

THE SPARK FOUNDATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1097058

Details

Other names	THE ISP CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	2003-04-15
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Hugh House Hugh Place Faversham ME13 7AD
Phone	07534 136629
Email	admin@sparkfoundation.org.uk
Website	www.sparkfoundation.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE EXPRESSION "YOUNG PEOPLE" MEANS YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE, OR HAVE AT ANY TIME BEEN, CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER BY A LOCAL AUTHORITY THE OBJECTS OF THE TRUST ARE: (A) TO RELIEVE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE HOMELESS OR IN FINANCIAL NEED (B) TO RELIEVE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO ARE SUFFERING FROM A MENTAL OR PHYSICAL SICKNESS; (C) TO ADVANCE EDUCATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE; (D) TO PROMOTE THE TRAINING OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO THROUGH THEIR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES ARE UNABLE TO OBTAIN EMPLOYMENT; (E) TO PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR THE LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE AND DEVELOP THEIR PHYSICAL, MENTAL AND SPIRITUAL CAPACITIES THAT THEY MAY GROW TO FULL MATURITY AS INDIVIDUALS AND MEMBERS OF SOCIETY BY PROVIDING THEM WITH GRANTS OR LOANS IN CASH OR IN KIND OR IN SUCH OTHER WAYS AS THE TRUSTEES IN THEIR ABSOLUTE DISCRETION THINK FIT.

Activities: The objects of the Foundation are: *To relieve young people who are homeless or in financial need *To relieve young people who are suffering from mental or physical sickness *To advance the education of young people *To promote the training of young people who through their social and economic circumstances are unable to obtain employment *To provide facilities for leisure time occupation

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, The Prevention Or Relief Of Poverty, Accommodation/housing
- **Who:** Children/young People

Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£65,294	£59,534	-	-
2024-03-31	£60,477	£76,110	-	-
2023-03-31	£65,242	£62,599	-	-
2022-03-31	£36,443	£57,437	-	-
2021-03-31	£60,918	£62,208	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Danny Chesterman	Chair	2017-09-25
Adam Brankin		2024-03-01
Cathy Walker		2018-12-18
IRENE HALL		
James Whitton		2019-06-14
Kirsty Ginn		2016-12-05
SHEILA ROSARIA PATEL		
TRACEY SORRELL		2012-10-01

THE SPARK FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1097058

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

Period start date			Period end date		
Day	Month	Year	Day	Month	Year
1	April	2024	31	March	2025

From **To**

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name The Spark Foundation

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1097058

Charity's principal address Hugh House

Hugh Place

Faversham, Kent

Postcode ME137AD

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Danny Chesterman	Chair		
3	Sheila Patel			
4	Tracey Sorrell			
5	Kirsty Ginn			
6	James Whitton	Treasurer		
7	Cathy Walker			
8	Adam Brankin			
9				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Independent Examiner	Mrs Jennifer Sherwood FCA	29 Cherry Orchard, Chestfield, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3NH
Bankers	Charities Aid Foundation	CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Trust Deed
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Trust
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Interviewed by Chair and appointed by Board decision

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Potential Trustees are invited to attend a meeting of the existing Trustees before a decision is made on appointment so that both parties can be satisfied that the appointment is appropriate.

We have a document describing Trustee duties responsibilities.

The Board reviews annually risks and actions to mitigate them.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The Spark Foundation is a charity, formed in 2003, which gives small grants (up to £700) to young people up to the age of 25 who are, or have been, **in care**, and live in England or Wales. Our aim is to enable them to have the same chances as everyone else.

The Objects of the Trust are:

- (a) to relieve young people who are homeless or in financial need
- (b) to relieve young people who are suffering from mental or physical sickness;
- (c) to advance the education of young people;
- (d) to promote the training of young people who through their social and economic circumstances are unable to obtain employment;
- (e) to provide facilities for the leisure time occupation of young people in order to improve their conditions of life and develop their physical, mental and spiritual capacities that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society

by providing them with grants or loans in cash or in kind or in such other ways as the trustees in their absolute discretion think fit

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Foundation made 165 individual grants (amounting to £61,250 in total in 2024) compared to 175 (amounting to £70,648) in the previous year 2023. The successful applicants came from all parts of England and Wales. The number of applications received again rose sharply from 338 in 2023 to 401 in 2024. As in the previous year, our income was not sufficient to meet all applications even where they met our tight criteria. We took a difficult decision to cease giving debt relief in an effort to slow the rise in applications. To keep within our means, we had to turn down 233 (compared to 161 in 2023). The average grant fell to £370, down from £404 (in 2023).

Applications were received for a variety of needs. For example, for young people who have left care, the Foundation provided key goods such as washing machines and beds. Grants were also given for a wide variety of other needs, for example, laptops, driving lessons, training courses. Grants were mainly given to young people in the age ranges 16 – 20 and 21 – 25.

By the time of our Trustee meeting in March 2025 we were ready to transition to a new electronic process for making and determining applications. This was achieved with minimal disruption thanks to invaluable help from a system developer who offered his services at a hugely discounted cost.

