head of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School. Year 5 children explored the key elements of democracy, translating complex ideas into accessible imagery and sound. The result was the film "Democracy," a child's-eye view of how our democratic system works and the importance of voting and making one's voice heard.

Celebrating the Environment with Northumbria in Bloom

When Stanley Town Council sought to enhance their Northumbria in Bloom entry, they turned to The Forge for help. We designed a visual arts program at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School to create environmentally themed banners. Working alongside animator Sheryl Jenkins, the children developed imaginative cartoon characters to deliver conservation messages, which were displayed around the school. Their creativity not only brightened up the high street, but also contributed to Stanley's improved gold award in the competition.

Nurturing Emerging Artists and Supporting Vulnerable Youth

Our commitment to fostering creative talent extends to vulnerable young people across County Durham. This year, we completed the final year of our DurhamWorks' funded training courses, pairing each young person with an artist mentor for one-on-one support. The results were outstanding: three participants earned their Bronze Arts Award qualifications, and others produced creative work ranging from writing, filming and editing a short film, developing a professional show-reel, or publishing a first novel. This programme has been a transformative experience, opening up new possibilities and pathways for young people who need it most.

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Achievements in the Year (Cont.)

Reimagining Stanley's Future Through Creative Regeneration

Recognising our expertise in cultural engagement, Karbon Homes commissioned us to explore regeneration opportunities for their newly acquired property, the Old Board School. Our research provided a roadmap for revitalising these areas through creative initiatives, from identifying potential partners and funding, to learning from successful urban regeneration projects across the UK. This strategic approach aims to breathe new life into Stanley, aligning with Karbon's Fair Foundations Strategy.

Building Stronger Foundations for Positive Mental Health for Young People

Collaborating with key partners, including the County Durham Cultural Education Partnership, Culture Bridge North East and Durham County Council, we delivered a two-year culture-led mental health wellbeing program in three North Durham schools. This initiative aimed to create scalable and sustainable solutions to mental health challenges using creative engagement. Our research framework, expanded in the second year, was evaluated by Professor Mike Fleming from Durham University, affirming its success and setting a strong foundation for future work.

Aligning with Global Goals for Local Impact

Partnering with Durham University, we participated in a groundbreaking project to measure the social and economic impacts of cultural heritage against the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This "Shared Regional Approach" has allowed us to reflect on our progress, enhance our practices, and demonstrate the value of culture in achieving broader social objectives.

Continuing the Drive for Cultural Excellence in County Durham

As The Forge moves forward, we remain dedicated to enhancing cultural opportunities throughout County Durham. Tony Harrington, our Executive Director, has recently stepped down as Chair of Culture Durham, having successfully overseen a comprehensive review of its structure and objectives. However, his passion for the arts remains unwavering, as he continues to lead and support numerous cultural initiatives across the region through his roles as Chair of the Durham and Darlington Music Education Hub and Tin Arts, and as a Trustee for Durham based charity Northern Heartlands.

Looking Ahead

At The Forge, every programme, every partnership, and every project is a step toward a more vibrant and inclusive cultural landscape. We look forward to building on these successes, deepening our impact, and continuing to inspire creativity in all corners of our community.

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ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (CONTINUED)

Achievements in the Year (Cont.)

Financial Review

The out-turn for the year is an unrestricted surplus of £15,912 (2023: Deficit £16,010). The deficit will be deducted from Unrestricted Reserves, leaving a balance on Unrestricted Funds, including Designated Funds, at 31 March 2024 of £237,647.

