

SOUND CONNECTIONS

England & Wales · Charity number 1095947

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	04561825
Registered	2003-02-13
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Rich Mix Cultural Foundation 35-47 Bethnal Green Road London E1 6LA
Phone	020 7729 7220
Email	info@sound-connections.org.uk
Website	www.sound-connections.org.uk

Activities

Objects: (A) TO ADVANCE EDUCATION IN THE ARTS FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT;(B) TO FURTHER ANY PURPOSES WHICH ARE CHARITABLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW OF ENGLAND AND WALES FROM TIME TO TIME AS THE COMPANY THINKS FIT.

Activities: Sound Connections develops, supports & empowers young Londoners through high quality music-making opportunities. We do this by delivering groundbreaking participatory music projects, providing professional development to music organisations and practitioners, and undertaking high quality action research and advocacy to promote best practice in music education.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities, People Of A Particular Ethnic Or Racial Origin, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies

Geography

- Throughout England

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£425,591	£427,893	-	-
2024-03-31	£379,882	£420,593	-	-
2023-03-31	£354,312	£381,148	-	-
2022-03-31	£638,190	£547,097	£278,942	10
2021-03-31	£536,370	£489,398	£187,849	8

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Samantha Lorraine Spence-Stimpson	Chair	2024-07-16
Esther Bokuma Lenda		2019-07-09
Florence Mary Schroeder		2024-07-16
Gemma Knox		2018-01-29
Nanret Senok		2020-07-17
Sasha Mattock		2019-07-09

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England & Wales - Charity number 1095947

Accounts

SOUND CONNECTIONS

(A company limited by guarantee)

**Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2025**

Charity number 1095947

Company number 04561825 (England & Wales)

SOUND CONNECTIONS

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Legal and Administrative Information

Year ended 31 March 2025

Charity Legal Name:	Sound Connections
Charity registration number:	1095947
Company registration number:	04561825 (England & Wales)
Trustees	N York – Chair, stepped down 4 November 2025 E Bokuma Lenda A Frame – resigned 1 February 2025 G Knox S Mattock N Senok M R Rubin M Taylor F Schroeder – appointed 19 July 2024 S Spence-Stimpson – appointed 2 August 2024, appointed Chair 4 November 2025
Company Secretary	P Flood – resigned 30 September 2024 P Layne – appointed 17 October 2024, resigned 29 July 2025 E Coomb – appointed on 29 July 2025
Senior Management Team	P Flood – Director to 30 September 2024 P Layne – Deputy Director to July 2024 Co-Director from July 2024 E Coomb – Co-Director from July 2024
Registered office & operational address:	1 st Floor Rich Mix 35-47 Bethnal Green Road London E1 6LA
Independent Examiners:	Simpson Wreford LLP Chartered Accountants Wellesley House Duke of Wellington Avenue Royal Arsenal London SE18 6SS

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Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2025

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 (FRS102).

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

Sound Connections is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 14 October 2002. The Company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the Company being wound up each of the Members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1. Its operational address is currently at 3rd Floor, Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London, E1 6LA

The charity is managed by its trustees who constitute the board of directors and have been appointed in accordance with the charity's Articles of Association. The directors in office during the year ended 31 March 2025 were as follows:-

N York – Chair, stepped down 4 November 2025

E Bokuma Lenda

A Frame – resigned 1 February 2025

G Knox

S Mattock

N Senok

M R Rubin

M Taylor

F Schroeder – appointed 19 July 2024

S Spence-Stimpson – appointed 2 August 2024, appointed Chair 4 November 2025

The day-to-day management is carried out by P Layne, P Flood (to September 2024), E Coomb (from July 2024).

The registered office is disclosed on the information page.

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Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2025

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The Directors of the Company are also Charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law. Trustees may be nominated by existing Trustees. Each appointment is based on an individual's commitment to Sound Connections charitable objectives, relevant skills, and experience necessary to support its governance.

New Trustees undergo an induction process to ensure they understand Sound Connection's objective, vision and operational structure, as well as their legal obligations under charity law. This includes a review of the charitable documents, policies, financial procedures, and governance principles.

Staff

During the year we had several staff changes and developments. After 14 years as Director, Philip Flood stepped down to pursue new opportunities, we thank Philip for his hard work and dedication over the years and look forward to continuing to work with him in the future. We welcomed internal staff members Liz Coomb and Wizdom Layne as the Charity's first Co-Directors in July 2024 and they had an extended handover with Philip before he finished at the end of September 2024.

Jasmine Padda, Emily Perryman and Tee Peters were all promoted to the role of Programme Producer within their respective strands as part of our goal to develop younger members of the team, and Helen Evans continues with us as Programme Coordinator. Previous Wired4Music Assistant Producer Perri Wickham joined us as Marketing and Communications Co-ordinator and we welcomed OlubANJI Ibidapo, Laura Clavier and Chase Watson as our Wired4Music Assistant Producers. We also continued our relationship with Vanessa Stansall as Early Years Lead on our Training and Professional Development strand of work, Alison Porter as Associate Programme Manager on Sector and Consultancy, Wired4Music Associates Shakira Alleyne and Yasmine Dankwah supporting Sector development and Shakira Walters joined us as Programme Lead for Cultivate

Organisational Structure

Sound Connections currently has a board of eight Trustees who meet (at least) quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. All Trustees have considerable experience and expertise related to the charity's business and needs.

Responsibility for the provision of services and the general running of the Charity rests with the Co-Directors. The Co-Directors are responsible for ensuring key performance indicators / targets are met and that funders are kept fully apprised of the results of their projects. The Managers are responsible for the day to day running of the various programmes and the supervision of staff and contracted workers employed to deliver those services.

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Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2025

Objectives and activities

Our vision and mission

Our vision is for a fair and equitable world in which music and creativity support children and young people to thrive as active, happy, and fulfilled people.

Our mission is to ensure that all children and young people can experience music and creative opportunities that are relevant to them and responsive to their needs in a changing world.

Our values

- We are collaborative: We believe learning from others and sharing power creates the biggest change.
- We are inclusive: We demonstrate our genuine commitment to inclusion and equity inside out.
- We are innovative: We seize opportunities for change through our dynamism and flexibility.

Our context

Our work strategically responds to the existing landscape:

- The lack of diversity and representation across music education and wider cultural opportunities for children and young people.
- The prevalence of systemic injustice and discrimination across music education and opportunities.
- The lack of widespread effective youth voice practice.
- Evidence that many people beyond the music sector don't understand, value or invest in the holistic benefits and importance of music and creativity in young people's lives.

Who we work with

- We collaborate with young people. We listen to and amplify their voices, so they are at the heart of decision-making. We support a diverse community of young creatives through training, bursaries, mentoring and paid work experience.
- We equip the music workforce with knowledge, skills, and confidence so they can be inclusive, relevant, and engaging in their work with children and young people. We do this through training, networking, bursaries, mentoring and resources.
- We support and challenge the music and creative sector to innovate and evolve. We support music education and community organisations, and those in the wider creative and cultural sector, through consultancy, organisational development and thought leadership.

Achievements and Performance – the year in brief

Our work with children and young people

Wired4Music our creative network for 16–25+ year-olds, has continued to thrive connecting young people across London to a supportive community and providing music-making opportunities and professional development activities. Over 1,200 young people engaged with us through Wired4Music's events, grants, mentoring, and our community. Activity included:

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Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2025

Wired Up - our live events series providing a professional platform for emerging performers and producers to get real-life experience both on and offstage. In 2024-2025 we:

- Delivered eight events at our partner venue Rich Mix.
- Hosted 14 partners and their young people, providing opportunities to perform and connect with young people from other organisations and other parts of the country. Partners included: Rich Mix New Creatives, YUAF, Kids on the Green, Yeah Youth, Crossword Lyric, SILKFUTURES, XLP, ELAM, Spit Game, Arts Train, CDR, Access Creative College, Rhythm Studio, Circle of Light.
- Welcomed over 60 young artists ranging from rappers, producers, instrumentalists, bands, and vocalists, and 100s of young people as audience members to support their peers and network.
- Provided opportunities for young musicians as the house band, hosts, photographers and videographers, and a team of young Event Producers who took on weekly production responsibilities, developing skills in programming, marketing, and producing.

“It’s given me confidence to perform live and see myself as a professional artist, not just a student.”
Participant

Generate - our micro-grant programme continued to support young creatives to realise self-directed projects. For 2024-2025 we:

- Supported nine projects with grants from £300-£1000 on a range of activity including recording and releasing EPs and albums and creating music videos, to community projects and events exploring accessibility, spaces for female musicians, identity and the impact of global conflict and local knife crime.
- Provided all project grantees with networking, 1-1s, peer led monthly meet-ups and free studio time.

“Generate helped me bring my idea to life and taught me how to manage a creative project from start to finish.” *Participant*

Collaborate – our music creation and experimentation programme provided young artists and musicians free studio time and the space to work with others from different backgrounds, genres and disciplines. We delivered four day-long sessions, supporting 40+ young people.

Our **Trainee Producer** scheme provided hands-on, paid and professional experience for young people through two pathways – Events Producers working on WiredUP, and an Assistant Producer role working across Wired4Music and learning how to run a young people’s music programme. We supported 10 young people this year (seven event producers and three assistant producers), supporting them into new roles and next steps once their time with us is complete.

In early 2025, the team began redesigning the membership model to further build an active community with a new digital system being piloted.

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Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2025

“It feels like we’re part of something bigger now - not just projects, but a movement that helps us grow.” *Participant*

Our work with practitioners

Our Training and Professional Development strand has continued to deliver high-quality, inclusive learning for music educators, practitioners, and emerging and established leaders across England. Activity included:

Training sessions – we welcomed over 250 practitioners and professionals working in the sector to 14 events on topics including:

- Early Years
 - ‘Anti-Racist Practice in Early Years Music’ with Dr Shaddai Tembo
 - ‘Come and Chat networking session’ with Joss Cambridge-Simmons
 - Cross Arts and ‘Creative Practice for Musicians; Perspectives from the Nursery Floor’ with Kate Comberti
- Youth voice and inclusive practice
 - ‘Working with chaos: bridging the gap between young people and the creative industries’ in collaboration with Bollobrook Youth Centre
 - ‘Authentic decision making with young people’, ‘From co-production to autonomy – supporting young people to take the lead’ and ‘Ageing upwards not outwards: exploring the progression routes from participant to practitioner with Wired4Music Associates Yasmine Dankwah and Shakira Alleyne
 - How to evaluate your impact with Jenn Raven and Yasmine Dankwah
 - Supporting young people from underrepresented groups in their journey toward a music career’ with Natasha Hendry
 - Film screening and Q&A of Shakira Alleyne’s film ‘Neurodiveristy in Music: Improving Access’
 - ‘Managing mental health and finding boundaries in the arts’ with Soundcastle
 - ‘Plotting creative career paths’ with Phil Nelson and Chris Cooke

Inclusive Practice in Action – our flagship annual gathering acts as a culmination of our annual training programme and a catalyst for change, by bringing together young people, practitioners and organisations from across the country to grapple with what being inclusive looks like. We collaborated with a team of young people again to produce this year’s event, and the theme was ‘Unlocking Musical Futures: Overcoming Barriers to Progression for Young People’. For 2025’s event we:

- Welcomed over 100 delegates from across the country
- Heard from over 15 speakers on topics including: ‘Navigating pathways to musical progression’, ‘Freelancing and building a career for young creatives’ and ‘Alternative pathways in orchestral music’ alongside keynote speakers, networking and surgeries
- Brought our programmes together as Wired UP followed the day event.

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Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2025

“The mix of young and experienced voices was refreshing — it reminded us why this work matters.”
Delegate

London Early Years Music Network – led by our Early Years Lead Vanessa Stansall, and delivered in collaboration with Creative Futures, this year we delivered 3 training and networking sessions as detailed above and supported 15 emerging leaders through a scheme of training, networking and mentoring.

Mentoring – we supported nine practitioners’ development by pairing them with industry professionals to support them with career development, inclusive practice and pastoral care.
“The transformation in confidence and clarity from our mentees has been incredible.” *Mentor*

Innovate – we supported four Innovate projects, including three in Levelling Up areas, through a mix of investment of £2,000 per project, mentoring, networking and training. Projects explored different ways of working with young people including using music therapy techniques with children with special needs and disabilities, creating instruments with children and young people, composition, music technology and nature and supporting young adults with profound and multiple learning difficulties.

Our work with organisations

Our Sector Support and Consultancy strand has continued to strengthen our national role as both a learning partner and advocate for inclusive music education. Activity included:

Activate – we relaunched our Activate grants programme for Music Hubs and worked with Lewisham Music, Leicestershire Music, Norfolk and Suffolk Music Hub and Sheffield Music Hub, providing investment of £1,750 per project alongside mentoring, networking and training. Project focused on different approaches to youth-led work including radio production, industry training, SEN/D creative industries, and youth community gatherings.

Youth voice and participation and Wired4Music Associates – our first cohort of trainee Associates Shakira Alleyne and Yasmine Dankwah co-designed and co-led this year’s youth voice training and network activity as detailed in our training activity above, and produced creative resources exploring young people’s perspectives in relation to access, inclusion and careers. Yasmine created the Pathways podcast and Shakira created a short film on neurodiversity.

“It’s rare to see projects where young people are shaping the conversation about access — this felt authentic and powerful” *Event attendee*

Cultivate – in January 2025 we launched a new national capacity-building programme delivered in partnership with the Ed Sheeran Foundation. The programme brings together six small-to-medium organisations from across the UK including CC Foundation (London), Girl Grind UK (Birmingham), Silk Futures (Cardiff), In The Making (East London), Pattern+Push (Sheffield), and NxGen Music

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Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2025

Group (Belfast). Each organisation received £2,500 micro-grants, mentoring and a year-long professional development programme.

Consultancy – work with partners this year included projects spanned evaluation, strategy, and research for organisations including Anthem Wales, Basildon County Council, Brent Music Academy English Heritage, London Music Fund, MOBO Organisation, Paraorchestra, Royal Albert Hall, Royal Ballet and Opera, Royal National Institute of the Blind, Sing Up, Sound Minds and Swansea University Hospital Board.

Our strategic work and funding

As a National Portfolio Organisation, Arts Council England continues to be a major supporter of our work, as does our founding funder Youth Music via their Catalyser Programme. We also started new funding partnerships with Paul Hamlyn Foundation as part of their Arts Fund, Karlsson Jativa Charitable Foundation as part of their Signatur programme and the Ed Sheeran Foundation.

Sound Connections continues to be a member of Music Mark, the subject association for Music, and the Music Education Council, the national body representing music education in the UK. This enables the organisation to contribute to the national debate on music in the UK and advocate for the support of young people who face barriers to music.

Financial Review

The attached financial statements show the current state of the charity's finances for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Incoming resources for the year totalled £425,591 of which £105,000 were for restricted purposes. Outgoing resources for the year totalled £427,893 of which £112,596 were attributable to restricted funds. Overall the accounts show a surplus for the year on unrestricted funds of £5,294. Unrestricted funds at the year-end totalled £207,504 of which £29,000 is designated.

Reserves policy

The trustees have considered the charitable company's need for reserves with reference to the major risks it faces. It has established a policy where unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets should be at least enough to cover six months' core running expenses.

Forecast expenditure for 2025/26 on core costs is £321,679 and a surplus of £5,655 and therefore the target reserves are £160,840 in general funds. A designated fund was established in 2007 to provide for redundancy payments. This has remained at £29,000 this year.

