

**REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 04723576 (England and Wales)**  
**REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1101078**

**Report of the Trustees and**  
**Unaudited Financial Statements**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**  
**for**  
**free@last**

Locke Williams Associates LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Studio 2  
50-54 St Pauls Square  
Birmingham  
West Midlands  
B3 1QS

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for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

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**Reference and Administrative Details  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

<b>TRUSTEES</b>	Rubina Darr Melissa Shervington (resigned 22.5.24) John Richard Moore Naomi Spencer Peter Mark Adkins (resigned 17.10.24) Thomas Owen O'Brien (resigned 1.11.24) Rashida Sharif Mitesh Bharkat Kumar Parmar (resigned 21.10.24) Matthew John Chapman (resigned 1.5.24) Arthur Tsang (appointed 11.2.25) Ayyab Cockburn (appointed 11.2.25) Elaine Limond (appointed 11.2.25)
<b>COMPANY SECRETARY</b>	John Street
<b>REGISTERED OFFICE</b>	49 Nechells Park Road Birmingham B7 5PR
<b>REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER</b>	04723576 (England and Wales)
<b>REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER</b>	1101078
<b>INDEPENDENT EXAMINER</b>	Locke Williams Associates LLP Chartered Accountants Studio 2 50-54 St Pauls Square Birmingham West Midlands B3 1QS
<b>BANKERS</b>	HSBC 9 Queens Square Wolverhampton West Midlands WV1 1TE

free@last

**Chair's Report  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

Nechells is where I was born and raised-it's my home. Leading an organisation that played such an important role in my upbringing feels completely natural. It's a real honour to be at the helm of free@last, especially as we celebrate 25 years of service. I've seen firsthand the incredible difference this charity has made to thousands of children, young people, and adults in our community.

free@last is a dynamic organisation, constantly evolving to meet the changing needs of the people we serve and tackling the challenges they face head-on. Living in poverty is hard enough, without the added pressures that can limit people's choices just to get by. That's why we've continued to build a strong, capable team and solid organisational foundations-so we can offer effective, meaningful support.

Thanks to the dedication of so many, we're able to keep doing what we do best: improving the lives of children and young people in Nechells. Thank you.

Naomi Spencer  
Chair of Trustees



**Director's report  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

For all the talk about from Government and Council's and many others about the need to stop child poverty, our percentage rate of children living in poverty has increased from 53% to 55%. The Birmingham Youth Service has practically been stopped, with many more of the remaining few youth centres closed, and a continued lack of hope and increased despair hangs over our children and young people. Thank fully, even though it has been, and continues to be challenging to meet local needs, we at free@last journey on and providing a lifeline to many, challenge and support to others and hope for the future. free@last is still improving the lives of the children and young people of Nechells.

This year we celebrate 25 years of free@last supporting the people of Nechells and we have been blessed with hundreds of individuals, businesses, trusts and organisations who have believed in our work and enabled us to make a difference in Nechells. We are forever thankful to all of those who share our struggles and make life a little easier to manage, your continued support and generosity is amazing, thank you.

John Street  
Director





**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024. The trustees have adopted the provisions of Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019).

**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

**Vision**

To improve the lives of the children and young people of Nechells.

**Mission**

free@last is committed to providing opportunities, activities, and support for children and young people in Nechells, and to further their interests by working with their families, other agencies and relevant professionals.

**Values**

Giving opportunities to all young people in Nechells without distinction.

**Aims and objectives**

To engage children and young people in a range of developmental and progressive activities which provide opportunities for success and to broaden their horizons.

To support children and young people through life's challenges and difficulties.

To support their families to provide the best possible environment for their children to grow, develop and flourish.

To take a multi-agency approach to improving the lives of children and young people.



**Public benefit**

The trustees confirm that: in the exercise of their powers as charity trustees, they have due regard to the published guidance from the charity commission on the operation of the public benefit requirement; and the aims of the charity are carried out for the public benefit. The trustees consider the support to disadvantaged and poorer members of the community in Birmingham, and dissemination of lessons learned to the rest of the country, to be of public benefit, having had regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit.