In the course of 2023/24, The Forge Officers and Board continued to work hard to develop the sustainability of the organisation. This included short, mid and long-term planning and financial modelling. We have a two-pronged approach to income generation which includes:

- Direct earned income for services
- Income generated from external funders to deliver produced programme

We were proactively responding to pressure on school budgets and strengthening our resilience through:

- Developing staff skills
- Raising our academic and research profile
- Development of evidence-based arts interventions that appeal to school leadership priorities
- Securing funding from a wider range of non-arts based social action funding streams
- Deepening our relationship with existing funders through responsive stewardship
- Diversifying and developing our market share to include FE and Sixth Form Colleges

The Finance and HR Sub-Group takes a hands-on approach to resilience and feeds back to the full Board on a quarterly basis. Arts accountancy specialist Pete O'Hara has continued in his role as a financial advisor to the Board.

PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS

Securing a New Era of Growth and Impact

This year marked a significant milestone for our organisation as we secured National Portfolio Organisation funding from Arts Council England for the next three years. This funding reflects a new period of ambition and commitment, as we continue to enhance creative and cultural opportunities for children and families in County Durham's most underserved areas.

Organisational Review and Theory of Change

To guide our work for 2023-26, we undertook an extensive organisational review with input from our Board, service users, and stakeholders. Through this collaborative process, we developed a Theory of Change to sharpen our focus on improving access to arts and culture for those most in need. Our new strategic model is aligned with the Arts Council's "Let's Create" strategy and is shaped by our deep understanding of the local context and community needs.

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PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS (CONTINUED)

Our Five Strategic Goals

1. **Expand Access to High-Quality Arts:** Increase access to cultural learning and participatory arts opportunities in schools and communities, ensuring more young people can experience high-quality arts.
2. **Developing multiliteracies and Tackling Digital Poverty:** Develop targeted photography and digital arts programmes to help young people affected by digital poverty to unlock their creativity.
3. **Tailor Arts Education to Needs:** Offer a range of differentiated, high-quality arts education programs that support diverse creative ambitions and learning needs.
4. **Co-Create with Lived Experience:** Ensure our programs are increasingly shaped and led by those with direct, lived experience of poverty or disability, to better address their specific needs.
5. **Drive Sustainable Regional Change:** Lead efforts to strengthen regional infrastructure, optimising and extending the impact of cultural and creative initiatives in the community.

Achieving Our Goals: Key Initiatives

To meet these strategic goals, we will implement research-informed, data-driven programmes that engage and inspire young people, addressing their needs as identified by themselves and by partner agencies, including schools, youth clubs, and organisations supporting those not in education, employment, or training (NEET). Our programs will build cultural capital, broaden horizons, and support both personal and academic development.

Strengthening Research and Data-Driven Approaches

Our initiatives will draw on robust, peer-reviewed research conducted in partnership with Durham, Newcastle, and Northumbria Universities. We will utilise local data on health and well-being, school attendance, and pupil demographics, along with insights from our community networks, to target our efforts effectively. This approach will also guide our evaluation of impact, using context-sensitive frameworks.

Training for Teachers, Artists, and Cultural Providers

We will continue to enhance training programmes informed by leading research, including our own findings and those of the Durham Commission. These programmes will support educators, artists, and cultural providers in embedding creativity in their practice, in alignment with DfE guidelines, ACE's Quality Principles, and our experience from the Artsmark programme.

New Studios for Expanded Arts Delivery

Building on our experience with photography and writing programs funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, we are establishing The Forge's new Studio and Mobile Studio. These facilities will enable us to deliver photography, animation, and filmmaking activities to young people in diverse settings and further expand our offerings across visual arts, creative writing, performance, and music.

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PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS (CONTINUED)

Strategic Areas of Focus for 2023-2026

1. Creative Programmes in Schools:

We will develop and deliver artist-led programmes designed to enrich the lives of children and young people in County Durham, particularly in three "Left Behind" neighbourhoods. This will include a new programme aligned with the Artsmark framework, a co-created initiative under the County-wide Into the Light Programme, and ongoing SEND-focused projects aimed at using creative tools to support autistic children and those with motor skill challenges.

2. Improving Teaching for Creativity:

We will cascade the learning from our past programmes to educators and cultural providers, advocating for creative teaching practices and sharing insights from our SEND programmes. This will include consultancy and partnerships to embed creative practice in schools across the North East.