Principal funding sources

In the year ended 31 March 2025, Arts Council England funded 28% and the National Foundation for Youth Music funded 21% of the overall charitable income.

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Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2025

Aldgate and Allhallows Foundation, Samuel Gardner Memorial Trust, Harriet's Trust, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Ed Sheeran Foundation and The Karlsson Jativa Charitable Foundation funded 27%. Course fees, training, consultancy work, commissioned work and other income accounted for the remaining 24%.

Plans for future periods

We successfully delivered the final year of our three-year business plan (2022-2025). Our five priorities in the business plan are:

1. Youth Voice
2. Inclusion and Access
3. Diversity
4. Structural and systemic injustice and discrimination
5. Sector relevance, resilience, and sustainability

And over the final year of the plan we aim to:

1. Continue to use our independent status to champion change across the music education sector in order to achieve more inclusive and equitable opportunities for young people.
2. Develop our work on a national and international basis, specifically through becoming a new Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation
3. Explore new digital approaches to delivery to extend our reach and broaden participant base.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charitable company is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to major risks. The principal external risk continues to be the loss of funding that supports 'core' or fixed costs including senior staff and work continues to aim to reduce this risk by diversifying the company's funding and income base. Internal risks are managed by the established procedures for the authorisation of all transactions as well as a detailed system of financial and budgetary control, all of which are reviewed annually by the Senior Management Team and Trustees.

Directors (Trustees) Responsibilities

The Trustees, as set out on page 3 (who are also the directors of Sound Connections for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Directors' (Trustees) Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable

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Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2025

company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those 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 charity will continue on that basis.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Limited liability

Members of the charitable company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the company in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 March 2025 was eight.

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'.

Sound Connections charitable purpose is to provide increased access to music and musical education to young people in London, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds and provide them with opportunities to participate in a range of musical activities.

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Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2025

Independent examiners

Simpson Wreford LLP., were appointed as Independent Examiners during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

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

Signed on behalf of the board of directors (trustees) on 18 December 2025.

S Spence-Stimpson
Director (Trustee)

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Independent Examiners' Report To the Trustees of Sound Connections for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

I report to the charity trustees on the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 March 2025, which are set out on pages 14 to 23.

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 report

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 accounting 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.

Kate Taylor FCA
For and behalf of Simpson Wreford LLP, Chartered Accountants
Institute of Chartered Accounts in England and Wales

Wellesley House
Duke of Wellington Avenue
London, SE18 6SS

Dated: 19 December 2025

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Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)

Year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
INCOME	4				
Donations and legacies		66,750	-	66,750	151,055
Charitable activities		253,841	105,000	358,841	228,827
TOTAL INCOME		320,591	105,000	425,591	379,882
				-	
EXPENDITURE ON:	6				
Raising funds		5,700	-	5,700	6,800
Charitable activities		309,596	112,596	422,193	413,793
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		315,296	112,596	427,893	420,593
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		5,294	(7,596)	(2,302)	(40,711)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		5,294	(7,596)	(2,302)	(40,711)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		202,210	9,185	211,395	252,106
Total funds carried forward		207,504	1,589	209,093	211,395

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Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2025

	Notes	2025	2024
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	8	-	-
Current Assets			
Debtors	9	56,519	50,758
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>194,264</u>	<u>181,353</u>
		<u>250,783</u>	<u>232,111</u>
Creditors			
Amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(41,690)</u>	<u>(20,716)</u>
Net current assets		<u>209,093</u>	<u>211,395</u>
Total net assets		<u>209,093</u>	<u>211,395</u>
The Funds of the Charity	11		
Unrestricted Funds		207,504	202,210
Restricted Funds		<u>1,589</u>	<u>9,185</u>
		<u>209,093</u>	<u>211,395</u>

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

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The trustees have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476

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

The financial statements on pages 14 to 23 were approved by the Trustees on 18 December 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

S Spence-Stimpson
Director (Trustee)

Company Number – 04561825 (England & Wales)

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Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2025

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and in the preceding year.

Company information

Sound Connections is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. The registered office is 3rd Floor, Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London, E1 6LA

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 (FRS102)– (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in the financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The effects of events relating to the year ended 31 March 2025 which occurred before the date of approval of the financial statements by the Trustees has been included in the financial statements to the extent required to show a true and fair view of the state of affairs at 31 March 2025 and the results for the year ended on that date.

Sound Connections meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

(b) Going Concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

(c) Fund accounting

- Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Unrestricted funds include donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose.
- Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal. Expenditure, which meets these criteria, is charged to the fund.

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Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2025

(d) Income

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

1. Accounting Policies continued

- Grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. Grant income is only deferred where the donor has clearly specified that it relates to a future period.
- Incoming resources from charitable consulting activities are accounted for when earned. Consultancy income is deferred where it relates to services to be carried out in the future.
- Incoming resources from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

(e) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Other costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the independent examination and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.
- All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly; others are apportioned on the basis of an estimate of the proportion of project size.

(f) Fixed assets

Fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

It is the policy of the company to provide depreciation at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful economic life. The following rates of depreciation have been applied throughout the year.

Computer equipment - 33.3% on cost

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2025

Assets with a cost of £500 or more are capitalized.

(g) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

1. Accounting Policies continued

(i) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

(j) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

(j) Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

(k) Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

(l) Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2. Related Party Transactions

There was no related party transactions during the year.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2025

3. Remuneration

Remuneration of key management personnel	2025	2024
	£	£
Aggregate total	<u>78,597</u>	<u>81,904</u>

4 Income	Unrestricted	Restricted	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£
4.1 Income from donations and legacies				
<i>Donations</i>	250	-	250	55
Grant income				
Harriet's Trust	5,000	-	5,000	10,000
Samuel Gardner Memorial Trust	1,500	-	1,500	-
Lucille Graham Trust	-	-	-	2,000
The Karlsson Jativa Charitable Foundation	20,000	-	20,000	-
The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust	-	-	-	4,000
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	40,000	-	40,000	-
4.2 Income from charitable activities				
<i>Performance related grants</i>				
Youth Music Catalyser	-	90,000	90,000	100,000
Aldgate & Allhallows Foundation	15,000	-	15,000	15,000
Arts Council England - National Portfolio Organisation	120,000	-	120,000	120,000
ESF - Ed Sheeran Foundation	15,000	15,000	30,000	-
<i>Consultancy and training income</i>	102,661	-	102,661	128,727
<i>Other</i>	1,180	-	1,180	100
	<u>320,591</u>	<u>105,000</u>	<u>425,591</u>	<u>379,882</u>

5 Income by activity

	Youth Music				
	Catalyser	ESF	Core	2025 Total	2024 Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Donations	-	-	250	250	55
Grant income	90,000	15,000	216,500	321,500	251,000
Consultancy fees	-	-	102,661	102,661	128,727
Other income	-	-	1,180	1,180	100
	<u>90,000</u>	<u>15,000</u>	<u>320,591</u>	<u>425,591</u>	<u>379,882</u>

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2025

6 Expenditure

	2025 Total	2024 Total	Basis of support cost allocation
6.1 Charitable activities			
Staff costs	202,385	187,130	
Depreciation and impairment	-	643	
Delivery of training and commissioned projects	72,281	72,461	
Other project costs	57,082	65,350	
Support costs			
Office costs	73,074	69,678	Direct
Premises costs	11,345	10,870	Direct
Governance costs	4,526	6,161	Governance
Accountancy	1,500	1,500	Governance
	<u>422,193</u>	<u>413,793</u>	
6.2 Raising funds			
Freelance fees	<u>5,700</u>	<u>6,800</u>	
Total expenditure	<u>427,893</u>	<u>420,593</u>	

7. Staff Costs

Staff numbers

Staff costs for the year were as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Salaries and wages	190,884	172,897
Social Security costs	7,721	10,816
Staff pension costs	3,780	3,417
	<u>202,385</u>	<u>187,130</u>

The average number of staff employed during the year, was as follows:

	2025	2024
Direct projects	5	5
Administration	2	2
	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>

Remuneration of key management personnel

	2025	2024
	£	£
Aggregate total	<u>78,597</u>	<u>81,904</u>

There were no employees whose annual income exceeded £60,000.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2025

8. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Computer Equipment
Cost	
At 1 April 2024	11,176
Additions	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u><u>11,176</u></u>
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2024	11,176
Charge for year	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2025	<u><u>11,176</u></u>
Net Book Value	
At 31 March 2025	<u><u>-</u></u>
At 31 March 2024	<u><u>-</u></u>

9. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	40,617	39,856
Accrued income	15,000	10,000
Other debtors	902	902
	<u><u>56,519</u></u>	<u><u>50,758</u></u>

10. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due within One Year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade Creditors	8,402	10,234
Accruals	16,548	2,350
Deferred income	10,000	-
Social security and other tax	6,740	8,131
	<u><u>41,690</u></u>	<u><u>20,716</u></u>

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2025

11. Movement in Funds

	<i>As at 1 April</i>				<i>As at 31</i>
Restricted funds	2024	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	March 2025
Youth Music Catalyser	5,710	90,000	(95,710)	-	-
ESF - Ed Sheeran Foundation	-	15,000	(13,411)	-	1,589
Scops	3,475	-	(3,475)	-	-
	9,185	105,000	(112,596)	-	1,589
Unrestricted funds					
Core	173,210	320,591	(315,296)	-	178,505
Designated funds					
Redundancy	29,000	-	-	-	29,000
Total funds	211,395	425,591	(427,893)	-	209,093

12. Material funds during the year

Youth Music Catalyser

Youth Music Catalyser is a 3-year programme which supports organisations via grant funding to sustain work, scale-up delivery, or create change in sector practice. Catalyser programmes support children and young people who face barriers to make, learn or earn in music, and aim to make music activity more inclusive so everyone can access it.

Scops Arts Trust

The Scops Arts Trust provides funding for a 3-year training and professional development programme for music educators and facilitators in South East London. This project is delivered in partnership with the South Riverside Music Partnership.

ESF – Ed Sheeran Foundation

A support grant for up to 18 grassroots music organisations working on non-formal music education of young creatives, supported through training and mentoring. The grant is to support youth music, supporting young people in their music development as both artists and practitioners

13. Share Capital

Under the Company's Articles of Association, every member of the Company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of the same being wound up while they are a member, or within one year after they cease to be a member, such amount as may be required not exceeding £1.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2025

14. Taxation

The company is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

15. Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension costs and charge shown in Note 7 represents the contributions payable by the company to the fund. The amount owed to the pension fund as at the 31 March 2025 is £203 (2024 – £171).

16. VAT

The charity registered for VAT. The amount owed to HMRC at 31 March 2025 is £4,851 (2024 – £3,786).

SOUND CONNECTIONS

England & Wales - Charity number 1095947

Accounts

SOUND CONNECTIONS
(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2024

Charity number 1095947
Company number 04561825 (England & Wales)

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SOUND CONNECTIONS

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SOUND CONNECTIONS

Legal and Administrative Information

Year ended 31 March 2024

Charity Legal Name:	Sound Connections
Charity registration number:	1095947
Company registration number:	04561825 (England & Wales)
Trustees	N York – Chair E Bokuma Lenda A Frame G Knox S Mattock N Senok M R Rubin – appointed July 2023 M Taylor – appointed July 2023
Company Secretary	P Flood
Senior Management Team	P Flood - Director W Layne – Deputy Director
Registered office & operational address:	1 st Floor Rich Mix 35-47 Bethnal Green Road London E1 6LA
Independent Examiners:	Simpson Wreford LLP Chartered Accountants Wellesley House Duke of Wellington Avenue Royal Arsenal London SE18 6SS

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Report of the Directors (Trustees)

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 and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 (FRS102).

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

Sound Connections is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 14 October 2002. The Company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the Company being wound up each of the Members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1. Its operational address is currently at 3rd Floor, Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London, E1 6LA

The charity is managed by its trustees who constitute the board of directors and have been appointed in accordance with the charity's Articles of Association. The directors in office during the year ended 31 March 2024 were as follows:-

N York – Chair
S Alleyne – resigned July 2023
E Bokuma Lenda
A Frame
G Knox
R Green – resigned July 2023
S Mattock
M Mizzi – resigned July 2023
M Rubin – appointed July 2023
N Senok
M Taylor - appointed July 2023

The day-to-day management is carried out by P Flood.
The registered office is disclosed on the information page.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The Directors of the Company are also Charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law. We thank Shakira Alleyne, Rudy Green and Max Mizzi for their time as Trustees and wish them the very best in the future. We welcomed two new young Trustees, Milli-Rose Rubin and Mathilda Taylor.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2024

Staff

During the year we had several staff changes and developments. We welcomed Wizdom Layne as the new Deputy Director who started part-time in June and then became full time in September 2023. Liz Coomb joined Wizdom and Philip for a series of meetings to begin to look at shared leadership models and future plans for leadership of Sound Connections.

We welcomed Karmokar as the Wired 4Music Assistant Producer. We continued our relationship with our freelance advisors on our Training and Professional Development strand of work. We developed our Associate Consultant list to reflect an increase in demand and the need for specialist skills and experience with Shakira Alleyne and Yasmine Dankwah joining us in the newly created roles of Wired4Music Associates.

Organisational Structure

Sound Connections currently has a board of eight Trustees who meet (at least) quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. All Trustees have considerable experience and expertise related to the charity's business and needs.

Responsibility for the provision of services and the general running of the Charity rests with the Director along with Senior Managers. The Director is responsible for ensuring key performance indicators / targets are met and that funders are kept fully apprised of the results of their projects. The Managers are responsible for the day to day running of the various programmes and the supervision of staff and contracted workers employed to deliver those services

Related Parties

Our Trustees, Esther Bokuma Lenda and Milli-Rose Rubin were paid £525 and £425 respectively in the year for hosting and speaking at our Inclusive Practice in Action conference.

Objectives and activities

Our vision and mission

Our vision is for a fair and equitable world in which music and creativity support children and young people to thrive as active, happy, and fulfilled people.

Our mission is to ensure that all children and young people can experience music and creative opportunities that are relevant to them and responsive to their needs in a changing world.

Our values

- We are collaborative: We believe learning from others and sharing power creates the biggest change.
- We are inclusive: We demonstrate our genuine commitment to inclusion and equity inside out.
- We are innovative: We seize opportunities for change through our dynamism and flexibility.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2024

Our context

Our work strategically responds to the existing landscape:

- The lack of diversity and representation across music education and wider cultural opportunities for children and young people.
- The prevalence of systemic injustice and discrimination across music education and opportunities.
- The lack of widespread effective youth voice practice.
- Evidence that many people beyond the music sector don't understand, value or invest in the holistic benefits and importance of music and creativity in young people's lives.

Who we work with

- We collaborate with young people. We listen to and amplify their voices, so they are at the heart of decision-making. We support a diverse community of young creatives through training, bursaries, mentoring and paid work experience.
- We equip the music workforce with knowledge, skills, and confidence so they can be inclusive, relevant, and engaging in their work with children and young people. We do this through training, networking, bursaries, mentoring and resources.
- We support and challenge the music and creative sector to innovate and evolve. We support music education and community organisations, and those in the wider creative and cultural sector, through consultancy, organisational development and thought leadership.

Achievements and Performance – the year in brief

Our work with children and young people

Wired4Music is our creative network of over 1,200 young people from across London's 33 boroughs, with a core membership of 63 who are consistently engaging and participating in our programme. 62% are female, 33% male, and 0.1% are non-binary (with the rest undisclosed). 57% of members are from the Global Majority and 44% are from highly economically deprived areas in London.

