

SOUNABOUT

England & Wales · Charity number 1103002

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	05023067
Registered	2004-04-02
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address Soundabout
John Eccles House
Robert Robinson Avenue
Oxford Science Park
Oxford
OX4 4GP

Phone 01235797474

Email info@soundabout.org.uk

Website www.soundabout.org.uk

Activities

Objects: TO PROVIDE RELIEF TO PEOPLE WITH SEVERE LEARNING DIFFICULTIES AND PHYSICAL DIFFICULTIES BY THE PROVISION OF INTERACTIVE MUSIC MAKING SESSIONS.

Activities: Soundabout exists to make a difference to the lives of those people who have complex disabilities by helping them develop their ability to communicate and interact with the world around them through music and sound.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Education/training, Disability
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NATIONAL AND OVERSEAS
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£489,777	£445,642	-	-
2024-03-31	£352,373	£395,368	-	-
2023-03-31	£430,221	£381,292	-	-
2022-03-31	£411,273	£406,627	-	-
2021-03-31	£451,991	£377,904	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Ben Weston-Conway		2022-01-12
Bradley Travis		2024-07-10
Emily Nunns		2023-05-01
Helen Chandler		2024-07-10
Ishaan Pasricha		2025-03-24
Jamie Baird		2024-07-10
Kate Rann		2026-02-16
Mike Hartley		2022-01-12
Timothy Hammond		2026-06-17

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England & Wales - Charity number 1103002

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 05023067 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1103002

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025
FOR
SOUNABOUT

Ad Valorem Accountancy Services Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
2 Manor Farm Court
Old Wolverton Road
Old Wolverton
Buckinghamshire
MK12 5NN

SOUNABOUT

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

TRUSTEES	S J Claridge (resigned 10/7/2024) Y Dattani (resigned 3/9/2024) M Hartley K Ungerer (resigned 15/1/2025) E Newsome (resigned 10/7/2024) C Thomson B Weston-Conway E Nunns C W Yuen H Chandler (appointed 17/7/2024) B Travis (appointed 17/7/2024) J Baird (appointed 17/7/2024) I Pasricha (appointed 24/3/2025)
REGISTERED OFFICE	John Eccles House Robert Robinson Avenue Oxford Oxfordshire OX4 4GP
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	05023067 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1103002
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Ad Valorem Accountancy Services Limited Chartered Certified Accountants 2 Manor Farm Court Old Wolverton Road Old Wolverton Buckinghamshire MK12 5NN
BANKERS	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ Charity Bank Limited Fosse House 182 High Street Tonbridge TN9 1BE

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2025. 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

Public benefit

Charitable objects as per the Memorandum and Articles of Association:

To provide relief to people with severe learning difficulties and physical difficulties by the provision of interactive music making sessions.

Vision: A world where everyone can access and experience music.

Mission: Soundabout uses music, sound, and silence to create opportunities where learning Disabled people with complex support needs thrive.

Values

Kind: We are kind, friendly, and supportive to everyone.

Person-Centred: We celebrate each person; creating sound and music together.

Inclusive: we work hard to create welcoming and accessible spaces.

Aspirational: We use our energy to learn and aim for the best for everyone, while being curious, fun, and creative.

We are working to our strategic business plan 'Soundabout Build' which runs until 2027 and focuses on consolidation and stabilisation of offer, team, and finances, and preparing for the future. We want to build on expertise, knowledge, and learning, while creating new opportunities, innovation, and trailblazing in best practice in the field. We want to ensure that our offer is excellent in all ways, that we can keep Soundabout running robustly and sustainably, that we set ourselves up to grow in the future, and that we lead the sector by sharing our learning. This includes a range of activities listed below under the 'Our programmes' section.

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, we can confirm that the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and are confident that the work of the charity falls in line with the guidance.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Soundabout Community Introduction

The Soundabout Participant Advisory Group thought it would be lovely to ask the Soundabout community to finish the sentence "Soundabout makes me feel..." as an introduction. Here are some of the responses:

Heard; Alive; Happy; Wonderful; Included; Lucky; Inspired; Grateful; Valued; Seen; Connected; Joy; Less Isolated.

Chair & CEO Introduction

We all assess impact in different ways. Some prefer to look at numbers and statistics, understanding scale and scope through charts and graphs. Others may prefer to read stories, allowing them to get to the emotional heart of transformation. For some, pictures and video tell the most vivid story, giving a sense of place and purpose that even the most gifted wordsmith would struggle to evoke. Whether you read this document from cover to cover or are simply flicking through, we hope that you will get a sense of the impact Soundabout has on the lives of Learning Disabled people in a way that appeals to you.

This report only represents a snapshot in Soundabout's life, but these 12 months, March 2024 - April 2025, have showcased momentum and continued strength. When we launched our three-year strategy, Soundabout Build, in late 2023, we endeavoured to enhance the quality of our output, develop an effective impact framework, develop organisational resilience and grow our cultural profile. In each of these areas, we are proud of the progress we have made. You will notice that our impact framework is now deeply embedded in our communication and reporting, and that our list of supporters is growing and becoming more diverse. Our training programme - generously funded by Youth Music - has been incredibly well received, and our practitioner team consistently deliver outstanding musical opportunities to Learning Disabled people across England and further afield online.

In other areas - such as growing our profile - our steps have been smaller, but we are learning how to communicate more effectively and authentically with our community with greater results. This will continue to be a priority in the final year of this strategic plan, and we remain steadfastly committed to our approach and ethos. This, in collaboration with planned growth in the Soundabout staff team, will supercharge this work in the years ahead.

It would not be possible for us to list every achievement of the last 12 months, but we hope this powerful document gives a flavour of what Soundabout is all about. Of course, the stories shared in this report would remain untold without the generous support of our donors, the tireless work of our staff team, the musical talent of our practitioners, and the dedication of our trustees and volunteers. But above all, we are most grateful to the families and individuals that embrace Soundabout, allowing us into their world. We are immensely proud to make music alongside the Learning Disabled community.

Thank you, as ever, for your continued support of Soundabout.

Ben Weston-Conway, Chair of Trustees

Holly Radford-James, Chief Executive Officer

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

About Soundabout and our community

We are Soundabout - the nation's specialist Learning Disability music charity

Soundabout utilises music, sound, and silence to make a difference to the lives of Learning Disabled people of all ages, and with complex support needs. Helping every individual to develop their ability to communicate and interact with the world around them in welcoming and accessible spaces both in-person and online.

With nearly thirty years' experience, Soundabout supports around 1,500 participants every year by organising over 1,000 interactive music making sessions. Equally importantly, Soundabout provides training for families, carers, professionals, and partner organisations enabling them to integrate the benefits of Soundabout's immersive music making programmes into the daily lives of the Learning Disabled people they support.

Soundabout Community

At Soundabout, we use the term 'Learning Disabled people with complex support needs' to describe the people we work alongside because, having consulted with Soundabout families and Disabled people, we have found this term to be most aligned with the social model of disability (the understanding that disability is something created by barriers in society). At the same time, we also respect that individuals may choose to identify differently, and that care and education sectors may use 'Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities' (PMLD).

There are:

- 1.3 million Learning Disabled people in England
- 20,000 Learning Disabled adults and 10,000 Learning Disabled children with complex support needs.
- Only 5.1% of Learning Disabled adults are in paid work.

Barriers often faced by Learning Disabled people with complex support needs include:

- More than one disability, including a physical disability
- Requiring those who know them well to interpret communication
- Complex physical and mental health needs
- Inaccessible career, leisure, and art/cultural opportunities
- Isolation, loneliness, and poor visibility in society
- Financial challenges

Our Vision: A world where everyone can access and experience music.

Our Mission: Soundabout uses music, sound, and silence to create opportunities where learning Disabled people with complex support needs thrive.

Our Values:

Kind: We are kind, friendly, and supportive to everyone.

Person-Centred: We celebrate each person; creating sound and music together.

Inclusive: we work hard to create welcoming and accessible spaces.

Aspirational: We use our energy to learn and aim for the best for everyone, while being curious, fun, and creative.

To achieve our mission, we focus on 5 key outcomes for the Learning Disabled people we support: Improving Connectedness; Developing Communication; Encouraging Enjoyment; Increasing Self-Expression, Improving Health and Wellbeing.

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

We also focus on 4 key strategic aims to help Soundabout build from strength to strength: High quality delivery from a diverse practitioner team; Developing our impact measurement; Build sustainability by diversifying income; Grow Soundabout's profile.

To understand the difference we make, we measure our impact by collecting data from our projects and talking to the people who take part. We are proud to share insights into our services and the impact they have. We need music now more than ever - let us show you how music changes lives.

Our Programmes

Soundabout Choirs: a national network bringing Learning Disabled people of all ages and their local communities together to share their voices in ways accessible to them.

Sounds Virtual: online music-making sessions accessible live and on demand, meaning members can join from home, hospices, hospitals, day centres, and school!

Sounds Sensory: projects transforming schools and community spaces into themed immersive multi-sensory environments that engage all the senses.

Sounds Wild: innovative music-making sessions in inspiring outdoor spaces using a Forest School approach to access the many benefits of connecting with nature.

Sounds Together: face-to-face community music making sessions with small groups of Learning Disabled people where they design the project!

Training: families, carers, professionals, and partner organisations to use Soundabout techniques in the daily lives of the Learning Disabled people they support.

Emerging Leaders and Graduates: accredited course and work placements supporting Learning Disabled people to enhance leadership skills and confidence will preparing to become music practitioners.

Timeline & Our Year in Numbers

Key Dates between April 2024-March 2025

- April - Second Annual Workshop with National Children's Choir of Great Britain
- May - Tewkesbury Big Weekend
- June - Summer Performances including at Chalkhouse Green Farm Open Gardens and Plater Trust Awards
- July - I Can Carnival & Emerging Leaders Graduation
- August - Sounds Sensory Online launched & Resonance Board Training
- September - Sounds Together Exeter launched
- October - Autumn Sounds Wild school visits
- November - Live Better Live Longer workshops by Graduates
- December - Shine a Light campaign and events
- January - Moveabout campaign

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

- February - Bristol Information Event
- March - Volunteer Co-ordinator recruited due to National Lottery Grant for choirs and volunteering

Overview in Numbers for April 2024-March 2025

	Previous Year	2024-25
Sessions	962	1,045
Total Attendees	3,341	3,502
Learning Disabled Participants	1,576	1,425
Parents / Carers	753	1,159
Professionals	890	723
YouTube Views	40,775	48,138
Graduate Emerging Leader Work Placements	65	180
Arts Award Qualification Success Rate	100%	100%

The slight reduction in Learning Disabled Participants is due to a small reduction in school commissions. Last year we had more large school groups and so anticipated the 2025 count to be much smaller than it ended up being. Please note that there may be some discrepancies between how staff have captured 'professionals' and 'parents / carers' with regards to paid carers, and so these stats are best placed read together, showing an overall increase in the number of parents, carers, and professionals we supported.

Outcomes Review

This section reviews Soundabout's progress towards the 5 main outcomes we aim to achieve with Learning Disabled people. We have provided data from a range of sources as evidence of progress towards each outcome.

Outcome 1: Improving Connectedness

Soundabout music making opportunities are group opportunities that enable Learning Disabled people with complex support needs to build positive relationships with their peers, parents and carers, and wider communities. Soundabout activities build strong networks and friendships that forge a sense of belonging. We use our national platform to showcase our community's talents and to shine a light on their experiences.

Evidence towards improving connectedness:

"For Michael I think it's the sheer enjoyment, he loves the sessions and we know he gets a lot out of it. We get the pleasure of watching and listening and also taking part. There's various activities we can do which help Michael. I think it's also he gets a lot from the diversity of the group because the group are all made up of different individuals and each person brings something, and Michael brings something as well... He enjoys that feedback!... What he gets from here is the group, it's that interaction that being 'part of' something. Something a bit bigger than him on his own and gives him different perspectives." Carer (Sounds Together - Adults).

"I'd like to mention 'I Can Carnival'. We literally spent the whole day doing that and it was amazing. There's so many amazing benefits to these festivals but the fact that I just allowed myself to spend the day with the girls doing that, back-to-back sessions, they were all so different as well. It gave Maisy more of me which, sometimes I forget to do because like we're so consumed by dealing other things that, we overlook sometimes just spending that time doing those sessions together. It created such special, special times as a family. Maisy had been so unwell that day but then as soon as Karen [Soundabout Practitioner] came on and she heard her friends, she was giving so many smiles, so many giggles. In those moments, you just forget about all the bad stuff, you know, when they have bad days and rough days... you can just turn on the screen and connect with other people, with friends. And then she responds in the way she does. It creates those special moments. All the time." Parent (I Can Carnival)

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

"Soundabout are just amazing! My son absolutely loves his sessions with Soundabout. It gives him the opportunity to combine his most favourite things - music, singing and saying hello to people! The [Soundabout] practitioners are brilliant, so professional, kind, caring and they just get my son, they have an amazing talent to bring out the best in every participant at whatever level they are.... it's really fascinating to observe. Soundabout have created something much greater than just music sessions, they have created a community which makes you feel so included, my son feels part of something, something that's his and gives him musical and social opportunities which are not readily available in his outside world." Parent (Sounds Virtual and Graduate Emerging Leaders)

"It always just feels like the most epic family reunion, with the family we chose for ourselves and who make us feel safe, valued and loved." Parent (Sounds Virtual and I Can Carnival)

"My son really enjoys the sessions. He is highly anxious and sometimes find accessing the community overwhelming. Soundabout sessions allow him to feel a part of the community and interact and socialise with people." Parent (Sounds Virtual)

"I am amazed at how we have been able to build a community in such a short time." Choir Leader, Soundabout Associate Choir Network

100% of parent / carers reported a rise in confidence in supporting their child using music from the start to the end of Sounds Together Early Years Birmingham by at least 3 points on a 1-10 confidence scaling exercise.

"I would strongly recommend this project to other families. It has brought these children together, built up confidence of both children and families. I have seen a development in all of the children, particularly the little boy I care for. This project has taught me ways to continue what we have been doing every week and I can't wait to try things out. The EYIS and Soundabout staff have been amazing - professional, fun and in tune with each child and providing exactly what they need. It has been outstanding. More children should experience this project. I will truly miss this project, all of the staff and other families involved. 100% recommend!" Carer (Sounds Together - Early Years)

Across all Soundabout programmes, participants are 'having a go', 'achieving' and excelling in each level 'Me and My World' segment of the Sounds of Intent 'Me Framework'.

As part of our efforts to improve connectedness within the community and externally, we have supported Learning Disabled musicians in Soundabout choirs to release 6 public music videos which have been view 5,584 times, and to perform to audiences across the country.

Outcome 2: Developing Communication

Soundabout uses music, sound, and silence as tools to explore and enhance communication with and between learning Disabled people and the communities around them. Communication might be through vocalising or non-verbal e.g. facial expressions or gestures.

Our sessions allow plenty of space and time to explore communication and interactions, along with allowing space for silence and processing time. We work closely with learning Disabled people and their close supporters to learn their communication styles and follow their lead. We also support parents, carers, and professionals to learn how to interact and communicate musically so they can continue this outside of sessions.

Evidence towards developing communication:

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"Soundabout came into William and I's life when he was in hospital and I was desperate to find something to entertain him. It has become so much more than that for us both. It was a lifeline during the 3 years he was unable to access school. A chance to learn together through music, to communicate on his level and make connections with peers and excellent music practitioners. The online sessions have opened up the world for William and given him an opportunity to socialise outside of school in a way that isn't possible for us living in such a remote rural area and facing the challenge of accessing after school activities when school is an hour from home. We appreciate so much the ability to attend wherever we are and it is a slice of normality when we are stuck in a hospital a long way from home to be able to see and hear familiar faces. Soundabout really is a community that feels more like a family and its essential to us all. The chance to take a moment in the day to make music and take joy in that. It's enormously powerful for William as its given him joy and the power to connect with others and communicate in his own way. I have learnt so much from the sessions, my own confidence in communicating with William using music has been built when attending the sessions and it has made our lives happier." Parent (Sounds Virtual)

"One more thing I want to mention is the wonderful [Soundabout] practitioners. Charlie has built up a virtual relationship with three practitioners in particular, Karen, Georgie and Will, who just get her and over these last four or five years, know how she responds and even on the YouTube sessions when Karen only has information through the typed chat, she knows how Charlie will be responding and can incorporate her in that way. With no verbal communication, Charlie's world is very closed and limited but Soundabout has truly opened up this world. Thank you everyone at Soundabout." Parent (Sounds Virtual)

"My son has built a very good interactive skills since he started attending the class. He now murmurs in an attempt to start speaking. He can now engage better with play items. He can now flow with rhymes either by shaking his head, tapping his feet, murmuring or clapping of hands. He is now comfortable in the midst of new faces compared to before." Parent (Sounds Together - Early Years)

Forms of communication reported across all programmes by practitioners included 'showed awareness of others', 'interacted with others', 'initiated interactions', 'made intentional choice / preference', 'use of facial expression', 'use of body language', 'eye contact or eye pointing', 'vocalisation'.

100% of parent / carers answered 'Strongly Agree' to the following statement at the end of Sounds Together Early Years (Birmingham) project: "I now have some ways of interacting and engaging with my child through music / song / rhyme to support their development."

Outcome 3: Encouraging Enjoyment

Being playful with music and sound is a big part of the Soundabout ethos, resulting in increased feelings of enjoyment. The atmosphere of our sessions is relaxed and fun with playful interactions being at the heart of our delivery. We aim to encourage everyone to enjoy music making at our sessions showing delight through laughing, smiling, indicating for 'more' and returning to Soundabout sessions.

Evidence towards encouraging enjoyment:

"Emma said she really enjoys Soundabout and it's so much fun. We would say that Soundabout helped Emma a lot in building up her confidence when doing the performances as well as the online sessions and through the emerging leader schemes. Music is part of her life now and we can see that she feels safe and happy from the bottom of her heart when she is with Soundabout. Soundabout is helping so many families like us and we cannot say more to thank you all." Parent (Choirs and Graduate Emerging Leaders)

"You have no idea how much impact yesterday [work experience] has had on B. She has beaming ever since & was talking about it for ages. We are very proud of her. Please do ask her again for anything else you feel she is up to." Parent (Graduate Emerging Leaders)

"These sessions have been amazing for him and his development. They are absolutely wonderful, please keep them going. I told him that he is going to his music class today and will see his friends and he vocalised so loudly." Carer (Sounds Together - Early Years)

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OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

"I just wanted to let you know that today was a really amazing session, and I am looking forward to this 12-week journey. I am kind of sad that we are already one week down. It is really exciting, and I love how J engaged, and I love what I have already been able to learn from the first session. I am looking forward to next week. Also, there are already bits of information and tips and techniques that I have picked from Will [Soundabout Practitioner] that I have found useful." Parent (Sounds Together - Early Years)

"I've really enjoyed it. I was leader in the group, I was leading with the drum and my hand to stop and the group was following me. I enjoyed that!" Participant (Sounds Together - Young Adults)

"It was just the most amazing day! All the sessions were such fun and so engaging. Hats off to the Soundabout team for their imagination, creativity and really slick production." Parent (I Can Carnival)

"It was SO awesome!! Her best day of the holiday so far." Parent (Sounds Virtual)

In Soundabout practitioner reflections of Oxford Choir participants, practitioners reported enjoyment in 92% of participants who were individually observed over the course of the year.

"He often enthusiastically nods his head and moves his body rhythmically to the music, expressing a lot of joy in this movement. He also smiled and recognised when his ideas and movements were celebrated by leaders." Practitioner (Oxford Choir)

83% of Song Explorer practitioner observations reported 'enjoyment' in participant interactions. The top engagements in this area were 'Smiling', 'Laughing', 'Swaying/Rocking' and 'Vocalising'.

"She smiled in response to things she likes. During our heartbeat song we were looking to do it again and she seemed to lift her head up smiling which suggested she wanted more of the heartbeat sounds." Practitioner (Song Explorers)

Outcome 4: Increasing Self-Expression

Everyone has a right to agency and self-expression. Soundabout techniques provide opportunities to explore that sense of self and provides a creative outlet with Learning Disabled people.

By self-expression we mean being able to participate in creative sound-based activities, to enhance sense of self and others (explored via interactive activities), being able to make choices, and express likes and dislikes.

Our person centred approach means that sessions are co-designed with attendees, following their lead and their choices throughout.

Evidence towards increasing self-expression:

"It's just so uplifting and the way he copies, recognition of sounds and beats, how he claps his hands to the beat, he really loves music and singing, so enjoyable. Just makes the children all so happy, so lovely to see all their smiles. I think it's really beneficial for the children. Literally our highlight of our week. He has got so confident over the weeks." Parent (Sounds Together - Early Years)

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"My son M has been in the choir since the very first session and he's also a graduate emerging leader. He's virtually nonverbal. He's got severe learning difficulties and he's very shy as well. He knows everyone at the choir. He knows what's going to happen. There's no surprises. And he can just be on his own if he wants to and spin about and do whatever he wants. Anyway, Ellen [Soundabout Practitioner] had asked him in one of the sessions if he wanted to take part in a song and help to lead it as part of his graduate emerging leader experience. And we suggested we would but also we knew there was no pressure if he didn't want to on the day. His dad came with us to the rehearsal and this song came up. And before Ellen had said it, he jumped up to go... He took the mic and he just sang and led this song in front of everyone. We were, well we were in shock, he's never done that before. It was so wonderful to see. His father was laughing, through joy and shock... cause he knew that was his song. He sang in his own way and then afterwards, all the practitioners, everyone, was all so excited to come and speak to him and celebrate him. Martin, our [Soundabout Practitioner] instrumentalist came up and said 'Do you know what? He was completely in pitch, he was singing all in pitch.' Everyone thought it was fantastic! The choir and the Emerging Leaders programme has just made such a big impact on him and us, please just continue doing what you're doing." Parent (Choir, Graduate Emerging Leaders)

"I've told anybody for Soundabout, I so enjoy what I do, it's a joy to do it and I say, even though it can be hard, I like to give it go and other people need to realise that anyone that's in a chair needs to give anything a go. Needs to realise who they actually are and just be themselves because a lot of people aren't their selves in any chair. So, in a Soundabout way, it is all about music and you can talk with music, you can sing with music.. you can do anything. I've been to a Soundabout session where you can make music up and I've been one of their online sessions where you have to make a song and being in that way of making is very enjoyable and I think people need to know that you can... I've seen people make music with their mouths and I think how talented they are not using their hands but to move their heads to make music is a brilliant thing because that shows people you can do different things with different technologies..." Participant (Graduate Emerging Leaders)

"Work experience is a lot of fun and enjoyable. Within the work experience I have kept my leading skills and trying new things like the backing track for the new songs. I have learnt new things within the work experience and really enjoyed myself. Like in the past, I would have been really shy. I wouldn't be able to do it, but now that I overcome that knowing it'll be ok, it does help. I never thought I'd be a role model. But it's just amazing." Participant (Graduate Emerging Leaders)

100% of participants who took part in Sounds Together Programmes across England showed evidence of making developments self-expression throughout the project.

"She reached out whilst smiling, took a support workers hand and made a beat by tapping her finger on the fingers of the support worker. She enjoyed playing the wind chimes independently and understood that we were all listening to her solo. She also played sounds using the iPad, looking up and smiling and understanding that we were listening to the sounds she was creating." Practitioner (Sounds Together)

75% of participants in Sounds Sensory Online participants showed evidence of self-expression in Levels 1 & 2 of Sounds of Intent 'Me Framework' (me, my thoughts and feelings). 25% of participants have showed evidence of self-expression in Levels 4 of Sounds of Intent 'Me Framework' (me, my thoughts and feelings). Practitioner (Sounds Sensory Online)

Outcome 5: Promoting Health and Wellbeing

Music, Sound and Silence can support a sense of well-being by engaging in positive, enjoyable activities. We refer to health and wellbeing of our community as any observed/recorded positive impact on physical and mental health. This could refer to direct impacts e.g. on mental health, or in-direct e.g. by emotionally supporting participants while having medical interventions.