The Foundation's application process asks for the applicant's age, gender, nationality and ethnicity and whether or not the applicant has a disability. This information does not have to be supplied for an application to be considered. We have also started monitoring the asylum seeker status of applicants who have been in care in the UK. Developments in our web-based system now enables the Foundation trustees to review all this information on a continuous basis. The Foundation treats all applicants equally regardless of nationality, religion or ethnic background.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. Benefits are in the form of grants and nearly 100% of the Foundation's annual expenditure relates to grant payments.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

As usual, the main achievement was in giving out over 95% of our income in grants, whilst continuing to manage a high number of applications with a minimal administrative cost (less than 5% of income). This is all achieved through the voluntary services of a small Board of Trustees and a part time administrator.

During the year we were fortunate in receiving a small grant from the Worshipful Company of Marketers which enabled us to start work with the Big Picture Film Charity on the production of a promotional video (completed in summer 2025). We also commenced a complete redesign of our website so that it is more appealing to potential partners and donors, and easier to navigate for applicants.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The policy of the Trust is to maintain enough money in our accounts to cover expenses and a buffer of £2000 towards grants in the next quarter.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity’s principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Since 2014 the main donor to the Foundation has been the Tunstall Jubilee Foundation (TJF). The Foundation would like to record its thanks to TJF for this funding. It was agreed with TJF that the Foundation would submit an application for funding in January each year. This enables the Foundation to plan its grant giving for the next financial year.

During the year we made a number of applications to grant making charities, One of these, the Albert Hunt Foundation, was successful and we were delighted to receive £5,000 into our funds from them, with encouragement to apply again in 2025/26. This grant offset the temporary cessation of another regular donor who was unable for business reasons to make a contribution in 2024/25

It is clear that economic uncertainty and a rising cost of living continues to impact on the most vulnerable. Spark is therefore continuing to explore other complementary funding sources.

The Spark Foundation does not rent premises but it does pay a small amount for administration support. As in previous years, almost all The Foundation’s expenditure is in the form of grants.

The Foundation has a grant making policy and this is reviewed annually

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees’ report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Daniel	Chesterman
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	5 Dec 2025	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Spark Foundation 1097058

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from 01/04/2024 To 31/03/2025

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations and gifts	5,200	2,500	-	7,700	5,051
Grants	57,200	-	-	57,200	55,000
Investment income	394	-	-	394	426
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	62,794	2,500	-	65,294	60,477
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	62,794	2,500	-	65,294	60,477
A3 Payments					
Administration fees	2,660	-	-	2,660	2,380
Bank charges	60	-	-	60	60
Printing, postage and stationery costs	179	-	-	179	195
Independent Examination fees	325	-	-	325	315
Website and data protection costs	602	-	-	602	232
	-	-	-	-	-
Grants awarded	55,708	-	-	55,708	72,928
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	59,534	-	-	59,534	76,110
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	59,534	-	-	59,534	76,110
Net of receipts/(payments)	3,261	2,500	-	5,761	- 15,633
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	1,266	-	-	1,266	16,899
Cash funds this year end	4,527	2,500	-	7,027	1,266

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF Cash account	145	2,500	-
	CAF Gold account	4,382	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	4,527	2,500	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

**Report to the trustees/
members of**

Charity Name
The Spark Foundation

**On accounts for the year
ended**

31 March 2025

**Charity no
(if any)**

1097058

Set out on pages

1 – 5 Trustees Report
1 – 2 Receipts and Payments account

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2025.

**Responsibilities and
basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

**Independent
examiner's statement**

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

3 DEC 2025

Name:

Mrs Jennifer Sherwood FCA

**Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):**

ICAEW – Chartered Accountant

Address:

29 Cherry Orchard,
Chestfield, Whitstable
Kent, CT5 3NH

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Nothing to report

THE SPARK FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1097058

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day 1	Month April	Year 2023		Day 31	Month March	Year 2024

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	The Spark Foundation
Other names charity is known by	
Registered charity number (if any)	1097058
Charity's principal address	Hugh House
	Hugh Place
	Faversham, Kent
	Postcode ME137AD

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Danny Chesterman	Chair		
2	Irene Hall		Retired as Trustee 31 December 2023	
3	Sheila Patel			
4	Tracey Sorrell			
5	Kirsty Ginn			
6	James Whitton	Treasurer		
7	Cathy Walker			
8	Adam Brankin		1 March 2024 onwards	Board of Trustees
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Independent Examiner	Mrs Jennifer Sherwood FCA	29 Cherry Orchard, Chestfield, Whitstable, Kent CT5 3NH
Bankers	Charities Aid Foundation	CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Trust Deed
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Trust
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Interviewed by Chair and appointed by Board decision

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

Potential Trustees are invited to attend a meeting of the existing Trustees before a decision is made on appointment so that both parties can be satisfied that the appointment is appropriate.

We are preparing a document defining the responsibilities of Trustees for use in inducting all new Trustees.

The Board reviews annually risks and actions to mitigate them.

Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The Spark Foundation is a charity, formed in 2003, which gives small grants (up to £700) to young people up to the age of 25 who are, or have been, **in care**, and live in England or Wales. Our aim is to enable them to have the same chances as everyone else.