Activity included: Performance events: we delivered three larger scale events, more than usual for 2023-2024. These included two showcases and a live band jam/open mic night held at the Ministry in Southwark. For these events there were four Event Producers each whom were tasked with helping with the logistics, social media and hospitality on night so that our audience could have a joyful and enjoyable experience. These events also fed into our wider organisational plans to partner up with more organisations as we held them in collaboration with the creative incubator organisation, What Does Not. The audience was a mix of theirs and our own W4M community. We also held one live jam session in Rich Mix which included a live band with opportunities for artists to perform on stage. We heard singers, rappers, poets and even dancers. Positive feedback on the event producer opportunities and events included this, *"The Assistant Producer Role has been a great experience. I highly value the variety that Tee has given us, whether it is watching him and other industry professionals. Letting us listen to them and also network with other creatives."*

Insight Sessions: formerly known as Drop-in sessions, these in person opportunities are for young people to receive mentorship and guidance once a month via group discussion and knowledge sharing. With 10 of these across the year, we saw industry professionals like Wizdom Layne (One of the founders of ELAM, Tileyard Impact, Mobo Unsung and Sound Connections Deputy Director), H Boss, and Sentric Music (Music publisher).

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2024

1:1 Careers advice sessions: We continued to open up slots for 1:1 mentor sessions where, over a 20 minute call, young people can communicate their challenges and goals with the W4M team and receive bespoke advice and guidance, signposting them to people and places who can help. In addition, there was written feedback form to allow them to keep track of their progress and meet their agreed goals.

Assistant Producer Programme: We offered a 6-month internship opportunity to two of our core members to help the team with the marketing and programming of Wired4Music. This London Living Wage paid role, offered weekly mentorship sessions and experience with working in our charity across Event production, marketing and comms, facilitation and a variety of training opportunities.

Newsletters: We delivered 18 newsletters to showcase Wired4Music's talented members via a shout out section as well as all of the current opportunities available for 16-25 year olds to get involved in from both our internal programming and the wider music education community.

Commissioned articles: We commissioned Wired4Music members to post written or video articles about our standout events and opportunities.

Generate: Our investment and talent development programme for Wired4Music members. Across the year 13 members were selected to take part in our Generate funding programme. This included individuals such as

- Saina, who has been longlisted for Glastonbury's emerging talent competition
- Banji, who released his first project with our funding and is now working as our Assistant Producer
- Raesha, who delivered poetry workshops around wellbeing
- Ronumiji, who offered free studio sessions to our Wired4Music community paid for by this bursary

Each participant received funding of £500 or £1250 and six months of mentorship and access to wider support.

Our work with the music education workforce

Our activity continued to focus on achieving the following outcomes:

1. To improve knowledge and understanding of high quality musically inclusive practice
2. To improve skills and confidence of high quality musically inclusive practice
3. To change practice

Activity consisted of a mix of online and in-person events, mentoring programmes and funding programme Innovate. Areas included developing inclusive practice, social justice, equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI), Early Years, youth voice and participation. We worked with two curators who are specialists in EDI, social justice and Early Years to develop the programme.

The strengths of the Training and Professional Development programme have been in the following areas:

- Exploring challenging and uncomfortable topics and encouraging proactiveness and hope
- Providing a platform for under-represented voices to be heard
- Doing all of this within safe, honest spaces where delegates are encouraged to openly share and be themselves
- Providing a mix of training, reflection, and connection

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2024

Activity was in two broad areas:

Individual opportunities

Four individuals/small organisations were supported to run innovative projects for children and young people through our Innovate funding programme. This year we widened the opportunity:

- across England with projects taking place in Sunderland, Isle of Wight, Newham and Hillingdon, ranging from projects for young leaders, care experienced young people and gender inclusivity in early years.
- Six early and mid career professionals from across England joined the mentoring programme and were matched with mentors with specialisms including diverse workshop leading, fundraising, Music Education Hub EDI strategy and professional development.
- Four Early Years Music Trainees undertook mentoring, shadowing and training in partnership with Creative Futures.
- Three Wired4Music Associates co-curated the Inclusive Practice in Action annual gathering (see below).
- Six mentees from the South Riverside Music Partnership hubs supported through 1:1 mentoring sessions and peer network meetings.

Training and network events

- 17 online and in-person training and networking events across inclusive practice, social justice, and early years. 351 people attended these events.
- Flagship Inclusive Practice in Action annual gathering (IPIA) titled 'A seat at the table'. This full day event focused on youth voice and was programmed and delivered in partnership with three young people from our Wired4Music associates programme.

In addition, we continued working with Chrys Chijiutomi on the development of her 'psycho-social sonic mapping: working towards breaking cycles of injustice in music education' research project with a view to sharing the findings publicly in 2024-25.

Our sector support and consultancy work

Sound Connections continued to support and partner with a wide range of organisations who directly work with children and young people across London. Relationships with the 29 Music Education Hubs continued to improve with staff sitting on a number of strategic advisory groups, presenting at events and developing bespoke projects for a number of hubs.

Our work with our strategic partners continued as well as our support of small emerging grassroots organisations who were part of our Innovate partnership programme.

Youth Music continued to be a major supporter of our work and were successful in securing three year funding through their Catalyser Programme. We also became one of the new Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisations, enabling us to expand our work across England to support more young people, music leaders and organisations. .

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2024

Sound Connections continues to be a member of Music Mark, the subject association for Music, and the Music Education Council, the national body representing music education in the UK. This enables the organisation to contribute to the national debate on music in the UK and advocate for the support of young people who are in the most challenging circumstances.

Our strategic sector support work with the music education sector included developing and delivering new training sessions on developing your youth voice strategy and how to co-produce with young people, alongside hosting network meetings. We paused our Activate investment programme due to the re-investment process Music Hubs were going through and will recommence this work in 2024/25. Our Wired4Music Associates, newly appointed through support from our ACE NPO investment, have also created new resources to inform 2024/25 training – a podcast on young people’s programmes, and a short film on neurodiversity in music.

Our consultancy strand continues to work with a wide range of new and returning partners, generating over £105,000 in income. New partners included: Independent Venue Week, London Symphony Orchestra, Music Generation and Arts Council Ireland, Paraorchestra & Friends, Royal Opera House, Royal National Institute of the Blind and Wiltshire Music Centre. Our two young Wired4Music Associates have worked across a range of these projects and we will continue to train and support them at this stage of their careers.

Financial Review

The attached financial statements show the current state of the charity’s finances for the year ended 31 March 2024.

Incoming resources for the year totalled £379,882 of which £100,000 were for restricted purposes. Outgoing resources for the year totalled £420,593 of which £119,365 were attributable to restricted funds. Overall the accounts show a deficit for the year on unrestricted funds of £21,346. Unrestricted funds at the year-end totalled £202,210 of which £29,000 is designated.

Reserves policy

The trustees have considered the charitable company’s need for reserves with reference to the major risks it faces. It has established a policy where unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets should be at least enough to cover six months’ core running expenses.

Forecast expenditure for 2024/25 on core costs is £317,055 and therefore the target reserves are £158,528 in general funds. A designated fund was established in 2007 to provide for redundancy payments. This has been increased to £29,000 in year.

Principal funding sources

In the year ended 31 March 2024, Arts Council England funded 32% and the National Foundation for Youth Music funded 26% of the overall charitable activities.

Aldgate and Allhallows Foundation, Harriet’s Trust, The D’Oyly Carte Charitable Trust and Lucille Graham Trust funded 8%. Course fees, training, consultancy work, commissioned work and other income accounted for the remaining 34%.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2024

Plans for future periods

We successfully delivered the first year of our new three-year business plan (2022-2025). Our five priorities in the business plan are:

1. Youth Voice
2. Inclusion and Access
3. Diversity
4. Structural and systemic injustice and discrimination
5. Sector relevance, resilience, and sustainability

And over the final year of the plan we aim to:

1. Continue to use our independent status to champion change across the music education sector in order to achieve more inclusive and equitable opportunities for young people.
2. Develop our work on a national and international basis, specifically through becoming a new Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation
3. Explore new digital approaches to delivery to extend our reach and broaden participant base.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charitable company is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to major risks. The principal external risk continues to be the loss of funding that supports 'core' or fixed costs including senior staff and work continues to aim to reduce this risk by diversifying the company's funding and income base. Internal risks are managed by the established procedures for the authorisation of all transactions as well as a detailed system of financial and budgetary control, all of which are reviewed annually by the Senior Management Team and Trustees.

Directors (Trustees) Responsibilities

The Trustees, as set out on page 3 (who are also the directors of Sound Connections for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Directors' (Trustees) Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those 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;

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2024

- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue on that basis.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Limited liability

Members of the charitable company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the company in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 March 2024 was eight.

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'.

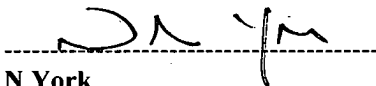
Sound Connections charitable purpose is to provide increased access to music and musical education to young people in London, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds and provide them with opportunities to participate in a range of musical activities.

Independent examiners

Simpson Wreford LLP., were appointed as Independent Examiners during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

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

Signed on behalf of the board of directors (trustees) on 16 July 2024



N York
Director (Trustee)

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Independent Examiners' Report

To the Trustees of Sound Connections for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

I report to the charity trustees of the company for the year ended 31 March 2024, which are set out on pages 12 to 22.

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 report

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 accounting 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.

Kate Taylor FCA
For and behalf of Simpson Wreford LLP, Chartered Accountants
Institute of Chartered Accounts in England and Wales

Wellesley House
Duke of Wellington Avenue
London, SE18 6SS

Dated: 19th July 2024.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)

Year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023
		£	£	£	£
INCOME	4				
Donations and legacies		151,055	-	151,055	41,789
Charitable activities		128,827	100,000	228,827	312,523
TOTAL INCOME		279,882	100,000	379,882	354,312
EXPENDITURE ON:	6				
Raising funds		6,800	-	6,800	6,986
Charitable activities		294,428	119,365	413,793	374,162
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		301,228	119,365	420,593	381,148
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(21,346)	(19,365)	(40,711)	(26,836)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(21,346)	(19,365)	(40,711)	(26,836)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		223,556	28,550	252,106	278,942
Total funds carried forward		202,210	9,185	211,395	252,106

The results for the year derive from continuing activities, and there are no other gains or losses other than those shown above.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024	2023
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	8	-	643
Current Assets			
Debtors	9	50,758	90,332
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>181,353</u>	<u>278,211</u>
		<u>232,111</u>	<u>368,545</u>
Creditors			
Amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(20,716)</u>	<u>(117,081)</u>
Net current assets		<u>211,395</u>	<u>251,463</u>
Total net assets		<u>211,395</u>	<u>252,106</u>
The Funds of the Charity	11		
Unrestricted Funds		202,210	223,556
Restricted Funds		<u>9,185</u>	<u>28,550</u>
		<u>211,395</u>	<u>252,106</u>

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

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The trustees have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476

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

The financial statements on pages 12 to 22 were approved by the Trustees on 16 July 2024 and signed on their behalf by:


N York
Director (Trustee)

Company Number – 04561825 (England & Wales)

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Statement of Cashflows

For the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash used in operating activities			
Net cash (used in) operating activities	17	<u>(96,858)</u>	<u>(7,167)</u>
Investing activities		-	-
(Decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(96,858)	(7,167)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		278,211	285,378
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		<u>181,353</u>	<u>278,211</u>

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and in the preceding year.

Company information

Sound Connections is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. The registered office is 3rd Floor, Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London, E1 6LA

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 (FRS102)– (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in the financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The effects of events relating to the year ended 31 March 2024 which occurred before the date of approval of the financial statements by the Trustees has been included in the financial statements to the extent required to show a true and fair view of the state of affairs at 31 March 2024 and the results for the year ended on that date.

Sound Connections meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

(b) Going Concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

(c) Fund accounting

- Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Unrestricted funds include donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose.
- Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal. Expenditure, which meets these criteria, is charged to the fund.

(d) Income

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting Policies continued

- Grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. Grant income is only deferred where the donor has clearly specified that it relates to a future period.
- Incoming resources from charitable consulting activities are accounted for when earned. Consultancy income is deferred where it relates to services to be carried out in the future.
- Incoming resources from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

(e) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Other costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the independent examination and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.
- All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly; others are apportioned on the basis of an estimate of the proportion of project size.

(f) Fixed assets

Fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

It is the policy of the company to provide depreciation at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful economic life. The following rates of depreciation have been applied throughout the year.

Computer equipment - 33.3% on cost

Assets with a cost of £500 or more are capitalized.

(g) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2024

1. Accounting Policies continued

(i) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

(j) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

(j) Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

(k) Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

(l) Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2. Related Party Transactions

Our Trustees, Esther Bokuma Lenda and Milli-Rose Rubin were paid £525 and £425 respectively in the year for hosting and speaking at our Inclusive Practice in Action conference. No other trustee (or persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

3. Remuneration

Remuneration of key management personnel	2024	2023
	£	£
Aggregate total	<u>81,904</u>	<u>87,868</u>

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2024

4 Income	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>2024 Total</i>	<i>2023 Total</i>
	£	£	£	£
4.1 Income from donations and legacies				
<i>Donations</i>	55	-	55	9,289
<i>Grant income</i>				
Harriet's Trust	10,000	-	10,000	15,000
Samuel Gardner Memorial Trust	-	-	-	1,500
Lucille Graham Trust	2,000	-	2,000	2,000
The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust	4,000	-	4,000	4,000
Sisters of the Holy Cross Charitable Trust	-	-	-	10,000
4.2 Income from charitable activities				
<i>Performance related grants</i>				
Youth Music - Fund C	-	-	-	143,982
Youth Music Catalyser	-	100,000	100,000	-
Aldgate & Allhallows Foundation	15,000	-	15,000	-
Arts Council England - National Portfolio Organisation	120,000	-	120,000	-
Scops Arts Trust	-	-	-	23,000
<i>Consultancy and training income</i>	128,727	-	128,727	143,943
<i>Other</i>	100	-	100	1,598
	<u>279,882</u>	<u>100,000</u>	<u>379,882</u>	<u>354,312</u>

5 Income by activity

	<i>Youth Music Catalyser</i>	<i>Core</i>	<i>2024 Total</i>	<i>2023 Total</i>
	£	£	£	£
Donations	-	55	55	9,289
Grant income	100,000	151,000	251,000	199,482
Consultancy fees	-	128,727	128,727	143,943
Other income	-	100	100	1,598
	<u>100,000</u>	<u>279,882</u>	<u>379,882</u>	<u>354,312</u>

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2024

6 Expenditure

	<i>2024 Total</i>	<i>2023 Total</i>	<i>Basis of support cost allocation</i>
6.1 Charitable activities			
Staff costs	187,130	189,544	
Depreciation and impairment	643	1,987	
Delivery of training and commissioned projects	72,461	53,618	
Other project costs	65,350	52,528	
Support costs			
Office costs	69,678	63,307	<i>Direct</i>
Premises costs	10,870	9,066	<i>Direct</i>
Governance costs	6,161	2,612	<i>Governance</i>
Accountancy	1,500	1,500	<i>Governance</i>
	<u>413,793</u>	<u>374,162</u>	
6.2			
Raising funds			
Fundraising costs	-	186	
Freelance fees	6,800	6,800	
	<u>6,800</u>	<u>6,800</u>	
Total expenditure	<u>420,593</u>	<u>381,148</u>	

7. Staff Costs

Staff numbers

Staff costs for the year were as follows:	2024	2023
	£	£
Salaries and wages	172,897	175,614
Social Security costs	10,816	10,847
Staff pension costs	3,417	3,083
	<u>187,130</u>	<u>189,544</u>

The average number of staff employed during the year, was as follows:

	2024	2023
Direct projects	5	6
Administration	2	2
	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>

There were no employees whose annual income exceeded £60,000.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2024

8. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Computer Equipment
Cost	
At 1 April 2023	11,176
Additions	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>11,176</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2023	10,533
Charge for year	<u>643</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>11,176</u>
Net Book Value	
At 31 March 2024	<u>-</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>643</u>

9. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	39,856	57,147
Accrued income	10,000	29,398
Prepayments	-	2,886
Other debtors	902	901
	<u>50,758</u>	<u>90,332</u>

10. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due within One Year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade Creditors	10,234	5,396
Accruals	2,350	11,500
Deferred income	-	90,000
Social security and other tax	8,131	10,185
	<u>20,716</u>	<u>117,081</u>

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2024

11. Movement in Funds

	<i>As at 1</i>				<i>As at 31</i>
	<i>April 2023</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers</i>	<i>March 2024</i>
<i>Restricted funds</i>					
Youth Music - Fund C	1,950	-	(1,950)	-	-
Youth Music Catalyser	-	100,000	(94,290)	-	5,710
Rachel Baker Memorial Trust	2,500	-	(2,500)	-	-
Scops	24,100	-	(20,625)	-	3,475
	28,550	100,000	(119,365)	-	9,185
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
<i>Core</i>	200,556	279,882	(301,228)	(6,000)	173,210
<i>Designated funds</i>					
Redundancy	23,000	-	-	6,000	29,000
<i>Total funds</i>	252,106	379,882	(420,593)	-	211,395

12. Material funds during the year

Youth Music Catalyser

Youth Music Catalyser is a 3-year programme which supports organisations via grant funding to sustain work, scale-up delivery, or create change in sector practice. Catalyser programmes support children and young people who face barriers to make, learn or earn in music, and aim to make music activity more inclusive so everyone can access it.