Our sessions bring groups together for meaningful activities, reducing isolation and bringing wellbeing through a sense of purpose. Our Sounds Wild provision provides opportunities to connect with nature and reap the benefits of being outdoors.

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REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Evidence towards promoting health and wellbeing:

"It serves as nerves relaxation after spending time at the session. he sleeps soundly. His movement has also improved as he was motivated to do what other children are doing." Parent (Sounds Together - Early Years)

"I swear to God, your sessions should be available in the NHS. They're the best medicine anyone has ever prescribed and the only side effect is pure joy. Your impact in hospital settings is immeasurable. You have made the room safe for Ava when she has felt anything but safe. You've been there for cannulas going in, ECGs, EEGs. You've been there post-surgery, prior to surgery. You've sang to her as she's gone to sleep under the care of an anaesthetist. On many occasions, you didn't even know you were there. But Ava did, and I did, and you made everything feel less terrifying. We weren't alone." Parent (Sounds Virtual and Soundabout Participant Advisory Group)

"I haven't been very well, that's why her carer is here too but I really wanted to come as we rarely get out to places like this and it's done me good too being in the fresh air. She loves the music... and the sensory elements as you can see!" Parent (Sounds Wild)

"Just a quick message of thanks to Soundabout, for T experience at NAIDEX yesterday. He really enjoyed and learned from it. He was also delighted to meet L [Graduate Emerging Leader] in the flesh for the first time. For us [parents] the visit was also instructive in other areas. We got helpful information from exhibitors around helping T get into the workplace... It is hard to express the extent to which T is enriched by his engagement with Soundabout. Thank you again.' Parent (Graduate Emerging Leaders)

In the practitioners reflection reports, practitioners observed improvements in the Health and Wellbeing of 60% of After School Club Participants.

"Even during some of her most poorly or most dystonic days, we have found that attending After School Club can sometimes offer her a respite from her discomfort and allow her to relax for a short while or ease her to sleep." Practitioner (After School Club)

Across all Soundabout programmes, improvements were reported in practitioner reflections around the 'Me & My Body' area of the Sounds of Intent: Me Framework. Most participants were reported to be 'Having a go', achieving or excelling in the Levels 1 & 2 of the framework with a particular focus on movement.

Review of Strategic Aims

This section reviews progress towards Soundabout's 4 Strategic Aims for 'Soundabout Build' our strategy and business plan for 2023-27. Each strategic aim has related objectives to help achieve the aim and we've shared highlights below to demonstrate progress towards these aims.

Strategic Aim 1: To become the 'go to' charity within our specialism in England and Wales, by creating consistently high-quality musical opportunities with our participants facilitated by a diverse team of expert music practitioners.

Soundabout's geographical reach continues to widen through Sounds Together programmes and Associate Choirs in areas such as Devon, Kent, and the North West. While good progress is being made, there are many more possible areas of the country that might benefit from in-person Soundabout opportunities. In the interim, Soundabout continues to reach wider networks of Learning Disabled people indirectly through the training and mentoring of parents, carers, and professionals who support them. In the last year Soundabout supported 1,159 Parents and Carers and 723 Professionals were supported via public training programmes, training projects with schools and other organisations, mentoring programmes, and reflective sharing sessions, as well as through informal practice modelling during music making sessions. Many of the 1,882 parents, carers, and professionals trained by Soundabout support more than one Learning Disabled person.

SOUNABOUT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Soundabout's commitment to ensuring the highest quality of delivery was supported by 'Soundabout Grow', our Youth Music funded workforce development programme. Year 2 of the 3 year programme saw the implementation of a new and bespoke Quality Assurance Framework designed using feedback from our community. 25 peer observation visits were undertaken by practitioners and staff across virtual and in-person provision ensuring consistency and quality of delivery. As part of the programme, 5 open agenda peer support sessions offered space for peer discussion and reflection around any specific topics or concerns related to their practice. In addition, 6 practitioner training days saw our commitment to best practice enhanced by external experts in areas such as intensive interaction, non-verbal communication, Makaton signing, and mental health with Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities.

"I've really noticed the paid training opportunities provided by Soundabout grow and I really am grateful. The ones I've been able to attend have been so helpful and inspiring, thank you!" Practitioner

Data from practitioner self-evaluation includes; 80% selected "overall, I have felt satisfied in my work at Soundabout", 100% selected "I feel like my work is valued and my voice is heard".

Soundabout's Emerging Leaders and Graduate Emerging Leaders programmes continued to develop Learning Disabled young people who are interested in careers in the sector, while also diversifying the workforce. The young leaders have been informing organisational development and bring a wealth of creative thinking to Soundabout. Cohort 3 (autumn 2023 to summer 2024) completed their course with all 10 Emerging Leaders successfully achieving Bronze Arts Awards through Trinity College London, gaining formal accreditation and UCAS points. Targets for Graduate Emerging Leader work placements were exceeded with 180 placements undertaken during the year, an 176% increase from the previous year. Placements were bespoke to the young leader's choices and goals, including video production, sounds together project assistant, group facilitation, choir leading, graphic design, concert hosting, signing video production, DJ, presenting, audio recording.

Strategic Aim 2: To further understand and demonstrate the value of our work by developing the way we measure impact.

Throughout the year the team have worked hard to continue implementing Soundabout's evaluation framework which captures data against the five core outcomes we reported on in the previous section of this report. The use of the Sounds of Intent Framework and the Sounds of Intent Me Framework (demonstrated above) has supported the capture of quantitative data across some outcomes, however we are still experimenting with other meaningful ways of capturing and measuring progress outside of observations and quotes. Alongside our outcomes evaluation, the Soundabout Participant Advisory Group, Emerging Leaders, and Graduate Emerging Leaders, have been pivotal in offering their feedback into decision making at every level. Accessibility measures to support participant voice have been experimented with such as video and audio recording responses as well as incorporating interactive music making in focus group sessions to encourage contributions. Work in this area is contributing to a greater understanding of the impact of our work and a robustness to our practices.

An example of the Sounds of Intent Framework in action from a report to the Lightbulb Trust in July 2024:

Measuring against a Framework: Sounds of Intent

To measure outcomes more effectively, Soundabout has implemented the Sounds of Intent Framework into practitioner practice and feedback forms. Sounds of Intent focusses on three key musical areas of development which permeates into wider areas of personal development, these areas are: 'Reactive' listening and responding to sounds and music, 'Proactive' making sounds, singing and playing alone, and 'Interactive' making sounds and music with other people.

In this example the SOI Framework was used to explore the following specific project outcome: 'Develop inclusive musical communities that reduce isolation of profoundly Disabled people.' We used observations of progress made in the interactive area of the framework. An increase in progress made in interactivity would translate into wider development such as being able to listen to and respond to others and therefore forming connections with the wider community and reducing feelings of isolation.

SOUNABOUT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Sounds of Intent identifies six levels of musical engagement that occur sequentially in human development. Neurotypical age of occurrence, together with the levels of Neurodiversity likely to be associated with each form of musical engagement in older children, young people and adults, is compared with associated level of disability. For example, Level 1 'learning to hear' which in neurotypical occurrence would be prior to three months before birth and relates to those with the most profound learning disabilities.

In the interactivity area of the framework, the six levels of interactive progress descriptors are as follows:

1. Relates unwittingly through sound.
2. Interacts with others using sound.
3. Copies others' sounds and/or is aware of own sounds being copied.
4. Engages in musical dialogues using motifs.
5. Performs and/or improvises short and simple pieces of music with other people which may increase in complexity over time.
6. Performs and/or improvises music of increasing sophistication expressively with other people.

Each descriptor pertains to one of three sub-levels of engagement: 'having a go', 'got it!' (which for the purpose of the report we have called 'consistently achieving') and 'taking things further'. Once a participant is consistently achieving at a particular element, they can take things further and 'excel' within that area.

Example Case Study:

As an organisation we are particularly focussed on supporting participants to access and progress between levels 2 - 4. Using the practitioner evaluations from Sounds Together Touchbase Pears we are able to see how the Sounds Together sessions directly impact progress made by participants against the Sounds of Intent Framework with evaluations being measured at the beginning middle and end of the project.

J's Progress against the Sounds of Intent Framework (Levels 2 - 4)

Please note: areas of progress from start to the end of the project are highlighted in bold.

Sounds of Intent Levels of Interactivity	Start of Project	Midway of Project	End of Project
L2 Interacts with others using sound	Consistently Achieving	Taking it Further	Taking it Further
L3 Copies others' sounds and/or is aware of own sounds being copied	Having a Go	Consistently Achieving	Taking it Further
L4 Engages in musical dialogues using motifs	No Evidence	No Evidence	Having a Go

As seen in the above example, J made progress across three levels of the Sounds of Intent framework specifically in the area of interactivity across the 12-week project. By showing evidence of interacting using sound, being aware of others using sound, and beginning to engage in musical dialogues, it gives J the skills and outlet to express himself and connect with others.

Example of practitioner comments in relation to interactivity progress of J during the sessions:

'J was smiling and shrieking, turning his head towards sounds and familiar people making sounds to him/copying him.'

'J was happy and confident to engage with both myself and Emily [Soundabout Practitioner], resting hand on drum as we tap it and singing into microphone.'

'J sang an ah sound responding quickly and rhythmically to Emily [Soundabout Practitioner] in a call and response manner'

SOUNABOUT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Strategic Aim 3. Build Soundabout's resilience and sustainability by diversifying income streams, enabling the organisation to evolve within the landscape we operate in.

Soundabout continued to focus fundraising efforts on unrestricted income, in multi-year form where possible, and from a diverse range of sources. This approach has been working well, with multi-year grants secured for unrestricted income, choirs, volunteering, and emerging leaders from The National Lottery Reaching Communities England Fund, The Lightbulb Trust, and St James's Place Charitable Foundation.

Currently fundraising responsibilities lie with the Chief Executive Officer and a freelance Trusts and Foundations fundraiser who works for the charity 2 days per month. Soundabout sourced funding to bring additional fundraising support for 2 days per week from September 2024 - March 2025. This gave a boost to the charity's community and events fundraising work, with the production of many resources. Additional fundraising capacity is being worked towards to further develop and diversify Soundabout's fundraising and income generation.

New areas of fundraising have started to be trialled such as legacy fundraising. During this period Soundabout signed up to the National Free Wills Network and is now able to offer supporters the opportunity to write their will for free in the hope that they leave a gift to Soundabout once they have sorted their loved ones. Donor stewardship is an ongoing area of development for Soundabout. The charity's Sparkle with Soundabout 'Light' campaign in the winter of 2024 included a Christmas Big Give appeal which introduced new donors to Soundabout and encouraged higher donations from previous donors. We continue to build on the work above modestly while looking at ways to increase capacity in this area.

In early 2025 Soundabout underwent a recruitment drive for 3 staff team roles; Administrator (due to a staff member moving on), Marketing & Communications Officer (new post, repurposing some of the previous Administrator's duties), and a Volunteer Co-ordinator (new post, fully funded by the National Lottery grant). This recruitment drive was incredibly successful with 1,074 applications across the roles. The Marketing and Communications Officer started the role in May, outside of this reporting period, and is already enhancing fundraising and income generation efforts.

We are incredibly grateful to all our supporters and have listed below, with thanks, the Trusts and Foundations who gave over £5,000:

Baily Thomas Charitable Trust
EBM Charitable Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation
Golden Bottle Trust
Heart of England Inclusive Communities Fund
MacFarlane Family Foundation
MariaMarina Foundation
Morgan Blake Charitable Trust
National Lottery Reaching Communities Fund and Awards For All
St James's Place Charitable Foundation
The Charles Plater Trust
The Promenaders Musical Charity
The Thomas Curtis Foundation
Youth Music

Strategic Aim 4: Grow Soundabout's professional, personal, and cultural profile.

Over the past year we have worked hard to grow our profile among organisations within the music sector, the arts sector more widely, as well as the health and social care sector. Most of our efforts have been building connections in the local areas surrounding our in-person delivery, creating tangible signposting opportunities and raising awareness of our work among potential recipients and supporters. We worked with 61 partners across the year including 24 from our choir network.

SOUNABOUT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Media coverage has been limited due to staff capacity relating to changes among the Soundabout team and reduced capacity due to the workload of recruitment. Press coverage included Graduate Emerging Leaders being interviewed live and the 'Shine a Light' original composition being aired on BBC Radio West Midlands, alongside Sounds Wild articles featuring in NHS publications. Engagement with Soundabout social media channels has increased for example views on the Soundabout YouTube channel increased by 18% to 48,138, and Facebook followers has increased by 4% to 5,513.

Recruitment of a Marketing and Communications Officer has been the main significant development towards this aim. This is a completely new post and it will provide capacity and expertise in this area which should significantly support the growth of Soundabout's profile. The recruitment of a Volunteer Co-ordinator will also help to boost Soundabout's profile. This is also a brand new role for the organisation and will allow us to launch a programme that reaches out to new potential supporters offering chances to engage with the organisation in a more bespoke and meaningful way than we have previously been able to offer. We hope that the recruitment of new volunteers will create a pool of engaged people who can advocate for the charity and raise awareness in their communities and networks, complementing the charity's current small scale champions programme.

Finally, to grow our profile we committed to finding and creating platforms for our participants to perform or share their music, achievements, and stories in meaningful ways. Events and performances included the Tewkesbury Big Weekend, Chalkhouse Green Farm Open Gardens, Soundabout concerts in Wiltshire and Oxford, plus a joint workshop with the National Children's Choir of Great Britain at their spring residential course. The Soundabout Choirs recorded and released 6 music videos, including composing a brand new original song called 'Shine a Light'. Collectively the 6 music videos have been viewed 5,584 times on YouTube.

Financial Review

Soundabout continued to raise sufficient funds to deliver our core projects and services despite a backdrop of high competition for funding and the increased cost of living. The charity's income increased from the previous financial year by £137k driven by increased grants and donations raised from Trusts and Foundations. Income highlights include new project funding of £216,556 over 3 years from the National Lottery Community Fund, continuation funding of £75,000 from the MariaMarina Foundation, £31,250 from The MacFarlane Family Foundation for our community projects and £20,000 each from EBM Charitable Trust and Garfield Weston for our core work. The charity has also spent time in the year developing relationships with new trusts and fundraisers, holding showcasing events and meetings.

Expenditure grew by £50k reflecting the increase in project activity and service delivery resulting from the rise in income.

Looking to the future the charity aims to continue diversifying income streams and prioritising multi-year support. Areas of development include earned income, individual giving, legacies, and community fundraising. The charity aims to continue stabilising finances in preparation to design an ambitious strategy which will be launched in the 2027 aligning with Soundabout's 30th anniversary.

Reserves Policy

Under the charity's reserve policy, the Trustees have resolved that the upper limit for unrestricted funds should be set at approximately 3 months staff salaries and core costs (£75,699). Current unrestricted reserves are £62,740. The charity aims to increase its unrestricted reserves to their upper limit over the next 2 years.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

SOUNABOUT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Trustees are recruited openly, with the role advertised publicly inviting applications from a diverse range of applicants. Applicants are shortlisted and interviewed by a panel of Trustees and Soundabout's CEO. The panel then take their recommendation to the full board of Trustees at a general meeting or annual general meeting who vote to appoint the new Trustees. The Articles of Association provide that one-third of the board shall retire from office at each annual general meeting. The Articles allow retiring directors to be eligible for re-election. At the meeting at which a director retires the Articles allow the board to appoint a new director in place of the retiring director.

A chair is elected by the Trustees who will then determine how long the chair will hold office.

The trustees in the form of the Board of Management are responsible for the overall strategic development and control of the charity's activities. Sub-committees may also exist to deal with various issues. Day to day operational management of the charity is delegated by the trustees to Soundabout staff.

During this financial year the Chief Executive Officer remained as Holly Radford-James and the Finance Manager remained as Fiona Kellett.

Risk management

The Trustees have conducted a review of the risks to the charity and maintain a risk register with mitigation in place to reduce those risks. The risk register is reviewed and updated regularly.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on24th September 2025..... and signed on its behalf by:



.....
M Hartley - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SOUNDABOUT

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Soundabout ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2025.

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 Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, 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.



D R Kerins FCCA

Ad Valorem Accountancy Services Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
2 Manor Farm Court
Old Wolverton Road
Old Wolverton
Buckinghamshire
MK12 5NN

Date: 30/9/2025

SOUNDBABOUT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		18,658	-	18,658	27,008
Charitable activities					
Restricted Funds		-	350,078	350,078	245,357
Unrestricted funds		73,809	-	73,809	43,605
Other trading activities	3	41,698	-	41,698	32,001
Investment income	4	5,534	-	5,534	4,402
Total		<u>139,699</u>	<u>350,078</u>	<u>489,777</u>	<u>352,373</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		7,458	-	7,458	7,200
Charitable activities					
Restricted Funds		-	312,915	312,915	291,705
Unrestricted funds		125,269	-	125,269	96,463
Total		<u>132,727</u>	<u>312,915</u>	<u>445,642</u>	<u>395,368</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		6,972	37,163	44,135	(42,995)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		55,768	86,349	142,117	185,112
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>62,740</u></u>	<u><u>123,512</u></u>	<u><u>186,252</u></u>	<u><u>142,117</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

SOUNDBABOUT

BALANCE SHEET 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2025 Total funds £	2024 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	10	2,073	-	2,073	4,850
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	11	1,235	-	1,235	1,293
Debtors	12	21,326	-	21,326	6,596
Cash at bank		48,812	123,512	172,324	143,332
		<u>71,373</u>	<u>123,512</u>	<u>194,885</u>	<u>151,221</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(10,706)	-	(10,706)	(13,954)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>60,667</u>	<u>123,512</u>	<u>184,179</u>	<u>137,267</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>62,740</u>	<u>123,512</u>	<u>186,252</u>	<u>142,117</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>62,740</u>	<u>123,512</u>	<u>186,252</u>	<u>142,117</u>
FUNDS					
	14				
Unrestricted funds				62,740	55,768
Restricted funds				123,512	86,349
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>186,252</u>	<u>142,117</u>

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025 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.

The notes form part of these financial statements

SOUNDBABOUT

BALANCE SHEET - continued
31 MARCH 2025

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 24th September 2025 and were signed on its behalf by:



.....
M Hartley - Trustee

SOUNABOUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Soundabout is a private limited company, limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales. The company's registered number and registered office can be found on the company information page. The presentation of the financial statements is in pound sterling (£).

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

ACCOUNTING CONVENTION

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.

INCOMING RESOURCES / TURNOVER

Income has been recognised on the following basis:

- Donations and grants are generally recognised when received.
- Invoiced income is accrued monthly.
- Interest income is recognised on receipt.

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis.

Allocation of expenditure

Salary and related staff costs are directly allocated to a charitable activity or other resources expended heading on the basis of time spent. The charity distinguishes between overhead costs in support of its charitable work, for example course administration, marketing and training equipment, and general administration costs. Both categories of overheads are allocated to fundraising, charitable activity and governance costs based on the amount of direct expenditure incurred.

AMORTISATION OF INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Amortisation is calculated to write off the cost of intangible fixed assets on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives at the following rate :

Website and software : Straight line 3 years

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

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

Plant and machinery	- 33% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- 33% on cost

STOCKS

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

TAXATION

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

FUND ACCOUNTING

Funds held by the charity are:

SOUNABOUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees. Income is recognised as unrestricted income when the charity becomes entitled to the income as a result of activities already performed and any pre-conditions have been met. Where this is not the case the income is deferred and not included in incoming resources until the activities have been performed.

Designated funds - these comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the Trustees Report; any movements are in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds - these are funds that 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. The Trustees monitor and discuss the restricted funds at meetings to ensure the restricted expenditure is allocated accordingly.

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2025	2024
	£	£
Other trading/fundraising activities	41,698	32,001

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2025	2024
	£	£
Investments	5,534	4,402

5. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

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

	2025	2024
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	2,777	2,679

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2025 nor for the year ended 31 March 2024.

TRUSTEES' EXPENSES

£94 (2024 - £nil) was paid to 3 Trustees for expenses incurred during the year.

SOUNABOUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

7. STAFF COSTS

No member of staff earned more than £60,000 a year.

The average number of employees during the year was 11 (2024 - 14).

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	27,008	-	27,008
Charitable activities			
Restricted Funds	-	245,357	245,357
Unrestricted funds	43,605	-	43,605
Other trading activities	32,001	-	32,001
Investment income	4,402	-	4,402
Total	<u>107,016</u>	<u>245,357</u>	<u>352,373</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	7,200	-	7,200
Charitable activities			
Restricted Funds	-	291,705	291,705
Unrestricted funds	96,463	-	96,463
Total	<u>103,663</u>	<u>291,705</u>	<u>395,368</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)	3,353	(46,348)	(42,995)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	52,415	132,697	185,112
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>55,768</u>	<u>86,349</u>	<u>142,117</u>

SOUNABOUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Website Costs £
COST	
At 1 April 2024	27,007
Disposals	(27,007)
	<u> </u>
At 31 March 2025	-
	<u> </u>
AMORTISATION	
At 1 April 2024	27,007
Eliminated on disposal	(27,007)
	<u> </u>
At 31 March 2025	-
	<u> </u>
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2025	-
	<u> </u>
At 31 March 2024	-
	<u> </u>

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	34,622	17,874	52,496
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2024	32,722	14,924	47,646
Charge for year	1,554	1,223	2,777
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
At 31 March 2025	34,276	16,147	50,423
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2025	346	1,727	2,073
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
At 31 March 2024	1,900	2,950	4,850
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

11. STOCKS

	2025 £	2024 £
Stock	1,235	1,293
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

SOUNDBABOUT

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Trade debtors	18,884	4,096
Prepayments and accrued income	2,442	2,500
	<u>21,326</u>	<u>6,596</u>

13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025	2024
	£	£
Social security and other taxes	4,161	4,849
Accrued expenses	6,545	9,105
	<u>10,706</u>	<u>13,954</u>

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

	At 1/4/24	Net movement in funds	At 31/3/25
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted funds	55,768	6,972	62,740
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	86,349	37,163	123,512
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>142,117</u>	<u>44,135</u>	<u>186,252</u>

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

	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Movement in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted funds	139,699	(132,727)	6,972
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	350,078	(312,915)	37,163
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>489,777</u>	<u>(445,642)</u>	<u>44,135</u>

SOUNDBOUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/23 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/24 £
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted funds	52,415	3,353	55,768
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	132,697	(46,348)	86,349
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>185,112</u>	<u>(42,995)</u>	<u>142,117</u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted funds	107,016	(103,663)	3,353
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	245,357	(291,705)	(46,348)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>352,373</u>	<u>(395,368)</u>	<u>(42,995)</u>

15. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There have been no related party transactions in the year.