The Objects of the Trust are:

- (a) to relieve young people who are homeless or in financial need
- (b) to relieve young people who are suffering from mental or physical sickness;
- (c) to advance the education of young people;
- (d) to promote the training of young people who through their social and economic circumstances are unable to obtain employment;
- (e) to provide facilities for the leisure time occupation of young people in order to improve their conditions of life and develop their physical, mental and spiritual capacities that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society

by providing them with grants or loans in cash or in kind or in such other ways as the trustees in their absolute discretion think fit

The Foundation made 175 individual grants (amounting to £70,648 in total in 2023) compared to 136 (amounting to £52,786) in the previous year 2022. The successful applicants came from all parts of England and Wales. The number of applications received rose sharply from 250 in 2022 to 338 in 2023. As in the previous year, our income was not sufficient to meet all applications even where they met our tight criteria. To keep within our means, we had to turn down 161 (compared to 105 in 2022). The average grant rose to £404, up from £388 (in 2022).

Applications were received for a variety of needs. For example, for young people who have left care, the Foundation provided key goods such as washing machines, carpets and beds. Grants were also given for a wide variety of other needs, for example, laptops, driving lessons, training courses. Grants were mainly given to young people in the age ranges 16 – 20 and 21 – 25.

The Foundation's application form asks for the applicant's age, gender, nationality and ethnicity and whether or not the applicant has a disability. This information does not have to be supplied for an application to be considered. Twice a year the Foundation reviews this information both for applications it has approved and ones it has rejected. It uses this information, and data on the type of grants it has approved, to consider whether any changes should be made to its Grants Policy, website and application forms. The Foundation treats all applicants equally regardless of nationality, religion or ethnic background.

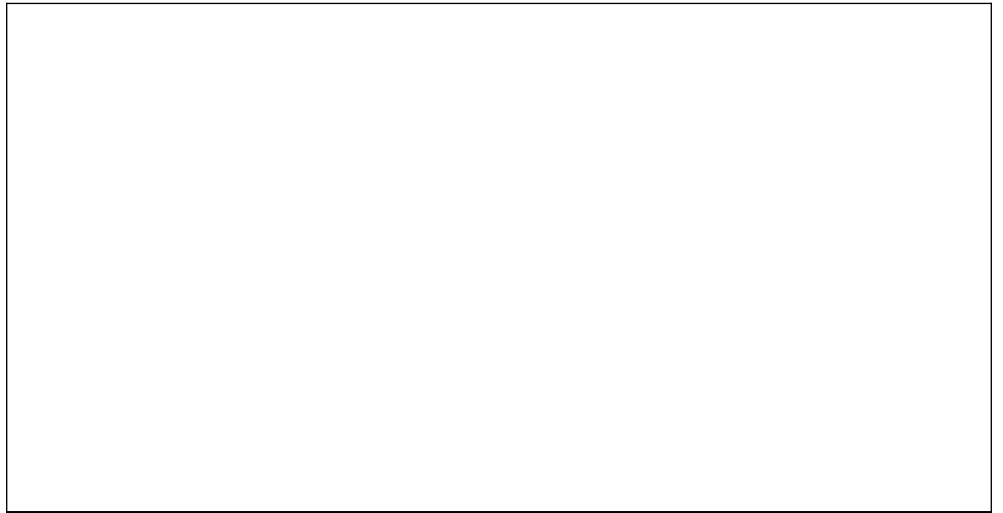
The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. Benefits are in the form of grants and nearly 100% of the Foundation's annual expenditure relates to grant payments.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.



Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

As usual, the main achievement was in giving out over 95% of our income in grants, whilst continuing to manage a high number of applications with a minimal administrative cost (less than 5% of income). This is all achieved through the voluntary services of a small Board of Trustees and a part time administrator.

We continued the practice of determining grants entirely virtually. This was originally introduced during the pandemic to handle the high number of applications and adopt safe methods of work, but we have found that it works efficiently and have therefore continued the practice.

2023 saw a sharp rise in the number of applications, to a new record. In order to keep within Spark's budget, we reviewed our grants policy and tightened criteria further in the areas of debt relief and driving lessons in order to stay within budget.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The policy of the Trust is to maintain enough money in our accounts to cover expenses and a buffer of £2000 towards grants in the next quarter.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity’s principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Since 2014 the main donor to the Foundation has been the Tunstall Jubilee Foundation (TJF). The Foundation would like to record its thanks to TJF for this funding. It was agreed with TJF that the Foundation would submit an application for funding in January each year. This enables the Foundation to plan its grant giving for the next financial year.

We were also delighted to receive another generous donation from the Fostering Co-operative to supplement our annual grant from the Tunstall Jubilee Foundation. This enabled us to disperse a similar amount in grants as in recent years. It is clear that economic uncertainty and a rising cost of living continues to impact on the most vulnerable. Spark is therefore continuing to explore other complementary funding sources.

The Spark Foundation does not rent premises but it does pay a small amount for administration support. As in previous years, almost all The Foundation’s expenditure is in the form of grants.