3. New Participatory Programs for Young People and Families:

We will create new partnerships and strengthen existing collaborations to promote arts practice locally. Informed by recent consultations, we will launch a new youth and community programme in Stanley in 2024-2025.

4. Developing Career Pathways in the Creative Industries:

We will support emerging artists from disadvantaged communities by offering targeted training opportunities and career support, focusing on young people facing barriers due to class, qualifications, disability, or access needs.

5. Driving Sustainable Change through Regional Collaboration:

We will work with local authorities, cultural organisations, and community groups to place culture at the centre of regional planning. Our engagement with various networks will ensure our programs align with local priorities and address the needs and aspirations of young people.

With the support of the National Portfolio Organisation funding, we are poised to make a transformative impact over the next three years. Our renewed vision and strategic goals set the stage for expanding access, fostering creativity, and driving sustainable change across County Durham. We look forward to working with our partners, stakeholders, and the community to achieve these shared ambitions.

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*For the year ended 31 March 2024***

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of County Durham Arts in Education Agency for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements 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 that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgments 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 financial statements on the 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 that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In preparing this report, the Trustees have taken advantage of the small companies exemptions provided by Section 415A of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed by order of the Trustees



**M Gilbey
Chair/Trustee
Company Registration Number 04027621**

28 October 2024

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS ON THE UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS OF COUNTY DURHAM ARTS IN EDUCATION AGENCY TRADING AS THE FORGE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

I hereby report to the Trustees/Members of County Durham Arts In Education Agency (Charity Registration Number 1086471) on the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 set out on pages 18 to 31.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees (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 the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000, your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I 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 or 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 (FRS102)).

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.



Pete O'Hara, FCA, Chartered Accountant
Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales
26 La Sagesse, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 3AF

28 October 2024

COUNTY DURHAM ARTS IN EDUCATION AGENCY
TRADING AS THE FORGE
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Income					
Income from Investments	3	1,852	-	1,852	2,272
Income from Donations, Grants & Legacies	4	103,054	283,500	386,554	102,054
Income from Charitable Activities	5	53,562	-	53,562	74,600
Total Income		158,468	283,500	441,968	178,926
Expenditure					
Expenditure on Raising Funds	6	39,804	-	39,804	33,087
Expenditure on Charitable Activities	7	102,752	140,755	243,507	195,987
Total Expenditure		142,556	140,755	283,311	229,074
Net Income/(Expenditure)		15,912	142,745	158,657	(50,148)
Balance brought forward at 1 April		221,735	49,914	271,649	321,797
Balance carried forward at 31 March	13	£237,647	£192,659	£430,306	£271,649

The notes on pages 20 to 31 form part of the financial statements.

All of the activities of the company are classed as continuing.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses in the year and therefore a statement of total recognised gains and losses has not been prepared.

COUNTY DURHAM ARTS IN EDUCATION AGENCY
TRADING AS THE FORGE
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
BALANCE SHEET/STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Fixed Assets			
Tangible Fixed Assets	10	9,896	20,283
Current Assets			
Debtors	11	215,004	11,159
Cash At Bank & In Hand		254,975	291,397
		<u>469,979</u>	<u>302,556</u>
Creditors – Amounts Falling Due Within 1 Year	12	(49,569)	(51,190)
Net Current Assets/(Liabilities)		<u>420,410</u>	<u>251,366</u>
Total Net Assets	13	<u>£430,306</u>	<u>£271,649</u>
Represented by:			
Unrestricted General Funds	14	177,647	109,735
Unrestricted Designated Funds	14	60,000	112,000
Restricted Funds	14	192,659	49,914
		<u>£430,306</u>	<u>£271,649</u>

The notes on pages 20 to 31 form part of the financial statements.