Scops Arts Trust

The Scops Arts Trust provides funding for a 3-year training and professional development programme for music educators and facilitators in South East London. This project is delivered in partnership with the South Riverside Music Partnership.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2024

13. Share Capital

Under the Company's Articles of Association, every member of the Company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of the same being wound up while they are a member, or within one year after they cease to be a member, such amount as may be required not exceeding £1.

14. Taxation

The company is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

15. Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension costs and charge shown in Note 7 represents the contributions payable by the company to the fund. The amount owed to the pension fund as at the 31 March 2024 is £171 (2023 – £176).

16. VAT

The charity registered for VAT in December 2019 when the charity's VAT taxable turnover reached the threshold. The amount owed to HMRC at 31 March 2024 is £3,786 (2023 – £6,541).

17. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities.

	2024 £	2023 £
Net movements in funds	(40,711)	(26,836)
Add back: Depreciation	643	1,987
Decrease in debtors	39,575	22,370
(Decrease) in creditors	(96,365)	(4,688)
	<u>(96,858)</u>	<u>(7,167)</u>

SOUND CONNECTIONS

England & Wales - Charity number 1095947

Accounts

SOUND CONNECTIONS
(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

Charity number 1095947
Company number 04561825 (England & Wales)

SOUND CONNECTIONS

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For the Year Ended 31 March 2023

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SOUND CONNECTIONS

Legal and Administrative Information

Year ended 31 March 2023

Charity Legal Name:	Sound Connections
Charity registration number:	1095947
Company registration number:	04561825 (England & Wales)
Trustees	N York – Chair S Alleyne E Bokuma Lenda A Frame R Green G Knox S Mattock M Mizzi N Senok
Company Secretary	P Flood
Senior Management Team	P Flood - Director J Raven – Deputy Director L Coomb – Programme Manager A Porter – Programme Manager
Registered office & operational address:	1 st Floor Rich Mix 35-47 Bethnal Green Road London E1 6LA
Independent Examiners:	Simpson Wreford LLP Chartered Accountants Wellesley House Duke of Wellington Avenue Royal Arsenal London SE18 6SS

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2023

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 (FRS102).

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

Sound Connections is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 14 October 2002. The Company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the Company being wound up each of the Members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1. Its operational address is currently at 3rd Floor, Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London, E1 6LA

The charity is managed by its trustees who constitute the board of directors and have been appointed in accordance with the charity's Articles of Association. The directors in office during the year ended 31 March 2023 were as follows:-

N York – Chair
S Alleyene
E Bokuma Lenda
S Caballero – resigned on 25 May 2022
A Frame
R Green
G Knox
S Mattock
M Mizzi
N Senok

The day-to-day management is carried out by P Flood.
The registered office is disclosed on the information page.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The Directors of the Company are also Charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law. We thank Shauni Cabellero for her time as a Trustee and wish her the very best in the future.

Staff

During the year we had several staff changes and developments. We welcomed back Jennifer Raven from her maternity leave to her role as Deputy Director. Tee Peters was promoted to the role of Wired4Music

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2023

Producer, and we welcomed Perri Wickham as Assistant Producer. We also continued our relationship with Vanessa Stansall and Brenda Rattray as advisors on our Training and Professional Development strand of work. We continued to develop our Associate Consultant list to reflect an increase in demand and the need for specialist skills and experience.

Organisational Structure

Sound Connections currently has a board of nine Trustees who meet (at least) quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. All Trustees have considerable experience and expertise related to the charity's business and needs.

Responsibility for the provision of services and the general running of the Charity rests with the Director along with Senior Managers. The Director is responsible for ensuring key performance indicators / targets are met and that funders are kept fully apprised of the results of their projects. The Managers are responsible for the day to day running of the various programmes and the supervision of staff and contracted workers employed to deliver those services

Related Parties

Our Trustee, Esther Bokuma Lenda was paid £3,475 in the year for providing youth voice training.

Objectives and activities

Our vision and mission

Our vision is for a fair and equitable world in which music and creativity support children and young people to thrive as active, happy, and fulfilled people.

Our mission is to ensure that all children and young people can experience music and creative opportunities that are relevant to them and responsive to their needs in a changing world.

Our values

- We are collaborative: We believe learning from others and sharing power creates the biggest change.
- We are inclusive: We demonstrate our genuine commitment to inclusion and equity inside out.
- We are innovative: We seize opportunities for change through our dynamism and flexibility.

Our context

Our work strategically responds to the existing landscape:

- The lack of diversity and representation across music education and wider cultural opportunities for children and young people.
- The prevalence of systemic injustice and discrimination across music education and opportunities.
- The lack of widespread effective youth voice practice.
- Evidence that many people beyond the music sector don't understand, value or invest in the holistic benefits and importance of music and creativity in young people's lives.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2023

Who we work with

- We collaborate with young people. We listen to and amplify their voices, so they are at the heart of decision-making. We support a diverse community of young creatives through training, bursaries, mentoring and paid work experience.
- We equip the music workforce with knowledge, skills, and confidence so they can be inclusive, relevant, and engaging in their work with children and young people. We do this through training, networking, bursaries, mentoring and resources.
- We support and challenge the music and creative sector to innovate and evolve. We support music education and community organisations, and those in the wider creative and cultural sector, through consultancy, organisational development and thought leadership.

Achievements and Performance – the year in brief

Our work with children and young people

Wired4Music is our creative network of over 1,200 young people from all over London's 33 boroughs, with a core membership of 63 who are consistently engaging and participating in our programme. 63% are female, 34% male, and 3% are non-binary. 57% of members are from Black, Asian and Ethnically diverse backgrounds and 92% are from highly economically deprived areas in London.

Activity included:

Performance events: Delivered one major event Rich Mix, 'Sunrise Showcase' in July 2022. 15 young people came down to produce an event around showcasing music. 11 of them performed original music to a live audience and 4 of them assisted in producing video and photographic content along with gaining experience in facilitating an event. At the event there were also panel discussions about how identity and representation is portrayed in music careers and how people can take advantage of their identities as individuals/culture identity. "I loved being part of the event, and apart from gain performance experience, I have been able to bring my music to new people who got to meet me, with whom I managed to connect." (Participant).

Drop-in sessions: Delivered in-person opportunities to for young people to receive mentorship and guidance in August and September. Our members were able to network and learn from each other about how to have a sustainable music career. The focus for each month was "How to find performance opportunities", "sharing music and group feedback" as well as asking members what they would like to see in the future from our programme. "I'm quite a shy person so I was able to show off some of my music" (Attendee).

Development needs analysis (DNA) mentoring sessions: Opened up slots for 1:1 mentor sessions where, over a 20 minute call, young people can communicate their challenges and goals with the W4M team and receive bespoke advice and guidance, signposting them to people and places who can help to helpful. In addition, there is written feedback form to allow them to keep track of their progress.

Internship programme: We offered an internship opportunity to one of our core members to help the team with the marketing and programming of Wired4Music. This paid role, offered weekly mentorship sessions and experience with working in our charity.

Monthly newsletter: We delivered 17 monthly newsletters plus two additional ones to showcase Wired4Music's talented members via a shout out section as well as all of the current opportunities available

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2023

for 16-25 year olds to get involved in from both our internal programming and the wider music education community.

Commissioned articles: We commissioned Wired4Music members to post written or video articles about our standout events and opportunities.

Generate: Our investment and talent development programme for Wired4Music members. Across the year 11 members were selected to take part in our Generate funding programme. This allowed acts like Nazyz Dinero (Youth Music Awards Nominee) and Mathilda Taylor, who recently held her first sold-out gig at St Mary La Strand, to further develop their project ideas. DJ Don Lon made a creative community for other DJs to network and work together in a collaborative environment, and Reckless Demeanour worked on a theatrical music concert which involved fusing musicianship with drama. Generators received between £200-1,000 for their work along with monthly mentoring and group sessions.

Young Trustees: Shakira Alleyne and Rudy Green continued to serve as Wired4Music members and young Trustees on the Sound Connections board. This is a training and development opportunity over a two-year period.

Our work with the music education workforce

Our activity continued to focus on achieving the following outcomes:

1. To improve knowledge and understanding of high quality musically inclusive practice
2. To improve skills and confidence of high quality musically inclusive practice
3. To change practice

Activity consisted of a mix of online and in-person events, mentoring programmes and funding programme Innovate. Areas included developing inclusive practice, social justice, equality, diversity, inclusion and belonging (EDIB), Early Years, youth voice and participation. We continued to work with two curators who are specialists in EDIB, social justice and Early Years to develop the programme.

The strengths of the Training and Professional Development programme have been in the following areas:

- Exploring challenging and uncomfortable topics and encouraging proactiveness and hope
- Providing a platform for under-represented voices to be heard
- Doing all of this within safe, honest spaces where delegates are encouraged to openly share and be themselves
- Providing a mix of training, reflection, and connection

Activity was in three broad areas:

Individual opportunities

- Two Early Years Music Trainees continued to undertake mentoring and training in partnership with Creative Futures.
- Three Wired4Music members engaged to support the Inclusive Practice in Action annual gathering as Young Producers.
- One practitioner supported with subsidised Certificate of Music Educator places through Sage Gateshead.
- Eight mentees from the South Riverside Music Partnership hubs supported through 1:1 mentoring sessions and two peer network meetings.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2023

- Two Innovate projects funded, ranging from work with Afghan and Syrian refugees and two autism-specialist schools.

Training and network events

- Full day, in-person Inclusive Practice in Action annual gathering curated by Brenda Rattray for 74 delegates
- 19 online and in-person training and networking events to 305 delegates across inclusive practice, social justice, early years and youth voice, curated by curators Brenda Rattray and Vanessa Stansall, and programme managers Alison Porter and Liz Coomb

Research and resources

- Continued working with Chrys Chijiutomi on the development of ‘psycho-social sonic mapping: working towards breaking cycles of injustice in music education’
- Published three resources around Global Inclusive Leadership to support the Inclusive Practice In Action annual gathering

Our work with the music education sector

Sound Connections continued to support and partner with a wide range of organisations who directly work with children and young people across London. Relationships with the 29 Music Education Hubs continued to improve with staff sitting on a number of strategic advisory groups, presenting at events and developing bespoke projects for a number of hubs.

Our work with our strategic partners continued as well as our support of small emerging grassroots organisations who were part of our Innovate partnership programme.

Youth Music continues to be a major supporter of our work and we continued our role as a Fund C organisation through to March 2023. Our relationship with Arts Council England is thriving and we developed new relationships with a number of other funders to support our work across the sector.

Sound Connections continues to be a member of Music Mark, the subject association for Music, and the Music Education Council, the national body representing music education in the UK. This enables the organisation to contribute to the national debate on music in the UK and advocate for the support of young people who are in the most challenging circumstances.

Our sector support and consultancy work

We continued to focus our strategic sector support work with Music Education Hubs and wider music organisations on Youth Voice both in London and across England. We worked with two London Music Hubs, Brent and Haringey, through our Activate programme, supporting them to embed Youth Voice within their strategy and programming. We successfully delivered an Introduction to Developing your Youth Voice and Participation Strategy training session in February and programmed our first Youth Voice and Participation Network meeting.

Our consultancy strand continued to grow across the UK with clients including North Yorkshire Local Cultural Education Partnership (youth voice), English Heritage (youth voice), Live Music Now (evaluation), the National Open Youth Orchestra (evaluation) and London Music Fund (evaluation). In total our consultancy work generated over £135,000 in income.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2023

Financial Review

The attached financial statements show the current state of the charity's finances for the year ended 31 March 2023.

Incoming resources for the year totalled £354,312 of which £168,382 were for restricted purposes. Outgoing resources for the year totalled £381,148 of which £182,889 were attributable to restricted funds. Overall the accounts show a deficit for the year on unrestricted funds of £12,329 for the year. Unrestricted funds at the year-end totalled £223,556 of which £23,000 is designated.

Reserves policy

The trustees have considered the charitable company's need for reserves with reference to the major risks it faces. It has established a policy where unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets should be at least enough to cover three months' core running expenses, with an aspiration in the coming years to build to six months.

Forecast expenditure for 2023/24 on core costs is £339,607 and therefore the target reserves are £84,902 in general funds. As we have surpassed this target we are looking at increasing our reserves policy to cover six months' core running costs over the next few years. A designated fund was established in 2007 to provide for redundancy payments.

Principal funding sources

In the year ended 31 March 2023, the National Foundation for Youth Music funded around 40% of the overall charitable activities.

Harriet's Trust, Lucille Graham Trust, Samuel Gardner Memorial Trust, Scops Trust, Sisters of the Holy Cross and The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust funded 18% of the overall income for projects designed to extend our provision for 'hard to reach' young people and training the workforce. Course fees, training, consultancy work, commissioned work and other income accounted for the remaining 42%.