The Foundation has a grant making policy and this is reviewed annually

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees’ report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Daniel	Chesterman
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	6 Dec 2024	



Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01-Apr-23

To

31-Mar-24

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations and Gifts	5,051	-	-	5,051	47
Grants	55,000	-	-	55,000	65,000
Investment income	426	-	-	426	195
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	60,477	-	-	60,477	65,242
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	60,477	-	-	60,477	65,242
A3 Payments					
Administration fees	2,380	-	-	2,380	2,100
Bank charges	60	-	-	60	72
Printing, postage and stationery costs	195	-	-	195	197
Independent Examination Fees	315	-	-	315	315
Website and data protection costs	232	-	-	232	35
	-	-	-	-	-
Grants Payable	72,928	-	-	72,928	59,880
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	76,110	-	-	76,110	62,599
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	76,110	-	-	76,110	62,599
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 15,633	-	-	- 15,633	2,643
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	16,899	-	-	16,899	14,256
Cash funds this year end	1,266	-	-	1,266	16,899

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF Cash account	670	-	-
	CAF Gold account	596	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	1,266	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name THE SPARK FOUNDATION

On accounts for the year ended

31 MARCH 2024

Charity no (if any)

1097058

Set out on pages

1-2 Receipts and payments account
1-5 Trustees Report (remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 03 / 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Independent examiner's statement

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (~~other than those disclosed below~~) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed: [Signature]

Date: 4 DEC 2024

Name: MRS JENNIFER SHERWOOD FCA

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body (if any): CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

Address: 29 CHERRY ORCHARD
CHESTFIELD, WHITSTABLE
KENT, CT5 3NH

THE SPARK FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1097058

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day 1	Month April	Year 2022		Day 31	Month March	Year 2023

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any)

Charity's principal address

Hugh House
Hugh Place
Faversham, Kent
Postcode <input type="text" value="ME137AD"/>

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Danny Chesterman	Chair		
2	Irene Hall			
3	Sheila Patel			
4	Tracey Sorrell			
5	Kirsty Ginn			
6	James Whitton	Treasurer		
7	Cathy Walker			
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Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Independent Examiner	Mrs Jennifer Sherwood FCA	1 The Heath, Whitstable, CT5 3HJ
Bankers	Charities Aid Foundation	CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document <small>(eg. trust deed, constitution)</small>	Trust Deed
How the charity is constituted <small>(eg. trust, association, company)</small>	Charitable Trust
Trustee selection methods <small>(eg. appointed by, elected by)</small>	Interviewed by Chair and appointed by Board decision

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

<p>You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees; • the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works; • relationship with any related parties; • trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them. 	<p>Potential Trustees are invited to attend a meeting of the existing Trustees before a decision is made on appointment so that both parties can be satisfied that the appointment is appropriate.</p> <p>We have a document defining the responsibilities of Trustees which is explained to all new Trustees.</p> <p>The Board reviews annually risks and actions to mitigate them.</p>
--	--

Section C Objectives and activities

<p>Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document</p>	<p>The Objects of the Trust are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) to relieve young people who are homeless or in financial need (b) to relieve young people who are suffering from mental or physical sickness; (c) to advance the education of young people; (d) to promote the training of young people who through their social and economic circumstances are unable to obtain employment; (e) to provide facilities for the leisure time occupation of young people in
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order to improve their conditions of life and develop their physical, mental and spiritual capacities that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society

by providing them with grants or loans in cash or in kind or in such other ways as the trustees in their absolute discretion think fit

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Foundation made 136 individual grants (amounting to £52,786 in total in the calendar year 2022) compared to 167 (amounting to £55,236) in the previous year 2021. The successful applicants came via 71 different agencies in all parts of England and Wales, 17 of which had never previously applied to the Foundation. The number of grants applied for fell slightly from 303 in 2021 to 250 in 2022, partly we suspect as a result of Spark introducing a requirement for applicants for driving lessons to have passed their theory tests first. As in the previous year, our income was not sufficient to meet all applications even where they met our tight criteria. To keep within our means, we had to turn down 105 (compared to 136 in 2021). The average grant rose to £388, up from £331 (in 2021).

Applications were received for a variety of needs. For example, for young people who have left care, the Foundation provided key goods such as washing machines, carpets and beds. Grants were also given for a wide variety of other needs, for example, laptops, driving lessons, training courses. Grants were mainly given to young people in the age ranges 16 – 20 and 21 – 25.