The Trustees are satisfied that for the year ended 31 March 2024 the charity was entitled to exemption under section 477(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

The Trustees also confirm that the Members have not required the charity to obtain an audit in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006

The Trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for:

(i) ensuring that the charity keeps adequate accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act, and

(ii) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity as at the end of the financial year and of its profit or loss for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of section 393, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the charity.

These financial statements were approved and signed by a Member of the Board of Trustees on 28 October 2024.



M Gilbey
Trustee
Company Registration Number 04027621

**COUNTY DURHAM ARTS IN EDUCATION AGENCY
TRADING AS THE FORGE
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

1. Accounting Policies

Charity Information

County Durham Arts In Education is a private company, limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is The Forge, Stanley Education Centre, King Edward VIII Terrace, Stanley, County Durham, DH9 0HQ.

The charity is a public benefit entity.

Basis of Accounting

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable United Kingdom accounting standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 – 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland' ('FRS 102'), and with the Companies Act 2006 and the Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP FRS 102) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" and the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, modified to include certain financial instruments at fair value.

Advantage has been taken of the provisions in the SORP for Charities applying FRS 102 Update Bulletin 2 not to prepare a statement of cashflows.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when there is entitlement, certainty of receipt and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Such income is only deferred when the donor or funder has specified that the grant or donation can only be used in future accounting periods or where the donor or funder has imposed conditions which must be met before the charity has unconditional entitlement.

Investment income, including interest on funds held on deposit, is recognised on a receivable basis.

COUNTY DURHAM ARTS IN EDUCATION AGENCY
TRADING AS THE FORGE
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. Accounting Policies (Continued)

Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and is recognised when a liability is incurred.

- Expenditure on raising funds are those costs of seeking potential funders and applying for funding.
- Charitable activities include expenditure associated with the planning and delivery of artistic productions and associated activities. This includes both the direct costs and support costs relating to these activities.
- Support or Indirect costs are those costs incurred in support of the charitable objectives. These have been allocated to the resources expended on a consistent basis that fairly reflects the true use of those resources within the organisation, such as allocating staff costs by time spent and other costs by their usage.
- Governance costs are those incurred in the governance of the charity and its assets and are primarily associated with the constitutional and statutory requirements.

Pensions

The charity contributes to two pension schemes; one is a multi-employer defined benefit final salary scheme and the other is a defined contribution scheme. Further details can be found in Note 9.

The assets of the multi-employer scheme are held separately from those of the company in a separately administered fund. However, it is not possible to identify the charity's specific share of the underlying assets and liabilities. Consequently, the scheme has been accounted for as if it were a defined contribution scheme; and in accordance with FRS17 the costs of the scheme are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities.

For the defined contribution scheme the amount charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in respect of pension costs is the contributions payable in the year. Differences between contributions payable in the year and contributions actually paid are shown as either accruals or prepayments in the balance sheet.

Tangible Fixed Assets and Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on any fixed assets at rates calculated to write off the assets over their remaining useful lives as follows:

Furniture, Fittings, IT & Office Equipment - 25% straight line

A full year's depreciation charge is applied in the year of acquisition and no charge is made in the year of disposal.

**COUNTY DURHAM ARTS IN EDUCATION AGENCY
TRADING AS THE FORGE
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

1. Accounting Policies (Continued)

Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and liabilities of a kind which qualify as basic financial instruments. Such instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

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.

Designated Funds comprise unrestricted funds set aside by the Trustees for a specific purpose.

Restricted Funds reflect income received which a funder or donor requires must be spent on a particular purpose or where funds have been raised for a specific purpose. Such income and associated expenditure is shown as Restricted in the Statement of Financial Activities, whilst any unspent balances at the year-end are carried forward as Restricted Funds.

Taxation

County Durham Arts In Education Agency meets the definition required of a charitable company for UK Corporation Tax purposes. Consequently, the company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively for charitable purposes.

2. Going Concern

The Trustees have reviewed the circumstances of the charity and consider that adequate resources continue to be available to fund the activities of the charity for the foreseeable future. The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern.