**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

**Charitable activities**

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE**

**Introduction**

The heart and soul of free@last is focused on the children and young people of Nechells, with the aim of broadening their horizons through a wide variety of opportunities and unconditional support to help them through the difficulties and challenges they face. We are a needs-led organisation that builds positive and meaningful relationships with young people and through these relationships we are able to constantly adapt and develop our work to reflect the desires and dreams of those we are here to serve.



**Youth Activities**

Usually, at free@last we run several youth clubs to help give children aged between five and twenty-five a safe environment to relax and have fun together whilst at the same time build confidence, new friendships and positive relationships. These clubs offer participants access to our other services as well as off-site trips and activities. Alongside the youth clubs we run other clubs and activities including a young peoples' Rotary group, business skills, and life skills for young people.

We have two youth led businesses, Brum Ting Ltd, and Faff Free. Both should be run by teenagers, with the aim of generating income for themselves, whilst also giving opportunities to other young people to work and earn legitimate money. It is not always easy enabling and equipping young people to be persistent and committed!

**FAMILIES**

We have formed a group of volunteers who have been trained to support parents and families with challenging and conflicting circumstances, which is very exciting for us.

We continue to support many whole families, providing support for children and parents, whole family activities, day trips and families residential. During Christmas, we run several family orientated events, including our sit-down meal on Christmas Day, attended by 77 people. This is a wonderful way for them all to enjoy Christmas together.

**Advice & Guidance**

We continued to provide a specialist service helping local people with their personal debt and benefit problems. Our experience has shown that a supportive, understanding and approachable service is essential for those with financial difficulties to feel relaxed and comfortable discussing their personal circumstances with someone not known to them personally. With our advocacy service available for local people our aim is to have a positive influence on our clients' ability to be responsible for their own money management and benefits entitlement awareness. However, our long standing Debt & Benefit Advisory, Yousef, has decided to retire after being with us for 14 years, he is a great loss to our work.

We continue to support people with many issues, including financial support, housing issues, addiction, the criminal justice system, parenting, food poverty, digital poverty, grief, and employability to name just a few of the many issues we have supported people through over this past year.

**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**What practical difference do we make?**

With the effects of Covid, Brexit, energy and cost of living crisis still very much affecting our society, we too have had to battle through our own challenges and still continue to do so. These challenges have included team members moving on, much lower income from our business trading and reduced financial support from our regular supporters, however, we have still provided a great deal of support and opportunities for the children and young people in our community, and many adults too.

Regardless of the challenges we have faced as an organisation, we have still provided an excellent array of opportunities for our children and families, from sporting activities, nature exploration, ESOL lessons, advice & guidance in all aspects of life, craft creation and entrepreneurial development, day trips and holidays and weekly opportunities to play, learn and socialise.

Our innovative and passionate team of supporters have continued to provide the support and the finances to help us continue serving our local community and improving the lives of our children and young people.

**Businesses**

It is the intention of free@last to become as self-sustaining as possible through running our own businesses and generating our own income from a wide variety of sources. This accounting year has seen another decline in our business income, but we continue to work hard to create profitable opportunities to earn our own money and enable self-sustainability. We have opened a new Family Fun Zone in Surrey, but closed the one in Nechells, due to financial challenges. We are still aiming at increasing our business profit for free@last so that we can recruit staff members for at least 10 years, rather than losing key employees due to funding restrictions.

**Family Fun Zone**

We operated our activity-based unit situated at Star City - a local leisure and entertainment complex in Birmingham - until September. During the 14 years of operation, this business put £250,000 into the charity and employed 39 teenagers, many of whom were from Nechells. We are proud of our success of this business, even though it was time to close this year.

The new Family Fun Zone is located in a shopping centre on the high street of Sutton, Surrey. It is 12 times bigger than our Birmingham venue, with many more activities and many more challenges! It is yet to generate an income for free@last, but hopefully this will change as it embeds itself into the local economy and entertainment scene.



**FINANCIAL REVIEW**

**Principal financial management policies**

The company is small with limited resources. It operates on the basis of spending as little as possible on whatever it buys and ensures there are funds in the bank before making any commitment.