SOUNABOUT

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025**

16. SUMMARY OF FUND MOVEMENTS

	Funds 31.03.24	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Funds at 31.03.25
Restricted Income Funds					
Youth Music	14,189	66,083	74,909		5,363
Community Programme	5,520	71,514	61,382		15,652
Soundabout Choirs	18,841	70,076	56,228		32,689
Emergency Fund	123	-	-		123
Emerging Leaders	3,562	20,000	5,792		17,770
Sounds Wild	20,470	10,025	16,276		14,219
Sounds Sensory	165	-	165		-
Family Support	10,401	75,000	49,535		35,866
Sounds Together / Lightbulb Community Commissioned Work	9,331 (25)	- 22,715	9,331 21,907		- 783
Associate Choirs	3,716	14,095	16,954		857
Training	-	570	436		134
Schools Music Making	56	-	-		56
Total restricted funds	86,349	350,078	312,915		123,512
Unrestricted income funds					
Unrestricted income funds	55,768	139,699	132,727		62,740
Total charity funds	142,117	489,777	445,642		186,252

SOUNABOUT

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	18,658	27,008
Other trading activities		
Fundraising events	17,291	23,865
Other trading activities	24,407	8,136
	<u>41,698</u>	<u>32,001</u>
Investment income		
Investments	5,534	4,402
Charitable activities		
Charitable activities	423,887	288,962
Total incoming resources	<u>489,777</u>	<u>352,373</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Raising funds	7,458	7,200
Charitable activities		
Wages	190,135	189,219
Social security	12,125	10,891
Pensions	4,614	4,483
Hire of plant and machinery	-	3,150
Rates and water	4,895	10,492
Insurance	2,275	2,507
Practitioner fees	167,351	126,177
Telephone	1,858	994
Postage and stationery	3,456	789
Advertising	2,670	-
Sundries	46,028	36,788
Plant and machinery	1,554	2,001
Fixtures and fittings	1,223	677
	<u>438,184</u>	<u>388,168</u>
Total resources expended	<u>445,642</u>	<u>395,368</u>
Net income/(expenditure)	<u><u>44,135</u></u>	<u><u>(42,995)</u></u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

SOUNABOUT

England & Wales - Charity number 1103002

Accounts

REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER: 05023067 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER: 1103002

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES AND
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024
FOR
SOUNABOUT

Ad Valorem Accountancy Services Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
2 Manor Farm Court
Old Wolverton Road
Old Wolverton
Buckinghamshire
MK12 5NN

SOUNDBOUT

CONTENTS OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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SOUNDBOUT

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

TRUSTEES	S J Claridge (resigned 10/7/2024) Y Dattani (resigned 3/9/2024) M Hartley K Ungerer E Newsome (resigned 10/7/2024) C Thomson B Weston-Conway E Nunns (appointed 1/5/2023) C W Yuen (appointed 1/6/2023) H Chandler (appointed 17/7/2024) B Travis (appointed 17/7/2024) J Baird (appointed 17/7/2024)
REGISTERED OFFICE	John Eccles House Robert Robinson Avenue Oxford Oxfordshire OX4 4GP
REGISTERED COMPANY NUMBER	05023067 (England and Wales)
REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER	1103002
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Ad Valorem Accountancy Services Limited Chartered Certified Accountants 2 Manor Farm Court Old Wolverton Road Old Wolverton Buckinghamshire MK12 5NN
BANKERS	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ Charity Bank Limited Fosse House 182 High Street Tonbridge TN9 1BE

SOUNABOUT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

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

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Public benefit

Charitable objects as per the Memorandum and Articles of Association:

To provide relief to people with severe learning difficulties and physical difficulties by the provision of interactive music making sessions.

Vision: A world where everyone can access and experience music.

Mission: Soundabout uses music, sound, and silence to create opportunities where learning Disabled people with complex support needs thrive.

Values

Kind: We are kind, friendly, and supportive to everyone.

Person-Centred: We celebrate each person; creating sound and music together.

Inclusive: we work hard to create welcoming and accessible spaces.

Aspirational: We use our energy to learn and aim for the best for everyone, while being curious, fun, and creative.

We are working to our strategic business plan 'Soundabout Build' which runs until 2027 and focuses on consolidation and stabilisation of offer, team, and finances, and preparing for the future. We want to build on expertise, knowledge, and learning, while creating new opportunities, innovation, and trailblazing in best practice in the field. We want to ensure that our offer is excellent in all ways, that we can keep Soundabout running robustly and sustainably, that we set ourselves up to grow in the future, and that we lead the sector by sharing our learning. This includes a range of activities listed below under the 'Our programmes' section.

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, we can confirm that the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and are confident that the work of the charity falls in line with the guidance.

SOUNABOUT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Soundabout Community Introduction

We asked the Soundabout community 'What does Soundabout mean to you?'. The Soundabout Participant Advisory Group felt that the responses from our community would make a fitting introduction to the 2023-24 Annual Report:

Magic; Happy; Life Affirming; Flowing; Success; Smiles; Joyous; Fun; Fabulous; Joy; Universal; Smiles; Communiscate; Magical; Community; Hope; Inclusive; Amazing; Happiness; Welcome; Brilliant; Uplifting; Love.

Chair & CEO Introduction

We'd like to thank the Soundabout-ers and our wonderful Participant Advisory Group for creating such a fitting opening to the 2023-24 Annual Report. We've been working hard to ensure creative, accessible, and musical ways for the Soundabout community to feed into decision making at every level of the organisation; living and breathing our 'person centred' value.

In September 2023 we launched 'Soundabout Build', our three year strategy to help lay the foundations for long-term growth and sustainability of Soundabout, enabling us to continue doing what we do best - developing exciting music making opportunities alongside incredibly creative Learning Disabled people with complex support needs.

The year has been full of incredible achievements, too many to mention in this foreword, so we would like to take the opportunity to highlight the dramatic progress of a programme that has shaped our thinking and culture as an organisation deeply this year. In September we welcomed our third cohort of Learning Disabled young people to the year-long accredited Emerging Leaders course. We also rolled out a graduate work placement programme that saw young people undertake 65 bespoke placements. The graduates have enhanced the Soundabout workforce immeasurably and we are incredibly proud to be leading the development of inclusive career pathways with Learning Disabled people in music.

This report will spotlight a selection of highlights from the year related to our strategic aims and newly identified core outcomes for the Learning Disabled people we support, communication, self-expression, connectedness, health and wellbeing, and enjoyment. This report is a celebration of the wonderful time, energy, passion, and generosity so willingly offered to Soundabout by the staff team, practitioners, volunteers, trustees, supporters, funders, and families. Thank you to all of you.

Thank You

Soundabout's Chair of Trustees, Emily Newsome, has steadfastly led the organisation as Chair, so generously volunteering an incredible amount of time, energy, passion, and determination. Emily joined Soundabout's board through a young trustee scheme in March 2019 and courageously stepped into the chair position at a time when the role was unexpectedly vacant. Emily has dedicated an incredible amount of time behind the scenes to support Soundabout, always leading with deep kindness, care, and thoughtfulness, taking time to listen to others, while always working in the very best interests of the charity. Emily is due to step down as a Trustee in July 2024, and we would like to thank Emily for everything she has contributed to Soundabout. We wish Emily the very best in her future endeavours.

SOUNABOUT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

About Soundabout and our community

We are Soundabout - the nation's specialist Learning Disability music charity

Soundabout utilises the power of music, sound, and silence to make a difference to the lives of Learning Disabled people of all ages, and with complex support needs. Helping every individual to develop their ability to communicate and interact with the world around them in welcoming and accessible spaces both in-person and online.

With twenty eight years' experience, Soundabout supports around 1,500 participants per year by organising over 900 interactive music making sessions. Equally importantly, Soundabout provides training for families, carers, professionals, and partner organisations enabling them to integrate the benefits of Soundabout's immersive music making programmes into the daily lives of the Learning Disabled people they support.

Soundabout Community

At Soundabout, we use the term 'Learning Disabled people with complex support needs' to describe the people we work alongside because, having consulted with Soundabout families and Disabled people, we have found this term to be most aligned with the social model of disability (the understanding that disability is something created by barriers in society). At the same time, we also respect that individuals may choose to identify differently, and that care and education sectors may use 'Profound and Multiple Learning Disabilities' (PMLD).

There are:

- 1.3 million Learning Disabled people in England
- 20,000 Learning Disabled adults and 10,000 Learning Disabled children with complex support needs.
- Only 5.1% of Learning Disabled adults are in paid work.

Barriers often faced by individuals in the Soundabout community include:

- More than one disability, including a physical disability
- Requiring those who know them well to interpret communication
- Complex physical and mental health needs
- Inaccessible career, leisure, and art/cultural opportunities
- Isolation and poor visibility in society

Our Vision: A world where everyone can access and experience music.

Our Mission: Soundabout uses music, sound, and silence to create opportunities where learning Disabled people with complex support needs thrive.

Our Values:

Kind: We are kind, friendly, and supportive to everyone.

Person-Centred: We celebrate each person; creating sound and music together.

Inclusive: we work hard to create welcoming and accessible spaces.

Aspirational: We use our energy to learn and aim for the best for everyone, while being curious, fun, and creative.

To achieve our mission, we focus on 4 key outcomes for the Learning Disabled people we support: Improving Connectedness; Developing Communication; Encouraging Enjoyment; Increasing Self-Expression.

SOUNABOUT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

We also focus on 4 key strategic aims to help Soundabout build from strength to strength: High quality delivery from a diverse practitioner team; Developing our impact measurement; Build sustainability by diversifying income; Grow Soundabout's profile.

To understand the difference we make, we measure our impact by collecting data from our projects and talking to the people who take part. We are proud to share insights into our services and the impact they have. We need music now more than ever - let us show you how music changes lives.

Our Programmes

Soundabout Choirs: a national network bringing Learning Disabled people of all ages and their local communities together to share their voices in ways accessible to them.

Sounds Virtual: online music-making sessions accessible live and on demand, meaning members can join from home, hospices, hospitals, day centres, and school!

Sounds Sensory: projects transforming schools and community spaces into themed immersive multi-sensory environments that engage all the senses.

Sounds Wild: innovative music-making sessions in inspiring outdoor spaces using a Forest School approach to access the many benefits of connecting with nature.

Sounds Together: face-to-face community music making sessions with small groups of Learning Disabled people where they design the project!

Training: families, carers, professionals, and partner organisations to use Soundabout techniques in the daily lives of the Learning Disabled people they support.

Emerging Leaders and Graduates: accredited course and placements supporting Learning Disabled people to enhance leadership skills and confidence will preparing to become music practitioners.

Timeline & Our Year in Numbers

Key Dates between April 2023-March 2024

- April - First Joint Workshop with National Children's Choir of Great Britain
- May - Sounds Together community programmes launched
- June - Performances and fundraising at Chalkhouse Green Farm Open Gardens
- July - Parallel Windsor Challenge Event
- August - Emerging Leaders Graduation
- September - Choir performances at Great Barn Festival
- October - Soundabout feature in London Science Museum Exhibition Launch
- November - First Soundabout Family Support Roadshow Event
- December - Sparkle with Soundabout Campaign and Events
- January - Moveabout Campaign started
- February - Finalists in 2 categories at the Music and Drama Education Awards
- March - Sounds Sensory 'Trip to the Bazaar' tour of West Midlands

Overview in Numbers for April 2023-March 2024

- 962 Sessions
- 3,341 Total Attendees
- 1,576 Learning Disabled Participants
- 753 Parents / Carers
- 890 Professionals
- 40,775 YouTube Views

SOUNABOUT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

- 65 Graduate Emerging Leader Work Placements
- 100% Arts Award Qualification Success Rate

Outcomes Review

This section reviews Soundabout's progress towards the 5 main outcomes we aim to achieve with Learning Disabled people. We have provided data from a range of sources as evidence of progress towards each outcome.

Outcome 1: Improving Connectedness

Soundabout music making opportunities are group opportunities that enable Learning Disabled people with complex support needs to build positive relationships with their peers, parents and carers, and wider communities. Soundabout activities build strong networks and friendships that forge a sense of belonging. We use our national platform to showcase our community's talents and to shine a light on their experiences.

Evidence towards improving connectedness:

"It allowed her to be with her peers and a chance to make friends. Opportunities like this she does not get as there is not many places and people she can be around as she is profoundly Disabled, we have found it very, very hard for her to access people and places...This is the one place where she is just able to be her, despite what's going on with her health and her needs...she is part of a community, everybody knows her, she understands who's there...Everyone just understands her...that's the most important thing." **(Parent, Sounds Together)**

"We really have just had the best day! A's been unwell for weeks. She's missed the last 2 1/2 weeks at school and has missed all her Christmas parties and events and we've just felt really isolated and overwhelmed the last few days. Last night she had a huge seizure and was left looking so broken. I thought today would be a write off. Today we tentatively woke her and took things very slowly in the hope she might manage something but was worried the seizures would return and wipe her out again. As soon as she heard Phil's voice, it was like a little re-set button was hit. She had been so sad before, but it instantly lifted her, and we've rolled with it all day! It's just felt like the best Christmas party, that's made up for everything she's missed, and we've not had the hassle of worrying about travel or changing places. You've been everything A needed and more! Thanks to everyone for continuing to make us feel seen, for continuing to champion the most vulnerable and for never leaving anyone behind. We've cried happy tears tonight after having the best day with A's online friends and a team that feel like family." **(Parent, Sounds Virtual)**

"All too often we are unable to participate in events and activities, but we feel part of something with Soundabout and it helps us feel less isolated." **(Parent, Soundabout Choirs and Song Explorers)**

"My fact about emerging leaders is meeting friends." **(Young Participant, Emerging Leaders)**

As part of our efforts to improve connectedness within the community and externally, we have supported learning Disabled musicians in Soundabout choirs to release 6 public music videos which have been view 4,500 times, and to perform to audiences across the country.

100% of Song Explorer participants showed some form of progress against the Interactive area of the Sounds of Intent Framework from September 2023 - June 2024 by:

1. Interacting with others using sound.
2. Interacting through imitating others' sounds or through recognising self being imitated.
3. Engaging in dialogues using distinct groups of musical sounds.

SOUNABOUT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Outcome 2: Developing Communication

Soundabout uses music, sound, and silence as tools to explore and enhance communication with and between learning Disabled people and the communities around them. Communication might be through vocalising or non-verbal e.g. facial expressions or gestures.

Our sessions allow plenty of space and time to explore communication and interactions, along with allowing space for silence and processing time. We work closely with learning Disabled people and their close supporters to learn their communication styles and follow their lead. We also support parents, carers, and professionals to learn how to interact and communicate musically so they can continue this outside of sessions.

Evidence towards developing communication:

"It's guided me on how we can do things together, interact together. It's just made us closer. It makes me notice things about Lydia, her expressions, and the noises she makes. Her clucking is a happy noise. It helps me focus. I think I've got to know her more. She's 14 now and I know her better now since doing Soundabout with her than I've ever known her." **(Parent, Song Explorers)**

"I think really early on when we were told she was blind, I found it hard to come to terms with what is she going to enjoy and how can we play with her... I searched during lockdown and stumbled across Soundabout and we joined the choir... Music soothes her and then we saw how much she would enjoy simple sounds. As she has got older, it's really helped her speech and so her communication has really come on from using lots of songs and sounds. We now play lots with our voices at home... in choir, she picks up songs really quickly, which has really helped with vocabulary." **(Parent, Choir)**

"As the project developed, we felt O's became more confident in his communication and began to vocalise more around choice making and interaction, and he also made more and more eye contact with both practitioners." **(Carer, Sounds Together)**

50% of participants across Afterschool Club and Song Explorers made progress against the Sounds of Intent: Me Framework, particularly 'Me, You & Other People' communicative elements of the framework between June 2023 & June 2024.

Sounds Together Henley Example

Soundabout Practitioners are also asked to share any observations around participant's communication during Sounds Together sessions. 'Communication' covers a wide range of aspects including vocalisations, eye contact, body language, facial expressions etc. Practitioners mark against each participant from the start to the end of the project when they evidence any form of communication.

71% of participants showed progress across the different areas of communication from the start of Sounds Together Henley to the end.

Parent/Carer Communication

Parents, carers, and other professionals are present at all Soundabout sessions and so we introduce them to tools and techniques to enhance their musical communication skills on a regular basis. This year we supported 753 Parents / Carers and 890 Professionals to develop musical communication skills that they can use during and outside of Soundabout sessions.

Parent/Carer Tower Hamlets Roadshow Example

This year the Family Support Co-ordinator introduced a roadshow where they visit different locations and groups of people to offer support, guidance, and to signpost to Soundabout resources and opportunities. The Family Support Co-ordinator visited a group of 20 parent/carers of Disabled children from across Tower Hamlets at Phoenix School and provided training on the use of Soundabout resources.

SOUNABOUT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Following the training:

- 86% felt confident in using Soundabout resources for musical interaction after the workshop
- 100% found the workshop useful in learning new ways to interact musically

Outcome 3: Encouraging Enjoyment

Being playful with music and sound is a big part of the Soundabout ethos, resulting in increased feelings of enjoyment. The atmosphere of our sessions is relaxed and fun with playful interactions being at the heart of our delivery. We aim to encourage everyone to enjoy music making at our sessions showing delight through laughing, smiling, indicating for 'more' and returning to Soundabout sessions.

Evidence towards encouraging enjoyment:

"I should just congratulate everyone involved in the most brilliant, life-affirming concert we have ever, ever been to! We had such an amazing time last evening! It was so wonderful to meet musicians from totally different worlds to our own! My goodness it was so joyous! M got so much out of it. He's on a real high. Three of his support assistants from his day centre came to watch and they were blown away by all of it. They absolutely loved to see M shine... Thank you for all the thought and care you took into organising and arranging it. We all felt so comfortable and happy, and it was lovely to meet other parents and carers face to face ...Thanks again." **(Parent, Oxford and Beyond Choir)**

"He had such a good day yesterday and his party was great fun. We all really enjoyed it, and it was so very special to be able to celebrate A's birthday with friends and family in a way that was suitable for A. A hasn't had a birthday party since he was 2 years old. I truly don't know what we would have done and how we would have marked the occasion if we hadn't been a part of Soundabout. It has been lovely to see A make friends during the after school sessions and to be able to invite them to his 18th birthday party was so special. It also meant all of A's family, on both sides, were able to share the same special memories with A on his birthday, something we wouldn't have been able to achieve otherwise. Having the invite, recording and birthday song as well means that we have lasting memories of this special day. So, the biggest of thank you's for making this happen." **(Parent, Sounds Virtual & Birthday Party booking)**

"It was really good. I want to do it again...I'll give you ten out of ten" **(Young Participant, Emerging Leaders)**

"Work experience is a lot of fun and enjoyable. Within the work experience I have kept my leading skills and trying new things like the backing track for the new songs. I have learnt new things within the work experience and really enjoyed myself." **(Young Participant, Graduate Emerging Leaders)**

All Sounds Wild school survey respondents from summer 2023 said 100% of their pupils enjoyed the sessions, all rating enjoyment levels as 10/10 (10 being highest).

Sounds Sensory families from the spring 2024 programme who completed the post event survey were asked on a scale of 1-10 (10 is highest) how much the person they were supporting enjoyed the sessions. 20% responded 8/10, 40% responded 9/10, 40% responded 10/10.

Sounds Wild families from the summer 2023 programme who completed the post event survey were asked on a scale of 1-10 (10 was the highest) how much the person they were supporting enjoyed the sessions. 83.3% responded 10/10, the remaining 16.7% responded 8/10.

100% of Sounds Wild families from the summer 2023 programme and 100% of Sounds Sensory families from the spring 2024 programme who completed the post event surveys said that they would return.

Outcome 4: Increasing Self-Expression

Everyone has a right to agency and self-expression. Soundabout techniques provide opportunities to explore that sense of self and provides a creative outlet with Learning Disabled people.

SOUNABOUT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

By self-expression we mean being able to participate in creative sound-based activities, to enhance sense of self and others (explored via interactive activities), being able to make choices, and express likes and dislikes.

Our person centred approach means that sessions are co-designed with attendees, following their lead and their choices throughout.

Evidence towards increasing self-expression:

"It's a scary reality for M's future and so it is incredibly comforting to find people who work so hard to find things that are inclusive and that are accessible to all with no limitations, like Soundabout. You SEE M as a person, as an individual and show her respect and dignity with every interaction. That means so much. Every sound, breath, and movement she makes means something who so many ignore, but even through a screen, you guys embrace those and instantly puts value on her existence and participation as a person, an individual and as a human being. I will always be so very grateful to you all for that." **(Parent, Sounds Virtual and Song Explorers)**

"He has shown self-expression by making Ah Ah sounds singing and laughing to show enjoyment. With support he has used his body moving hips whilst in his chair. The use of the sound beam has given M the opportunity to use and control music independently without having someone hold his hand to help him move the instruments. This has helped him to make a clear choice of using an instrument by moving his head from side to side." **(Family Member and Carer, Sounds Together)**

"Yesterday was fantastic, P really enjoyed the get together. Thank you for letting P sing [Phantom of the Opera] at the end, he is gradually building his confidence, and Emerging Leaders is really helping with this." **(Carer, Emerging Leaders)**

"I'm crying with pride" **(Young Participant, Emerging Leaders)**

"N - Chose to play the chimes. This was not a reflex but intended as he moved his arm 5 times to make the sound. N...has not demonstrated this before! Amazing N!" **(Practitioner, Sounds Together)**

71% of participants made progress across the different areas of communication and self-expression from the start of Sounds Together Henley to the end. Showing marked progress in the following areas:

1. Initiating Interactions
2. Making intentional choices/preferences
3. Making eye contact or eye pointing
4. Vocalising

By the end of Sounds Together, TouchBase Pears, 100% of participants were either achieving or excelling in the 'Me: My Thoughts & Feelings' area of the Sounds of Intent: Me Framework across Levels 2 & 3.

Outcome 5: Promoting Health and Wellbeing

Music, Sound and Silence can support a sense of well-being by engaging in positive, enjoyable activities. We refer to health and wellbeing of our community as any observed/recorded positive impact on physical and mental health. This could refer to direct impacts e.g. on mental health, or in-direct e.g. by emotionally supporting participants while having medical interventions.

Our sessions bring groups together for meaningful activities, reducing isolation and bringing wellbeing through a sense of purpose. Our Sounds Wild provision provides opportunities to connect with nature and reap the benefits of being outdoors.

SOUNABOUT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Evidence towards promoting health and wellbeing:

"George was very poorly this summer and in intensive care for a long time. Soundabout arranged for Ed [Soundabout practitioner] to come and visit George. It happened on his last day of ten weeks in hospital. George was very, very thin and very weak. But as soon as he saw Ed he got really and he was engaged with every second of probably 2 hours that he got to have with Ed. It was like watching Harry Styles with your child because Ed is that famous in our house. George just absolutely loved it, had a really special time. We've had really special music sessions with Soundabout since he came home. He was really weak. He's not been at school. They kindly invited us to a session in Henley which we could access once a week. George gained so much from those sessions. George got to see other children and young people..... They [Soundabout practitioners] worked really hard to help him hold things and touch things because he's quite tactile averse. He's been practising strumming the guitar with the practitioners. It's really helped him to start holding things. And today he actually helped Frankie [carer] to peel an orange for the first time. He's never done anything like that. I think that's down to what they have been working on every week. It's an added extra to the musical fun.... Soundabout brings a sparkle to George's life every day because it changes his whole mood. It's like a switch or a magic wand..." (**Parent, Sounds Virtual, Sounds Together, Choir**)

"O has started using his left hand in these sessions, which he never does but he's been reaching out for things and holding instruments with his left hand, it's amazing and he's been so animated... when can we come back?" (**Carer, Sounds Together**)

"Having music as part of his timetable in the week has made my son calmer." (**Parent, Sounds Together**)

30 Sounds Wild events delivered in inspiring natural spaces enabled 309 attendees to enjoy and reap the health and wellbeing benefits of being outdoors.