COUNTY DURHAM ARTS IN EDUCATION AGENCY
TRADING AS THE FORGE
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

3. Income from Investments

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Bank Interest Receivable	1,852	-	1,852	2,272
	£1,852	£-	£1,852	£2,272

The 2023 total of £2,272 was wholly attributable to Unrestricted Funds.

4. Income from Donations, Grants & Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Donations	-	-	-	-
Grant Income				
Arts Council England – National Portfolio Organisation	89,054	-	89,054	58,554
Arts Council England – Artsmark Pilot Research	-	5,000	5,000	-
Arts Council England – Culture Durham Review	-	-	-	10,000
Culture Bridge North East – County Durham Cultural Education Partnership	-	16,500	16,500	-
Durham CC – Are You Listening?	-	-	-	7,000
Durham CC – Culture Bridge North East Partnership	-	15,000	15,000	-
Durham County Council Adult & Community Services	13,500	-	13,500	13,500
Newcastle CC – Culture Bridge North East Partnership	-	10,000	10,000	10,000
Paul Hamlyn Foundation – Talking Cameras	-	237,000	237,000	-
Newcastle CC – Creative Schools Bursary	-	-	-	3,000
UK Parliament - Speakers Art Fund	500	-	500	-
	£103,054	£283,500	£386,554	£102,054

Of the 2023 total of £102,054, £72,554 was attributable to Unrestricted Funds and £29,500 to Restricted Funds.

COUNTY DURHAM ARTS IN EDUCATION AGENCY
TRADING AS THE FORGE
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

5. Income from Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Artsmark Development Days	-	-	-	28,000
Consultancy Fees	27,250	-	27,250	-
Critical Friend Income	3,600	-	3,600	3,600
DurhamWorks Fees	19,600	-	19,600	24,400
Education Programme	2,000	-	2,000	18,300
Speaking Fees	500	-	500	300
	612	-	612	-
	£53,562	£-	£53,562	£74,600

Of the 2023 total of £74,600, £46,600 was attributable to Unrestricted Funds and £28,000 to Restricted Funds.

6. Expenditure on Raising Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024	2023
	£	£	£	£
Salaries & On Costs	39,804	-	39,804	33,087
	£39,804	£-	£39,804	£33,087

The 2023 total of £33,087 was wholly attributable to Unrestricted Funds.

COUNTY DURHAM ARTS IN EDUCATION AGENCY
TRADING AS THE FORGE
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

7. Expenditure on Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Artistic Production/Project Costs				
Programme Costs	34,829	92,358	127,187	67,284
Salaries & On Costs	48,896	39,624	88,520	99,260
Support Costs				
Premises Costs	5,583	-	5,583	8,558
Administration & Office Costs	7,935	-	7,935	7,308
Depreciation	1,905	8,773	10,678	11,505
Governance Costs				
Independent Examiner's Fees	1,200	-	1,200	1,200
Other Finance/Accountancy Fees	264	-	264	240
Board Development	1,475	-	1,475	102
Governance Meeting Costs & Expenses	665	-	665	530
	£102,752	£140,755	£243,507	£195,987

Of the 2023 total of £195,987, £104,349 was attributable to Unrestricted Funds and £91,638 to Restricted Funds.

8. Net Income/(Expenditure)

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income/(expenditure) is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Independent Examiner's Fees – current year	1,200	1,200
Depreciation of owned Tangible Fixed Assets	10,678	11,505

COUNTY DURHAM ARTS IN EDUCATION AGENCY
TRADING AS THE FORGE
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9. Staff Costs & Trustees' Remuneration

	2024	2023
	£	£
Gross Salary Costs	115,642	105,129
Employer's National Insurance	6,827	6,684
Employer's Pension Contributions	5,855	20,534
	£128,324	£132,347

Remuneration of Key Management Personnel, defined as the Chief Executive, was £54,301 including Employer's Pension Contributions (2023: £64,363). No employee received gross remuneration of more than £60,000 during the year (2023 - Nil).