**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

**General financial review**

Over the past year we have generated income through a variety of different means, including grant making trusts, our businesses, use of our centre, fundraising, events and general appeals. We have a solid financial position, which we have worked hard to achieve and are now in the process of growth, primarily through generating income through our own businesses, free@last Kid's Fund (a monthly giving scheme) and a calendar of events. Our future plans are to increase the impact and availability of our services to more people who live in Nechells.

Unrestricted funds have decreased in the year from £96,015 to £60,851.

Restricted funds have decreased in the year from £1,973,913 to £1,871,611. This is in large part to the depreciation of the building and other assets held in these funds, and the challenges we have faced in generating our income.

**Reserves policy**

The trustees are working towards holding unrestricted reserves sufficient to meet the charity's day to day expenditure for six months. This target is a long way from being fulfilled and will take several years to achieve. Restricted funds will depend on timing of securing and receiving funding and timing of the expenditure on activities. activities.

**FUTURE PLANS**

Over the following year our plans are as follows:

- We aim to increase the provision of our youth services to fill the gaps and enable all our young people to access services and support for improving their lives.
- We aim to provide new services to address some of the health inequalities and difficulties that our community faces, particularly sporting initiatives.
- Increase the involvement of young people and adults in social action in our neighbourhood.
- Generate more self-funded income through our businesses. We aim to develop the relationships we have with businesses and improve our partnership working in all 3 sectors.

**Governing document and Charity Constitution**

free@last began in August 1999 and first registered as a Charity on 9th December 1999 and then became a charitable company limited by guarantee on 4th April 2003. The charity and company numbers and other information are included as a front sheet.

The company was established under a Memorandum of Association which established the objects and powers of the company. It is governed under its Articles of Association under which the board of directors (who are also Trustees of the charitable company) are elected at AGM to serve for a period of up to three years.

**Recruitment and appointment of new trustees**

The trustees are appointed by the board. The company requires a minimum of three and a maximum of twelve trustees to be appointed. The board identify areas where particular knowledge or expertise is required and seek to recruit new trustees by advertising, personal contacts and recruitment events.

**Organisational structure**

The charity is a small entity which is run on a daily and operational basis by the chief executive together with a number of employees and volunteers. The board of trustees meet a minimum of four times a year and take responsibility for decisions regarding services, the building, people and the businesses operated by the charity.

**Induction and training of new trustees**

Potential trustees attend the premises and a board/committee meeting as part of the induction process to ensure they are familiar with the services provided and our procedures. They complete an application form and are then approved by the board before appointment.

**Report of the Trustees  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**Risk management**

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. The major risks to which the charity is exposed, as identified by the trustees, have been reviewed and systems established to mitigate those risks.

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

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 31 October 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

*John Moore*  
John Moore (Oct 31, 2025 13:57:44 GMT)

John Richard Moore - Trustee

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of  
free@last (Registered number: 04723576)**

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of free@last ('the Company')**

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

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Company as required by Section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of Section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
4. the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice for accounting and reporting by charities (applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)).

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



David Williams FCA FCCA

Locke Williams Associates LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Studio 2  
50-54 St Pauls Square  
Birmingham  
West Midlands  
B3 1QS

31 October 2025

**Statement of Financial Activities**  
**(Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	<b>31.12.24 Total funds £</b>	31.12.23 Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>					
Donations and legacies	2	<b>60,878</b>	<b>123,648</b>	<b>184,526</b>	262,440
<b>Charitable activities</b>	5				
Family Fun Zone Sutton		-	<b>400,000</b>	<b>400,000</b>	-
Other trading activities	3	<b>132,887</b>	-	<b>132,887</b>	169,575
Investment income	4	<b>2,164</b>	-	<b>2,164</b>	2,452
Other income		-	-	-	158
<b>Total</b>		<b><u>195,929</u></b>	<b><u>523,648</u></b>	<b><u>719,577</u></b>	<u>434,625</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>					
Raising funds	6	<b>123,722</b>	-	<b>123,722</b>	102,027
<b>Charitable activities</b>	7				
Charitable		<b>90,463</b>	<b>225,950</b>	<b>316,413</b>	363,971
Family Fun Zone Sutton		<b>16,908</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>416,908</b>	-
<b>Total</b>		<b><u>231,093</u></b>	<b><u>625,950</u></b>	<b><u>857,043</u></b>	<u>465,998</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>		<b>(35,164)</b>	<b>(102,302)</b>	<b>(137,466)</b>	(31,373)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<b>96,015</b>	<b>1,973,913</b>	<b>2,069,928</b>	2,101,301
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>		<b><u>60,851</u></b>	<b><u>1,871,611</u></b>	<b><u>1,932,462</u></b>	<u>2,069,928</u>