Review of Strategic Aims

This section reviews progress towards Soundabout's 4 Strategic Aims for 'Soundabout Build' our strategy and business plan for 2023-27. Each strategic aim has related objectives to help achieve the aim and we've shared highlights below to demonstrate progress towards these aims.

Strategic Aim 1: To become the 'go to' charity within our specialism in England and Wales, by creating consistently high-quality musical opportunities with our participants facilitated by a diverse team of expert music practitioners.

Progress review:

Through the Soundabout Choirs and Sounds Together programmes we have broadened our geographical reach this year to include new areas such as the North West and North East. We also used several new community venues to deliver in-person opportunities in new parts of regions already familiar to Soundabout.

Our 'Soundabout Grow' Youth Music funded workforce development programme has enabled the development 'Sound Practice' a Quality Assurance Framework for our delivery. We overachieved in our targets to carry out observations and peer visits to help improve practice with 12 observation visits undertaken by senior practitioners and 29 peer visits completed. We also rolled out of practitioner self-assessments to support their ongoing personal development.

We worked with 19 Emerging Leaders, 3 above target, across cohort 2 (autumn 2022 to summer 2023) and cohort 3 (course ending summer 2024). The groups met weekly and 7/7 from cohort 2 achieved a Bronze Arts Award Accreditation through Trinity College London. We exceeded targets for Graduate Emerging Leader work placements with 65 placements undertaken during the year, 11 above target. Placements were bespoke and included song writing, card/graphic design, concert compering, choir leading, group facilitation, disco DJ, signing video production, social media content, presenting at information events, backing track production.

SOUNABOUT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

To increase the level of support and training offered to those interested in learning Soundabout techniques both internally and externally we delivered 132 training opportunities to 873 people (excluding Emerging and Graduate Leader programmes). Opportunities included public training programmes, training projects with schools and other organisations, mentoring programmes, and reflective sharing sessions.

We continued to share our expertise across our sector and more widely, notable examples include presenting at Music Mark's National Conference in autumn 2023 sharing learning around our Emerging Leaders programme, and publishing an article about quality in inclusive practice for the Sounding Board Journal by Sound Sense - the UK Association for Community Musicians.

Strategic Aim 2: To further understand and demonstrate the value of our work by developing the way we measure impact.

Progress review:

Throughout the year we developed and began implementing a new robust evaluation and monitoring framework that spans the entire organisation to help build a culture of reflective practice and continual learning. This framework focusses on the 5 core participant outcomes reviewed in the previous section of this report, along with outcomes for parents/carers and training attendees.

We worked hard to enhance the Family Support participation agenda ensuring more voices from the Soundabout community feed into decision making and organisational development. Our Soundabout Participant Advisory has increased representation of Learning Disabled participants with a core membership of 3 participants and 6 parents/carers. Widgit symbol versions of our annual community survey were provided this year alongside 3 focus groups designed around the needs of the attendees. These are examples of our push for greater accessibility across all our decision making processes.

With support from pro bono volunteers, we reviewed the use of our monitoring processes to gather accurate data on Soundabout's current reach and across participants' long-term journeys with Soundabout; this work is ongoing. The new evaluation framework has enabled us to start publishing qualitative statistical data to help demonstrate our impact more effectively.

The 'Soundabout Grow' workforce development programme has enabled us to continue to innovate by resourcing staff time to explore and develop best/new practice. The Soundabout Practitioner team benefitted from 3 external expert training events across the year, along with sharing events to collectively explore best practices. Every member of the core staff team has undertaken training across the year covering a variety of areas related to their interests and progression.

Strategic Aim 3. Build Soundabout's resilience and sustainability by diversifying income streams, enabling the organisation to evolve within the landscape we operate in.

Progress review:

We have been working hard to increase the number of multi-year grant applications we undertake in the hope that success will allow us to plan 2-3 years ahead with more confirmed income, bringing greater financial stability and accurate forecasting. This year focussed on strategy development that informed multi-year application writing. We experienced major success with an £195,000 grant award from Youth Music for a 3 year programme 'Soundabout Grow' to support workforce development. Other successes included an Awards For All Grant from the National Lottery to support Sounds Wild delivery during the summers of 2024 and 2025.

SOUNABOUT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

We are incredibly grateful to all our supporters and have listed below, with thanks, the Trusts and Foundations who gave over £5,000:

EBM Charitable Trust
Edward Gostling Foundation
Elsie Davis Trust
Lightbulb Trust
MariaMarina Foundation
Masonic Charitable Foundation
National Lottery Awards For All
The Charles Plater Trust
Youth Music

We were also able to utilise pro bono and donated consultancy support to develop our fundraising further, specialist areas of support included Corporate Fundraising, Marketing and Communications, and Impact.

We have worked hard to increase the number of individuals and groups who fundraise for Soundabout. We led a successful winter fundraising campaign, 'Sparkle with Soundabout', that targeted choirs and music groups by inviting them to participate in a collaborative music video and fundraise at their own winter events. We reached the £10,000 target and 8 new community music groups fundraised for Soundabout, with 4 choosing to continue fundraising for Soundabout in 2024 following the campaign. We also held information events in London and Birmingham that were successful in recruiting new donors; both resulted in £1,000 donations from trusts new to Soundabout and invitations to apply to other trusts/foundations new to Soundabout.

Our efforts to increase earned income by building practitioner capacity to deliver commissions is well underway. The training mentioned above has supported this, for example 5 Soundabout practitioners undertook a two day training course by colleagues on how to deliver Sounds Wild projects, which has now doubled the team's capacity to deliver Sounds Wild bookings.

Strategic Aim 4: Grow Soundabout's professional, personal, and cultural profile.

Progress review:

We aimed to build profile and reach via relationships with local and national media organisations. This year we focussed on building relationships with local media in Soundabout hotspots. We exceeded our target of 4 (one per quarter) press features, achieving 18 features, 9 radio interviews and 9 news stories. Strong connections have been made with local BBC radio stations in Soundabout Choir areas, such as BBC Radio WM (West Midlands), BBC Radio Gloucestershire, and BBC Radio Wiltshire. The winter Sparkle campaign focussed on family stories and was popular with press organisations in the local areas of the families. This is an approach we will continue to undertake.

We also aimed to partner with artists, groups, and organisations nationwide to highlight our communities, learn from others, and reach their audiences. We worked with 54 partners across the year including 23 from our choir network. Through our new Sounds Together programmes we worked in partnership with 8 organisations new to Soundabout, including Sense, Barnardo's, Jolly Josh, Together for Short Lives, and B:Music (the charity that manages Symphony Hall and Town Hall Birmingham).

SOUNABOUT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Over the course of the year, we have trialled different models for a Champion programme where we can recruit supporters from a diverse range of backgrounds to champion Soundabout within their networks and create national engagement. We were keen to ensure that the Champions programme is person-centred and based around the individual Champion and what they would like to offer. We explored how Soundabout parents/carers and participants could be champions; firstly, during the Sparkle campaign interviewed 3 parent and participant duos and shared their stories publicly; secondly, 2 participants (one with a parent) shared their experiences with guests at information events in London and Birmingham. These trials were highly effective and received positive feedback, making it clear that our Champion programme must include parent/carer/participant Champions. We also continued to explore the roles that high profile Champions could play, maintaining our relationship with Patron Debbie Wiseman OBE, and creating micro opportunities to attract busy high profile people e.g. Alan Titchmarsh and The Lost Voice Guy took part in an original music video.

We developed a draft marketing and communications strategy with the support of a pro bono consultant from the Cranfield Trust helping us ensure that Soundabout has a clear brand, communicates effectively with multiple audiences, while remaining on top of latest trends. In our annual community survey, we asked about our communications style and 100% of respondents said that they liked our communication style across emails and social media. Engagement with Soundabout social media channels has increased for example views on the Soundabout YouTube channel increased by 6.7% to 40,775, and Facebook followers has increased by 4% to 5,300. We also found an increase in short form content, such as Facebook and Instagram stories, to be effective in increasing engagement.

Finally, to grow our profile we committed to finding and creating platforms for our participants to perform or share their music, achievements, and stories in meaningful ways. Events and performances included the Three Choirs Festival at Gloucester Cathedral, the Great Barn Festival, Chalkhouse Green Farm Open Gardens, Soundabout concerts in Wiltshire and Oxford, plus a joint workshop with the National Children's Choir of Great Britain at their spring residential course. The Soundabout Choirs recorded and released 6 music videos, including composing a brand new original song called 'Sparkle with Soundabout'. Collectively the 6 music videos have been viewed 4,500 times on YouTube. The choirs also featured in 'Turn it Up: The Power of Music Exhibition' that started in Manchester Science Museum and moved to London in October 2023. The Soundabout Emerging Leaders also produced and publicly released 13 videos which have collectively been view 1,500 times; 7 public warm up videos, 2 radio shows, introduction videos for choir and the emerging leaders programme, and a music video covering 'A Million Dreams'.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Financial position

Soundabout continued to raise sufficient funds to deliver our core projects and services despite a backdrop of high competition for funding and the cost of living crises. The charity's income dropped from the previous financial year by £80k due mainly to a large grant received in March 2023 that was expended in the current year. Income highlights include new project funding of £40k from Lightbulb Trust a three-year grant from Youth Music totalling £195k. The charity has also spent time in the year developing relationships with new trusts and fundraisers, holding showcasing events and meetings.

Expenditure increased by £14k and included pay increases for staff resulting from a salary review and benchmarking process. The charity has also aligned its pay to freelance practitioners to Musician's Union rates. The financial impetus to make these changes was spurred on by the need to retain staff and the practitioner skills and expertise that we have engaged and developed.

Looking to the future the charity aims to develop and expand its income streams concentrating on individual donations, corporate fundraising and community fundraising and will use funding from the MariaMarina Foundation to pay for additional support in these areas.

Reserves policy

Under the charity's reserve policy, the Trustees have resolved that the upper limit for unrestricted funds should be set at approximately 3 months staff salaries and core costs (£70,372). Current unrestricted reserves are £55,768. The charity aims to increase its unrestricted reserves to their upper limit over the next 3 years.

SOUNABOUT

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

Trustees are recruited openly, with the role advertised publicly inviting applications from a diverse range of applicants. Applicants are shortlisted and interviewed by a panel of Trustees and Soundabout's CEO. The panel then take their recommendation to the full board of Trustees at a general meeting or annual general meeting who vote to appoint the new Trustees. The Articles of Association provide that one-third of the board shall retire from office at each annual general meeting. The Articles allow retiring directors to be eligible for re-election. At the meeting at which a director retires the Articles allow the board to appoint a new director in place of the retiring director.

A chair is elected by the Trustees who will then determine how long the chair will hold office.

The trustees in the form of the Board of Management are responsible for the overall strategic development and control of the charity's activities. Sub-committees may also exist to deal with various issues. Day to day operational management of the charity is delegated by the trustees to Soundabout staff.

During this financial year the Chief Executive Officer remained as Holly Radford-James and the Finance Manager remained as Fiona Kellett.

Risk management

The Trustees have conducted a review of the risks to the charity and main a risk register with mitigation in place to reduce those risks. The risk register is reviewed and updated regularly.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 09.10.2024 and signed on its behalf by:



.....
M Hartley - Trustee

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF SOUNABOUT

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Soundabout ('the Company')

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

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since your charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a listed body. I can confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, 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.



D R Kerins FCCA

Ad Valorem Accountancy Services Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
2 Manor Farm Court
Old Wolverton Road
Old Wolverton
Buckinghamshire
MK12 5NN

Date: 15/10/2024

SOUNDBABOUT

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING AN INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations and legacies		27,008	-	27,008	38,677
Charitable activities					
Restricted Funds		-	245,357	245,357	294,145
Unrestricted funds		43,605	-	43,605	49,700
Other trading activities	3	32,001	-	32,001	46,707
Investment income	4	4,402	-	4,402	992
Total		<u>107,016</u>	<u>245,357</u>	<u>352,373</u>	<u>430,221</u>
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		7,200	-	7,200	7,769
Charitable activities					
Restricted Funds		-	291,705	291,705	253,655
Unrestricted funds		96,463	-	96,463	119,868
Total		<u>103,663</u>	<u>291,705</u>	<u>395,368</u>	<u>381,292</u>
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)		3,353	(46,348)	(42,995)	48,929
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		52,415	132,697	185,112	136,183
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		<u><u>55,768</u></u>	<u><u>86,349</u></u>	<u><u>142,117</u></u>	<u><u>185,112</u></u>

The notes form part of these financial statements

SOUNDBABOUT

BALANCE SHEET 31 MARCH 2024

		Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	2024 Total funds £	2023 Total funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	10	4,850	-	4,850	3,970
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	11	1,293	-	1,293	591
Debtors	12	6,596	-	6,596	20,475
Cash at bank		51,580	91,752	143,332	167,640
		<u>59,469</u>	<u>91,752</u>	<u>151,221</u>	<u>188,706</u>
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(8,551)	(5,403)	(13,954)	(7,564)
		<u>50,918</u>	<u>86,349</u>	<u>137,267</u>	<u>181,142</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS					
		<u>50,918</u>	<u>86,349</u>	<u>137,267</u>	<u>181,142</u>
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		<u>55,768</u>	<u>86,349</u>	<u>142,117</u>	<u>185,112</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>55,768</u>	<u>86,349</u>	<u>142,117</u>	<u>185,112</u>
FUNDS	14				
Unrestricted funds				55,768	52,415
Restricted funds				86,349	132,697
TOTAL FUNDS				<u>142,117</u>	<u>185,112</u>

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

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

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

- ensuring that the charitable company keeps accounting records that comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- 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.

The notes form part of these financial statements

SOUNDBABOUT

BALANCE SHEET - continued
31 MARCH 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 09.10.2024 and were signed on its behalf by:



.....
M Hartley - Trustee

SOUNABOUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. STATUTORY INFORMATION

Soundabout is a private limited company, limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales. The company's registered number and registered office can be found on the company information page. The presentation of the financial statements is in pound sterling (£).

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

ACCOUNTING CONVENTION

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.

INCOMING RESOURCES / TURNOVER

Income has been recognised on the following basis:

- Donations and grants are generally recognised when received.
- Invoiced income is accrued monthly.
- Interest income is recognised on receipt.

EXPENDITURE

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis.

Allocation of expenditure

Salary and related staff costs are directly allocated to a charitable activity or other resources expended heading on the basis of time spent. The charity distinguishes between overhead costs in support of its charitable work, for example course administration, marketing and training equipment, and general administration costs. Both categories of overheads are allocated to fundraising, charitable activity and governance costs based on the amount of direct expenditure incurred.

AMORTISATION OF INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Amortisation is calculated to write off the cost of intangible fixed assets on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives at the following rate :

Website and software : Straight line 3 years

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

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

Plant and machinery	- 33% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- 33% on cost

STOCKS

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

TAXATION

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

FUND ACCOUNTING

Funds held by the charity are:

SOUNABOUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES - continued

FUND ACCOUNTING

Unrestricted funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees. Income is recognised as unrestricted income when the charity becomes entitled to the income as a result of activities already performed and any pre-conditions have been met. Where this is not the case the income is deferred and not included in incoming resources until the activities have been performed.

Designated funds - these comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the Trustees Report; any movements are in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds - these are funds that 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. The Trustees monitor and discuss the restricted funds at meetings to ensure the restricted expenditure is allocated accordingly.

3. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	2024	2023
	£	£
Other trading/fundraising activities	32,001	46,707

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	2024	2023
	£	£
Investments	4,402	992

5. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

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

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation - owned assets	2,679	4,743
Website costs amortisation	-	1,015

6. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND BENEFITS

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

TRUSTEES' EXPENSES

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

SOUNABOUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

7. STAFF COSTS

No member of staff earned more than £60,000 a year.

The average number of employees during the year was 14 (2022 - 12).

8. COMPARATIVES FOR THE STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted fund £	Total funds £
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM			
Donations and legacies	38,677	-	38,677
Charitable activities			
Restricted Funds	-	294,145	294,145
Unrestricted funds	49,700	-	49,700
Other trading activities	46,707	-	46,707
Investment income	992	-	992
Total	<u>136,076</u>	<u>294,145</u>	<u>430,221</u>
EXPENDITURE ON			
Raising funds	7,769	-	7,769
Charitable activities			
Restricted Funds	-	253,655	253,655
Unrestricted funds	119,868	-	119,868
Total	<u>127,637</u>	<u>253,655</u>	<u>381,292</u>
NET INCOME	8,439	40,490	48,929
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS			
Total funds brought forward	43,976	92,207	136,183
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	<u>52,415</u>	<u>132,697</u>	<u>185,112</u>

SOUNABOUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

9. INTANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Website Costs £
COST	
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	27,007
AMORTISATION	
At 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024	27,007
NET BOOK VALUE	
At 31 March 2024	-
At 31 March 2023	-

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Plant and machinery £	Fixtures and fittings £	Totals £
COST			
At 1 April 2023	34,058	14,879	48,937
Additions	564	2,995	3,559
At 31 March 2024	34,622	17,874	52,496
DEPRECIATION			
At 1 April 2023	30,721	14,246	44,967
Charge for year	2,001	678	2,679
At 31 March 2024	32,722	14,924	47,646
NET BOOK VALUE			
At 31 March 2024	1,900	2,950	4,850
At 31 March 2023	3,337	633	3,970

11. STOCKS

	2024 £	2023 £
Stock	1,293	591

SOUNABOUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

12. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		2024	2023
		£	£
Trade debtors		4,096	17,672
Prepayments and accrued income		2,500	2,803
		<u>6,596</u>	<u>20,475</u>
13. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR		2024	2023
		£	£
Social security and other taxes		4,849	4,048
Accrued expenses		9,105	3,516
		<u>13,954</u>	<u>7,564</u>
14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS			
		Net	At
	At 1/4/23	movement	31/3/24
	£	in funds	£
		£	
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted funds	52,415	3,353	55,768
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	132,697	(46,348)	86,349
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>185,112</u>	<u>(42,995)</u>	<u>142,117</u>
Net movement in funds, included in the above are as follows:			
	Incoming	Resources	Movement
	resources	expended	in funds
	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted funds	107,016	(103,663)	3,353
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	245,357	(291,705)	(46,348)
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>352,373</u>	<u>(395,368)</u>	<u>(42,995)</u>

SOUNABOUT

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

14. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS - continued

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1/4/22 £	Net movement in funds £	At 31/3/23 £
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted funds	43,976	8,439	52,415
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	92,207	40,490	132,697
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>136,183</u>	<u>48,929</u>	<u>185,112</u>

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

	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Movement in funds £
Unrestricted funds			
Unrestricted funds	136,076	(127,637)	8,439
Restricted funds			
Restricted funds	294,145	(253,655)	40,490
TOTAL FUNDS	<u>430,221</u>	<u>(381,292)</u>	<u>48,929</u>

15. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES

There have been no related party transactions in the year.

SOUNABOUT

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

16. SUMMARY OF FUND MOVEMENTS

	Funds 31.03.23	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Funds at 31.03.24
Restricted Income Funds					
Training Delivery	1,000	2,457	3,457		-
Youth Music	-	58,500	44,311		14,189
Community Programme	757	29,462	24,699		5,520
Soundabout Choirs	25,752	52,575	59,486		18,841
Emergency Fund	-	500	377		123
Emerging Leaders	-	5,915	2,353		3,562
Equipment	3,772	-	3,772		-
Company Development	3,335	-	3,335		-
Sounds Wild	15,202	20,192	14,924		20,470
Sounds Sensory	9,492	-	9,327		165
Family Support	9,598	50,000	49,197		10,401
Sounds Together / Lightbulb Community Commissioned Work	40,000	-	30,669		9,331
	381	12,836	13,242		(25)
Associate Choirs	23,408	10,052	29,744		3,716
Schools Music Making	-	2,868	2,812		56
Total restricted funds	132,697	245,357	291,705		86,349
Unrestricted income funds					
Unrestricted income funds	52,415	107,016	103,663		55,768
Total charity funds	185,112	352,373	395,368		142,117

SOUNDBABOUT

DETAILED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	2024	2023
	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	27,008	38,677
Other trading activities		
Fundraising events	23,865	32,627
Other trading activities	8,136	14,080
	<u>32,001</u>	<u>46,707</u>
Investment income		
Investments	4,402	992
Charitable activities		
Charitable activities	288,962	343,845
Total incoming resources	<u>352,373</u>	<u>430,221</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Raising funds	7,200	7,769
Charitable activities		
Wages	315,396	294,913
Social security	10,891	11,298
Pensions	4,483	5,037
Hire of plant and machinery	3,150	1,981
Rates and water	10,492	8,082
Insurance	2,507	2,673
Telephone	994	528
Postage and stationery	789	1,427
Advertising	-	930
Sundries	36,788	40,896
Amortisation of intangible fixed assets	-	1,015
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	2,678	4,743
	<u>388,168</u>	<u>373,523</u>
Total resources expended	<u>395,368</u>	<u>381,292</u>
Net (expenditure)/income	<u>(42,995)</u>	<u>48,929</u>

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements

SOUNABOUT

England & Wales - Charity number 1103002

Accounts

soundabout

make music change lives



Annual Report 2022-23

Published November 2023

Soundabout's strategy including Vision, Mission, Values will be updated in Autumn 2023. Both versions are included below for reference.

Our Vision

To create a musical community without barriers.

Autumn 2023: A world where everyone can access and experience music.



Our Mission

To empower people with profound disabilities to find their voice through music.

Autumn 2023: Soundabout uses music, sound, and silence to create opportunities where learning Disabled people with complex support needs thrive.

Our Values

Accessible, Aspirational, Empowering, Trustworthy, Responsive, Inclusive.

Autumn 2023: Kind, Person Centred, Aspirational, Inclusive.



Aims

1. To reduce isolation for Disabled participants and families through music
2. To diversify our income generation
3. To ensure the voices of our participants are heard
4. To evolve a strong, effective and diverse organisation

Our Programmes

Music Making

Soundabout Choirs

are a national network of musical communities welcoming people of all ages and abilities. These inclusive and accessible choirs are designed so anyone can share their voice in their own way online or in person; from signing and technology to movement and singing.

Sounds Virtual

are online programmes of sessions which enable access to music making wherever you are. Members join from home, hospices, hospitals, day centres, and schools! Our huge resource bank of recordings means sessions can be accessed at any time.

Sounds Multi-Sensory

sessions explore music and sound in a themed indoor environment. Our skilled team can transform any school or community space into an engaging sensory spectacular.

Sounds Wild

sessions explore music making in inspiring outdoor spaces using a Forest School approach and all the senses!

Sounds Together

are face-to-face community music making sessions for small groups, supported by two specialist practitioners. The groups explore communication, self-expression, choice making, and ways to share their stories.

Training and Resources

No musical experience required!

Soundabout offers a range of training opportunities and resources to support anyone interested in using simple tools and techniques to interact musically with someone with complex support needs.

Little Soundabout and Soundabout Life

are a collection of free online musical resources with simple ideas and activities that anyone can use to build musical and personal development with the person you are supporting. Activities are demonstrated live weekly on the Soundabout YouTube channel, to support use of the resources.

Schools, Music Hubs, and other organisations

can access bespoke training and consultancy from Soundabout.

Models vary based on the organisation's requirements and can include anything from side-by-side music delivery, in-house staff training and mentoring, to extended programmes of support, and one-off consultancy sessions.

Training Membership and Ready-To-Go Training Videos

are ideal for anyone who wants to further develop their skills and knowledge in this area.

Emerging Leaders and Graduate Emerging Leaders

are programmes where Learning Disabled people enhance their leadership skills and confidence while preparing to become the music practitioners of the future.