Plans for future periods

We successfully delivered the first year of our new three-year business plan (2022-2025). Our five priorities in the business plan are:

1. Youth Voice
2. Inclusion and Access
3. Diversity
4. Structural and systemic injustice and discrimination
5. Sector relevance, resilience, and sustainability

From 1 April 2023 Sound Connections will receive 3 year funding from the National Foundation for Youth Music and will also become an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation. This investment amounts to £220,000 per year through to March 2026. This will provide a solid base for future fundraising and supports both our approach to trusts and foundations and our consultancy programme.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2023

And over the next two years we aim to:

1. Continue to use our independent status to champion change across the music education sector in order to achieve more inclusive and equitable opportunities for young people.
2. Develop our work on a national and international basis - fully transition from a London based organisation to a national strategic sector support organisation and a UK leader in Youth Voice.
3. Explore new digital approaches to delivery to extend our reach and broaden participant base.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charitable company is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to major risks. The principal external risk continues to be the loss of funding that supports 'core' or fixed costs including senior staff and work continues to aim to reduce this risk by diversifying the company's funding and income base. Internal risks are managed by the established procedures for the authorisation of all transactions as well as a detailed system of financial and budgetary control, all of which are reviewed annually by the Senior Management Team and Trustees.

Directors (Trustees) Responsibilities

The Trustees, as set out on page 3 (who are also the directors of Sound Connections for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Directors' (Trustees) Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those 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 charity will continue on that basis.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2023

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Limited liability

Members of the charitable company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the company in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees as at 31 March 2023 was ten.

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'.

Sound Connections charitable purpose is to provide increased access to music and musical education to young people in London, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds and provide them with opportunities to participate in a range of musical activities.

Independent examiners

Simpson Wreford LLP., were appointed as Independent Examiners during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

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

Signed on behalf of the board of directors (trustees) on 1 August 2023.

N York
Director (Trustee)

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Independent Examiners' Report

To the Trustees of Sound Connections for the Year Ended 31 March 2023

I report to the charity trustees of the company for the year ended 31 March 2023, which are set out on pages 12 to 22.

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 report

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 accounting 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.

Kate Taylor FCA

For and behalf of Simpson Wreford LLP, Chartered Accountants

Institute of Chartered Accounts in England and Wales

Wellesley House
Duke of Wellington Avenue
London, SE18 6SS
Dated: 5 August 2023

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)

Year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total funds 2023	Total funds 2022
		£	£	£	£
INCOME	4				
Donations and legacies		41,789	-	41,789	44,985
Charitable activities		144,141	168,382	312,523	593,205
TOTAL INCOME		185,930	168,382	354,312	638,190
				-	
EXPENDITURE ON:	6				
Raising funds		6,986	-	6,986	4,950
Charitable activities		191,273	182,889	374,162	542,147
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		198,259	182,889	381,148	547,097
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		(12,329)	(14,507)	(26,836)	91,093
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(12,329)	(14,507)	(26,836)	91,093
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		235,885	43,057	278,942	187,849
Total funds carried forward		223,556	28,550	252,106	278,942

The results for the year derive from continuing activities, and there are no other gains or losses other than those shown above.

The notes on pages 15 to 22 form part of these financial statements.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023	2022
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	8	643	2,630
Current Assets			
Debtors	9	90,332	112,702
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>278,212</u>	<u>285,378</u>
		<u>368,544</u>	<u>398,080</u>
Creditors			
Amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(117,081)</u>	<u>(121,768)</u>
Net current assets		<u>251,463</u>	<u>276,312</u>
Total net assets		<u>252,106</u>	<u>278,942</u>
The Funds of the Charity	11		
Unrestricted Funds		223,556	235,885
Restricted Funds		<u>28,550</u>	<u>43,057</u>
		<u>252,106</u>	<u>278,942</u>

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

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The trustees have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476

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

The financial statements on pages 12 to 22 were approved by the Trustees on 1 August 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

N York
Director (Trustee)

Company Number – 04561825 (England & Wales)

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Statement of Cashflows

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Cash used in operating activities			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	17	<u>(7,167)</u>	<u>124,639</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest income		-	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		-	(1,930)
Cash provided by/ (used) in investing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>(1,930)</u>
(Decrease)/Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(7,167)	122,709
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		285,378	162,669
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		<u>278,211</u>	<u>285,378</u>

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and in the preceding year.

Company information

Sound Connections is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. The registered office is 3rd Floor, Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London, E1 6LA

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 (FRS102)– (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in the financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The effects of events relating to the year ended 31 March 2023 which occurred before the date of approval of the financial statements by the Trustees has been included in the financial statements to the extent required to show a true and fair view of the state of affairs at 31 March 2023 and the results for the year ended on that date.

Sound Connections meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

(b) Going Concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

(c) Fund accounting

- Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Unrestricted funds include donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose.
- Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal. Expenditure, which meets these criteria, is charged to the fund.

(d) Income

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting Policies continued

- Grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. Grant income is only deferred where the donor has clearly specified that it relates to a future period.
- Incoming resources from charitable consulting activities are accounted for when earned. Consultancy income is deferred where it relates to services to be carried out in the future.
- Incoming resources from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

(e) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Other costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the independent examination and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.
- All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly; others are apportioned on the basis of an estimate of the proportion of project size.

(f) Fixed assets

Fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

It is the policy of the company to provide depreciation at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful economic life. The following rates of depreciation have been applied throughout the year.

Computer equipment - 33.3% on cost

Assets with a cost of £500 or more are capitalized.

(g) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2023

1. Accounting Policies continued

(i) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

(j) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

(j) Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 ‘Basic Financial Instruments’ and Section 12 ‘Other Financial Instruments Issues’ of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

(k) Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

(l) Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2. Related Party Transactions

E Bokuma Lenda was paid £3,475 for youth voice training. No other trustee (or persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

3. Remuneration

Remuneration of key management personnel	2023	2022
	£	£
Aggregate total	<u>87,868</u>	<u>97,767</u>

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2023

4 Income	<i>Unrestricted</i> £	<i>Restricted</i> £	<i>2023 Total</i> £	<i>2022 Total</i> £
4.1 Income from donations and legacies				
<i>Donations</i>	9,289	-	9,289	670
<i>Grant income</i>				
Harriet's Trust	15,000	-	15,000	10,000
A New Direction	-	-	-	6,565
Samuel Gardner Memorial Trust	1,500	-	1,500	1,750
Lucille Graham Trust	2,000	-	2,000	-
Noteweavers	-	-	-	1,000
The Foyle Foundation	-	-	-	25,000
The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust	4,000	-	4,000	-
Sisters of the Holy Cross Charitable Trust	10,000	-	10,000	-
4.2 Income from charitable activities				
<i>Performance related grants</i>				
Youth Music - Fund C	-	143,982	143,982	159,980
Arts Council England - Cultural Recovery Fund	-	-	-	82,500
Arts Council England - Hub Support Programme	-	-	-	85,150
Children in Need	-	-	-	21,313
Scops Arts Trust	-	23,000	23,000	23,000
Rachel Baker Memorial Trust	-	-	-	37,500
<i>Consultancy and training income</i>	143,943	-	143,943	179,162
<i>Charitable rental income</i>	-	-	-	1,600
<i>Other</i>	198	1,400	1,598	3,000
	185,930	168,382	354,312	638,190

5 Income by activity

	<i>SCOPS Art</i> <i>Trust</i> £	<i>Fund C</i> £	<i>Core</i> £	<i>2023 Total</i> £	<i>2022 Total</i> £
Donations	-	-	9,289	9,289	670
Grant income	23,000	143,982	32,500	199,482	453,758
Consultancy fees	-	-	143,943	143,943	179,162
Charitable rental income	-	-	-	-	1,600
Other income	-	1,400	198	1,598	3,000
	23,000	145,382	185,930	354,312	638,190

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2023

6 Expenditure

	<i>2023 Total</i>	<i>2022 Total</i>	<i>Basis of support cost allocation</i>
6.1 Charitable activities			
Staff costs	189,544	224,083	
Depreciation and impairment	1,987	2,192	
Delivery of training and commissioned projects	53,618	148,096	
Other project costs	52,528	93,143	
Support costs			
Office costs	63,307	56,247	Direct
Premises costs	9,066	14,265	Direct
Governance costs	2,612	2,621	Governance
Accountancy	1,500	1,500	Governance
	<u>374,162</u>	<u>542,147</u>	
6.2			
Raising funds			
Fundraising costs	186	-	
Freelance fees	6,800	4,950	
	<u>6,986</u>	<u>4,950</u>	
Total expenditure	<u>381,148</u>	<u>547,097</u>	

7. Staff Costs

Staff numbers

Staff costs for the year were as follows:	<i>2023</i>	<i>2022</i>
	£	£
Salaries and wages	175,614	206,266
Social Security costs	10,847	13,985
Staff pension costs	3,083	3,831
	<u>189,544</u>	<u>224,083</u>

The average number of staff employed during the year, was as follows:

	<i>2023</i>	<i>2022</i>
Direct projects	6	8
Administration	2	2
	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>

There were no employees whose annual income exceeded £60,000.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2023

8. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Computer Equipment
Cost	
At 1 April 2022	11,176
Additions	-
At 31 March 2023	<u>11,176</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2022	8,546
Charge for year	<u>1,987</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>10,533</u>
Net Book Value	
At 31 March 2023	<u>643</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>2,630</u>

9. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	57,147	79,539
Accrued income	29,398	29,428
Prepayments	2,886	2,835
Other debtors	901	900
	<u>90,332</u>	<u>112,702</u>

10. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due within One Year

	£	£
Trade Creditors	5,396	23,760
Accruals	11,500	7,950
Deferred income	90,000	73,192
Social security and other tax	10,185	16,866
	<u>117,081</u>	<u>121,768</u>

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2023

11. Movement in Funds

	<i>As at 1</i>				<i>As at 31</i>
<i>Restricted funds</i>	<i>April 2022</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers</i>	<i>March 2023</i>
Youth Music - Fund C	8,900	145,382	(152,332)	-	1,950
Rachel Baker Memorial Trust	12,500	-	(10,000)	-	2,500
Scops	21,657	23,000	(20,557)	-	24,100
	<u>43,057</u>	<u>168,382</u>	<u>(182,889)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,550</u>
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
<i>Core</i>	<u>212,885</u>	<u>185,930</u>	<u>(198,259)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>200,556</u>
<i>Designated funds</i>					
Redundancy	<u>23,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>23,000</u>
<i>Total funds</i>	<u><u>278,942</u></u>	<u><u>354,312</u></u>	<u><u>(381,148)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>252,106</u></u>

12. Material funds during the year

Youth Music

Youth Music funds the ‘Fund C’ programme with the aim of developing musical inclusion across London. This project supports children and young people, particularly those facing barriers to access, the music education workforce, and strategic work with music and cultural organisations across London. Through Fund C Sound Connections is also a founder member of the Alliance for a Musically Inclusive England.

Scops

The Scops Arts Trust provides funding for a 3-year training and professional development programme for music educators and facilitators in South East London. This project is delivered in partnership with the South Riverside Music Partnership.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2023

13. Share Capital

Under the Company's Articles of Association, every member of the Company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of the same being wound up while they are a member, or within one year after they cease to be a member, such amount as may be required not exceeding £1.

14. Taxation

The company is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

15. Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension costs and charge shown in Note 7 represents the contributions payable by the company to the fund. The amount owed to the pension fund as at the 31 March 2023 is £176 (2022 – £224).

16. VAT

The charity registered for VAT in December 2019 when the charity's VAT taxable turnover reached the threshold. The amount owed to HMRC at 31 March 2023 is £6,541 (2022 – £13,429).

17. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities.

	2023 £	2022 £
Net movements in funds	(26,836)	91,093
Add back: Depreciation	1,987	2,192
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	22,370	(48,553)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(4,688)	79,907
	<u>(7,167)</u>	<u>124,639</u>

SOUND CONNECTIONS

England & Wales - Charity number 1095947

Accounts

SOUND CONNECTIONS
(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2022

Charity number 1095947
Company number 04561825 (England & Wales)

SOUND CONNECTIONS

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SOUND CONNECTIONS

Legal and Administrative Information

Year ended 31 March 2022

Charity Legal Name:	Sound Connections
Charity registration number:	1095947
Company registration number:	04561825 (England & Wales)
Trustees	N York – Chair S Alleyene – appointed on 29 July 2021 P Bell – resigned on 11 May 2021 E Bokuma Lenda S Caballero – resigned on 25 May 2022 A Frame R Green – appointed on 29 July 2021 G Knox S Mattock M Mizzi N Senok
Company Secretary	P Flood
Senior Management Team	P Flood - Director J Raven – Deputy Director L Coomb – Programme Manager A Porter – Programme Manager
Registered office & operational address:	3 rd Floor Rich Mix 35-47 Bethnal Green Road London E1 6LA
Independent Examiners:	Simpson Wreford LLP Chartered Accountants Wellesley House Duke of Wellington Avenue Royal Arsenal London SE18 6SS

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2022

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 (FRS102).

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

Sound Connections is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 14 October 2002. The Company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the Company being wound up each of the Members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1. Its operational address is currently at 3rd Floor, Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London, E1 6LA

The charity is managed by its trustees who constitute the board of directors and have been appointed in accordance with the charity's Articles of Association. The directors in office during the year ended 31 March 2022 were as follows:-

N York – Chair
S Alleyene – appointed on 29 July 2021
P Bell – resigned on 11 May 2021
E Bokuma Lenda
S Caballero – resigned on 25 May 2022
A Frame
R Green – appointed on 29 July 2021
G Knox
S Mattock
M Mizzi
N Senok

The day-to-day management is carried out by P Flood.
The registered office is disclosed on the information page.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The Directors of the Company are also Charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law.

We welcomed Shakira Alleyene and Rudy Green as new trustees.

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Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2022

Staff

During the year we had several staff changes and developments. We welcomed Isabella Kernot as deputy director (maternity cover), Sarah Grainger-Jones to the new role of Programme Manager for Children and Young People, and Jasmine Padda as Marketing and Communications Coordinator. We also continued our relationship with Vanessa Stansall and Brenda Rattray as our workforce Curators.

We continued to develop our Associate Consultant list to reflect an increase in demand and the need for specialist skills and experience.

Organisational Structure

Sound Connections currently has a board of ten Trustees who meet (at least) quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. All Trustees have considerable experience and expertise related to the charity's business and needs.

Responsibility for the provision of services and the general running of the Charity rests with the Director along with Senior Managers. The Director is responsible for ensuring key performance indicators / targets are met and that funders are kept fully apprised of the results of their projects. The Managers are responsible for the day to day running of the various programmes and the supervision of staff and contracted workers employed to deliver those services

Related Parties

Our Trustee Esther Bokuma Lenda was paid £450 in the year for providing youth voice training.

Objectives and activities

Mission, vision and strands of work

Our vision is for a fair and equitable world in which music and creativity support children and young people to thrive as active, happy, and fulfilled people.

Our mission is to ensure that all children and young people can experience music and creative opportunities that are relevant to them and responsive to their needs in a changing world.

Our values

- We are collaborative: We believe learning from others and sharing power creates the biggest change.
- We are inclusive: We demonstrate our genuine commitment to inclusion and equity inside out.
- We are innovative: We seize opportunities for change through our dynamism and flexibility.

Our context

Our work strategically responds to the existing landscape:

- The lack of diversity and representation across music education and wider cultural opportunities for children and young people.
- The prevalence of systemic injustice and discrimination across music education and opportunities.

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Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2022

- The lack of widespread effective youth voice practice.
- Evidence that many people beyond the music sector don't understand, value or invest in the holistic benefits and importance of music and creativity in young people's lives.