The notes form part of these financial statements



**Balance Sheet**  
**31 December 2024**

	Notes	31.12.24 £	31.12.23 £
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>			
Tangible assets	14	<b>1,882,926</b>	1,922,013
Investments	15	<b>100</b>	-
		<b>1,883,026</b>	1,922,013
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	16	<b>12,400</b>	-
Cash at bank and in hand		<b>61,419</b>	185,394
		<b>73,819</b>	185,394
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	17	<b>(15,609)</b>	(18,416)
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>58,210</b>	166,978
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>1,941,236</b>	2,088,991
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts falling due after more than one year	18	<b>(8,774)</b>	(19,063)
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>1,932,462</b>	2,069,928
<b>FUNDS</b>	21		
Unrestricted funds		<b>60,851</b>	96,015
Restricted funds		<b>1,871,611</b>	1,973,913
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b>1,932,462</b>	2,069,928

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

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

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

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

**Balance Sheet - continued**  
**31 December 2024**

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 31 October 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:

*John Moore*

John Moore (Oct 31, 2025 13:57:44 GMT)

John Richard Moore - Trustee

**Cash Flow Statement  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

	Notes	31.12.24 £	31.12.23 £
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Cash generated from operations	1	(115,391)	3,318
Interest paid		<u>(614)</u>	<u>(860)</u>
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		<u>(116,005)</u>	<u>2,458</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchase of fixed asset investments		(100)	-
Interest received		<u>2,164</u>	<u>2,452</u>
Net cash provided by investing activities		<u>2,064</u>	<u>2,452</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Loan repayments in year		<u>(10,034)</u>	<u>(9,789)</u>
Net cash used in financing activities		<u>(10,034)</u>	<u>(9,789)</u>
<hr/>			
<b>Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period</b>		<b>(123,975)</b>	<b>(4,879)</b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period</b>		<b><u>185,394</u></b>	<b><u>190,273</u></b>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>		<b><u><u>61,419</u></u></b>	<b><u><u>185,394</u></u></b>

The notes form part of these financial statements

**Notes to the Cash Flow Statement  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**1. RECONCILIATION OF NET EXPENDITURE TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**

	<b>31.12.24</b>	31.12.23
	£	£
<b>Net expenditure for the reporting period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)</b>	<b>(137,466)</b>	(31,373)
<b>Adjustments for:</b>		
Depreciation charges	39,087	40,938
Interest received	(2,164)	(2,452)
Interest paid	614	860
Increase in debtors	(12,400)	-
Decrease in creditors	<u>(3,062)</u>	<u>(4,655)</u>
<b>Net cash (used in)/provided by operations</b>	<b><u>(115,391)</u></b>	<b><u>3,318</u></b>

**2. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET FUNDS**

	At 1.1.24	Cash flow	At 31.12.24
	£	£	£
<b>Net cash</b>			
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>185,394</u>	<u>(123,975)</u>	<u>61,419</u>
	<u>185,394</u>	<u>(123,975)</u>	<u>61,419</u>
<b>Debt</b>			
Debts falling due within 1 year	(10,035)	(255)	(10,290)
Debts falling due after 1 year	<u>(19,063)</u>	<u>10,289</u>	<u>(8,774)</u>
	<u>(29,098)</u>	<u>10,034</u>	<u>(19,064)</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>156,296</u></b>	<b><u>(113,941)</u></b>	<b><u>42,355</u></b>



**Notes to the Financial Statements  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of preparing the financial statements**

The financial statements of the charitable company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102) 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)', Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, with the exception of investments which are included at market value.