Open Access Training Events

run throughout the year bookable online. Sign up to our mailing list to stay up to date with opportunities.

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Chair's Foreword

"Soundabout continues to place its participants at the centre of everything it does, promoting its activities to ensure it serves them and the wider community in the best way it can. This year saw our newly appointed CEO confidently and devotedly take the reins to lead the charity to not only meet but exceed expectations and to flourish as it continues its valuable work.

Highlights from the year include: our sold-out Colchester Zoo project, where the team held 6 multi-sensory, animal themed music sessions that attracted 101 attendees; our Worcester Cathedral performance in June centred around an inclusive experience; our BBC Radio 4 appeal featuring one of our Soundabout families; community fundraising including the successful Chalkhouse Green Farm Open Day; our Inclusive Choirs being featured in Manchester's Science and Industry Museum exhibition 'Turn It Up: The Power of Music' and Debbie Wiseman OBE writing a 'Moveabout' song to support our motivating Moveabout fundraising campaign.

Another success to mention is that our new Family Support Coordinator Rebecca is helping to increase the accessibility of Soundabout sessions and reduce isolation for parents/carers of children in new innovative ways.

The choirs continued with gusto and the team worked across an impressive 16 choirs around England, helping to connect with others through these inclusive musical opportunities.

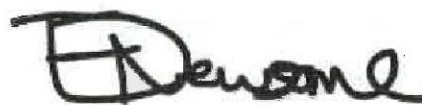
Our fantastic Emerging Leaders (EL) programme kicked off with a new cohort in September 2022, our graduates now support the Oxford and Wiltshire Inclusive choirs regularly, with one producing signing videos for the choirs in a new professional role.

Moreover, some Emerging Leaders and Graduate Emerging Leaders were involved with the recruitment of two new Soundabout trustees.

Our SPAG (Soundabout Participant Advisory Group) continues under the leadership of Rebecca, with initiatives such as focus groups to ensure the family/participant voice is key in the future development of our charity.

Lastly, our cross-functional Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (ED&I) group, comprising a mixture of stakeholders including staff, practitioners and trustees, continues to set the expectations and pathways to deep thinking and action around ED&I, ensuring this is embedded in all aspects of our work.

As with the ED&I group, all work at Soundabout continues to adapt, update, improve and be collaborative where possible, to ensure we are truly helping to create a musical community without barriers. I couldn't be more thrilled with the work that Soundabout has carried out, and would like to thank everyone who is part of our community for all their time, commitment, passion and enthusiasm, including the staff team, our participants, practitioners, volunteers, funders and supporters. Watch this space for more exciting things to come!"



Emily Newsome
Chair of Trustees



CEO Introduction

"I had the privilege of joining Soundabout as CEO in September 2022, part way through the 2022-23 year. The year began with preparation for the upcoming change in leadership. Efforts were focused on ensuring that Soundabout continued to offer a full range high quality music making opportunities, which the team managed brilliantly under the interim leadership of our Director of Programmes. Our commitment to offering accessible ways to make music remained front and centre, with online and hybrid opportunities continuing with as much importance as in-person activity.

Right from the outset I was blown away by the personal nature of the work at Soundabout. We pride ourselves on the connections we have individuals, families, and partner organisations. Soundabout welcomed a new Family Support Co-ordinator, Rebecca Thomas, in September 2022. This personal approach to working with families has grown from strength to strength under Rebecca's expertise and guidance with a renewed focus on accessibility.

Soundabout's reach continued to grow both geographically and in scale. Last year saw Soundabout reach 10,000 music making and training opportunities, and this year that record has been broken with a whopping 17,000 opportunities being offered. One noticeable area of growth has been the Soundabout Choirs; they have continued to flourish, with expansion into the East Midlands, performances in incredible locations such as Symphony Hall Birmingham, features in exhibitions, international connections, and award wins. In-person community sessions were relaunched during this time along with

the reintroduction of multi-sensory music making indoors and outdoors.

Once fully formed as a new staff team, we focussed our efforts to exploring future opportunities for Soundabout. Throughout the autumn term an organisation wide consultation was undertaken. This helped us to understand where the charity was at now and where the Soundabout community wanted to go together in the future.

Looking forward

It is an exciting time for Soundabout as we develop a new strategic business plan for the next 3 years. Work on updating Soundabout's Vision, Mission, and Values is underway and will be launched later this year. For now, we are focussing on doing more of what we do best, looking deeper into the impact we make, and developing more training so we can grow the practitioner team.

I've thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the team and wider Soundabout community and am thankful for their warm welcome and patience! This report demonstrates their incredible collective achievements, which wouldn't be possible without their individual dedication and generosity. Roll on 2023-24!"



Holly-Radford James
Chief Executive Officer



Review of our Aims

1. Reducing Isolation for Participants and Families through Music



Overview in Numbers



1,251

Sessions



16,078

Opportunities*



2,884

Total Attendees



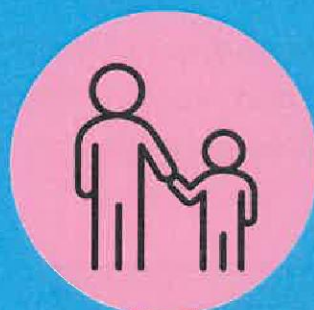
1,358

Participants



472

SEN Staff



706

Parents/Carers



38,216

YouTube Views

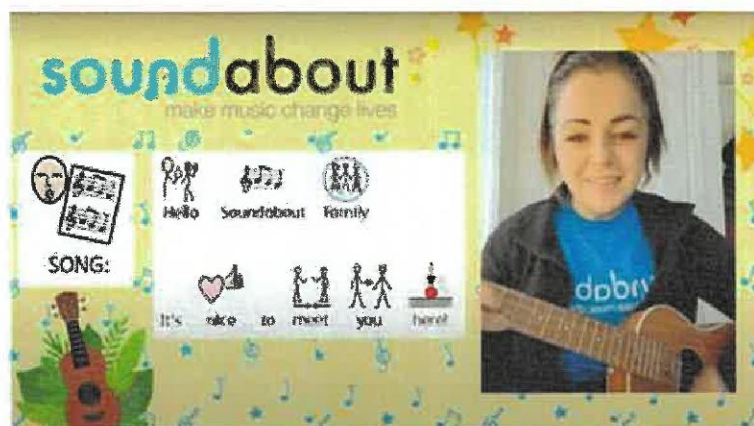
* Opportunities to take part = sessions x number of places

Highlighted Projects: A Snapshot of Four of our Projects

Family Support

A new Family Support Coordinator was appointed in September 2022 to continue the initiatives of the previous year and be the main point of contact for any information, advice, or guidance families need. The Family Support Coordinator also rolled out new initiatives including:

- **Accessible resources** - Increasing accessibility of Soundabout sessions and supporting participant's emotional wellbeing by developing accessible resources such as;
 - accessible event booklets, helping to reduce social anxiety and increase participation around in-person events.
 - creating bespoke songs with signing and Widgit symbols to communicate key messages.
- **Promotion at Parent/Carer Events** - reducing isolation for families by attending parent/carers events and signposting to Soundabout services.
- **Supporting sessions** - attending sessions across all areas of the programme to ensure families and participants feel connected and regularly feedback to the Family Support Coordinator ensuring parent/carers/participant voice is at the heart of internal decision making.





Highlight

Developing our 'Achievement Documents' which support families and participants to reflect on their Soundabout experiences and celebrate their achievements against the Sounds of Intent: Me Framework. This has been rolled out to all Soundabout choirs, Emerging Leaders, as well as After School Clubs.

Parent/Carer Feedback on Achievement Documents:

“Thank you very much for doing this. I'm so excited to sit down with G and read through the document. I will also make a playlist of all the repertoire we've covered in choir so we can listen back and sing along. I hadn't realised we had covered so much over the last 6 months and how much G has achieved. Thanks again!”

“Thank you so much for R's celebratory document! What a wonderful thing for you and your staff to take the time to do this – even though I am present at the sessions it's lovely to get feedback from you all, especially from K, she is so amazing and skilful at what she does, she gets the best out of R and pushes him to try something new which she always gets just right with him.”

Looking Forward

The Family Support Soundabout is developing an in-person 'tour', ready to be trialled in 2023-24. They will run workshops for parents/carers using the Little Soundabout and Soundabout Life resources helping people to make music together at home as well as signposting to Soundabout sessions and wider opportunities.

Soundabout Choirs

Another phenomenal year for our Choir projects, which are going from strength to strength.

We worked across 16 Choirs around England to create a network of inclusive, supported Choir opportunities. This year we launched the new Soundabout Choir Membership scheme that allows external organisations access to our resources for a small fee. We have been delighted to see the membership reaching a wide network of organisations including internationally, it really demonstrates how unique and necessary the creation of these types of accessible song resources are.

Some of this year's fantastic performances included our work with the National Children's Choir of Great Britain in the West Midlands and our guest appearance at Oxford's Sheldonian theatre event with a Japanese Body Percussion group lead by Toshiyuki Yamada.

The choirs gained national recognition, with the West Midlands choir winning the 'Excellence in SEND Award' at the Music and Drama Education Awards 2023, and as finalists for Youth Music's 'Outstanding Project' Award. The work of the choir was also featured in Manchester's Science and Industry Museum's exhibition 'Turn It Up: The Power of Music', which then toured the country.

A particularly exciting development was the start of our online sessions aimed at Choir members with more complex support needs, Song Explorers. The aim of which is to break down the songs into multi-sensory accessible experiences that those members can take back to their own choirs.



1. Reducing Isolation for Participants and Families through Music



Highlight of the year

Watching members of the National Children's Choir of Great Britain echoing back one of our Soundabout Choir member's vocalisations. It was one of those instant hits of pure joy and true inclusion.



“ My daughter loves her Equity Group sessions. As you can probably see she can't help but giggle through them. She really enjoys interacting with Emma and recognizes her voice as well as the sounds made by others. Breaking down the songs from the main choir into such simple elements is really helpful and accessible”
(Parent of Equity Group member, 2023)

“ I should just congratulate everyone involved in the most brilliant, life-affirming concert we have ever, ever been to! We had such an amazing time last evening! It was so wonderful to meet musicians from totally different worlds to our own! My goodness it was so joyous! My son got so much out of it. He's on a real high.” **(Parent of Choir member attending a performance event, 2023)**

Looking Forward

We look forward to an exciting year ahead with the Soundabout Choirs, building on our relationship with the National Children's Choir of Great Britain, and supporting partners to develop choirs in new areas such as the Gateshead, Sunderland, and Hampshire.

Sounds Wild and Sounds Multi-Sensory

Under the sea adventures and winter wonderlands were featured in our indoor multi-sensory sessions this year. We worked with SEND schools across the West Midlands to deliver these exciting experiences. We also had one of our biggest Sounds Wild seasons to date, delivering creative outdoor nature-based music sessions to over 368 learning Disabled children and young people.

For the first time, we opened bookings to families and at two new venues; Brandon Marsh Nature Reserve and Westonbirt Arboretum. We ran a large programme working with schools as well as families to deliver many hours of wonderful sound exploration in nature.

A special addition to our deliver this year was a series of dates we held at Colchester Zoo, where we hosted over 100 people for animal-themed multisensory music sessions. The feedback from families was fantastic and something we hope to run again in the future.



1. Reducing Isolation for Participants and Families through Music



Highlight

Running our first indoor multi-sensory sessions after a long multi-year Covid-gap. It was so good to be able to offer this type of session again as it's a central part of our provision.

“My daughter can be difficult to engage but we were delighted to see her engaging wonderfully with all the activities and thoroughly enjoying it. It was particularly lovely for my husband as he hasn't really seen her engage like that before” (Parent, Sounds Wild, 2022)

“We had a great time; it was lovely to see (my son) engaging and interacting in the session. He can struggle with groups and noise and can become overwhelmed in new places but we were able to participate in a way that worked for him. Soundabout, you continue to be a lifeline for us and stop us being isolated, it is so special to be part of something, somewhere we belong.” (Parent, Colchester Zoo session, 2022)

Looking Forward

Over the coming year we plan to train more practitioners to allow us to take Sounds Wild and Sounds Multi-Sensory to new areas.

Emerging Leaders

The Emerging Leaders programme is an opportunity for Learning Disabled people to enhance their leadership skills and confidence while preparing to become the music practitioners of the future. The first cohort of Emerging Leaders graduated over the summer 2022, after excelling in the yearlong programme.

We welcomed a new cohort of eight Emerging Leaders in September 2022. During weekly online sessions, the Emerging Leaders completed several mini projects, including making backing tracks, signing videos and warm up videos for the Soundabout Choirs. Some Emerging Leaders and Graduate Emerging Leaders were also involved with the recruitment of two new Soundabout trustees.



Highlight



It has been fantastic to see the growing confidence of the Emerging Leaders. Each member has led the 'Hello Song' at least once – something that would have been unthinkable for some of them at the start of the academic year!

1. Reducing Isolation for Participants and Families through Music

“ E loves singing and joining in but the Emerging Leaders group has really helped her to grow in confidence and independence. She now contributes readily to group discussions rather than just observing. The discussions and activities are very thoughtfully prepared to be accessible on all levels. E really looks forward to seeing all her friends on a Friday.”

(Parent/Carer)

“ I think it is good online because I like zoom because it's on the laptop. I like doing it from home and I like meeting the other people. I like hearing the songs they choose [...] Emerging leaders has made me feel good.”

(Emerging Leader)



Looking Forward

We look forward to developing the Emerging and Graduate Leaders programme through 'Soundabout Grow' our new Youth Music grant. This will provide a greater range of opportunities for the leaders to put their skills into practice both online and in-person via supported placements. We also look forward to introducing an accreditation option to the programme.



2. Diversification of Income Generation

Individual Giving

Soundabout's BBC Radio 4 Appeal was the focus for individual giving this year. The appeal was presented by Liz Chaplin, who spoke wonderfully about the Soundabout experiences she has shared with her daughter Ava. The appeal raised an incredible £26,039.42 and generated a lot of interest in Soundabout. Following the appeal, we had contact from families, organisations, musicians, and supporters all new to Soundabout.

Soundabout was also supported through one-off and regular donations from our generous supporters. We also continued to receive generous major gifts including support from John Hall and family, who have been at the heart of Soundabout since it was founded. We'd like to express heartfelt thanks to everyone who donated.



Challenge Events

Incredible supporters continued to fundraise via their own ideas and Soundabout supported events.

Soundabout's annual Moveabout challenge ran between January and March 2023. Supporters from far and wide collected sponsorship by collecting kilometres in whatever way they chose; from walking, wheeling, running, to skiing, karate-ing, and wheeling! Moveabout-ers raised an incredible £3,738.78, covering a staggering 4,856.8km.

Soundabout has also been supported by choirs and community groups across the country. The South Oxfordshire Choir generously fundraised for Soundabout through their concert series and even joined the Soundabout Oxford and Beyond Choir for a Christmas sing-along.



We'd also like to thank Warminster Community Choir and the Japanese Body Percussion Ensemble for running collections for Soundabout at their concerts. School supporters raised £4,000 for Soundabout last year. The schools raised this money in a variety of ways including sales, concerts, and challenge events.

Other community groups continued to support Soundabout, and we'd like to thank the Somer Valley Ramble for their donations following a Christmas lunch and raffle.

We'd like to thank everyone involved in fundraising for Soundabout. Your time, support, passion, and determination is greatly valued.

Trusts and Foundations

Thanks to the support of charitable trusts and foundations, we have been able to support hundreds of children, young people, and adults to express themselves through music during 2022-23. We are grateful to all of our supporters and have listed below, with thanks, those who gave over £5,000:

Awards for All

- Baily Thomas Charitable Fund
- Charles Plater Trust
- Childwick Trust
- Elsie Davis Trust
- Lightbulb Trust
- MariaMarina Foundation
- Masonic Charitable Foundation
- Morgan Blake Charitable Trust
- Revere Charitable Trust
- St James's Place Foundation
- Wates Foundation
- Youth Music



Earned Income

Soundabout continued to generate income from commissioned music making delivery, training, and consultancy. Other avenues of earned income included ticket sales for training events, and memberships (family, training, choir).

Corporate

We were delighted to receive special support from Viking, of £10,000 to celebrate the launch of the new ship Viking Mars. Fleet Caravans kindly continued their long-term support of Soundabout for which we are very grateful.

In Memory

Soundabout received £1,500 in donations given in memory of loved ones. We are incredibly grateful to all involved and hope that the donations bring some comfort in knowing that they are helping to change someone's life through music.

Looking Forward

We recognise that the funding landscape is challenging we will continue to mitigate this risk by seeking greater diversification of income.



3. Voices of Participants to Be Heard

At Soundabout, we are passionate about providing opportunities for the voices of Learning Disabled people and their families to be clearly heard within society. We do this in a range of ways from performances, recordings, press stories, social media, and supported feedback opportunities. Here are some examples of the quotes we've gathered this year:

About Afterschool Club Sessions: 'Afterschool club. It's a beautiful thing to be a part of. Generally the same children every week. What a beautiful family it has created for us all. It's really special as you're zooming into people's homes every week. It's so lovely... The children really care about each other's well being. They notice if someone is not well or not there and they are missed. They've built strong friendships. Somebody is missing them. Virtual friendships formed through Soundabout are just as good as the friendships daughter has formed in school. It's a beautiful community.'

(Parent)



About Performance

Opportunities: 'Just to thank you for a wonderful pinch-yourself experience last night. We loved performing for an audience and enjoyed meeting the other music ensembles too. We both got so much from all the performances.

The joy was overwhelming.'

(Parent)

About Inclusive Choir: 'We attend Virtual Choir and we also use the YouTube material when my daughter was poorly and it never fails to cheer her up. She immediately comes alive when she hears the Soundabout music and choir recordings. Virtual sessions are so lovely and the hub is brilliant. It's very accessible, clear, fantastic and lovely to dip in and out of.'

(Parent)

About Saturday Lives: 'These sessions have been absolutely invaluable to us and has increased M's quality of life 10 x over. Being able to join in live or watching them later has been such a wonderful resource. They have also been equally enjoyable for us as a family'. **(Parent)**

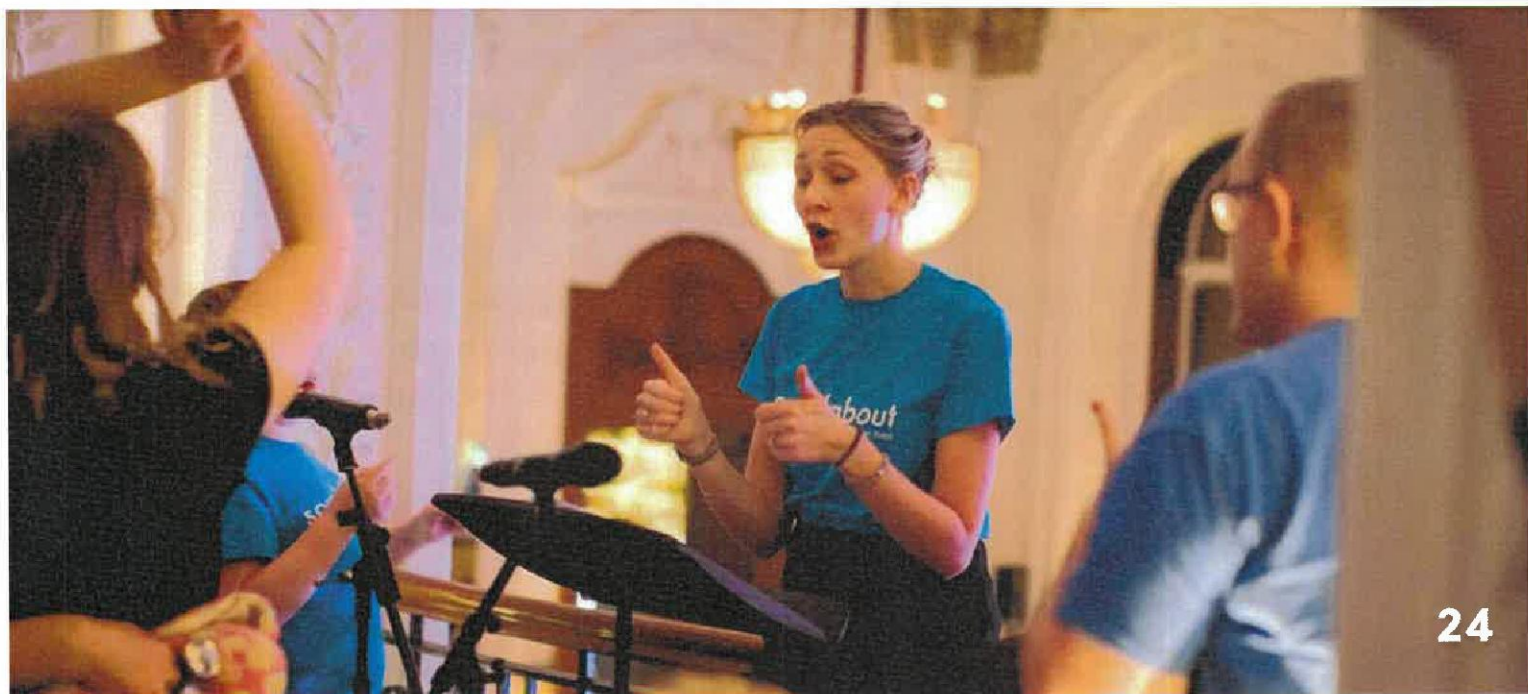
Media Interviews

In addition to the BBC Radio 4 Appeal coverage, Soundabout participated in a number of other radio interviews during the year, raising awareness of the Soundabout community. Radio stations included BBC Radio London, BBC Radio WM (West Midlands), BBC Radio Gloucestershire, and BBC Radio Wiltshire. Topics covered included Soundabout Choir performances, Award wins, and Moveabout. These stories also featured in local printed and online news coverage.

Performances

Ensuring our community has a platform to share their voices through performance is something we committed to offer for those who wanted to participate. Our choirs have showcased some stunning performances and special moments over the past year including wow-ing a sold-out Gloucester Cathedral as special guests for Meningitis Now's Christmas concert, launching Services For Education's series of Gala Concerts at Symphony Hall Birmingham, performing at the Grand Hotel Birmingham for the National Association for Special Educational Needs Awards, joining forces with the Japanese Body Percussion Ensemble at The Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford, as well as performing to close family and friends at special events in Oxford and Birmingham.

For those preferring virtual alternatives we provided recording opportunities, with the Soundabout choirs releasing a number music videos across the year. You can watch the videos on our YouTube channel.



3. Voices of Participants to Be Heard

Social Media

We have re-energised our social media platforms over the past year, focusing on

- Maintaining regular and exciting content
- Increasing accessibility of content by introducing Widgit symbols into posts
- Increasing use of video content

Our following and reach has increased across all platforms. Our following and reach for the period between Apr 2022 – March 2023 are summarised below:

	Followers	Reach
Facebook	5,080	71,382
Instagram	1,200	13,699
Twitter	2,977	14,300
LinkedIn	391	448

One area of growth to highlight is Facebook: visits to page/profile up 79.4% from 2021-22 year to 12,236 visits, new page likes up 80.5% from previous year.

Some of our top performing posts were:

- [Soundabout \(@soundabout.uk\) | Instagram](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Soundabout - The countdown is ON! Just 3 days until Liz shares her... | Facebook](#)

The Soundabout YouTube channel had 38,216 views during this year.

4. Strong, Diverse and Effective Organisation

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Soundabout took a firm hold of developing a cross-organisational action plan to strengthen our work around EDI during 2020. We have maintained progress on this agenda over the past three years, ensuring that it's at the heart of our planning, our strategy and our practice.