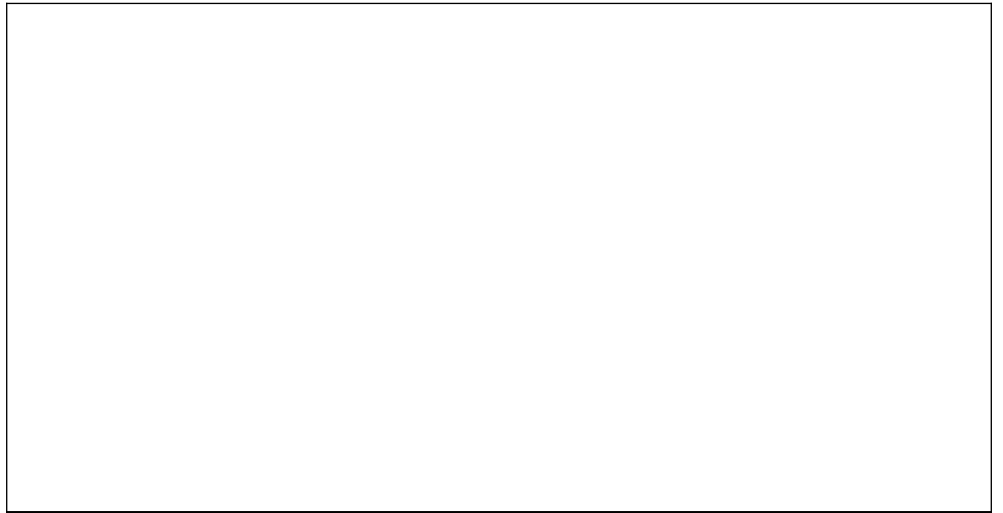
The Foundation's application form asks for the applicant's age, gender, nationality and ethnicity and whether or not the applicant has a disability. This information does not have to be supplied for an application to be considered. Twice a year the Foundation reviews this information both for applications it has approved and ones it has rejected. It uses this information, and data on the type of grants it has approved, to consider whether any changes should be made to its Grants Policy, website and application forms. The Foundation treats all applicants equally regardless of nationality, religion or ethnic background.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. Benefits are in the form of grants and nearly 100% of the Foundation's annual expenditure relates to grant payments.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.



Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

As usual, the main achievement was in giving out over 95% of our income in grants, whilst continuing to manage a high number of applications with a minimal administrative cost (less than 5% of income). This is all achieved through the voluntary services of a small Board of Trustees and a part time administrator.

We continued the practice of determining grants entirely virtually. This was originally introduced during the pandemic to handle the high number of applications and adopt safe methods of work, but we have found that it works efficiently and have therefore continued the practice.

Following year on year increases each year since our inception, 2022 saw a slight dip in the number of applications, due partly we suspect to tighter criteria we introduced. In order to keep within Spark's budget, we applied rigorous priorities within our grant policy and made sure any changes are reflected in the website.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The policy of the Trust is to maintain enough money in our accounts to cover expenses and a buffer of £5000 towards grants in the next quarter.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity’s principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Since 2014 the main donor to the Foundation has been the Tunstall Jubilee Foundation (TJF). The Foundation would like to record its thanks to TJF for this funding. It was agreed with TJF that the Foundation would submit an application for funding in January each year. This enables the Foundation to plan its grant giving for the next financial year.

We were also delighted to receive another generous donation from the Fostering Co-operative to supplement our annual grant from the Tunstall Jubilee Foundation. This enabled us to disperse a similar amount in grants as in recent years. It is clear that economic uncertainty and a rising cost of living continues to impact on the most vulnerable. Spark is therefore continuing to explore other complementary funding sources.

The Spark Foundation does not rent premises but it does pay a small amount for administration support. As in previous years, almost all The Foundation’s expenditure is in the form of grants.

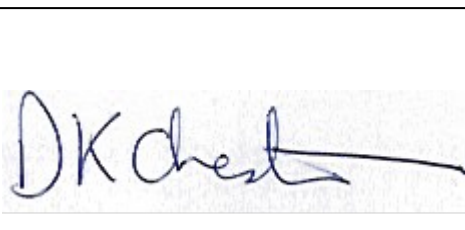
The Foundation has a grant making policy and this is reviewed annually

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees’ report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Daniel	Chesterman
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	1 Dec 2023	



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name Spark Foundation	No (if any) 1097058
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CC16a

Receipts and payments accounts

For the period from	Period start date 4/1/2022	To	Period end date 3/31/2023
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Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations and gifts	47	-	-	47	8,000
Grants	65,000	-	-	65,000	28,440
Investment income	195	-	-	195	3
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	65,242	-	-	65,242	36,443
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	65,242	-	-	65,242	36,443
A3 Payments					
Administration fees	2,100	-	-	2,100	2,100
Bank charges	72	-	-	72	89
Printing, postage and stationery costs	196	-	-	196	141
Independent Examination Fee	315	-	-	315	300
Website and data protection costs	35	-	-	35	223
	-	-	-	-	-
Grants payable	59,880	-	-	59,880	54,584
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	62,599	-	-	62,599	57,437
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	62,599	-	-	62,599	57,437
Net of receipts/(payments)	2,643	-	-	2,643	- 20,994
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	14,256	-	-	14,256	35,250
Cash funds this year end	16,899	-	-	16,899	14,256

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF Cash account	13,182	-	-
	CAF Gold account	3,717	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	16,899	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees

Charity Name

The Spark Foundation

On accounts for the year ended

31 March 2023

Charity no (if any)

1097058

Set out on pages

1-2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 / 03 / 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

~~[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.~~

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

27 NOV 2023

Name:

MRS JENNIFER SHERWOOD FCA

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

ICAEW - Chartered Accountant

(if any):

Address:

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Nothing to record.
Financial pages prepared and checked.