**Income**

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

For donations to be recognised the charity will have been notified of the amounts and the settlement date in writing.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the Charities SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

The charity receives grants in respect of its core activities. Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

Income from trading activities includes income earned from fundraising events and trading activities to raise funds for the charity. Income is received in exchange for supplying goods and services in order to raise funds and is recognised when entitlement has occurred.

Interest on funds held on deposit is included when receivable and the amount can be measured reliably by the charity; this is normally upon notification of the interest paid or payable by the Bank.

**Expenditure**

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Costs of raising funds includes direct staff and other costs for trading activities to raise funds.

Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

**Tangible fixed assets**

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off each asset over its estimated useful life.

Long leasehold	- Over the period of the lease
Equipment	- 4% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- 10% on cost
Motor vehicles	- 25% on reducing balance
Computer equipment	- 33% on cost

The leasehold building is held under a 125 year lease with Birmingham City Council until August 2141.

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued**

**Debtors**

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

**Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand and deposits held at call with banks.

**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.

**Operating Leases**

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

**Taxation**

The charity is registered with the Charity Commission and under the provisions of Section 478 Corporation Tax Act 2010, is exempt from liability to taxation on its charitable activities..

**Fund accounting**

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the trustees.

Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes.

Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in the notes to the financial statements.

**2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES**

	<b>31.12.24</b>	31.12.23
	£	£
Donations	<b>51,601</b>	75,832
Grants	<b><u>132,925</u></b>	<u>186,608</u>
	<b><u>184,526</u></b>	<u>262,440</u>

**3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES**

	<b>31.12.24</b>	31.12.23
	£	£
Fundraising events	<b>61,168</b>	69,978
Family Fun Zone	<b>57,978</b>	89,384
Room hire fees	<b>12,733</b>	9,760
Climbing wall	<b>1,000</b>	275
Brumting	<b><u>8</u></b>	<u>178</u>
	<b><u>132,887</u></b>	<u>169,575</u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**4. INVESTMENT INCOME**

	<b>31.12.24</b>	31.12.23
	£	£
Deposit account interest	<u><b>2,164</b></u>	<u><b>2,452</b></u>

**5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES**

	<b>31.12.24</b>	31.12.23
	£	£
Grants Activity Family Fun Zone Sutton	<u><b>400,000</b></u>	<u><b>-</b></u>

Grants received, included in the above, are as follows:

	<b>31.12.24</b>	31.12.23
	£	£
Other	<u><b>400,000</b></u>	<u><b>-</b></u>

See note 22 for further details.

**6. RAISING FUNDS**

**Raising donations and legacies**

	<b>31.12.24</b>	31.12.23
	£	£
Fundraising events costs	<b>21,567</b>	18,900
Brumting	<b>92</b>	547
Interest payable and similar charges	<u><b>614</b></u>	<u><b>860</b></u>
	<u><b>22,273</b></u>	<u><b>20,307</b></u>

**7. CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES COSTS**

	Direct Costs £	Grant funding of activities (see note 8) £	Support costs (see note 9) £	Totals £
Charitable	<b>314,313</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,100</b>	<b>316,413</b>
Family Fun Zone Sutton	<u><b>-</b></u>	<u><b>416,908</b></u>	<u><b>-</b></u>	<u><b>416,908</b></u>
	<u><b>314,313</b></u>	<u><b>416,908</b></u>	<u><b>2,100</b></u>	<u><b>733,321</b></u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**8. GRANTS PAYABLE**

	<b>31.12.24</b>	31.12.23
	£	£
Family Fun Zone Sutton	<u><b>416,908</b></u>	<u>-</u>

The total grants paid to institutions during the year was as follows:

	<b>31.12.24</b>	31.12.23
	£	£
Family Fun Zone Sutton Coldfield	<u><b>416,908</b></u>	<u>-</u>

See note 22 for further details.