This year we've used the Music Masters 'I'm in' toolkit to re-examine our plans to encompass even more aspects of our operational delivery. We want to go further into exploring our practice and constantly challenge ourselves to do things differently where that can improve EDI outcomes. We have committed to doing this in a safe space environment so that we can openly learn from each other and external experts.

We spent a good deal of time in the Autumn of 2022, gathering feedback from staff, trustees, practitioners and families around our organisational values to help us review our EDI statement. This has naturally led into our overall discussion on our vision and mission of the charity and has fed into the renewal of our EDI and Equal Opportunities policies. Our monthly EDI working group is a morphing group of people committed to keep pushing on the action plan and holding ourselves to account.

An area that we have worked hard to strengthen are our recruitment practices, we've been really interested to hear candidates' feedback that it is still uncommon to share pre-share interview questions to allow people time to consider their answers in depth. This has been our practice for over 3 years now and we hope we can inspire more people to take this approach, as it's highly appreciated by candidates who can then shine in their interviews.

Participation

Soundabout Participant Advisory Group (SPAG):

Our SPAG group has become an essential cog in Soundabout's development and decision-making processes. The group meets quarterly ahead of upcoming trustee meetings, allowing for the group to feed into the agenda and have a voice at a strategic level. This also ensures Soundabout's vision and development is always based on our communities' lived experiences with their views, thoughts and feelings at the heart of any changes being made.

Within the last year, there has been a conscious effort by the Soundabout Team to make SPAG meetings and recruitment into the group as accessible as possible. With music being the point of connection in our community, we wanted to make SPAG more musical, and now have our very own SPAG song. This song is played at the start of each meeting as a reminder of our purpose as a group. Having musical elements as part of the group has encouraged more participants to join in with the sessions alongside parents and carers.

With accessibility in mind, the Agenda is also compiled using Wigit symbols.

Any developments made as a result of our SPAG group meetings is fed back to all members.



“ You are proactive in Soundabout in showing us like you have done here this evening [in SPAG], what happens with our feedback and how you use it to develop Soundabout.’ (Parent/Carer from SPAG)

4. Strong, Diverse and Effective Organisation

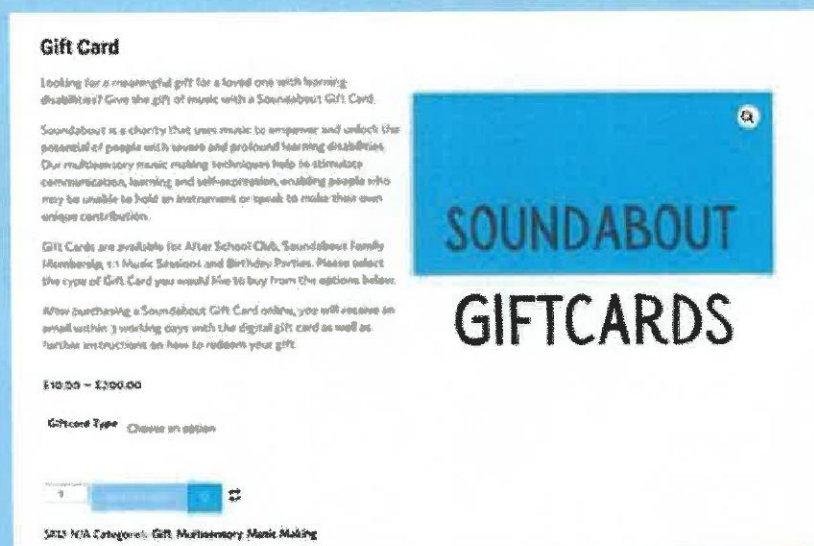
Stakeholder Survey & Focus Groups:

The Stakeholder Survey and Focus Groups ran simultaneously in order to provide the Soundabout community with both written and verbal opportunities to share their valuable feedback. It is essential that the voice of participants and their families are at the heart of any future developments at Soundabout. This year the stakeholder survey and focus groups sessions gathered feedback and ideas for the organisation-wide SWOT analysis (looking at strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to Soundabout), ensuring family input from the very start of the strategy refresh process.

As a result of the feedback given in the focus groups, having Soundabout gift cards within our online shop which could be used on Soundabout sessions and/or other items in our shop was actioned with immediate effect:

<https://www.soundabout.org.uk/shop/gift-card/>.

“ We are very privileged that T is able to have 1-1 sessions with a Soundabout practitioner, he absolutely adores his sessions and his face lights up every time he sees his practitioner... Perhaps you could think about offering a gift card so that family/friends can buy sessions for their loved one at Christmas or for birthdays? It sometimes difficult to buy gifts that are meaningful, and this would definitely be gift that would mean a lot to families and other participants.”



Environmental Sustainability

No organisation can afford to ignore the dominating issues of the impact of our climate crisis, Soundabout have been lucky in 2022 to have an injection of energy into this agenda, with new team members re-forming a working group to lead on progress. We have been lucky to have taken part in two 'Climate Fresk' Workshops that were specifically offered to our team to learn more about climate science in general. This has helped us ground our practice into real world facts and figures and underlined the importance of us acting as a collective to play our part. No organisation is too small to make a difference, but we also acknowledge that structures and power disbalance in society can make it very difficult for communities like ours to implement changes. We believe in challenging the powerful organisations and structures that dominate in contributing to the climate crisis.

The working group have drawn up an Environmental Sustainability Policy and an Environmental Action Plan covering all aspects of the organisation from waste, travel, suppliers, to our digital carbon footprint. We have already made changes to the suppliers we use for merchandise and marketing materials, and look forward to the journey ahead.

Governance

We continue to link our governance structures to our family support and participation work, ensuring that community voice directly feeds into trustee meetings and influences decision making. The recruitment and onboarding processes for trustees has been updated in line with best practice in Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion to encourage a wider range of applicants and to support new trustees to understand the work of Soundabout.

The Finance and Risk Subcommittee remains effective and continues to meet regularly led by the Treasurer in conjunction with Soundabout's Finance Manager. Trustees continue to play an active role in Soundabout's EDI group too. A small working group of Trustees and senior managers have begun work on refreshing Soundabout's strategic business plan with support from an external consultant.

Volunteers

We have a strong team of 30 volunteers, 10 regulars, supporting Soundabout activity. The end of pandemic restrictions saw some volunteers returning to their pre-pandemic activities / commitments, so numbers have declined. Volunteering opportunities have been updated based on our current programme of activity. The impact of the work has been tremendous, with volunteers undertaking a variety of opportunities:

- Assisting our participants with eye gaze technology, iPads, and other assistive tech at choir rehearsals
- Supporting in-person and online sessions with tasks such as room set up, zoom admin, registers, refreshments
- Supporting families at Sounds Wild sessions
- Giving valuable insight and tips on the design of the Soundabout website
- Minuting the Trustee board meetings
- Contributing to our monthly Equity Diversity and Inclusion meetings
- Helping to design and implement stakeholder surveys
- Fundraising vital funds for Soundabout

Our work is only made possible by the support of our loyal volunteers.

Thank you to our steadfast volunteers for their unwavering commitment to making music change lives!



Report of the Trustees and Unaudited Financial Statements

for the year ended 31st March 2023

Ad Valorem Accountancy Services Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
2 Manor Farm Court
Old Wolverton
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK12 5NN

Reference and Administrative Details

for the year ended 31st March 2023

Trustees	S J Claridge Y Dattani M Hartley K Ungerer R J Marshall (resigned 8.7.2022) E Newsome S Nicholls (resigned 18.10.2022) C Thomson N Waddington (resigned 7.9.2022) B Weston-Conway E Nunns (appointed 1.5.2023) C W Yuen (appointed 1.6.2023)
Registered Office	John Eccles House Robert Robinson Avenue Oxford Science Park Oxford Oxfordshire OX4 4GP
Registered Company Number	05023067 (England and Wales)
Registered Charity Number	1103002
Independent Examiner	Ad Valorem Accountancy Services Limited Chartered Certified Accountants 2 Manor Farm Court Old Wolverton Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire MK12 5NN
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ

Report of the Trustees

for the year ended 31st March 2023

The trustees who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report with the financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2023. 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

Public benefit

Vision

A musical community without barriers.

Mission

To empower those with profound disabilities to find their voice through music.

Values

Accessible- we strive to remove barriers to participation.

Aspirational- we are always striving to create opportunities to reach further.

Empowering- we search for and build confidence in peoples' own musical ability.

Responsive- we put participants and their families at the heart of our decision-making process.

Inclusive- we stand strongly against all forms of discrimination.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Reserves policy

Under the charity's reserve policy the Trustees have resolved that the upper limit for unrestricted funds should be set at approximately 3 months running costs (£91,000). Current unrestricted reserves are £52,415. The charity aims to increase its unrestricted reserves to their upper limit over the next 5 years.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Governing document

The charity is controlled by its governing document, a deed of trust, and constitutes a limited company, limited by guarantee, as defined by the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 21 September 2023 and signed on its behalf by:



E Newsome - Trustee

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Soundabout

for the year ended 31st March 2023

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Soundabout Limited ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2023.

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.



D R Kerins FCCA
Ad Valorem Accountancy Services Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants

Date:20/10/2023.....

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)

for the year ended 31st March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds (£)	Restricted funds (£)	2023 Total funds (£)	2022 Total funds (£)
Income and endowments from					
Donations and legacies		38,677	-	38,677	44,681
Charitable activities: restricted funds		-	294,145	294,145	268,885
Charitable activities: unrestricted funds		49,700	-	49,700	47,705
Other trading activities	3	46,707	-	46,707	49,981
Investment income	4	992	-	992	21
Total		136,076	294,145	430,221	411,273
Expenditure on					
Raising funds		7,769	-	7,769	7,642
Charitable activities: restricted funds		-	253,655	253,655	268,364
Charitable activities: unrestricted funds		119,868	-	119,868	130,621
Total		127,637	253,655	381,292	406,627
Net income		8,439	40,490	48,929	4,646
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		43,976	92,207	136,183	131,537
Total funds carried forward		52,415	132,697	185,112	136,183

The notes form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet

for the year ended 31st March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds (£)	Restricted funds (£)	2023 Total funds (£)	2022 Total funds (£)
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	9	-	-	-	1,015
Tangible assets	10	3,970	-	3,970	8,041
Total fixed assets		3,970	-	3,970	9,056
Current assets					
Stocks	11	589	-	589	652
Debtors	12	20,475	-	20,475	7,295
Cash at bank		34,549	133,091	167,640	126,114
Total current assets		55,613	133,091	188,704	134,061
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(7,168)	(394)	(7,562)	(6,934)
Net current assets		48,445	132,697	181,142	127,127
Total assets less current liabilities		52,415	132,697	185,112	136,183
Net assets		52,415	132,697	185,112	136,183
Funds					
Unrestricted funds				52,415	43,976
Restricted funds				132,697	92,207
Total funds	14			185,112	136,183

The notes form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet (continued)

for the year ended 31st March 2023

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2023.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

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

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 21st September 2023 and were signed on its behalf by:



.....
M Hartley - Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements.

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31st March 2023

1. Statutory Information

Soundabout is a private limited company, limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales. The company's registered number and registered office can be found on the company information page. The presentation of the financial statements is in pound sterling (£).

2. Accounting Policies

Accounting convention 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.

Incoming resources/turnover

Income has been recognised on the following basis:

- Donations and grants are generally recognised when received.
- Invoiced income is accrued monthly.
- Interest income is recognised on receipt.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis.

Allocation of expenditure

Salary and related staff costs are directly allocated to a charitable activity or other resources expended heading on the basis of time spent. The charity distinguishes between overhead costs in support of its charitable work, for example course administration, marketing and training equipment, and general administration costs. Both categories of overheads are allocated to fundraising, charitable activity and governance costs based on the amount of direct expenditure incurred.

Amortisation of intangible fixed assets

Amortisation is calculated to write off the cost of intangible fixed assets on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives at the following rate:

Website and software : Straight line 3 years

Tangible fixed assets

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

Plant and machinery	- 33% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- 33% on cost

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31st March 2023

2. Accounting Policies (continued)

Taxation

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

Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are:

Unrestricted funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees. Income is recognised as unrestricted income when the charity becomes entitled to the income as a result of activities already performed and any pre-conditions have been met. Where this is not the case the income is deferred and not included in incoming resources until the activities have been performed.

Designated funds - these comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the Trustees Report; any movements are in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds - these are funds that 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. The Trustees monitor and discuss the restricted funds at meetings to ensure the restricted expenditure is allocated accordingly.

3. Other Trading Activities

	31.3.23 (£)	31.3.22 (£)
Other trading/fundraising activities	46,707	49,981

4. Investment Income

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Investments	992	21

5. Net income/(expenditure)

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

	31.3.23 (£)	31.3.22 (£)
Depreciation - owned assets	4,743	3,968
Website costs amortisation	1,015	1,846

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31st March 2023

6. Trustees' Remuneration and Benefits

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2023 nor for the year ended 31 March 2022.

7. Staff Costs

No Member of staff earned more than £60,000 a year. The average number of employees during the year was 14 (2022 - 12).

8. Comparatives for the Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds (£)	Restricted funds (£)	Total funds (£)
Income and endowments from			
Donations and legacies	44,681	-	44,681
Charitable activities including grants: restricted funds	-	268,885	268,885
Charitable activities including grants: unrestricted funds	47,705	-	47,705
Other trading activities	49,981	-	49,981
Investment income	21	-	21
Total	142,388	268,885	411,273
Expenditure on			
Raising funds	7,642	-	7,642
Charitable activities: restricted funds	-	268,364	268,364
Charitable activities: unrestricted funds	130,621	-	130,621
Total	138,263	268,364	406,627
Net income	4,125	521	4,646
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	39,851	91,686	131,537
Total funds carried forward	43,976	92,207	136,183

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31st March 2023

9. Intangible Fixed Assets

	Website Costs (£)
Cost	
At 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023	27,007
Amortisation	
At 1st April 2022	25,992
Charge for one year	1,015
At 31st March 2023	27,007
Net book value	
At 31st March 2023	-
At 31st March 2022	1,015

10. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Plant and machinery (£)	Fixtures and fittings (£)	Totals (£)
Cost			
At 1st April 2022	34,058	14,207	48,265
Additions	-	672	672
At 31st March 2023	34,058	14,879	48,937
Depreciation			
At 1st April 2022	26,538	13,686	40,224
Charge for one year	4,183	560	4,743
At 31st March 2023	30,721	14,246	44,967
Net book value			
At 31st March 2023	3,337	633	3,970
At 31st March 2022	7,520	521	8,041

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31st March 2023

11. Stocks

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Stock	589	652

12. Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Trade debtors	17,672	2,811
Other debtors	-	2,000
Prepayments and accrued income	2,803	2,484
Total	20,475	7,295

13. Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
Social security and other taxes	4,046	3,846
Accrued expenses	3,516	3,088
Total	7,562	6,934

14. Movement in Funds

	1.4.22 (£)	Net movement in funds (£)	31.3.23 (£)
Unrestricted funds	43,976	8,439	52,415
Restricted funds	92,207	40,490	132,697
Total funds	136,183	48,929	185,112

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

	Incoming resources (£)	Resources expended (£)	Movement in funds (£)
Unrestricted funds	136,076	(127,637)	8,439
Restricted funds	294,145	(253,655)	40,490
Total funds	430,221	(381,292)	48,929

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31st March 2023

14. Movement in Funds (continued)

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.21 (£)	Net movement in funds (£)	At 31.3.22 (£)
Unrestricted funds	39,851	4,125	43,976
Restricted funds	91,686	521	92,207
Total funds	131,537	4,646	136,183

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

	Incoming resources (£)	Resources expended (£)	Movement in funds (£)
Unrestricted funds	142,388	(138,263)	4,125
Restricted funds	268,885	(268,364)	521
Total funds	411,273	(406,627)	4,646

15. Related Party Disclosures

There have been no related party transactions in the year.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31st March 2023

16. Summary of Fund Movements

	Funds 31.3.22	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Funds 31.3.23
Restricted income funds					
Schools	3,000	-	2,000		1,000
Building Bridges	14,915	10,000	24,915		-
Music Hubs	12,873	1,200	14,073		-
Family Community Programme	7,679	15,957	22,879		757
Inclusive Choir	13,195	57,377	44,820		25,752
Equipment	4,206	750	1,184		3,772
Staff Training and Development	-	4,400	1,065		3,335
Sounds Wild	4,779	21,487	11,064		15,202
Festivals	5,000	12,050	7,558		9,492
Family Support	8,143	50,000	48,545		9,598
Sounds Together	-	40,000	-		40,000
Community Commissioned Work	(200)	15,900	15,319		381
Choir Commissioned Work	18,617	41,711	36,920		23,408
Schools Commissioned Work	-	23,313	23,313		-
Total restricted funds	92,207	294,145	253,655		132,697
Unrestricted income funds					
Unrestricted income funds	43,976	136,076	127,637		52,415
Total charity funds	136,183	430,221	381,292		185,112

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31st March 2023

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	38,677	44,681
Other trading activities		
Fundraising events	32,627	42,520
Other trading activities	14,080	7,461
Investment income		
Investments	992	21
Charitable activities		
Charitable activities	343,845	316,590
Total incoming resources	430,221	411,273

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities (continued)

for the year ended 31st March 2023

	2023 (£)	2022 (£)
EXPENDITURE		
Raising donations and legacies		
Sundries	-	380
Raising funds	7,769	7,262
Charitable activities		
Wages	294,913	334,694
Social security	11,298	11,354
Pensions	5,037	5,125
Hire of plant and machinery	1,981	3,042
Rates and water	8,082	4,117
Insurance	2,673	2,600
Telephone	528	419
Postage and stationery	1,427	1,395
Advertising	930	2,663
Sundries	40,896	27,762
Amortisation of intangible fixed assets	1,015	1,845
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	4,743	3,969
	373,523	398,985
Total resources expended	381,292	406,627
Net income	48,929	4,646

This page does not form part of the statutory financial statements.



soundabout

make music change lives

Soundabout

John Eccles House
Robert Robinson Avenue
Oxford Science Park
Oxford OX4 4GP

www.soundabout.org.uk

Soundabout is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (05023067) and a charity registered in England and Wales (1103002).

SOUNABOUT

England & Wales - Charity number 1103002

Accounts

soundabout

make music change lives



Annual Report 2021-22

Published October 2022

Our Vision

To create a musical community without barriers.



Our Mission

To empower people with profound disabilities to find their voice through music.

Our Values

Accessible, Aspirational,
Empowering, Trustworthy,
Responsive, Inclusive.



Organisational Objectives

1. To reduce isolation for Disabled participants and families through music
2. To diversify our income generation
3. To ensure the voices of our participants are heard
4. To evolve a strong, effective and diverse organisation

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Chair's Foreword

"In a year that still experienced disruption from the COVID pandemic, Soundabout remained strong and steadfast in delivering on its mission, vision and values and charitable activities. These included increasing our reach of community inclusive music making through establishing new inclusive choirs and choir networks around the country, re-starting our interactive outdoor multi-sensory 'Sounds Wild' sessions and maintaining an online offer of services to ensure maximum participation across our national community.

In addition, we exceeded our goal of providing 10,000 meaningful musical opportunities including online, hybrid and in-person sessions, reducing isolation faced by people with learning disabilities and their families, carers or teachers.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion remains a key focus for us, and in 2021 we launched a new cross functional group consisting of staff, practitioners and trustees to outline new areas of focus. These included recruitment practices and governance structures and continues to build.

Furthermore, we wanted to ensure that a spotlight was shone on our participants and community, and some of our media

work included a social media campaign which told the individual stories behind Soundabout's community, to much engagement.

There are nevertheless challenges for us regarding finances, as we continue to deal with all external factors contributing to a challenging financial landscape, however we start this coming year in a strong position, excited for new opportunities to come.

Lastly, I would like to personally thank all our Soundabout staff, practitioners, volunteers and trustees for all their continuous hard work, time and dedication to Soundabout and our community. Each person goes above and beyond and amid changes and external hardships, each person has remained wholly devoted to what we do and who we are, serving our participants and creating a community without barriers."



Emily Newsome
Interim Chair of Trustees
September 2022



In September 2021, after many years as Chair of Soundabout, Professor Adam Ockelford stepped down from leading the organisation. We are grateful for his years of service and commitment to improving the lives of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities through music.

CEO Introduction

“ It's about finding where you belong. ”

"The year 2021-2022 was all about using everything we had learned during the pandemic to shape a flexible hybrid offer for our community. We wanted to commit to being able to reach people where they were best placed to access our offer, whether in their home, at a school, in a community centre or in the virtual world where we experienced such connection during the start of the pandemic.

The growth of our reach through some of our new online community networks, our choir expansion and our Building Bridges project meant that we were able to hit our 5-year target of sharing 10,000 musical opportunities within just 2-years of setting out on that mission. Each interaction we have is a privilege that we do not take for granted, our whole team are grateful for the chance to share in the lives of so many wonderful individuals and organisations in our community.

The new hybrid context for delivery has really helped us understand our impact and value as an organisation. The testimonials from families especially, have put into words the difference that we make. Helping us understand that the sense of community building and belonging is just as important as the sound-conversations that we create.

I would like to thank our dedicated team for all the work they do, both in the delivery and behind the scenes, to make the difference every day. This report is a testament to their commitment and hard work.

Looking Forward

Soundabout is constantly evolving and it's an exciting time for the charity as we find our voice and take a more assured step out of the pandemic period. During the year ahead, we look forward to launching our Inclusive Choir hub, a web-based platform for our choir members and partners to access which contains all resources in one place. We will start our new Equity Group for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, to support their access to the wider choirs. We also re-launch a full multi-sensory music making offer for both indoor and outdoor provision.

If this year has been about finding where we belong, the coming year ahead looks set for us to establish this new space as our own."



Clare Cook
June 2022



CEO Update

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank Clare Cook for her contributions to Soundabout. Clare left Soundabout in July 2022 and thankfully remains a passionate Soundabout choir volunteer. For the past four years, Clare has been instrumental in the rapid development of the charity: she led the team to make significant progress towards our strategic goals, developed 13 Inclusive Choirs, steered us to shape a more diverse and inclusive charity, secured vital funding and corporate partnerships, and challenged us all. Her work at Soundabout has been an inspiration as she has set strong foundations for us to evolve.

Holly Radford-James was appointed as the new CEO and started in the post on 5th September 2022. Holly has developed expertise in musical inclusion through

positions in professional orchestras and arts centres, and while on the board of Sound Sense, the UK Association for Community Musicians. As Producer for the award-winning* 'MAC Makes Music' at the Midlands Arts Centre, Holly supported Music Education Hubs on their inclusion journeys. This was across three areas of practice; strategy, training, and music delivery. Key highlights included developing the Birmingham Centre for National Open Youth Orchestra (led by Disabled young people), and working in partnership with Soundabout to develop the West Midlands Inclusive Choir.

*MAC Makes Music won the 'Outstanding Musical Initiative Award' at the Music and Drama Education Awards in 2020 under Holly's leadership.

“ I am absolutely thrilled to have joined Soundabout following a lifelong interest in working musically with Disabled people that began while growing up as a carer for a Disabled family member. In previous work roles I've had the privilege of exploring what musical inclusion means across the broadest sense with a wide range of communities: from working with youth offending teams, to newly arrived families, female carers, and Disabled young people. I fell in love with Soundabout while working in partnership with the charity on the inclusive choirs, and was overjoyed when the opportunity arose to become more involved.”



Holly-Radford James
September 2022



Reducing Isolation for Participants and Families through Music

Overarching five-year delivery target:

Reduce isolation faced by people with learning disabilities and their families, carers or teachers by providing 10,000 meaningful musical opportunities per year.