Who we work with

- We collaborate with young people. We listen to and amplify their voices, so they are at the heart of decision-making. We support a diverse community of young creatives through training, bursaries, mentoring and paid work experience.
- We equip the music workforce with knowledge, skills, and confidence so they can be inclusive, relevant, and engaging in their work with children and young people. We do this through training, networking, bursaries, mentoring and resources.
- We support and challenge the music and creative sector to innovate and evolve. We support music education and community organisations, and those in the wider creative and cultural sector, through consultancy, organisational development and thought leadership.

Achievements and Performance – the year in brief

Our work with children and young people

Wired4Music is a thriving network engaging over 1,000 young people from all of London's 32 Boroughs with a core group of 100 young people. 63% female, 36% male and 1% non-binary. 69% of members are from Black, Asian and Ethnically diverse backgrounds and 85% are from economically deprived backgrounds.

With the easing of COVID 19 restrictions we started to deliver face-to-face activities whilst retaining the hybrid delivery model to support young people adjust to a changed world.

Activity

We delivered:

Generate

13 young people took part in Generate from 2021-2022, with over £13,000 invested directly into young people's creativity and entrepreneurship. As part of the scheme, we offer monthly mentoring to each Generator and we also held workshops focusing on the basics of creative entrepreneurship.

Cohort one was selected in March 2021 and cohort two was selected in July 2021. Projects include events, EPs, music videos and a community music therapy project. Recipients of Generate have gone on to successfully secure funding from Next Gen and develop their creative practice independently.

Drop-Ins

As the pandemic continued, we changed how we delivered our Drop-In sessions. Over the course of 2020-2021 we replaced them with online webinars and Insta Live sessions offering a chance for members to network with professionals and other young creatives. This continued with the development of our podcast in 2021. We held our first in person 'Drop-In' November 2021 and will look at continuing with a hybrid delivery approach.

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Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2022

Residencies with Rich Mix

In January 2022 we held our first in-person residency at Rich Mix in Shoreditch, working together creatively for the day within a professional venue. We invited W4M members to apply for the residencies and selected 4 artists for each event, running monthly from January to March 2022. The February and March residencies included a live showcase to friends, family and the public, for March we also included an open mic.

Allegro Festival

One of our flagship events for 2020-2021, Allegro Festival was due to take place in March 2021 in person, but due to the pandemic we took the decision to move it to Friday 30 April 2021 and host it online. Allegro was a celebration of community and creativity sharing a mixture of talks and performances from W4M members. We worked with six W4M Event Coordinators to put together the festival, supporting them to gain skills in event producing and programming. We showcased 15 artists with an audience of 216 young people.

W4M Freelance opportunities

Over the year we have offered 105 paid opportunities to the W4M community. Opportunities range from curating playlists, commissioning articles for our website and newsletters, facilitating workshops, artist residencies, producers and event support, paid event photography, supporting us with webinars and being interviewed for our podcast episodes.

We have delivered facilitator training to 5 W4M members who we have gone on to offer paid work with our Workforce team to support our consultancy work. This is an area we aim to expand and formalise, giving paid opportunities and new skills to our W4M members to become trained participation and youth voice facilitators of the future through our Cultivate programme.

We invited 3 W4M members to work with us on our flagship Inclusive Practice in Action event in April this year, a paid opportunity to support a large in-person conference, as well as taking part in 3 other online workforce sessions.

Mini-DNAs

Our mini-DNAs and mentoring for young people are a substantial and deeply meaningful area of our work. Over the past year we have offered over 200 hours of mentoring sessions to young people, providing pastoral care and signposting to other support services such as housing, financial support and mental health support to creative careers guidance and being a sounding board for ideas, ambitions and aspirations.

Podcasts

During the pandemic we developed a podcast series, In Sight, developed with, by and for our members. To date we have recorded 4 episodes with 3 available to listen to online. Topics were chosen by our members and interviewed members were paid for taking part. Topics covered include self-confidence as an artist, promotion with social media and personal wellbeing. We are excited about how these will continue and develop to include and engage more of our members.

Governance and decision-making

Over the last period, and as a result of the pandemic, board meetings have moved online. There have also been some changes in our approach to Wired4Music trustees, which previously have served for a 12-

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Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2022

month period. Due to the pandemic, and to the fact that Trustees take time to settle in, we have increased the tenure to 24 months and successfully recruited two new young trustees in July 2021 – Shakira Alleyne and Rudy Green.

Our work with the music education workforce

As in the previous year our training and workforce development activities shifted dramatically to respond quickly, efficiently and sensitively to the challenges the COVID-19 pandemic posed to practitioners and organisations working with children and young people through music.

Activity delivered

We undertook a sector-wide needs analysis in June 2021 which revealed ongoing pandemic-related challenges, and which informed programme activity. CPD sessions shifted primarily to the Spring 2021, with some activity rescheduled for the summer term. Activity largely remained online in response to low confidence in attending face-to-face events. There was a strong desire to explore inclusive practice more deeply led to sessions exploring music and social justice with smaller groups, aiming to support participants to champion change.

Activity was in three broad areas:

Individual opportunities

- Three Early Years Music Trainees continued to undertake mentoring and training.
- Three Wired4Music members engaged to support public events as Young Producers.
- Four practitioners supported with subsidised Certificate of Music Educator places through Sage Gateshead.
- Four *Innovate* projects funded, ranging from work with ‘lockdown’ babies in Camden to inclusive Youth Voice work in Lambeth.

Public activity

- Five remote CPD events involving 107 participants.
- Inclusive Practice in Action live conference involving 60 delegates.
- Two sessions for 12 early years practitioners, exploring anti-racism.

Research

- Needs analysis led by curator Brenda Rattray and a mapping exercise of Early Years Music provision led by curator Vanessa Stansall.
- Work on Psycho-Social Sonic Mapping continued with Chrys Chijiutomi.
- Independent review of workforce programme led by Samantha Stimpson – recommendations will inform ongoing activity design.

Our work with the music education sector

Sound Connections continued to support and partner with a wide range of organisations who directly work with children and young people across London. Relationships with the 29 Music Education Hubs continued to improve with staff sitting on a number of strategic advisory groups, presenting at events and developing bespoke projects for a number of hubs.

Our work with our strategic partners continued as well as our support of small emerging grassroots organisations who were part of our Innovate partnership programme.

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Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2022

Youth Music continues to be a major supporter of our work and we are thrilled that they have extended their Fund C investment for another year, until March 2023. Our relationship with Arts Council England is thriving and we developed new relationships with a number of other funders to support our work across the sector.

Sound Connections continues to be a member of Music Mark, the subject association for Music, and the Music Education Council, the national body representing music education in the UK. This enables the organisation to contribute to the national debate on music in the UK and advocate for the support of young people who are in the most challenging circumstances.

Our consultancy work

The Sound Connections consultancy service continued to go from strength to strength and for 2021-22 we delivered 54 consultancy projects for 42 organisations. Due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, we had a slight shortfall for our income target due to work being postponed into 2022-2023. Our work continues to grow outside of London, with over 57% taking place outside of the capital in the past year, supporting our development as an organisation with a national and international reach.

Delivering consultancy continues to expand the reach and depth of our work, and enables us to impact positively on the music, arts and heritage sectors through bespoke training, organisational development, strategic advice, research and evaluation.

Financial Review

The attached financial statements show the current state of the charity's finances for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Incoming resources for the year totalled £638,190 of which £329,943 were for restricted purposes. Outgoing resources for the year totalled £547,097 of which £344,507 were attributable to restricted funds. Overall the accounts show a surplus for the year on unrestricted funds of £105,656. Unrestricted funds at the year-end totalled £238,885 of which £23,000 is designated.

Reserves policy

The trustees have considered the charitable company's need for reserves with reference to the major risks it faces. It has established a policy where unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets should be at least enough to cover three months' core running expenses, with an aspiration in the coming years to build to six months.

Forecast expenditure for 2022/23 on core costs is £334,713 and therefore the target reserves are £83,678 in general funds. A designated fund was established in 2007 to provide for redundancy payments. This has been set at £23,000.

Principal funding sources

In the year ended 31 March 2022, the National Foundation for Youth Music funded around 25% of the overall charitable activities.

A New Direction, Arts Council England, Children in Need, Foyle Foundation, Harriet's Trust, Rachel Baker Memorial Charity, Noteweavers, Samuel Gardner Memorial Trust, and SCOPS Art Trust funded 45% of

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Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2022

the overall income for projects designed to extend our provision for ‘hard to reach’ young people and training the workforce. Course fees, training, consultancy work, commissioned work and other income accounted for the remaining 30%.

Plans for future periods

We delivered the fourth and final year of our strategy, from April 2018 – March 2022. Our five priorities in our new business plan (2022 – 2025) are:

1. Youth Voice
2. Inclusion and Access
3. Diversity
4. Structural and systemic injustice and discrimination
5. Sector relevance, resilience and sustainability

And over the next three years we aim to:

1. Continue to use our independent status to champion change across the music education sector in order to achieve more inclusive and equitable opportunities for young people.
2. Develop our work on a national and international basis - fully transitioning from a London based organisation to a national strategic sector support organisation and a UK leader in Youth Voice.
3. Explore new digital approaches to delivery to extend our reach and broaden participant base.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charitable company is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to major risks. The principal external risk continues to be the loss of funding that supports ‘core’ or fixed costs including senior staff and work continues to aim to reduce this risk by diversifying the company’s funding and income base. Internal risks are managed by the established procedures for the authorisation of all transactions as well as a detailed system of financial and budgetary control, all of which are reviewed annually by the Senior Management Team and Trustees.

Directors (Trustees) Responsibilities

The Trustees, as set out on page 3 (who are also the directors of Sound Connections for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Directors’ (Trustees) Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those 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;

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2022

- 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 charity will continue on that basis.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Limited liability

Members of the charitable company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the company in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees as at 31 March 2022 was ten.

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'.

Sound Connections charitable purpose is to provide increased access to music and musical education to young people in London, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds and provide them with opportunities to participate in a range of musical activities.

Independent examiners

Simpson Wreford LLP., were appointed as Independent Examiners during the year and have expressed their willingness to continue in that capacity.

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

Signed on behalf of the board of directors (trustees) on

N York
Director (Trustee)

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Independent Examiners' Report

To the Trustees of Sound Connections for the Year Ended 31 March 2022

I report to the charity trustees of the company for the year ended 31 March 2022, which are set out on pages 12 to 22.

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 report

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 accounting 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.

Kate Taylor FCA

For and behalf of Simpson Wreford LLP, Chartered Accountants

Institute of Chartered Accounts in England and Wales

Wellesley House
Duke of Wellington Avenue
London, SE18 6SS
Dated:

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)

Year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total funds 2022	Total funds 2021
		£	£	£	£
INCOME	4				
Donations and legacies		44,985	-	44,985	10,164
Charitable activities		263,262	329,943	593,205	526,206
TOTAL INCOME		308,247	329,943	638,190	536,370
EXPENDITURE ON:	6				
Raising funds		4,950	-	4,950	4,875
Charitable activities		197,640	344,507	542,147	484,523
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		202,590	344,507	547,097	489,398
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		105,657	(14,564)	91,093	46,972
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		105,657	(14,564)	91,093	46,972
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		130,228	57,621	187,849	140,877
Total funds carried forward		235,885	43,057	278,942	187,849

The results for the year derive from continuing activities, and there are no other gains or losses other than those shown above.

The notes on pages 15 to 22 form part of these financial statements.

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Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022	2021
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	8	2,630	2,892
Current Assets			
Debtors	9	112,702	64,151
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>285,378</u>	<u>162,669</u>
		<u>398,080</u>	<u>226,820</u>
Creditors			
Amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(121,768)</u>	<u>(41,863)</u>
Net current assets		<u>276,312</u>	<u>184,957</u>
Total net assets		<u>278,942</u>	<u>187,849</u>
The Funds of the Charity	11		
Unrestricted Funds		235,885	130,228
Restricted Funds		<u>43,057</u>	<u>57,621</u>
		<u>278,942</u>	<u>187,849</u>

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

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The trustees have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476

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

The financial statements on pages 12 to 22 were approved by the Trustees on and signed on their behalf by:

N York
Director (Trustee)

Company Number – 04561825 (England & Wales)

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Statement of Cashflows

For the year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	2022 £	2021 £
Cash used in operating activities			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	17	<u>124,639</u>	<u>(26,653)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest income		-	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(1,930)	(4,030)
Cash provided by/ (used) in investing activities		<u>(1,930)</u>	<u>(4,030)</u>
(Decrease)/Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		122,709	(30,683)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		162,669	193,352
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		<u>285,378</u>	<u>162,669</u>

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2022

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and in the preceding year.

Company information

Sound Connections is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. The registered office is 3rd Floor, Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London, E1 6LA

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 (FRS102)– (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in the financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The effects of events relating to the year ended 31 March 2022 which occurred before the date of approval of the financial statements by the Trustees has been included in the financial statements to the extent required to show a true and fair view of the state of affairs at 31 March 2022 and the results for the year ended on that date.

Sound Connections meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

(b) Going Concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

(c) Fund accounting

- Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Unrestricted funds include donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose.
- Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal. Expenditure, which meets these criteria, is charged to the fund.

(d) Income

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2022

1. Accounting Policies continued

- Grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. Grant income is only deferred where the donor has clearly specified that it relates to a future period.
- Incoming resources from charitable consulting activities are accounted for when earned. Consultancy income is deferred where it relates to services to be carried out in the future.
- Incoming resources from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

(f) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Other costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the independent examination and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.
- All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly; others are apportioned on the basis of an estimate of the proportion of project size.

(g) Fixed assets

Fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

It is the policy of the company to provide depreciation at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful economic life. The following rates of depreciation have been applied throughout the year.

Computer equipment - 33.3% on cost

Assets with a cost of £500 or more are capitalized.