**9. SUPPORT COSTS**

	Governance costs £
Charitable	<u><b>2,100</b></u>

Support costs, included in the above, are as follows:

	<b>31.12.24</b>	31.12.23
	Charitable £	Total activities £
Accountancy and legal fees	<u><b>2,100</b></u>	<u><b>2,040</b></u>

**10. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)**

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

	<b>31.12.24</b>	31.12.23
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	<u><b>39,087</b></u>	<u>40,937</u>

**11. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS**

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

**Trustees' expenses**

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 December 2024 nor for the year ended 31 December 2023.



**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**12. STAFF COSTS**

	<b>31.12.24</b>	31.12.23
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Wages and salaries	<b>213,675</b>	208,454
Social security costs	<b>14,685</b>	7,783
Other pension costs	<b><u>3,159</u></b>	<u>2,707</u>
	<b><u>231,519</u></b>	<u>218,944</u>

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

	<b>31.12.24</b>	31.12.23
	<b>13</b>	<b>17</b>
General employees	<u>13</u>	<u>17</u>

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

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel for the period is £50,000 (2023 £42,322).

**13. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £
<b>INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM</b>			
Donations and legacies	110,203	152,237	262,440
Other trading activities	169,575	-	169,575
Investment income	2,452	-	2,452
Other income	<u>158</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>158</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>282,388</u>	<u>152,237</u>	<u>434,625</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE ON</b>			
Raising funds	102,027	-	102,027
<b>Charitable activities</b>			
Charitable	<u>153,697</u>	<u>210,274</u>	<u>363,971</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>255,724</u>	<u>210,274</u>	<u>465,998</u>
<b>NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)</b>	26,664	(58,037)	(31,373)
<b>RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS</b>			
Total funds brought forward	<u>69,350</u>	<u>2,031,951</u>	<u>2,101,301</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD</b>	<u><u>96,014</u></u>	<u><u>1,973,914</u></u>	<u><u>2,069,928</u></u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS**

	Long leasehold £	Equipment £	Fixtures and fittings £
<b>COST</b>			
At 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2024	<u>1,842,084</u>	<u>125,480</u>	<u>147,825</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>			
At 1 January 2024	79,825	29,357	105,926
Charge for year	<u>14,736</u>	<u>7,220</u>	<u>11,698</u>
At 31 December 2024	<u>94,561</u>	<u>36,577</u>	<u>117,624</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>			
At 31 December 2024	<u>1,747,523</u>	<u>88,903</u>	<u>30,201</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>1,762,259</u>	<u>96,123</u>	<u>41,899</u>
	Motor vehicles £	Computer equipment £	Totals £
<b>COST</b>			
At 1 January 2024 and 31 December 2024	<u>60,354</u>	<u>35,797</u>	<u>2,211,540</u>
<b>DEPRECIATION</b>			
At 1 January 2024	38,622	35,797	289,527
Charge for year	<u>5,433</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,087</u>
At 31 December 2024	<u>44,055</u>	<u>35,797</u>	<u>328,614</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>			
At 31 December 2024	<u>16,299</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,882,926</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>21,732</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,922,013</u>

A legal charge is held against the property, in the name of The Big Lottery Fund, against the total sum of grant income received for the rebuild of £967,537. The charge remains in place for twenty five years from 15 August 2016.

**15. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS**

	Shares in group undertakings £
<b>MARKET VALUE</b>	
Additions	<u>100</u>
<b>NET BOOK VALUE</b>	
At 31 December 2024	<u>100</u>
At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>

There were no investment assets outside the UK.

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**15. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS - continued**

The company's investments at the balance sheet date in the share capital of companies include the following:

**Family Fun Zone (Sutton) Limited**

Registered office: 49 Nechells Park Road, Birmingham, England, B7 5PR

Nature of business: Other amusement and recreation activities

	%	holding	
Class of share:			
Ordinary		<b>100</b>	

	<b>31.12.24</b>	31.12.23
	£	£
Aggregate capital and reserves	<u><b>100</b></u>	<u>-</u>

**16. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	<b>31.12.24</b>	31.12.23
	£	£
Amounts due from subsidiaries	<u><b>12,400</b></u>	<u>-</u>