THE SPARK FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1097058

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day 1	Month April	Year 2021		Day 31	Month March	Year 2022

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name The Spark Foundation

Other names charity is known by

Registered charity number (if any) 1097058

Charity's principal address

Hugh House
 Hugh Place
 Faversham, Kent
Postcode ME137AD

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Danny Chesterman	Chair		
2	Irene Hall	Treasurer		
3	Sheila Patel			
4	Tracey Sorrell			
5	Kirsty Ginn			
6	James Whitton			
7	Cathy Walker			
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Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

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Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Independent Examiner	Mrs Jennifer Sherwood FCA	1 The Heath, Whitstable, CT5 3HJ
Bankers	Charities Aid Foundation	CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Trust Deed
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Trust
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Interviewed by Chair and appointed by Board decision

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

<p>You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees; <input type="checkbox"/> the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works; <input type="checkbox"/> relationship with any related parties; <input type="checkbox"/> trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them. 	<p>Potential Trustees are invited to attend a meeting of the existing Trustees before a decision is made on appointment so that both parties can be satisfied that the appointment is appropriate.</p> <p>We have a document defining the responsibilities of Trustees which is explained to all new Trustees.</p> <p>The Board reviews annually risks and actions to mitigate them.</p>
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Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The Objects of the Trust are:

- (a) to relieve young people who are homeless or in financial need
- (b) to relieve young people who are suffering from mental or physical sickness;
- (c) to advance the education of young people;
- (d) to promote the training of young people who through their social and economic circumstances are unable to obtain employment;
- (e) to provide facilities for the leisure time occupation of young people in order to improve their conditions of life and develop their physical, mental and spiritual capacities that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society

by providing them with grants or loans in cash or in kind or in such other ways as the trustees in their absolute discretion think fit

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Foundation made 167 individual grants (amounting to £54,584 in total in 2021/22) compared to 161 in the previous year. The successful applicants came via 70 different agencies in all parts of England, 22 of which had never previously applied to the Foundation. The number of grants applied for again went up steeply from 240 in 2020 to 303 in 2021. As in the previous year, our income was not sufficient to meet all applications even where they met our tight criteria. As a result, to keep within our means, we had to turn down a much greater number of applications (136 compared to 80 in 2020). The average grant remained steady at £331 compared with £334 (in 2020).

Applications were received for a variety of needs. For example, for young people who have left care, the Foundation provided key goods such as washing machines, carpets and beds. Grants were also given for a wide variety of other needs, for example, laptops, driving lessons, training courses. Grants were mainly given to young people in the age ranges 16 - 20 and 21 - 25.

The Foundation's application form asks for the applicant's age, gender, nationality and ethnicity and whether or not the applicant has a disability. This information does not have to be supplied for an application to be considered. Once a year the Foundation reviews this information both for applications it has approved and ones it has rejected. It uses this information, and data on the type of grants it has approved, to consider whether any changes should be made to its Grants Policy, website and application forms. The Foundation treats all applicants equally regardless of nationality, religion or ethnic background.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. Benefits are in the form of grants and nearly 100% of the Foundation's annual expenditure relates to grant payments.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

As in the previous year, the main achievement was in giving out more grants than ever before, whilst continuing to manage the rising number of applications with a minimal administrative cost (less than 5% of income). This is all achieved through the voluntary services of a small Board of Trustees and a part time administrator.

We continued the practice of determining grants entirely virtually. This was needed to handle the increased number of applications and adopt safe methods of work during the pandemic.

During the last five years the number of applications received has increased each year, and this trend has continued again in 2021/22. It is clear that many vulnerable care leavers lost employment and sources of income during the pandemic, and this had knock on effects in being unable to sustain their homes and relationships. In order to keep within Spark's budget, we applied rigorous priorities within our grant policy and made sure any changes are reflected in the website.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The policy of the Trust is to maintain enough money in our accounts to cover expenses and a buffer of £5000 towards grants in the next quarter.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Since 2014 the main donor to the Foundation has been the Tunstall Jubilee Foundation (TJF). The Foundation would like to record its thanks to TJF for this funding. It was agreed with TJF that the Foundation would submit an application for funding in January each year. This enables the Foundation to plan its grant giving for the next financial year.

We were delighted to receive a second generous donation from the Fostering Co-operative to supplement our annual grant from the Tunstall Jubilee Foundation. This enabled us to increase the number of grants given, even though demand continues to grow. It is clear that Covid19 and economic uncertainty continues to impact on the most vulnerable. Spark is therefore continuing to explore other complementary funding sources.

The Spark Foundation does not rent premises but it does pay a small amount for administration support. The Foundation has again dealt with a sharp rise in the number of applications for grants, and we have responded to this by making efficiencies in the way we process applications.

As in previous years, almost all The Foundation's expenditure is in the form of grants.