(h) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2022

1. Accounting Policies continued

(i) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

(j) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

(k) Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 ‘Basic Financial Instruments’ and Section 12 ‘Other Financial Instruments Issues’ of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

(l) Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

(m) Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2. Related Party Transactions

E Bokuma Lenda was paid £450 for youth voice training. No other trustee (or persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

3. Remuneration

Remuneration of key management personnel	2022	2021
	£	£
Aggregate total	<u>97,767</u>	<u>110,469</u>

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2022

4 Income	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
4.1 Income from donations and legacies				
<i>Donations</i>	670	-	670	4,164
<i>Grant income</i>				
Harriet's Trust	10,000	-	10,000	-
A New Direction	6,565	-	6,565	-
Samuel Gardner Memorial Trust	1,750	-	1,750	1,000
Noteweavers	1,000	-	1,000	-
The Foyle Foundation	25,000	-	25,000	-
The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust	-	-	-	5,000
Sisters of the Holy Cross Charitable Trust	-	-	-	10,000
4.2 Income from charitable activities				
<i>Performance related grants</i>				
Youth Music - Fund C	-	159,980	159,980	159,980
Agrigento	-	-	-	14,010
Arts Council England - Emergency Funding	-	-	-	25,000
Arts Council England - Cultural Recovery Fund	82,500	-	82,500	-
Arts Council England - Hub Support Programme	-	85,150	85,150	-
Children in Need	-	21,313	21,313	21,313
The Radcliffe Trust	-	-	-	5,000
Scops Arts Trust	-	23,000	23,000	-
Rachel Baker Memorial Trust	-	37,500	37,500	25,000
<i>Consultancy and training income</i>	179,162	-	179,162	260,873
<i>Charitable rental income</i>	1,600	-	1,600	4,800
<i>Other</i>	-	3,000	3,000	230
	308,247	329,943	638,190	536,370

5 Income by activity

	SCOPS Art			Rachel Baker Children in			2022	2021
	Trust	Arts Council	Fund C	Memorial	Need	Core	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	670	670	4,164
Grant income	23,000	85,150	159,980	37,500	21,313	126,815	453,758	266,303
Consultancy fees	-	-	-	-	-	179,162	179,162	260,873
Charitable rental income	-	-	-	-	-	1,600	1,600	4,800
Other income	-	-	3,000	-	-	-	3,000	230
	23,000	85,150	162,980	37,500	21,313	308,247	638,190	536,370

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2022

6 Expenditure

	2022 Total	2021 Total	Basis of support cost allocation
6.1 Charitable activities			
Staff costs	224,083	203,735	
Depreciation and impairment	2,192	1,610	
Delivery of training and commissioned projects	148,096	56,878	
Other project costs	93,143	136,745	
Support costs			
Office costs	56,247	62,143	Direct
Premises costs	14,265	19,285	Direct
Governance costs	2,621	2,627	Governance
Accountancy	1,500	1,500	Governance
	<u>542,147</u>	<u>484,523</u>	
6.2			
Raising funds			
Fundraising costs	-	-	
Freelance fees	4,950	4,875	
	<u>4,950</u>	<u>4,875</u>	
Total expenditure	<u>547,097</u>	<u>489,398</u>	

7. Staff Costs

Staff numbers

Staff costs for the year were as follows:	2022	2021
	£	£
Salaries and wages	206,266	186,946
Social Security costs	13,985	12,947
Staff pension costs	3,831	3,842
	<u>224,083</u>	<u>203,735</u>

The average number of staff employed during the year, was as follows:

	2022	2021
Direct projects	8	7
Administration	2	1
	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>

There were no employees whose annual income exceeded £60,000.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2022

8. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Computer Equipment
Cost	
At 1 April 2021	9,246
Additions	<u>1,930</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u><u>11,176</u></u>
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2021	6,354
Charge for year	<u>2,192</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u><u>8,546</u></u>
Net Book Value	
At 31 March 2022	<u><u>2,630</u></u>
At 31 March 2021	<u><u>2,892</u></u>

9. Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	79,539	43,098
Accrued income	29,428	16,056
Prepayments	2,835	4,035
Other debtors	900	962
	<u><u>112,702</u></u>	<u><u>64,151</u></u>

10. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due within One Year

<i>Creditors</i>	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade Creditors	23,760	18,401
Accruals	7,950	3,358
Deferred income	73,192	5,000
Social security and other tax	16,866	15,104
	<u><u>121,768</u></u>	<u><u>41,863</u></u>

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2022

11. Movement in Funds

	<i>As at 1</i>				<i>As at 31</i>
<i>Restricted funds</i>	<i>April 2021</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers</i>	<i>March 2022</i>
Youth Music - Fund C	17,813	162,980	(171,893)	-	8,900
Agrigento	8,620	-	(8,620)	-	-
Arts Council England - Hub Support Programme	-	85,150	(85,150)	-	-
Rachel Baker Memorial Trust	-	37,500	(25,000)	-	12,500
Scops	18,400	23,000	(19,743)	-	21,657
Children in Need	12,788	21,313	(34,101)	-	-
	57,621	329,943	(344,507)	-	43,057
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
Core	107,228	308,247	(202,590)	-	212,885
<i>Designated funds</i>					
Redundancy	23,000	-	-	-	23,000
<i>Total funds</i>	187,849	638,190	(547,097)	-	278,942

12. Material funds during the year

Youth Music

Youth Music funds the ‘Fund C’ programme with the aim of developing musical inclusion across London. This project supports children and young people, particularly those facing barriers to access, the music education workforce, and strategic work with music and cultural organisations across London. Through Fund C Sound Connections is also a founder member of the Alliance for a Musically Inclusive England.

Scops

The Scops Arts Trust provides funding for a 3-year training and professional development programme for music educators and facilitators in South East London. This project is delivered in partnership with the South Riverside Music Partnership.

ACE Hub Support Programme

The ACE Hub Support Programme was a specific grant to undertake a needs analysis and critical friend support with the Music Education Hubs across England.

Rachel Baker Memorial Trust

This is a specific grant to support the training of music teachers and music leaders, both in London and across England.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – Year ended 31 March 2022

13. Share Capital

Under the Company's Articles of Association, every member of the Company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of the same being wound up while they are a member, or within one year after they cease to be a member, such amount as may be required not exceeding £1.

14. Taxation

The company is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

15. Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension costs and charge shown in Note 7 represents the contributions payable by the company to the fund. The amount owed to the pension fund as at the 31 March 2022 is £224 (2020 – (£60)).

16. VAT

The charity registered for VAT in December 2019 when the charity's VAT taxable turnover reached the threshold. The amount owed to HMRC at 31 March 2022 is £13,429 (2020 – £10,473).

17. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities.

	2022 £	2021 £
Net movements in funds	91,093	46,972
Add back: Depreciation	2,192	1,610
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(48,553)	(2,181)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	79,907	(73,054)
	<u>124,639</u>	<u>(26,653)</u>

SOUND CONNECTIONS

England & Wales - Charity number 1095947

Accounts

SOUND CONNECTIONS
(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements
For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

Charity number 1095947
Company number 04561825 (England & Wales)

SOUND CONNECTIONS

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SOUND CONNECTIONS

Legal and Administrative Information

Year ended 31 March 2021

Charity Legal Name:	Sound Connections
Charity registration number:	1095947
Company registration number:	04561825 (England & Wales)
Trustees	N York – Chair P Bell – resigned on 11 May 2021 J Leahy – resigned on 14 October 2020 E Bokuma Lenda C Manning – resigned on 1 June 2020 S Mattock M Mizzi N Rampley – resigned on 14 October 2020 S Bandopadhyay – resigned on 27 April 2020 G Knox N Senok – appointed on 17 July 2020 A Frame – appointed on 14 October 2020 S Caballero – appointed on 14 October 2020
Company Secretary	P Flood
Senior Management Team	P Flood - Director J Raven – Deputy Director J Loveless – Programme Manager L Coomb – Programme Manager
Registered office & operational address:	3 rd Floor Rich Mix 35-47 Bethnal Green Road London E1 6LA
Independent Examiners:	Simpson Wreford LLP Chartered Accountants Wellesley House Duke of Wellington Avenue Royal Arsenal London SE18 6SS

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2021

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and 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 (FRS102).

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing document

Sound Connections is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 14 October 2002. The Company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Articles of Association. In the event of the Company being wound up each of the Members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1. Its operational address is currently at 3rd Floor, Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London, E1 6LA

The charity is managed by its trustees who constitute the board of directors and have been appointed in accordance with the charity's Articles of Association. The directors in office during the year ended 31 March 2021 were as follows:-

N York – Chair
P Bell – resigned on 11 May 2021
J Leahy – resigned on 14 October 2020
E Bokuma Lenda
C Manning – resigned on 1 June 2020
S Mattock
M Mizzi
N Rampley – resigned on 14 October 2020
S Bandopadhyay – resigned on 27 April 2020
G Knox
N Senok – appointed on 17 July 2020
A Frame – appointed on 14 October 2020
S Caballero – appointed on 14 October 2020

The day to day management is carried out by P Flood.
The registered office is disclosed on the information page.

Recruitment and Appointment of Trustees

The Directors of the Company are also Charity Trustees for the purposes of charity law.

Shoubhik Bandopadhyay, John Leahy and Nick Rampley stepped down and our thanks go to all of them for their valuable advice and support. We welcomed Shauni Caballero, Andrew Frame and Nanret Senok as new trustees.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2021

Staff

During the year we had several staff changes and developments. We welcomed Liz Coomb to the new role of Programme Manager for sector and consultancy, and Tee Peters to the new role of Wired4Music Assistant Producer.

We also continued to expand our Associate Consultant list to reflect an increase in demand and the need for specialist skills and experience.

Organisational Structure

Sound Connections currently has a board of nine Trustees who meet (at least) quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. All Trustees have considerable experience and expertise related to the charity's business and needs.

Responsibility for the provision of services and the general running of the Charity rests with the Director along with Senior Managers. The Director is responsible for ensuring key performance indicators / targets are met and that funders are kept fully apprised of the results of their projects. The Managers are responsible for the day to day running of the various programmes and the supervision of staff and contracted workers employed to deliver those services.

Related Parties

Our Trustee Esther Bokuma Lenda was paid £2,691.88 in the year for providing youth voice training.

Objectives and activities

Mission, vision and strands of work

Sound Connections exists to facilitate change. We work across the music community to achieve inclusion, equity and social justice with young people.

Our vision is that all children and young people age 0-25 can access high quality music and progression routes.

Who we work with

In response to our research, ongoing projects, partnerships and identified need in London over the last 18 years, we focus our time, energies and resources on three areas. These are:

- Children and young people – through consultation and needs analysis, co-producing projects and activities
- The music education workforce – through training, professional development and networks
- The music education sector – through organisational development, strategy, research and advocacy

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2021

Underpinning these three areas are a series of cross-cutting priorities, identified as aspects of music education in need of development in order to achieve meaningful inclusion. These are adjusted based upon changing needs but currently include:

Early years music-making; supporting young people who face significant barriers accessing music opportunities; youth voice and participation; impact measurement; needs analysis and 'cold spots'; progression; quality; diversity, equality and social justice.

Achievements and Performance – the year in brief

Our work with children and young people

Wired4Music is a thriving network engaging over 1,000 young people from all of London's 32 Boroughs with a core group of 41 young people. 64% of members identify their gender as female, 35% male and 1% as a third choice. 70% of members are from Black, Asian and Ethnically diverse backgrounds and 85% are from economically deprived backgrounds.

Within Wired4Music the following activities take place:

- Flagship events, minimum one per year
- Generate programme, two rounds per year
- Wired4Music freelancers, ongoing
- Monthly drop-ins
- Mini DNAs (Development needs analysis) and 1:1 mentoring, ongoing
- Governance, training and appointing two Wired4Music members to the board of Sound Connections
- Weekly opportunities postings on the Wired4Music website
- Opportunities, news and engagement with members through dedicated Wired4Music communication channels

Activity

This year we delivered:

Generate

We had 10 young people take part in Generate from 2020-2021, investing over £10,000 directly into young people's creativity and entrepreneurship. As part of the scheme we offer monthly mentoring to each Generator and we also piloted a suite of workshops focusing on the basics of creative entrepreneurship. Projects include music video, R&D on an autism-friendly music industry project, an EP championing women and gender-minority artists, producers and engineers, a one-day festival championing DIY artists.

Flagship Events x 1

In October 2020 we hosted our W4M 10th Anniversary Party - an evening of films, talks and performances celebrating the past 10 years of Wired4Music.

We worked with five W4M curators to put the event together, supported by our intern and W4M member Tee and hosted by W4M member and rising star Anna-Marie Descartes. We had over 10 performances from young creatives with over 30 people attending the event live, and over 140+ viewers post-event.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2021

We commissioned Tee, who's an artist and film-maker, to put together a film called 'Our Story' which to date has 100+ views detailing W4M's journey from the perspective of our young people. We also created an accompanying impact report looking back on the past decade of W4M with stories from current and previous members of W4M and the Sound Connections team, which has been read over 100 times.

Drop-ins, webinars and instalives

As the pandemic hit, and we all had to stay inside, we had to pivot in how we delivered drop-ins and as such over the course of 2020-21 we replaced them with webinars where we held focused sessions with a chance for members to network with professionals and other young creatives.

We hosted 5 webinars from August 2020 to March 2021; platforming 11 emerging and established music industry professionals with a range of expertise from A&R to branding to sustaining your creativity.

We had 239 young people along to these webinars (whereas with drop-ins we'd have had 100 attendees in a year), and now have a bank of resources that we are using on our social channels. We are continuing with the curation of the webinar series as it proved so popular.

In addition to our webinar series, we hosted 26 InstaLive sessions all led by and featuring W4M members and to date have a collective viewership of 2,500+.

W4M Freelancers

Over the previous year we have offered 150 paid opportunities to the W4M community. Opportunities range from curating playlists, commissioning articles, facilitating workshops, supporting us with webinars, speaking at webinars and performing/hosting our InstaLive sessions.

Governance – Usually our Wired4Music Trustees hold one-year terms, but as the pandemic landed on our shores our Chair and Senior Management Team thought it best to offer the current W4M Trustees an additional year, to help with stability for them and for the organisation. Esther Lenda Bokuma and Sasha Mattock were delighted and stayed on for a second term providing tremendous insight, wisdom and guidance to the team during troubling times, and we are thrilled they are continuing on as Trustees beyond their extended term. We are now beginning the process for two new W4M Trustees.

Mini-DNAs

Whilst the majority of our work is outward facing, our mini-DNAs and mentoring for young people is a substantial and deeply meaningful area of our work. Over the past year we have offered over 200 hours of mentoring sessions to young people, providing pastoral care and sign-posting to other support services such as housing, financial support and mental health support to creative careers guidance and being a sounding board for ideas, ambitions and aspirations.

Our work with the music education workforce

During 2020-21, Sound Connections' training and workforce development activities shifted dramatically to respond quickly, efficiently and sensitively to the challenges the COVID-19 pandemic posed to practitioners and organisations working with children and young people through music.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2021

Activity delivered

26 online workshops, webinars and training sessions to more than 1,000 delegates focussing on developing skills, knowledge and confidence with inclusive practice. These focused around the following themes: music and social justice; delivering music activities online; decolonising music education; early childhood music making; evaluating impact, fundraising, and developing your business; and youth voice and participation. These included free events for the London Early Years Music Network.

1 x annual conference (Inclusive Practice in Action) which was a two-day virtual sit in, attended by more than 250 people, focusing on intersectionality within the music education sector.

Provided one-to-one mentoring to 48 practitioners, supporting them with their personal and professional development.

Awarded 15 professional development bursaries to practitioners to enable them to fund their own learning and development during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Five Innovate projects awarded to Achieving for Children; Music Action International; Joe Steele; Beanstalk Arts and Play for Progress enabling individuals and grassroots organisations to test out new approaches to developing inclusive music projects.

Provided support and training for five Wired4Music members aged 18-24 to enable them to participate in co-producing and co-facilitating a variety of events, including a significant role and presence at the Inclusive Practice in Action virtual sit-in.

Early Years Apprentice programme with 6 Apprentices enrolled

Our work with the music education sector

Sound Connections continued to support and partner with a wide range of organisations who directly work with children and young people across London. Relationships with the 30 Music Education Hubs continued to improve with staff sitting on a number of strategic advisory groups, presenting at events and developing bespoke projects for a number of hubs.

Our work with our strategic partners continued as well as our support of small emerging grassroots organisations who were part of our Innovate partnership programme.

Youth Music continues to be a major supporter of our work. As well as funding through to 2022 we are also part of the Alliance for a Musically Inclusive England, a partnership of 14 organisations across England committed to inclusive practice. Our relationship with Arts Council England is thriving and we developed new relationships with a number of other funders to support our work across the sector.

Sound Connections continues to be a member of Music Mark, the subject association for Music, and the Music Education Council, the national body representing music education in the UK. This enables the organisation to contribute to the national debate on music in the UK and advocate for the support of young people who are in the most challenging circumstances.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2021

Our consultancy work

The Sound Connections consultancy service saw continued growth in 2020-21: we exceeded our income target and delivered 41 consultancy projects for 32 organisations. Our work continues to grow outside of London, with over 50% taking place outside of the capital in the past year, supporting our development as an organisation with a national and international reach.