**17. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	<b>31.12.24</b>	31.12.23
	£	£
Bank loans and overdrafts (see note 19)	<b>10,290</b>	10,035
Trade creditors	-	2,792
Social security and other taxes	<b>3,159</b>	3,429
Accruals and deferred income	<u><b>2,160</b></u>	<u>2,160</u>
	<u><b>15,609</b></u>	<u>18,416</u>

**18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER MORE THAN ONE YEAR**

	<b>31.12.24</b>	31.12.23
	£	£
Bank loans (see note 19)	<u><b>8,774</b></u>	<u>19,063</u>

**19. LOANS**

An analysis of the maturity of loans is given below:

	<b>31.12.24</b>	31.12.23
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year on demand:		
Bank loans	<u><b>10,290</b></u>	<u>10,035</u>
Amounts falling due between two and five years:		
Bank loans	<u><b>8,774</b></u>	<u>19,063</u>

The bank loan has been taken out under the Government backed Bounce Back Loan scheme and is repayable over sixty months commencing from November 2021. Interest is charged at a fixed rate of 2.5%.

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**20. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS**

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	31.12.24 Total funds £	31.12.23 Total funds £
Fixed assets	69,572	1,813,354	1,882,926	1,922,013
Investments	100	-	100	-
Current assets	15,562	58,257	73,819	185,394
Current liabilities	(15,609)	-	(15,609)	(18,416)
Long term liabilities	(8,774)	-	(8,774)	(19,063)
	<u>60,851</u>	<u>1,871,611</u>	<u>1,932,462</u>	<u>2,069,928</u>

**21. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS**

	At 1.1.24 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.24 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General Activities	85,323	(35,108)	50,215
Building Fund	6,802	(56)	6,746
Youth and Children Activities	830	-	830
Family Activities	3,060	-	3,060
	<u>96,015</u>	<u>(35,164)</u>	<u>60,851</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
General Activities	918	(10)	908
Building Fund	1,837,122	(25,528)	1,811,594
Youth Sports Coaches	33,020	(21,915)	11,105
Norton Foundation - new computers	850	(850)	-
ENT Room	927	(927)	-
Henry Smith Charitable Trust	45,857	(26,031)	19,826
Neighbourly Seeds of Change	400	(86)	314
Smurfitt Kappa SSK	5,730	(4,611)	1,119
Big Issue Investment	28,588	(27,623)	965
BVSC HAF	4,501	(4,501)	-
Wesylan Assurance	8,000	-	8,000
Girls Room	3,320	1,500	4,820
St Thomas Dole Charity	4,680	-	4,680
Workshop Instructor	-	15,899	15,899
Angling Trust	-	1,317	1,317
Coalition For Impact	-	(8,936)	(8,936)
	<u>1,973,913</u>	<u>(102,302)</u>	<u>1,871,611</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u>2,069,928</u>	<u>(137,466)</u>	<u>1,932,462</u>



**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**21. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General Activities	195,929	(231,037)	(35,108)
Building Fund	-	(56)	(56)
	195,929	(231,093)	(35,164)
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
General Activities	20,000	(20,010)	(10)
Building Fund	-	(25,528)	(25,528)
Youth Sports Coaches	248	(22,163)	(21,915)
Norton Foundation - new computers	-	(850)	(850)
ENT Room	-	(927)	(927)
Henry Smith Charitable Trust	75,000	(101,031)	(26,031)
Neighbourly Seeds of Change	-	(86)	(86)
Smurfitt Kappa SSK	-	(4,611)	(4,611)
Big Issue Investment	-	(27,623)	(27,623)
BVSC HAF	-	(4,501)	(4,501)
Girls Room	1,500	-	1,500
Family Fun Zone Sutton Coldfield	400,000	(400,000)	-
Workshop Instructor	18,800	(2,901)	15,899
Bell Tents Capital Grants	6,000	(6,000)	-
Angling Trust	2,100	(783)	1,317
Coalition For Impact	-	(8,936)	(8,936)
	523,648	(625,950)	(102,302)
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>719,577</b>	<b>(857,043)</b>	<b>(137,466)</b>

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**21. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