Overview in Numbers

for April 2021 - March 2022

The delivery of this target included a wide range of services such as: our online music making provision, SEN schools music making work, training (both online and in-person), Inclusive Choir delivery, working with families in their homes and delivering multi-sensory projects.



10,811
total musical opportunities



40
weekly/fortnightly music sessions



13
Inclusive Choirs established



32
choir leaders trained



223
training sessions delivered



7
Emerging Leaders graduating with opportunities



136
families receiving 1:1 support



406
families registered on current projects

Highlighted Projects: A Snapshot of Four of our Projects

The Soundabout Family Support Project

Soundabout's Family Support Coordinator was appointed in June 2021. The main aim of this new role within Soundabout is to be the main point of contact for any information, advice or guidance families need. The role is also to ensure that family's voices are woven into the design of our programs and operations, and to establish a reporting system so that we can celebrate our participants' achievements with their family. Year one has involved putting a number of new processes and systems in place, including family registrations, family communications plan, monitoring system to track participants' progress, and inclusive consultation with families.

As a result of the pilot project to monitor participant progress, practitioners are able to adapt and improve the experience for individuals in their sessions. One example, is understanding factors in sessions that distracted certain participants, making it difficult for them to focus. As a result of the family feedback, practitioners have made steps to reduce some of these distractions and enable the participants to get more out of the sessions.

“ It's really good to fill in the feedback form about how (my son) is feeling each week and how he is feeling after the session because the sessions make him happy. Thank you very much for providing the sessions each week, we both really enjoy them.”



The Building Bridges Project

The Building Bridges project, working with 0-5 year-olds and 16-25 year-olds, entered its final year of delivery with a careful transition for families to opt into face-to-face delivery where that was appropriate. Practitioners have been working 1:1 with families across England, using specialist resources based around the Sounds of Intent Framework, which you can explore at www.soundaboutfamily.org.uk. During 2021-22, we delivered over 600 family sessions and 50 online group sessions for over 80 active families.

Families told us...

“ A huge thank you for your time and commitment to the sessions, (My daughter) has thoroughly enjoyed them and is currently singing away to herself (she doesn't realise we can hear her). It is hard to believe that before we accessed Soundabout during lockdown she wouldn't have the radio on and getting her to even look at a computer screen was a challenge. Now she has her own Alexa playlists and will engage beautifully on zoom. Thank you once again.”

“ I cannot praise the work of Soundabout music sessions highly enough, the benefits are huge. Providing safe stimulus without over stimulation, the sessions have opened up (my daughter's) world. (Our practitioner) brings enthusiasm, knowledge and a sense of happiness and joy each time he comes. It inspires us to seek alternatives and not to give up for a brighter future, which in turn gives us renewed energy and vision benefitting (my daughter).”

As the project draws to its conclusion, we look at the legacy work and how we can use the resources created in the new post-pandemic landscape that we operate in. There have been countless challenges for our families during this period from lack of respite care to continuing to shield health-vulnerable participants. As we adapted and developed the project offer during this period we were constantly amazed by the participating families' resilience and commitment to the value of music-based provision for their children and young people. We want to thank all the families taking part in this project for their engagement and wish them many more joyful music-making times ahead.

The Soundabout Inclusive Choirs

The Soundabout Inclusive Choir network grew further to a total of 13 choirs, delivered in partnership with Music Education Hubs across England. Against a backdrop of changing COVID restrictions we developed our hybrid approach to choir sessions, delivered both online and in person, removing another barrier to inclusion for participants and their families.

As one mum expressed, after watching her autistic son leading the room with his passionate drumming:

The Inclusive Choir model and good practice will remain a key part of our offer at Soundabout and we are excited to continue to grow best practice and share that with as many individuals and organisations as we can. Our choir members continue to amaze us with their beautiful contributions and we feel most honoured to be able to showcase their achievements with the wider world.

“ It's about finding where you belong. ”

Magic Moments

Recorded by a practitioner



A boy attends with his Mum and he sang one of the new songs with perfect words and tuning. His Mum said he finds language very difficult and his fluency and length of phrases was amazing for him.



A little girl with profound learning disabilities played the drum throughout the rehearsal but by the end she was singing in response to the Soundabout practitioner singing to her.



A Mum said she usually can't sing at home because her daughter tells her to stop but at choir they are able to sing together.

The Emerging Leaders Project

Soundabout supported three Emerging Youth Leaders and four Emerging Adult Leaders across the year. Both groups progressed during the year and were involved in a wide variety of activities including: leading musical activities within the groups and within choir sessions, developing their own 'Soundabout News' content and jingle for broadcast, composing their own pieces of music based around their preferred sounds, and supporting the selection of new charity Trustees.

A parent told us:

“ I'd just like to say that I thought the emerging leaders was such a great experience for (my son). It has really contributed towards making him more independent during online sessions. The wide variety of activities has held his interest. He especially loved interviewing people. The relationships that he has developed with (the other Emerging Leaders) as a result of these sessions are lovely. They really understand each other in such a supportive way. I'm so grateful to (the group leaders) for their understanding and dedication during these fantastic sessions.”

Participants told us:

“ I love emerging leaders sessions.”

“ (I) enjoyed working with (the group leaders). They are always happy and this makes (me) happy.”

We look forward to running another Emerging Leaders project in the future and are keen to ensure that our seven graduates remain involved in our delivery and are given opportunities wherever possible. We have been delighted to work with such talented individuals.



Diversification of Income Generation

Special Events

Across the year we have been able to run two special fundraising events. Firstly, the online Thomas's Tea Party fundraiser in July 2021, which raised £2295. Over a hundred people joined us for this festival of music naturally starring the Soundabout Inclusive Choirs!

Our Christmas Heart Campaign was launched in December 2021 and was a poignant moment in our fundraising journey as we needed to raise urgent funds to ensure the continuation of our online community music sessions. The team set an ambitious target to keep the provision going. We sold Christmas cards and Soundabout items from the shop, we had a special advent calendar of Christmas songs and then held a magical online fundraising concert hosted by the marvelous Jessica Hynes. We were delighted to be able to reach our target to ensure that our online provision re-started, which was back up and running on the 1st January 2022 as a direct result of this campaign.

Corporate Supporters: Inland Homes and Fleet Caravans

We were delighted and truly grateful to develop new relationships with corporate sponsors during this period. Inland Homes kindly donated £30,000 and Fleet Caravans donated £3,000 to support Soundabout's music-making sessions for Disabled children, young people and adults.

Community Fundraising

Soundabout is indebted to individuals who generously and creatively raise money through online community fundraising. Recently, a Soundabout Inclusive Choir participant launched a sponsored 'Singathon' during which she shared a video of her singing a different song each day for a month. Her efforts gained 1,300 supporters on social media and raised £100 for our charity.

Challenge Events

Following its successful debut in 2021, Soundabout relaunched the Moveabout Challenge fundraising campaign at the start of this year. Between January-March 2022, supporters from all around the UK and beyond gained sponsorship as they moved about in whatever way they preferred; from walking and wheeling to horse-riding and rollerblading. In total, the Moveabout 2022 Team collected an impressive 8,160km and raised £5,128 for the charity. A huge thanks to all that took part.



Trusts and Foundations

Thanks to the support of charitable trusts and foundations, we have been able to support hundreds of children, young people and adults through our musical community without barriers in 2021-22. We are grateful to all of our supporters and have listed below, with thanks, those who gave over £5,000:

National Lottery Awards for All England
E B M Charitable Trust
Global's Make Some Noise
The Mahoro Charitable Trust
MariaMarina Foundation
Masonic Charitable Foundation
The Revere Charitable Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation
Youth Music

Special Thank You

John Hall has been at the heart of Soundabout since it was founded, along with his late wife, Sarah, and their family. John and Sarah's tremendous support of the charity in memory of their son Thomas, continues to make such a difference to the lives of other profoundly disabled children and young people. After decades of support, from being the Treasurer on the board of trustees to ongoing fundraising support, we'd like to take this opportunity to offer our sincere thanks to John.

Voices of Participants to be Heard

Voices of Soundabout

Take a look at our *Voices of Soundabout* series here.



Inspired by the famous Facebook page *Humans of New York*, *Voices of Soundabout* is a social media series which amplifies the stories of our participants, families, practitioners, volunteers, trustees and core team. The accessible nature (picture and text) of these posts allows the Soundabout team and our wider social media audience to hear new narratives and learn about how Soundabout has influenced their lives. Some of these posts have received very high responses, becoming some of our most popular posts on our platforms. For example, Izzie and Theo's story received 116 likes, 23 comments and 5 shares on Facebook. [View their full story.](#)

“ We have had such a wonderful time attending the face to face choir sessions now they're running again. My son hates trying anything new but as I'd shown him videos of Izzie enjoying it, he agreed to come along and we couldn't stop him dancing!”

Media Interviews

Soundabout participated in two interviews with the BBC. BBC Bristol interviewed Ben Pollard, an active member of the West of England and Gloucestershire Inclusive choir, and Emma Hughes, our Inclusive Choir Co-ordinator, about the launch of the West of England Inclusive Choir. [Listen to the interview here.](#)

Two of our Emerging Leaders, Sam and Theo, were then interviewed by BBC Oxford, in response to the lifting of lockdown restrictions. These opportunities offer first-class experiences to our participants that help them to build confidence, even in stressful situations, as well as share their experiences and thoughts with the wider world.

Performances

Giving our community a platform through performance is something we are committed to offer for those members who choose to participate. Our Choirs have showcased some stunning performances and special moments over the past year including performing at the Soundabout Christmas Concert and at Worcester Cathedral. One of the most touching performances of the year came through our partnership with Heart FM, where the solo artist Freya Ridings invited choir members to join her to record a rendition of 'Lost Without You'. [Watch our performance here.](#)



Strong, Diverse and Effective Organisation

EDI Working Group

Soundabout's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion working group have met monthly since its inception in November 2020. The working group are 11 people from the staff team, trustees, practitioners and volunteers who give their own time voluntarily to come together to push forward this agenda. During this reporting period we improved on three key areas; firstly, we changed how we collate and report on our monitoring data to enable us to better understand gaps in our organisation. Secondly, we developed our recruitment practices to make the processes more accessible, and to try and attract a wide range of applicants to share their skills with us. Thirdly, we ensured that the voice of our community is better reflected across all areas of our organisation by setting up participation and focus groups to feed back into our governance structures.

We are very proud of the progress we have made on these three areas and recognise that there is much work to do. The group's passion and determination to make changes will help us forge ahead with this constantly evolving agenda.



Participation

Families and participants are actively encouraged to feed their thoughts and ideas into all of Soundabout's work. Specific mechanisms for families to provide feedback include Stakeholder Surveys, Focus Groups and the new Soundabout Participant Advisory Group.

Soundabout Participant Advisory Group

This newly established group meets quarterly ahead of upcoming trustee meetings, allowing for the group to feed into the agenda for each trustee meeting and have a voice at a strategic level. Each group is attended by a dedicated member of the trustee board, to make sure that feedback is shared directly with trustees and so that families know they are being listened to. As a direct result of discussions at the first meeting, new promotional resources have been created for the choirs and FAQ information on the website has been adapted to better reflect the family experience.



Focus Groups

10 families attended focus groups (or 1-1 feedback sessions) to share their Soundabout experiences, including: what's working well, what families would like to see in future, and anything that could be improved. Feedback from focus group sessions was integral to establishing our Soundabout Family Membership. This allowed us to reinstate our online music sessions 'Facebook Lives!' in a sustainable way, through ideas shared and open discussions about contribution to session costs.





Environmental Sustainability

Soundabout are starting to address this evolving and urgent global concern. This is a new area of work for the organisation, so we have started the process by running awareness raising sessions on Climate Change, which have been wonderfully facilitated by external volunteers from an organisation called Climate Fresk.

We have been researching ways in which to create a more environmentally sustainable approach to our working practices and plan to start implementing changes over the months to come.

Governance

Soundabout have developed two new Sub Committees including Finance and Risk, and Governance led by our Trustee Board. We have also recruited new Board members with specialist experience including safeguarding, digital communications and governance.

Soundabout have linked our governance structures to our participation agenda so that our community voice directly feeds into our Trustee Board meetings ensuring members have influence.

Volunteers

Volunteers are the essence of our charity. Every year dozens of volunteers generously give up their time to support our work in making music change lives. Selflessly giving their time enables more people with learning disabilities or complex needs to express themselves, enjoy and benefit from the power of music. Our volunteers grew exponentially during the pandemic, from a handful of dedicated individuals to a team of over 40 active working remotely!

We want to acknowledge, with huge thanks, all the wonderful people that grow and support our cause. Volunteers play a variety of key roles at Soundabout:

- Maintain Soundabout website and upload Youtube videos
- Boost our social media presence
- Provide HR support
- Assist and accompany the choir leaders at online or in-person rehearsals
- Share their knowledge and skills to design our stakeholders' surveys
- Play an important role as Trustees and make important decisions
- Support our wide range of programs
- Deliver music sessions
- Fundraise vital funds to support music-making for Disabled people

We are so grateful for their invaluable support, commitment and dedication.



Report of the Trustees and Unaudited Financial Statements

for the year ended 31st March 2022

Ad Valorem Accountancy Services Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
2 Manor Farm Court
Old Wolverton
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK12 5NN

Reference and Administrative Details

for the year ended 31st March 2022

Trustees	S Claridge Y Dattani (appointed 31.8.2021) J Hall (resigned 24.9.2021) D Harker (resigned 20.9.2021) M Hartley (appointed 12.1.2022) K Jennings (appointed 16.6.2021) R Marshall (resigned 8.7.2022) E Newsome S Nicholls (appointed 8.9.2021) A Ockelford (resigned 20.9.2021) C Pattinson (resigned 20.9.2021) C Thomson (appointed 31.8.2021) N Waddington (appointed 31.8.2021) B Weston-Conway (appointed 12.1.2022)
Registered Office	John Eccles House Robert Robinson Avenue Oxford Science Park Oxford Oxfordshire OX4 4GP
Registered Company Number	05023067 (England and Wales)
Registered Charity Number	1103002
Independent Examiner	Ad Valorem Accountancy Services Limited Chartered Certified Accountants 2 Manor Farm Court Old Wolverton Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire MK12 5NN
Bankers	CAF Bank 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4JQ

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Soundabout

for the year ended 31st March 2022

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Soundabout ('the Company')

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the Company for the year ended 31 March 2022.

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 registered member of Association of Chartered Certified Accountants 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;
2. the accounts do not accord with those records;
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.

D R Kerins FCCA

Association of Chartered Certified Accountants
Ad Valorem Accountancy Services Limited
Chartered Certified Accountants
2 Manor Farm Court
Old Wolverton
Milton Keynes
Buckinghamshire
MK12 5NN


.....
D R Kerins

25/10/2022
.....
Date

Statement of Financial Activities (Incorporating an Income and Expenditure Account)

for the year ended 31st March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds (£)	Restricted funds (£)	31.3.22 Total funds (£)	31.3.21 Total funds (£)
Income and endowments from					
Donations and legacies		44,681	-	44,681	56,882
Charitable activities including grants: restricted funds		-	268,885	268,885	258,291
Charitable activities including grants: unrestricted funds		47,705	-	47,705	55,115
Other trading activities	3	49,981	-	49,981	81,668
Investment income	4	21	-	21	35
Total		142,388	268,885	411,273	451,991
Expenditure on					
Raising funds		7,642	-	7,642	9,445
Charitable activities: restricted funds		-	268,364	268,364	193,101
Charitable activities: unrestricted funds		130,621	-	130,621	184,803
Total		138,263	268,364	406,627	387,349
Net income		4,125	521	4,646	64,642
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		39,851	91,686	131,537	66,895
Total funds carried forward		43,976	92,207	136,183	131,537

The notes form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet

for the year ended 31st March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds (£)	Restricted funds (£)	31.3.22 Total funds (£)	31.3.21 Total funds (£)
Fixed assets					
Intangible assets	9	1,015	-	1,015	2,861
Tangible assets	10	8,401	-	8,401	6,098
Total fixed assets		9,056	-	9,056	8,959
Current assets					
Stocks	11	652	-	652	1,540
Debtors	12	7,295	-	7,295	4,461
Cash at bank		33,907	92,207	126,114	141,528
Total current assets		41,854	92,207	134,061	147,529
Creditors					
Amounts falling due within one year	13	(6,934)	-	(6,934)	(24,951)
Net current assets		34,920	92,207	127,127	122,578
Total assets less current liabilities		43,976	92,207	136,183	131,537
Net assets		43,976	92,207	136,183	131,537
Funds					
Unrestricted funds				43,976	39,851
Restricted funds				92,207	91,686
Total funds	14			136,183	131,537

The notes form part of these financial statements.

Balance Sheet (continued)

for the year ended 31st March 2022

The charitable company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for

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

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

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on

13th October 2022

..... and were signed on its behalf by:



.....
S Claridge - Trustee

Notes to the Financial Statements

for the year ended 31st March 2022

1. Statutory Information

Soundabout is a private limited company, limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales. The company's registered number and registered office can be found on the company information page. The presentation of the financial statements is in pound sterling (£).

2. Accounting Policies

Accounting convention 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.

Incoming resources/turnover

Income has been recognised on the following basis:

- Donations and grants are generally recognised when received.
- Invoiced income is accrued monthly.
- Interest income is recognised on receipt.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis.

Allocation of expenditure

Salary and related staff costs are directly allocated to a charitable activity or other resources expended heading on the basis of time spent. The charity distinguishes between overhead costs in support of its charitable work, for example course administration, marketing and training equipment, and general administration costs. Both categories of overheads are allocated to fundraising, charitable activity and governance costs based on the amount of direct expenditure incurred.

Amortisation of intangible fixed assets

Amortisation is calculated to write off the cost of intangible fixed assets on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives at the following rate:

Website and software : Straight line 3 years

Tangible fixed assets

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

Plant and machinery	- 33% on cost
Fixtures and fittings	- 33% on cost

Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value, after making due allowance for obsolete and slow moving items.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31st March 2022

2. Accounting Policies (continued)

Taxation

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

Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are:

Unrestricted funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees. Income is recognised as unrestricted income when the charity becomes entitled to the income as a result of activities already performed and any pre-conditions have been met. Where this is not the case the income is deferred and not included in incoming resources until the activities have been performed.

Designated funds - these comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the Trustees Report; any movements are in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds - these are funds that 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. The Trustees monitor and discuss the restricted funds at meetings to ensure the restricted expenditure is allocated accordingly.

3. Other Trading Activities

	31.3.22 (£)	31.3.21 (£)
Other trading/fundraising activities	49,981	81,668

4. Investment Income

	31.3.22 (£)	31.3.21 (£)
Investments	21	35

5. Net income/(expenditure)

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

	31.3.22 (£)	31.3.21 (£)
Depreciation - owned assets	3,968	5,331
Website costs amortisation	1,846	3,786

6. Trustees' Remuneration and Benefits

There were no trustees' remuneration or other benefits for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31st March 2022

6. Trustees' Remuneration and Benefits (continued)

Trustees' expenses

There were no trustees' expenses paid for the year ended 31 March 2022 nor for the year ended 31 March 2021.

7. Staff Costs

No Member of staff earned more than £60,000 a year. The average number of employees during the year was 12 (2021 - 7).

8. Comparatives for the Statement of Financial Activities

	Unrestricted funds (£)	Restricted funds (£)	Total funds (£)
Income and endowments from			
Donations and legacies	56,882	-	56,882
Charitable activities including grants: restricted funds	-	258,291	258,291
Charitable activities including grants: unrestricted funds	55,115	-	55,115
Other trading activities	81,668	-	81,668
Investment income	35	-	35
Total	193,700	258,291	451,991
Expenditure on			
Raising funds	9,445	-	9,445
Charitable activities: restricted funds	-	193,101	193,101
Charitable activities: unrestricted funds	184,803	-	184,803
Total	194,248	193,101	387,349
Net income/(expenditure)	(548)	65,190	64,642
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward	40,399	26,496	66,895
Total funds carried forward	39,851	91,686	131,537

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31st March 2022

9. Intangible Fixed Assets

	Website Costs (£)
Cost	
At 1st April 2021 and 31st March 2022	27,007
Amortisation	
At 1st April 2021	24,146
Charge for one year	1,846
At 31st March 2022	25,992
Net book value	
At 31st March 2022	1,015
At 31st March 2021	2,861

10. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Plant and machinery (£)	Fixtures and fittings (£)	Totals (£)
Cost			
At 1st April 2021	28,147	14,207	42,354
Additions	5,911	-	5,911
At 31st March 2022	34,058	14,207	48,265
Depreciation			
At 1st April 2021	23,093	13,163	36,256
Charge for one year	3,445	523	3,968
At 31st March 2022	26,538	13,686	40,224
Net book value			
At 31st March 2022	7,520	521	8,041
At 31st March 2021	5,054	1,044	6,098

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31st March 2022

11. Stocks

	31.3.22 (£)	31.3.21 (£)
Stock	652	1,540

12. Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year

	31.3.22 (£)	31.3.21 (£)
Trade debtors	2,811	2,279
Other debtors	2,000	-
Prepayments and accrued income	2,484	2,182
Total	7,295	4,461

13. Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year

	31.3.22 (£)	31.3.21 (£)
Social security and other taxes	3,846	3,161
Accrued expenses	3,088	21,790
Total	6,934	24,951

14. Movement in Funds

	1.4.21 (£)	Net movement in funds (£)	31.3.22 (£)
Unrestricted funds	39,851	4,125	43,976
Restricted funds	91,686	521	92,207
Total funds	131,537	4,646	136,183

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

	Incoming resources (£)	Resources expended (£)	Movement in funds (£)
Unrestricted funds	142,388	(138,263)	4,125
Restricted funds	268,885	(268,364)	521
Total funds	411,273	(406,627)	4,646

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31st March 2022

14. Movement in Funds (continued)

Comparatives for movement in funds

	At 1.4.20 (£)	Net movement in funds (£)	At 31.3.21 (£)
Unrestricted funds	40,399	(548)	39,851
Restricted funds	26,496	65,190	91,686
Total funds	66,895	64,642	131,537

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

	Incoming resources (£)	Resources expended (£)	Movement in funds (£)
Unrestricted funds	193,700	(194,248)	(548)
Restricted funds	258,291	(193,101)	65,190
Total funds	451,991	(387,349)	64,642

15. Related Party Disclosures

Adam Ockelford, a director of Soundabout until 20 September 2021, is Professor of Music and Director of the Applied Music Research Centre at the University of Roehampton. The University has undertaken research for Soundabout, payments for which are negotiated and approved by other Trustees of the charity. Professor Ockelford receives no personal benefit from these payments.

There have been no other related party transactions in the year.