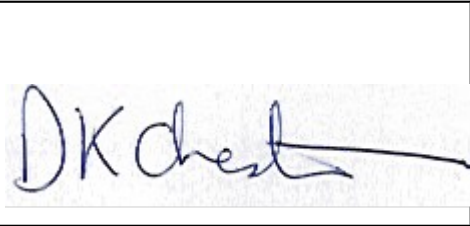
The Foundation has a grant making policy and this is reviewed annually

Section F Other optional information

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Daniel	Chesterman
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	

Date 2 Dec 2022



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

The Spark Foundation 1097058

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from 01/04/2021 To 31/03/2022

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations and gifts	8,000	-	-	8,000	10,608
Grants	26,940	1,500	-	28,440	50,000
Investment income	3	-	-	3	10
Grant reimbursed	-	-	-	-	300
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	34,943	1,500	-	36,443	60,918
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	34,943	1,500	-	36,443	60,918
A3 Payments					
Administration fees	1,050	1,050	-	2,100	2,135
Bank charges	48	41	-	89	70
Printing, postage and stationery costs	57	84	-	141	418
Independent Examination fee	122	178	-	300	300
Website abd data protection costs	35	188	-	223	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Grants payable	54,584	-	-	54,584	59,285
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	55,896	1,541	-	57,437	62,208
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	55,896	1,541	-	57,437	62,208
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 20,953	- 41	-	- 20,994	- 1,290
A5 Transfers between funds	41	41	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	35,250	-	-	35,250	36,540
Cash funds this year end	14,256	-	-	14,256	35,250

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF Cash account	5,006	-	-
	CAF Gold account	9,250	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	14,256	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
B3 Investment assets	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
B5 Liabilities	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees	Signature	Print Name	Date of approval	



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name
The Spark Foundation

On accounts for the year ended

31 March 2022

Charity no (if any)

1097058

Set out on pages

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended **31/ 03 / 2022**.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

Independent examiner's statement

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

** Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.*

Signed:

Date:

17 October 2022

Name:

Mrs Jennifer Sherwood FCA

Relevant professional

ICAEW - Chartered Accountant

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

Nothing to record. Financial pages prepared and Trustees Report reviewed.

THE SPARK FOUNDATION

England & Wales - Charity number 1097058

Accounts



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From	Period start date			To	Period end date		
	Day 1	Month April	Year 2020		Day 31	Month March	Year 2021

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	The Spark Foundation		
Other names charity is known by			
Registered charity number (if any)	1097058		
Charity's principal address	Hugh House		
	Hugh Place		
	Faversham, Kent		
	Postcode	ME137AD	

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Danny Chesterman	Chair		
2	Irene Hall	Treasurer		
3	Sheila Patel			
4	Tracey Sorrell			
5	Kirsty Ginn			
6	James Whitton			
7	Cathy Walker			
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17				
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19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

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Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Independent Examiner	Mrs Jennifer Sherwood FCA	1 The Heath, Whitstable, CT5 3HJ
Bankers	Charities Aid Foundation	CAF Bank Ltd, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, West Malling, Kent ME19 4TA

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document (eg. trust deed, constitution)	Trust Deed
How the charity is constituted (eg. trust, association, company)	Charitable Trust
Trustee selection methods (eg. appointed by, elected by)	Interviewed by Chair and appointed by Board decision

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

<p>You may choose to include additional information, where relevant, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees; <input type="checkbox"/> the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works; <input type="checkbox"/> relationship with any related parties; <input type="checkbox"/> trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them. 	<p>Potential Trustees are invited to attend a meeting of the existing Trustees before a decision is made on appointment so that both parties can be satisfied that the appointment is appropriate.</p> <p>We have a document defining the responsibilities of Trustees which is explained to all new Trustees.</p> <p>The Board reviews annually risks and actions to mitigate them.</p>
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Section C Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

The Objects of the Trust are:

- (a) to relieve young people who are homeless or in financial need
- (b) to relieve young people who are suffering from mental or physical sickness;
- (c) to advance the education of young people;
- (d) to promote the training of young people who through their social and economic circumstances are unable to obtain employment;
- (e) to provide facilities for the leisure time occupation of young people in order to improve their conditions of life and develop their physical, mental and spiritual capacities that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society

by providing them with grants or loans in cash or in kind or in such other ways as the trustees in their absolute discretion think fit

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The Foundation made 161 individual grants (amounting to £59,285 in total in 2020/21) compared to 110 in the previous year. The successful applicants came via 66 different agencies in all parts of England, 27 of which had never previously applied to the Foundation. The sharp rise in the number of grants given reflects the rapidly rising number of applications received (up from 164 in 2019 to 240 in 2020). Our income was not sufficient to meet all applications even where they met our tightened criteria. As we aimed to provide at least some help to as many applicants as we could, the average grant reduced from £474 (in 2019) to £334 (in 2020).

Applications were received for a variety of needs. For example, for young people who have left care, the Foundation provided key goods such as washing machines, carpets and beds. Grants were also given for a wide variety of other needs, for example, laptops, driving lessons, training courses. Grants were mainly given to young people in the age ranges 16 - 20 and 21 - 25.