Delivering consultancy continues to expand the reach and depth of our work, and enables us to impact positively on the music, arts and heritage sectors through bespoke training, organisational development, strategic advice, research and evaluation.

Financial Review

The attached financial statements show the current state of the charity's finances for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Incoming resources for the year totaled £536,370 of which £205,303 were for restricted purposes. Outgoing resources for the year totaled £489,398 of which £179,469 were attributable to restricted funds. Overall the accounts show a surplus for the year of £46,972. Unrestricted funds at the year-end totaled £130,228 of which £23,000 is designated. Restricted reserves as at 31 March 2021 totaled £57,621.

Reserves policy

The trustees have considered the charitable company's need for reserves with reference to the major risks it faces. It has established a policy where unrestricted funds not invested in fixed assets should be at least enough to cover three months' core running expenses.

Forecast expenditure for 2021/22 on core costs is £334,713 and therefore the target reserves are £83,678 in general funds. As we have surpassed this target we are looking at increasing our reserves policy to cover six months' core running costs over the next few years. A designated fund was established in 2007 to provide for redundancy payments. This has been increased to £23,000 in the year.

Principal funding sources

In the year ended 31 March 2021, the National Foundation for Youth Music funded around 30% of the overall charitable activities.

Agrigento, Arts Council England, Children in Need, Rachel Baker Memorial Charity, Radcliffe Trust, Samuel Gardner Memorial Trust, Sisters of the Holy Cross and The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust funded 20% of the overall income for projects designed to extend our provision for 'hard to reach' young people and training the workforce. Course fees, training, consultancy work, commissioned work and other income accounted for the remaining 50%.

Plans for future periods

We delivered the third year of our strategy, from April 2018 – March 2022. Our priorities continue to be to:

- Address issues of diversity and inclusion through positive action
- Reinvigorate our commitment to the non-formal music education sector

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2021

- Holistically support progression opportunities for children and young people age 0 – 25
- Prioritise innovation
- Support music leaders through needs driven training and personalised learning
- Increase our national footprint and profile

We continue to refine and focus our three key strands of work as well as grow our consultancy services.

Risk management

The trustees have assessed the major risks to which the charitable company is exposed and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to major risks. The principal external risk continues to be the loss of funding that supports 'core' or fixed costs including senior staff and work continues to aim to reduce this risk by diversifying the company's funding and income base. Internal risks are managed by the established procedures for the authorisation of all transactions as well as a detailed system of financial and budgetary control, all of which are reviewed annually by the Senior Management Team and Trustees.

Directors (Trustees) Responsibilities

The Trustees, as set out on page 3 (who are also the directors of Sound Connections for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Directors' (Trustees) Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and regulations.

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under that law the trustees have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (United Kingdom Accounting Standards and applicable law). Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial year. In preparing those 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 charity will continue on that basis.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Report of the Directors (Trustees)

Year ended 31 March 2021

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Limited liability

Members of the charitable company guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £1 to the assets of the company in the event of winding up. The total number of such guarantees at 31 March 2021 was nine.

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'.

Sound Connections charitable purpose is to provide increased access to music and musical education to young people in London, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds and provide them with opportunities to participate in a range of musical activities.

Independent examiners

Simpson Wreford LLP., continued as our Independent examiners during the year.

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

Signed on behalf of the board of directors (trustees) on 02/8/2021.....



N York
Director (Trustee)

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Independent Examiners' Report

To the Trustees of Sound Connections For the Year Ended 31 March 2021

I report to the charity trustees of the company for the year ended 31 March 2021, which are set out on pages 13 to 22.

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 report

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 accounting 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.



Kate Taylor FCA

For and behalf of Simpson Wreford LLP, Chartered Accountants

Institute of Chartered Accounts in England and Wales

Wellesley House
Duke of Wellington Avenue
London, SE18 6SS

Dated: 6 AUGUST 2021

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Statement of Financial Activities (including Income and Expenditure Account)

Year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total funds 2021	Total funds 2020
		£	£	£	£
INCOME	4				
Donations and legacies		10,164	-	10,164	38,106
Charitable activities		320,903	205,303	526,206	342,190
TOTAL INCOME		331,067	205,303	536,370	380,296
EXPENDITURE ON:	6				
Raising funds		4,875	-	4,875	3,750
Charitable activities		305,054	179,469	484,523	317,359
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		309,929	179,469	489,398	321,109
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		21,138	25,834	46,972	59,187
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		21,138	25,834	46,972	59,187
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		109,090	31,787	140,877	81,690
Total funds carried forward		130,228	57,621	187,849	140,877

The results for the year derive from continuing activities, and there are no other gains or losses other than those shown above.

The notes on pages 15 to 22 form part of these financial statements.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021	2020
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	8	2,892	472
Current Assets			
Debtors	9	64,151	61,971
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>162,669</u>	<u>193,351</u>
		<u>226,820</u>	<u>255,322</u>
Creditors			
Amounts falling due within one year	10	<u>(41,863)</u>	<u>(114,917)</u>
Net current assets		<u>184,957</u>	<u>140,405</u>
Total net assets		<u>187,849</u>	<u>140,877</u>
The Funds of the Charity	11		
Unrestricted Funds		130,228	109,090
Restricted Funds		<u>57,621</u>	<u>31,787</u>
		<u>187,849</u>	<u>140,877</u>

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

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of financial statements.

The trustees have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year in question in accordance with section 476

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies' regimes

The financial statements on pages 12 to 22 were approved by the Trustees on 21/8/2021 and signed on their behalf by:


N York
Director (Trustee)

Company Number – 04561825 (England & Wales)

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Statement of Cashflows

For the year ended 31 March 2021

	Notes	2021 £	2020 £
Cash used in operating activities			
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	17	<u>(26,652)</u>	<u>133,818</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest income		-	-
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(4,030)	-
Cash provided by/ (used) in investing activities		<u>(4,030)</u>	<u>-</u>
(Decrease)/Increase in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(30,682)	133,818
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		193,351	59,533
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		<u><u>162,669</u></u>	<u><u>193,351</u></u>

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – 31 March 2021

1. Accounting Policies

The principal accounting policies are summarised below. The accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the year and in the preceding year.

Company information

Sound Connections is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales and registered as a charity with the Charity Commission. The registered office is 3rd Floor, Rich Mix, 35-47 Bethnal Green Road, London, E1 6LA

(a) Basis of accounting

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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 (FRS102)– (Charities SORP (FRS102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in the financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The effects of events relating to the year ended 31 March 2021 which occurred before the date of approval of the financial statements by the Trustees has been included in the financial statements to the extent required to show a true and fair view of the state of affairs at 31 March 2021 and the results for the year ended on that date.

Sound Connections meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note(s).

(b) Going Concern

At the time of approving the accounts, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the accounts.

(c) Fund accounting

- Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the Directors in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity. Unrestricted funds include donations and other incoming resources receivable or generated for the objects of the charity without further specified purpose.
- Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure imposed by the donor or through the terms of an appeal. Expenditure, which meets these criteria, is charged to the fund.

(d) Income

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when the charity is entitled to the income and the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – 31 March 2021

1. Accounting Policies continued

- Grants, donations and gifts and is included in full in the Statement of Financial Activities when receivable. Grants, where entitlement is not conditional on the delivery of a specific performance by the charity, are recognised when the charity becomes unconditionally entitled to the grant. Grant income is only deferred where the donor has clearly specified that it relates to a future period.
- Incoming resources from charitable consulting activities are accounted for when earned. Consultancy income is deferred where it relates to services to be carried out in the future.
- Incoming resources from grants, where related to performance and specific deliverables, are accounted for as the charity earns the right to consideration by its performance.

(f) Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accrual basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is reported as part of the expenditure to which it relates:

- Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.
- Other costs include those costs associated with meeting the constitutional and statutory requirements of the charity and include the independent examination and costs linked to the strategic management of the charity.
- All costs are allocated between the expenditure categories of the SOFA on a basis designed to reflect the use of the resource. Costs relating to a particular activity are allocated directly; others are apportioned on the basis of an estimate of the proportion of project size.

(g) Fixed assets

Fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

It is the policy of the company to provide depreciation at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful economic life. The following rates of depreciation have been applied throughout the year.

Computer equipment - 33 1/3% on cost

Assets with a cost of £500 or more are capitalized.

(h) Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – 31 March 2021

1. Accounting Policies continued

(i) Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

(j) Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

(k) Financial instruments

The charity has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charity's balance sheet when the charity becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

(l) Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

(m) Retirement benefits

Payments to defined contribution retirement benefit schemes are charged as an expense as they fall due.

2. Related Party Transactions

N York donated £3,000 and E Bokuma was paid £2671.88 for youth voice training. No other trustee (or persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charity during the year.

3. Remuneration

Remuneration of key management personnel	2021	2020
	£	£
Aggregate total	<u>97,767</u>	<u>110,469</u>

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – 31 March 2021

4 Income	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>2021 Total</i>	<i>2020 Total</i>
	£	£	£	£
4.1 Income from donations and legacies				
<i>Donations</i>	4,164	-	4,164	190
<i>Gift aid</i>	-	-	-	36
<i>Grant income</i>				
Harriet's Trust	-	-	-	15,000
A New Direction	-	-	-	3,380
Samuel Gardner Memorial Trust	1,000	-	1,000	1,500
The D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust	5,000	-	5,000	3,000
Sisters of the Holy Cross Charitable Trust	-	10,000	10,000	15,000
4.2 Income from charitable activities				
<i>Performance related grants</i>				
Youth Music - Fund C	-	159,980	159,980	159,980
Agrigento	-	14,010	14,010	-
Aldgate & Allhallows Foundation	-	-	-	10,000
Arts Council England - Emergency Funding	25,000	-	25,000	-
City Bridge Trust	-	-	-	18,000
Children in Need	-	21,313	21,313	-
The Radcliffe Trust	5,000	-	5,000	-
Scops Arts Trust	-	-	-	23,000
Rachel Baker Memorial Trust	25,000	-	25,000	25,000
<i>Consultancy and training income</i>	260,873	-	260,873	99,918
<i>Charitable rental income</i>	4,800	-	4,800	3,391
<i>Other</i>	230	-	230	2,900
	331,067	205,303	536,370	380,295

5 Income by activity

	<i>Agrigento</i>	<i>City Bridge Trust</i>	<i>Fund C</i>	<i>Children in Need</i>	<i>Core</i>	<i>2021 Total</i>	<i>2020 Total</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations	-	-	-	-	4,164	4,164	226
Grant income	14,010	-	169,980	21,313	61,000	266,303	273,860
Consultancy fees	-	-	-	-	260,873	260,873	99,918
Charitable rental income	-	-	-	-	4,800	4,800	3,391
Other income	-	-	-	-	230	230	2,900
	14,010	-	169,980	21,313	331,067	536,370	380,295

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – 31 March 2021

6 Expenditure

	2021 Total	2020 Total	<i>Basis of support cost allocation</i>
6.1 Charitable activities			
Staff costs	203,735	171,211	
Depreciation and impairment	1,610	236	
Delivery of training and commissioned projects	56,878	46,763	
Other project costs	136,745	27,136	
Support costs			
Office costs	62,143	45,739	<i>Direct</i>
Premises costs	19,285	23,696	<i>Direct</i>
Governance costs	2,627	838	<i>Governance</i>
Accountancy	1,500	1,740	<i>Governance</i>
	<u>484,523</u>	<u>317,359</u>	
6.2			
Raising funds			
Freelance fees	<u>4,875</u>	<u>3,750</u>	
Total expenditure	<u>489,398</u>	<u>321,109</u>	

7. Staff Costs

Staff numbers

Staff costs for the year were as follows:	2021	2020
	£	£
Salaries and wages	186,946	156,961
Social Security costs	12,947	11,174
Staff pension costs	3,842	3,076
	<u>203,735</u>	<u>171,211</u>

The average number of staff employed during the year, was as follows:

	2021	2020
Direct projects	7	5
Administration	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>8</u>	<u>6</u>

There were no employees whose annual income exceeded £60,000.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – 31 March 2021

8. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Computer Equipment
Cost	
At 1 April 2020	5,216
Additions	4,030
At 31 March 2021	<u>9,246</u>
Depreciation	
At 1 April 2020	4,744
Charge for year	1,610
At 31 March 2021	<u>6,354</u>
Net Book Value	
At 31 March 2021	<u>2,892</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>472</u>

9. Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	43,098	28,258
Accrued income	16,056	30,998
Prepayments	4,035	467
Other debtors	962	2,248
	<u>64,151</u>	<u>61,971</u>

10. Creditors: Amounts Falling Due within One Year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade Creditors	18,401	2,511
Accruals	3,358	5,613
Deferred income	5,000	94,641
Social security and other tax	15,104	12,151
	<u>41,863</u>	<u>114,917</u>

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – 31 March 2021

11. Movement in Funds

	<i>As at 1</i>				<i>As at 31</i>
<i>Restricted funds</i>	<i>April 2020</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers</i>	<i>March 2021</i>
Youth Music - Fund C	8,787	159,980	(150,954)	-	17,813
Agrigento	-	14,010	(5,390)	-	8,620
Sisters of the Holy Cross Charitable Trust	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Scops	23,000	-	(4,600)	-	18,400
Children in Need	-	21,313	(8,525)	-	12,788
	<u>31,787</u>	<u>205,303</u>	<u>(179,469)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>57,621</u>
<i>Unrestricted funds</i>					
Core	<u>94,090</u>	<u>331,067</u>	<u>(309,929)</u>	<u>(8,000)</u>	<u>107,228</u>
<i>Designated funds</i>					
Redundancy	15,000	-	-	8,000	23,000
Rachel Baker Memorial Trust	-	-	-	-	-
	<u>15,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,000</u>	<u>23,000</u>
<i>Total funds</i>	<u>140,877</u>	<u>536,370</u>	<u>(489,398)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>187,849</u>

12. Material funds during the year

Youth Music

Youth Music funds the 'Fund C' programme with the aim of developing musical inclusion across London. This project supports children and young people, particularly those facing barriers to access, the music education workforce, and strategic work with music and cultural organisations across London. Through Fund C Sound Connections is also a founder member of the Alliance for a Musically Inclusive England.

Aldgate and Allhallows Foundation

The Aldgate and Allhallows Foundation provided a grant towards the cost of the Wired4Music project with a specific focus on young people in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

Scops

The Scops Arts Trust provides funding for a 3-year training and professional development programme for music educators and facilitators in South East London. This project is delivered in partnership with the South Riverside Music Partnership.

SOUND CONNECTIONS

Notes to the financial statements – 31 March 2021

13. Share Capital

Under the Company's Articles of Association, every member of the Company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of the same being wound up while they are a member, or within one year after they cease to be a member, such amount as may be required not exceeding £1.

14. Taxation

The company is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the company is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

15. Pensions

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund. The pension costs and charge shown in Note 7 represents the contributions payable by the company to the fund. The amount overpaid to the pension fund as at the 31 March 2021 is £60 (2020 - £nil).

16. VAT

The charity registered for VAT in December 2019 when the charity's VAT taxable turnover reached the threshold.

17. Reconciliation of net movement in funds to net cash flow from operating activities.

	2021 £	2020 £
Net movements in funds	46,971	59,186
Add back: Depreciation	1,610	236
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(2,180)	(12,451)
(Decrease)/ increase in creditors	(73,054)	86,847
	<u>(26,652)</u>	<u>133,818</u>