**Comparatives for movement in funds**

	At 1.1.23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31.12.23 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General Activities	57,623	27,700	85,323
Building Fund	6,859	(57)	6,802
Youth and Children Activities	1,782	(952)	830
Family Activities	3,086	(26)	3,060
	<u>69,350</u>	<u>26,665</u>	<u>96,015</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
General Activities	928	(10)	918
Building Fund	1,862,650	(25,528)	1,837,122
Youth Sports Coaches	57,635	(24,615)	33,020
Advice & Guidance	9,072	(9,072)	-
Norton Foundation - new computers	4,882	(4,032)	850
ENT Room	927	-	927
Barrow Cadbury	38	(38)	-
Covid-19 support grants	3	(3)	-
Henry Smith Charitable Trust	41,166	4,691	45,857
Dept for DCMS	30	(30)	-
Neighbourly Seeds of Change	400	-	400
Smurfitt Kappa SSK	20,220	(14,490)	5,730
Big Issue Investment	34,000	(5,412)	28,588
BVSC HAF	-	4,501	4,501
Wesylan Assurance	-	8,000	8,000
Girls Room	-	3,320	3,320
St Thomas Dole Charity	-	4,680	4,680
	<u>2,031,951</u>	<u>(58,038)</u>	<u>1,973,913</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>2,101,301</u></u>	<u><u>(31,373)</u></u>	<u><u>2,069,928</u></u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued**  
**for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**21. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued**

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>			
General Activities	256,578	(228,878)	27,700
Building Fund	-	(57)	(57)
Youth and Children Activities	14,274	(15,226)	(952)
Family Activities	<u>11,536</u>	<u>(11,562)</u>	<u>(26)</u>
	282,388	(255,723)	26,665
<b>Restricted funds</b>			
General Activities	-	(10)	(10)
Building Fund	1	(25,529)	(25,528)
Youth Sports Coaches	10,000	(34,615)	(24,615)
Advice & Guidance	-	(9,072)	(9,072)
Norton Foundation - new computers	-	(4,032)	(4,032)
Barrow Cadbury	-	(38)	(38)
Covid-19 support grants	-	(3)	(3)
Henry Smith Charitable Trust	100,000	(95,309)	4,691
Dept for DCMS	-	(30)	(30)
Smurfitt Kappa SSK	-	(14,490)	(14,490)
Big Issue Investment	-	(5,412)	(5,412)
BVSC HAF	26,236	(21,735)	4,501
Wesylan Assurance	8,000	-	8,000
Girls Room	3,320	-	3,320
St Thomas Dole Charity	<u>4,680</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,680</u>
	<u>152,237</u>	<u>(210,275)</u>	<u>(58,038)</u>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<u><u>434,625</u></u>	<u><u>(465,998)</u></u>	<u><u>(31,373)</u></u>

**Purpose of funds**

General Activities - Specific Core expenses ie Salaries etc.

Building Fund - To raise money for the purchase of a new building, which the charity purchased in 2017/2018. The fund is now also for the general upkeep of the property in which the charity received restricted monies for.

Youth & Children Activities - To provide support and development services to children and young people within the local community through the funding of several full time and part time youth workers.

Family Activities - Families Project - To provide support and development services to families in the local community in the Nechells area.

Advice & Guidance - To provide free advice to residents of the Nechells area regarding financial difficulties and welfare benefit entitlements.

**Notes to the Financial Statements - continued  
for the Year Ended 31 December 2024**

**22. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

The London Borough of Sutton provided capital funding of £400,000 to Free@Last to enable development of an indoor play centre at Store A, St Nicholas Shopping Centre. The funding was transferred by the Charity to its wholly owned trading subsidiary Family Fun Zone (Sutton) Limited to construct and operate the play centre on a commercial basis.

**23. COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

Free@last is a company limited by guarantee and accordingly does not have a share capital. Every member of the company undertakes to contribute such amount as may be required not exceeding £1 to the assets of the charitable company in the event of its being wound up while he or she is a member, or within one year after he or she ceases to be a member.










# FRE06-CHA 2024 final

Final Audit Report

2025-10-31

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