The average number of staff employed during the year, calculated as full-time equivalents, was as follows:

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
Fundraising	1	1
Artistic Production and Support	2	2
	3	3

In the year to 31 March 2024, £13,000 in freelance fees (2023: £Nil) were invoiced to the charity by Ms Sally Dixon, a Trustee, for work as a consultant and a freelance programme producer. At 31 March 2024 £5,800 was owing to Ms Dixon (2023: £Nil).

In the course of 2023/24, there were two occasions where the above-named Trustee was appointed to deliver work for which they were funded directly or indirectly by the Forge.

The first related to work done for the County Durham Cultural Education Partnership. The appointment was by the Partnership, the work overseen by the Partnership and the report was to the Partnership, but, for reasons of administrative convenience, the Partnership funds passed through The Forge's accounts and so were paid by The Forge to the Trustee concerned. In this case full and explicit agreement of the arrangement was made and formally recorded at a Forge Board meeting. This was in the full understanding that because the appointment and work were not for The Forge, there was no conflict of interest.

**COUNTY DURHAM ARTS IN EDUCATION AGENCY
TRADING AS THE FORGE
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

9. Staff Costs & Trustees' Remuneration (Cont.)

The second related to a contract with Karbon Homes, (see below) for which we were put under severe time pressure. We approached four local consultants, who were all competent to do the work, to see if they were available to complete it within the very short timescale. Only one responded positively: they were a Forge Trustee. Other Trustees were approached (outside the meetings structure, because of the pressure of time) and agreed the proposal. The Trustee concerned attended no meetings, took no part in any decisions and received no information, until after the final conclusion of the project.

No other remuneration has been paid to any Trustees in the year (2023: £Nil).

No reimbursement was made in the year to Trustees for Travel and Subsistence expenses incurred in respect of their attendance at meetings of the charity (2023: £Nil).

Pension benefits for senior staff are provided through Durham County Council Pension Fund, which is a defined benefit scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in a separately administered fund. In the year to 31 March 2024, on the advice of Durham County Council, County Durham Arts In Education Agency made an employer's contribution of Nil% (2023: 30.3%) of pensionable pay.

Pension benefits for other staff are provided through a Group Personal Pension Scheme, which is a defined contribution scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in a separately administered fund. In the year to 31 March 2024 County Durham Arts In Education Agency made an employer's contribution of 10% of pensionable pay, provided that the employee made a minimum contribution of 5%. These amounts are paid over to the scheme on a monthly basis.

Contributions of £732 were outstanding at 31 March 2024 (2023: £697).

**COUNTY DURHAM ARTS IN EDUCATION AGENCY
TRADING AS THE FORGE
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)**

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

10. Tangible Fixed Assets

	IT & Office Equipment £	Total £
Cost		
At 1 April 2023	46,018	46,018
Additions in year	291	291
Disposals	-	-
At 31 March 2024	46,309	46,309
Accumulated Depreciation		
At 1 April 2023	25,735	25,735
Charge for year	10,678	10,678
Disposals	-	-
At 31 March 2024	36,413	36,413
Net Book Value		
At 31 March 2024	£9,896	£9,896
At 1 April 2023	£20,283	£20,283

11. Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade Debtors	36,012	5,150
Other Debtors	30,893	-
Prepayments	1,099	1,009
Accrued Income	147,000	5,000
	£215,004	£11,159

12. Creditors – Amounts Falling Due Within 1 Year

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade Creditors	34,445	24,820
Other Creditors	809	697
Income Received In Advance	-	6,000
Other Taxes & Social Security Costs	879	1,251
Accruals	13,436	18,422
	£49,569	£51,190