The Foundation's application form asks for the applicant's age, gender, nationality and ethnicity and whether or not the applicant has a disability. This information does not have to be supplied for an application to be considered. Once a year the Foundation reviews this information both for applications it has approved and ones it has rejected. It uses this information, and data on the type of grants it has approved, to consider whether any changes should be made to its Grants Policy, website and application forms. The Foundation treats all applicants equally regardless of nationality, religion or ethnic background.

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit. Benefits are in the form of grants and nearly 100% of the Foundation's annual expenditure relates to grant payments.

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

Section D

Achievements and performance

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year

The main achievement was in giving out more grants than ever before, whilst continuing to manage the rising number of applications with a minimal administrative cost (less than 5% of income). This is all achieved through the voluntary services of a small Board of Trustees and a part time administrator.

A significant development during the year was a change to the way of working for Trustees in determining grants, which is now done entirely virtually. This was needed to handle the increased number of applications and adopt safe methods of work during the pandemic.

During the last five years the number of applications received has increased each year, and this trend has continued even more steeply in 2020/21. It is clear that many vulnerable care leavers lost employment and sources of income during the pandemic, and this had knock on effects in being unable to sustain their homes and relationships. In order to keep within Spark's budget, we tightened our criteria further, in particular not approving grants in situations where we judge that another agency has the primary responsibility for providing support.

Spark Foundation produced a slide deck in support of our quest for more sources of income and are using this wherever we have an opportunity. We made a grant application to the Kent Community Fund, resulting in two small payments due in year 2021/22.

We also produced a short report on Care Leavers and Rent Arrears, which we circulated to our contacts in the fostering world in an effort to draw attention to the particular issues faced by Care Leavers who fall behind with their rent payments. The report contained practical recommendations on actions that could be taken to tackle the problem.

Section E

Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The policy of the Trust was amended in December 2020 and is now to maintain enough money in our accounts to cover expenses and a buffer of £5000 towards grants in the next quarter.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

Since 2014 the main donor to the Foundation has been the Tunstall Jubilee Foundation (TJF). The Foundation would like to record its thanks to TJF for this funding. It was agreed with TJF that the Foundation would submit an application for funding in January each year. This enables the Foundation to plan its grant giving for the next financial year.

In 2020 we were delighted to receive a significant donation from the Foster Care Co-operative, for which we were extremely grateful. Despite this however Spark's income is not keeping pace with the growing demand for our services. It is clear that Covid19 and economic uncertainty continues to impact on the most vulnerable. Spark is therefore continuing to explore other complementary funding sources.

The Spark Foundation does not rent premises but it does pay a small amount for administration support. As The Foundation has dealt with a sharp rise in the number of applications for grants, so the amount we pay for admin has also had to rise slightly. The administration per application has increased too as many applications are submitted without the required information and many social workers are slow to provide the information necessary to make a grant payment.

Even so, as in previous years, almost all The Foundation's expenditure is in the form of grants.

The Foundation has a grant making policy and this is reviewed annually

Section F Other optional information

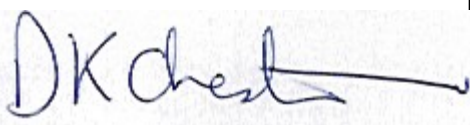
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Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

	
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Full name(s)	Daniel	Chesterman
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	
Date	3 Dec 2021	



Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

01/04/2020

To

31/03/2021

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Last year
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations and gifts	10,608	-	-	10,608	194
Grants	50,000	-	-	50,000	70,000
Investment income	10	-	-	10	21
Grants reimbursed	300	-	-	300	1,150
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	60,918	-	-	60,918	71,365
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	60,918	-	-	60,918	71,365
A3 Payments					
Website costs	-	-	-	-	170
Administration fees	2,135	-	-	2,135	1,895
Bank charges	70	-	-	70	60
Printing, postage and stationary costs	418	-	-	418	265
Travel costs	-	-	-	-	488
Independent examination fee	300	-	-	300	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Grants payable	59,285	-	-	59,285	44,975
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	62,208	-	-	62,208	47,853
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	62,208	-	-	62,208	47,853
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 1,290	-	-	- 1,290	23,512
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	36,540	-	-	36,540	13,028
Cash funds this year end	35,250	-	-	35,250	36,540

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	CAF Cash Account	3,003	-	-
	CAF Gold Account	32,247	-	-
		-	-	-
	Total cash funds	35,250	-	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

Categories	Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/ members of

Charity Name
The Spark Foundation

On accounts for the year ended

31 March 2021

Charity no (if any)

1097058

Set out on pages

3+4

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

Responsibilities and basis of report

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31/03/2021.

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

[The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of [insert name of applicable listed body]]. Delete [] if not applicable.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination (other than that disclosed below *) which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date:

03/12/2021

Name:

Mrs Jennifer Sherwood

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body

FCA – Chartered Accountant (ICAEW)

(if any):

--

Address:

1 The Heath, Tankerton
Whitstable, Kent
CT5 3HJ

Section B

Disclosure

Only complete if the examiner needs to highlight material matters of concern (see CC32, Independent examination of charity accounts: directions and guidance for examiners).

Give here brief details of any items that the examiner wishes to disclose.

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