COUNTY DURHAM ARTS IN EDUCATION AGENCY
TRADING AS THE FORGE
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

13. Analysis of Net Assets between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets	1,106	8,790	9,896	20,283
Debtors	68,004	147,000	215,004	11,159
Cash at Bank and In Hand	202,526	52,449	254,975	291,397
Creditors – Amounts Due Within 1 Year	(33,989)	(15,580)	(49,569)	(51,190)
	£237,647	£192,659	£430,306	£271,649

14. Analysis of Charitable Funds

	Fund at 1 April 2023	Income in Year	Expended/ Transfers in Year	Fund at 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds				
General Funds	109,735	158,468	(90,556)	125,647
Designated Funds				
Project Fund	67,000	-	(67,000)	-
Strategic Development Fund	45,000	-	15,000	60,000
	221,735	158,468	(142,556)	237,647
Restricted Funds				
Arts Council England (ACE) – Culture Durham Review	3,865	-	(3,865)	-
ACE - Artsmark Pilot Research	-	5,000	(1,831)	3,169
Children In Need	17,495	-	(8,773)	8,722
Culture Bridge North East - Artsmark	-	10,000	(10,000)	-
Culture Bridge North East - CDCEP	4,500	16,500	(7,075)	13,925
Durham CC – Are You Listening?	3,850	-	-	3,850
Durham CC / Newcastle CC – CBNE Partnership	14,005	15,000	(22,401)	6,604
Durham CC/Stamley AAP – Everyday Heroes; Everyday Lives	6,199	-	(6,199)	-
Paul Hamlyn Foundation – Talking Cameras	-	237,000	(80,611)	156,389
Total Restricted Funds	49,914	283,500	(140,755)	192,659
Total Funds	£271,649	£441,968	£(283,311)	£430,306

COUNTY DURHAM ARTS IN EDUCATION AGENCY
TRADING AS THE FORGE
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

14. Analysis of Charitable Funds (Cont.)

Name of Designated Fund	Description, Nature & Purpose of the Designated Fund
Strategic Development Fund	Towards the cost of exploring new ways of working and new partnerships and creating a provision for match funding for specific projects
Name of Restricted Fund	Description, Nature & Purpose of the Restricted Fund
Arts Council England – Culture Durham Review	Towards the costs of carrying out a review of Culture Durham
Arts Council England - Artsmark Pilot Research	Towards the costs of undertaking Artsmark Pilot Research
Culture Bridge North East - Artsmark	Towards the costs of managing the Artsmark scheme
Culture Bridge North East - CDCEP	Towards the costs of the County Durham Cultural Education Partnership
Children In Need	Towards the cost of equipment for use with Children & Young People
Durham CC – Are You Listening?	Towards the cost of the Are You Listening project
Durham CC / Newcastle CC – CBNE Partnership	Towards the cost of a culture-led mental health wellbeing programme
Durham CC/Stamley AAP – Everyday Heroes; Everyday Lives	Towards the cost of Everyday Heroes; Everyday Lives
Paul Hamlyn Foundation – Teaching Cameras	Towards the cost of Talking Cameras

**COUNTY DURHAM ARTS IN EDUCATION AGENCY
TRADING AS THE FORGE
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

15. Related Party Transactions

The charity has a close working relationship with Arts Council England which is a registered charity and has provided significant project funding which enables the charity to carry out its charitable objectives. In total, grant funding of £94,054 (2023: £68,554) from Arts Council England was recognised in the year.

At 31 March 2024, Nil was owing to County Durham Arts In Education Agency from Arts Council England (31 March 2023: £Nil).

16. Taxation

The company is a registered charity and no provision is considered necessary for taxation.

17. Financial Commitments

No material financial commitments have been made in respect of future financial periods.

18. Company Limited by Guarantee

The charity is incorporated under the Companies Act 1985 and is limited by guarantee, each member having undertaken to contribute such amounts not exceeding £1 as may be required in the event of the company being wound up whilst he or she is still a member or within one year thereafter.

There are currently 7 members of the company (2023 - 6 members).