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

for the year ended 31st March 2022

16. Summary of Fund Movements

	Funds 31.3.21	Incoming resources	Outgoing resources	Transfers	Funds 31.3.22
Restricted income funds					
Schools	3,000				3,000
Building Bridges	17,800	50,000	52,885		14,915
Music Hubs	20,224	6,644	13,995		12,873
Family Community Programme	7,261	29,178	28,760		7,679
Inclusive Choir	18,639	28,000	33,444		13,195
Equipment	6,534	4,266	6,594		4,206
Sounds Wild	2,135	5,400	2,756		4,779
Festivals	5,000				5000
Leicestershire SMS	5,185			(5,185)	-
Peterborough MH	3,280			(3,280)	-
Wiltshire Music Connect	2,628			(2,628)	-
Family Support		50,000	41,857		8,143
Schools Commissioned Work		48,938	48,938		-
Community Commissioned Work		9,630	9,830		(200)
Choir Commissioned Work		36,829	29,305	11,093	18,617
Total restricted funds	91,686	268,885	268,364	-	92,207
Unrestricted income funds					
Unrestricted income funds	39,851	142,388	138,263		43,976
Total charity funds	131,537	411,273	406,627		136,183

The Community Commissioned Work restricted fund received income of £500 on 4 April 2022 to return the fund back into credit. Under the charity's reserve policy the Trustees have resolved that the upper limit for unrestricted funds should be set at approximately 3 months running costs (£91,000). Current unrestricted reserves are £43,976. The charity aims to increase its unrestricted reserves to their upper limit over the next 5 years.



soundabout

make music change lives

Soundabout

John Eccles House
Robert Robinson Avenue
Oxford Science Park
Oxford OX4 4GP

www.soundabout.org.uk

Soundabout is a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales (05023067) and a charity registered in England and Wales (1103002).

SOUNABOUT

England & Wales - Charity number 1103002

Accounts

soundabout

make music change lives

Annual Report and Financial Statements
of the Trustees and Directors of Soundabout
For the year ended 31 March 2021



Company Limited by Guarantee no: 05023067
Charity No: 1103002

SOUNDBABOUT ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

CONTENTS

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1. From the Chair

In a year of lockdowns, change and uncertainty, Soundabout made the move to remote working and online provision of all music sessions, choir rehearsals and performances.

The vision and energy of our CEO, Clare Cook, and the dedication and hard work of the Soundabout team made this move a resounding success, with Soundabout reaching even more children, young people and adults with profound disabilities through music. The digital move enabled Soundabout to be more inclusive, to reduce costs and to extend our reach more fully across the UK.

The transition back to face-to-face music sessions and the creation of a hybrid online and face-to-face capability will be a significant project for Soundabout in the coming year – keeping the best of new ways of working without losing the power and intimacy of face-to-face sessions.

Soundabout faces a challenging outlook over the next three years with the uncertain environment arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. As the financial impact of the past year becomes clearer, with a possibility of a reduced income from Trusts and Foundations, Soundabout starts the year in a strong position financially, and the demonstrable flexibility to function online, to further reduce costs and fundraise successfully through virtual events and marketing. We embrace the challenge to be sustainable as a charity but maintain and improve the quality and extensive reach of the services we offer.

Professor Adam Ockelford (retired 14 September 2021)

*After over 23 years as Chair of Soundabout, Professor Adam Ockelford has now stepped down from leading the organisation, and will be replaced by Nathan Waddington for an interim period. We are grateful for his years of service and commitment to unlocking the potential of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities through music.



Adam Ockelford
Chair of Trustees

2. From the CEO

In a year of unprecedented change and uncertainty, Soundabout has seen a significant growth in impact with our music provision reaching and benefitting 5,441 people with learning disabilities, parents, carers and teaching staff, with a total of 1,018 music making sessions delivered and a Facebook reach with our live sessions totalling 145,205 participants and a peak viewing total of 2,800. The Covid-19 pandemic was the catalyst for much of this growth as we were able to take our specialist music provision online quickly and with great effect. The pandemic has brought into sharp focus the inequalities and barriers faced by many of the families we support, as well as being the driver behind some ground-breaking new solutions to social isolation. Families, carers and participants have reported that our online services have been “a lifeline”, creating communities and support networks for people with severe disabilities and removing many barriers to participation.

This year at Soundabout we have been challenged to change our thinking in relation to diversity and inclusion. In response to the long overdue discussions about institutionalised racism and inequality that are happening on a global level we realised that Soundabout may not be reaching and supporting some of the most disadvantaged in our learning-disabled community. We saw a need to refocus our culture, communications and ethics with equity, diversity and inclusion at the very heart of our strategy. We continue to explore how we can improve in this area.

Soundabout Inclusive Choirs have had an exciting year of growth and development. Established for one year before we went into the first lockdown, the move to the virtual world presented as many opportunities as it did challenges. Featuring on BBC News at the height of lockdown, we have quickly grown from one choir to six, with a further six choirs planned to start in September 2021.

In 2020, we piloted a scheme for Emerging Leaders with learning disabilities to support the choir development. We currently have seven young leaders, chosen from amongst our choir participants, who are being trained and supported to take on a leadership role within the choirs.

Soundabout’s community has also benefitted from the time and expertise of a growing team of volunteers. We started the year with seven volunteers and currently have a vibrant team of 34, who fulfil a diverse range of roles and responsibilities, from supporting the choirs and music making sessions to administration, marketing, social media and much more.

Looking ahead, Soundabout’s virtual sessions - now a core part of our service - will remain central to our approach, even when we return to face-to-face sessions, as their impact has been so powerful in enabling families across the UK to engage with their disabled children in music making. We continue to build on new partnerships and connections with special schools and organisations and there are opportunities for further, innovative projects when we are able to restart sessions in schools and colleges.

Soundabout is ready to meet the challenges of the future, to build a UK-wide musical community without barriers; a stronger, more diverse and effective organisation; and to continue as pioneers in the field of providing music services for those with the most complex needs.

Clare Cook, Soundabout CEO



Clare Cook
Soundabout CEO

TOPLINE FIGURES FOR 2020/2021

INCLUSIVE CHOIR:

*88 rehearsals *361 participants

MUSIC SESSION DELIVERY:

*669 sessions * 586 participants

SCHOOL:

*219 sessions. *2644 participants

TRAINING:

*42 sessions

3. Sarah Hall - In Memoriam

We are very sad to share the news that Sarah Hall, who co-founded Soundabout in honour of her son Thomas, died on 10th May 2021 after a long illness. She was a truly remarkable individual, and a great friend of Soundabout from its inception.

Sarah lived at her farm in Kidmore End – site of Soundabout’s annual summer festival Thomas’ Tea Party – for more than 50 years with her husband John Hall and their four sons. Her youngest child, Thomas, had multiple disabilities, including severe autism. In his early years, music became not only a means of communication but a source of pleasure for Thomas and a means to building a close and loving relationship with his family. Sadly, Thomas died aged just 16 and Sarah and her husband, John, founded Soundabout in his memory, to enable others like him to access and benefit from a music education appropriate to their needs, and to experience the joy of communicating through music.

Sarah played a large part in her local community and she was a keen traveller with an extensive and varied range of interests, notably a passion for art, music and conservation. Following her cancer diagnosis in 2012, she faced her ongoing treatment with optimism and energy, and she will be much missed by all the team and trustees at Soundabout.



REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES

For the reporting period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

The directors present their report with the financial statements of the company for the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

1. Reference and Administrative

Charity Name	Soundabout
Registered Charity Number	1103002
Company Number	05023067
Registered Office	Soundabout John Eccles House Robert Robinson Avenue Oxford Science Park Oxford OX4 4GP
Website	soundabout.org.uk
Directors/Trustees	Professor Adam Ockelford - Chair John Hall – Treasurer Simon Claridge Danielle Harker Rob Marshall Emily Newsome Catherine Pattinson
Chief Executive Officer	Clare Cook
Senior Management Team	Jo Colton - Director of Programmes Philippa Higginbottom - Director of Operations Justin Rees - Finance Manager Maryse Degbegni - Business Administrator Isabel Bedford - Development Practitioner
Patrons	Derek Paravicini Debbie Wiseman OBE
Founders	Ann Brown Sarah and John Hall Sue Simmonds Founded in honour of Thomas Hall
Principal Bankers	CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill West Malling Kent ME19 4TA

4. Structure, Governance and Management

Nature of governing document

Soundabout initially became a registered charity in November 1997 and then registered as a charitable company with Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 22 January 2004. Registered as a company, number 05023067, and as a charity, number 1103002, with the Charity Commission for England and Wales on 2 April 2004.

Organisation

Soundabout is led by an experienced Board of Trustees who, together with the Chief Executive, ensure that the charity delivers its aims. The Board of Trustees has overall responsibility for governing the charity's strategy and finances, and monitoring its performance. Day-to-day activities are the responsibility of the Chief Executive and managers. The Chief Executive reports to the trustees, and the managers report to the Chief Executive.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

We are committed to recruiting for a balance of skills and diversity on the board. Trustee positions are advertised and candidates are required to submit a CV and have an interview with the Chair, CEO and members of the management team. The Chair will then invite selected candidates to meet the charity's Emerging Leaders, a wider group of staff, other Trustees and wider stakeholders, including families who engage in Soundabout services.

Charity Infrastructure: Employees and Volunteers

Soundabout employs a mix of full time and part time staff equating to seven FTE, and contracts the services of 40 freelance music practitioners, supported by 24 active volunteers. Soundabout continues to have a highly motivated and expert team.



Our equal opportunities statement

We are committed to equality, valuing diversity within our workforce, and to creating a musical community without barriers, informed by the social model of disability. Everyone should be free to participate regardless of gender, race, ability, religion, sexuality or age. We will provide equality of opportunity and will not tolerate discrimination on grounds of gender, gender identity, marital status, sexual orientation, race, colour, nationality, religion, age, disability, HIV positivity, working pattern, caring responsibilities, political beliefs, socio-economic status – or any other grounds.

Our goal is to ensure that these commitments, reinforced by our values, are embedded in our day-to-day working practices with participants, families, colleagues, practitioners, volunteers, partners and other stakeholders.

We will demonstrate our commitment by:

- Promoting equality of opportunity and diversity within the communities in which we work and with all our partners and workforce
- Promoting diversity of thinking and representation on our Board through open, competence based and proactive recruitment practices and policies
- Continuing to achieve gender balance on our Board and working towards greater gender parity and diversity more broadly through the implementation of our Diversity Action Plan
- Treating our stakeholders, partners and colleagues fairly and with respect
- Promoting an environment free from discrimination, bullying and harassment, and tackling behaviour which breaches this
- Recognising and valuing the differences and individual contribution that people make
- Providing support and encouragement to staff to develop their careers and increase their contributions to the organisation through the enhancement of their skills and abilities
- Building in legislative requirements and best practice to all our service delivery and employee policies and procedures, and supporting these with appropriate training and guidance

Risk Management

All policies are reviewed regularly to ensure they remain relevant and up to date. We have a quality assurance system and risk management framework and policies for health and safety, children and vulnerable adults' protection, safeguarding, equal opportunities, fundraising, data protection, whistleblowing, recruitment of ex-offenders and storage and handling of the disclosure of information. We are committed to improving quality and minimising risk and to deliver excellent value for money in all aspects of our work.



5. Purpose, Aims and Charitable Activities of Public Benefit

Vision

A musical community without barriers.

Mission

To empower those with profound disabilities to find their voice through music.

Values

- Accessible – we strive to remove barriers to participation
- Aspirational – we are always striving to create opportunities to reach further
- Empowering – we search for and build confidence in peoples' own musical ability
- Trustworthy – we are transparent and put trust in our community
- Responsive – we put participants and their families at the heart of our decision- making process
- Inclusive – we stand strongly against all forms of discrimination

Five Year Strategic Objectives

- To reduce the isolation experienced by people with severe and profound learning disabilities by building a UK-wide musical community without barriers. To this end we aim to provide music services for 10,000 people annually by 2026 through our outreach.
- To improve Soundabout's sustainability by diversifying the charity's funding streams and securing new regular sources of income. This will require demonstrating more clearly to funders the positive, life-changing impact of our programmes. We aim to increase income to £500,000 by 2026.
- To continue to provide opportunities for the voices of people with learning disabilities – and their families – to be clearly heard in our society.
- To be a strong, diverse and effective organisation

Charitable Activities of Public Benefit

Trustees have complied with their duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have paid due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in deciding which duties the charity should undertake. We work to improve the lives of people with disabilities of all ages, many of who live in challenging circumstances. They experience a range of conditions such as autism, learning difficulties, social, emotional and behavioural difficulties and neurological, sensory and physical disabilities. Our charitable activities of public benefit include:

- Delivering regular free or partially-funded music making sessions for people with learning disabilities and their families and carers.
- Delivering high quality free or partially-funded training to teachers, teaching assistants, parents and carers in using music to aid communication and development for people with learning disabilities.
- Producing/supplying free or partially-funded resources and musical instruments for teachers, teaching assistants, parents and carers to use to interact musically with the people in their care.
- The public benefit arising from Soundabout's work is implicit in the services delivered and the assistance given to disabled children, young people and adults to help them reach their full potential, which benefits society as well as the disabled people themselves.

6. Spotlight on.....

a. Soundabout Inclusive Choirs

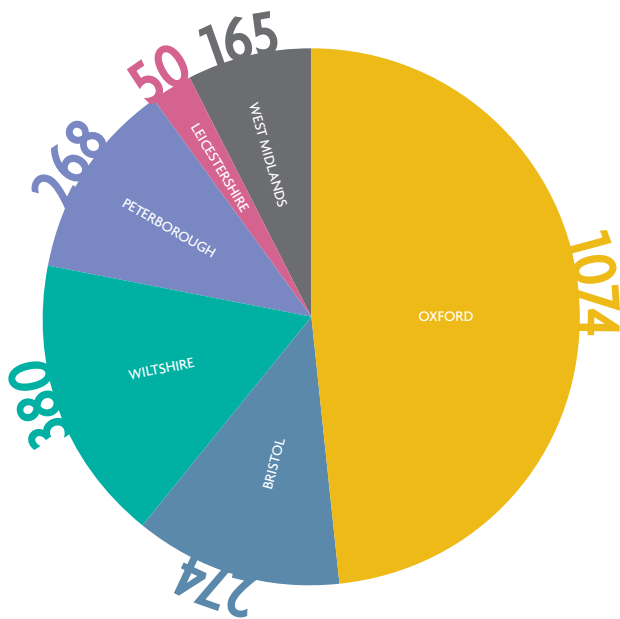
What are the Soundabout Inclusive Choirs?

The Soundabout Inclusive Choirs welcome people of all abilities, celebrating that everyone has their own way of sharing their voice. By welcoming all voices we aim to be as inclusive as possible, and actively try to remove barriers to participation from those with severe and profound learning disabilities.

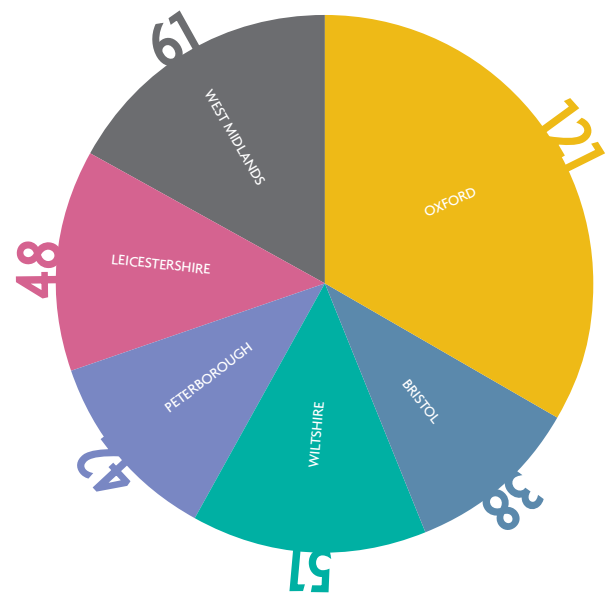
When the pandemic hit, Soundabout quickly moved most of our music provision and all choir rehearsals online. Quite a few participants had not previously been able to participate due to considerations of accessibility, personal care and transport. Our Zoom sessions offer the chance to focus on detail and to make sure that every participant is really heard. For some members, the choir is the only context within which they are able to make new friends and sustain established friendships; an essential element of the process. This year we have formed strong partnerships with music education hubs and our choirs have grown from one to six in a year, with the establishment of a further six in the near future.

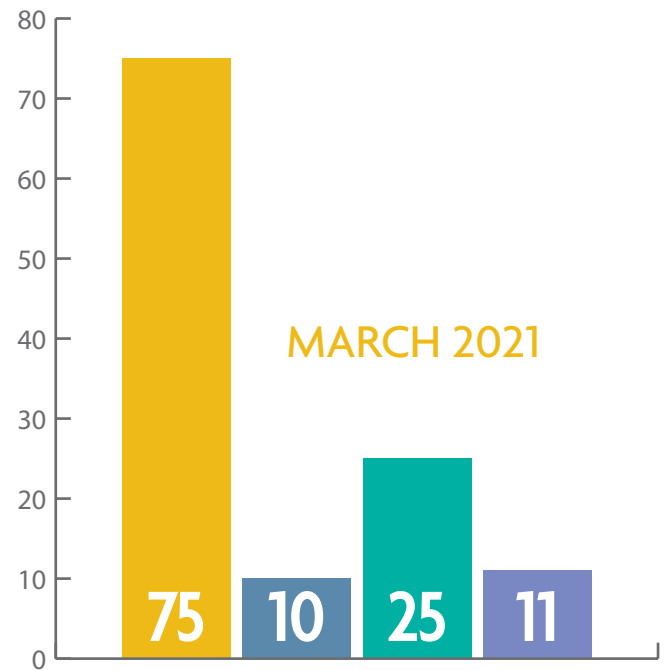
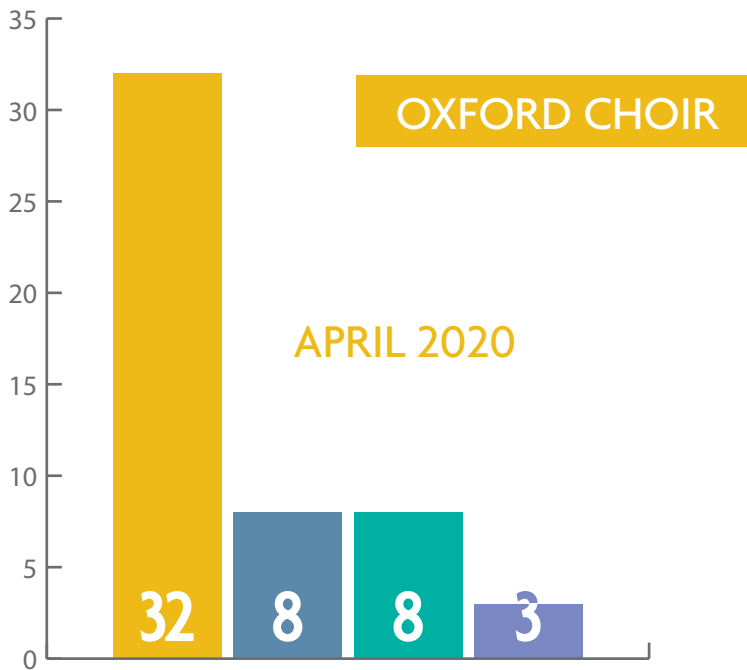
Working in partnership with Music Education Hubs and Arts Organisations to deliver the choirs our Soundabout funded choirs (Oxford and Bristol) have been joined by Peterborough (with Peterborough Music Hub), Leicester (with Leicester-Shire Music Hub), Wiltshire (with Wiltshire Music Connect) and West Midlands (with MAC Makes Music).

TOTAL ATTENDEES INCLUDING FAMILIES & SUPPORTERS



PARTICIPANTS





Choir member feedback

It's helping her to transition from mainstream to special needs schooling and is starting to see herself as different from her peers. The choir gives her the sense "these are my people".

I think the choir is fantastic and I love how they facilitate and support those taking part with equality and joy. I also love how they link in with other Choirs and community projects.

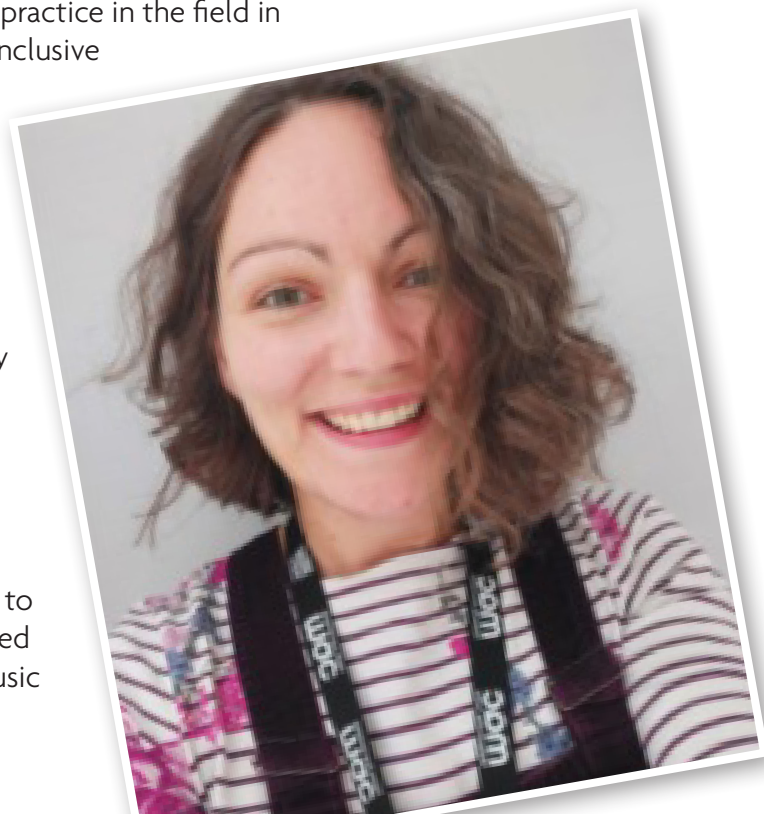
HOLLY RADFORD

Producer MAC Makes Music and WM choir partner

Soundabout are a truly inclusive organisation; they advocate for this and lead by example. The musical opportunities they offer really put the most vulnerable people in the centre and work from there.

Their Emerging Leaders programme is an example of best practice in the field in terms of being an inclusive workforce alongside offering inclusive activities. Soundabout are skilled at offering inclusive opportunities that remain high quality, and it is clear to see that they ensure the very best for their participants. In light of COVID-19, Soundabout have proven themselves to be versatile, flexible and innovative, expanding their reach during a time when others have had to reduce! Soundabout's team have creatively developed inclusive alternative ways of delivery that have opened up opportunities for those struggling with isolation.

Working with Soundabout on the development of the West Midlands Inclusive Choir has been just superb. The team are pro-active, ambitious, positive and excellent champions for inclusive work. Soundabout's commitment to continuing an offer during COVID-19 pandemic, has resulted in high quality online experiences (both in training and music delivery), and as a result we have been able to start a new programme of work easily during a challenging period.

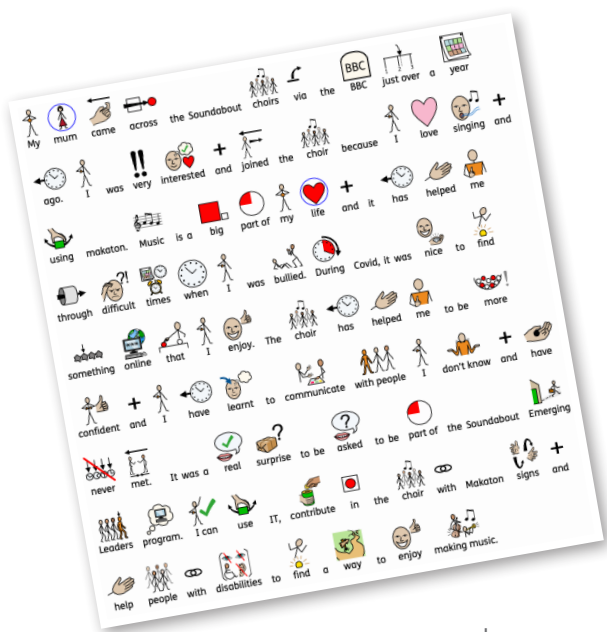
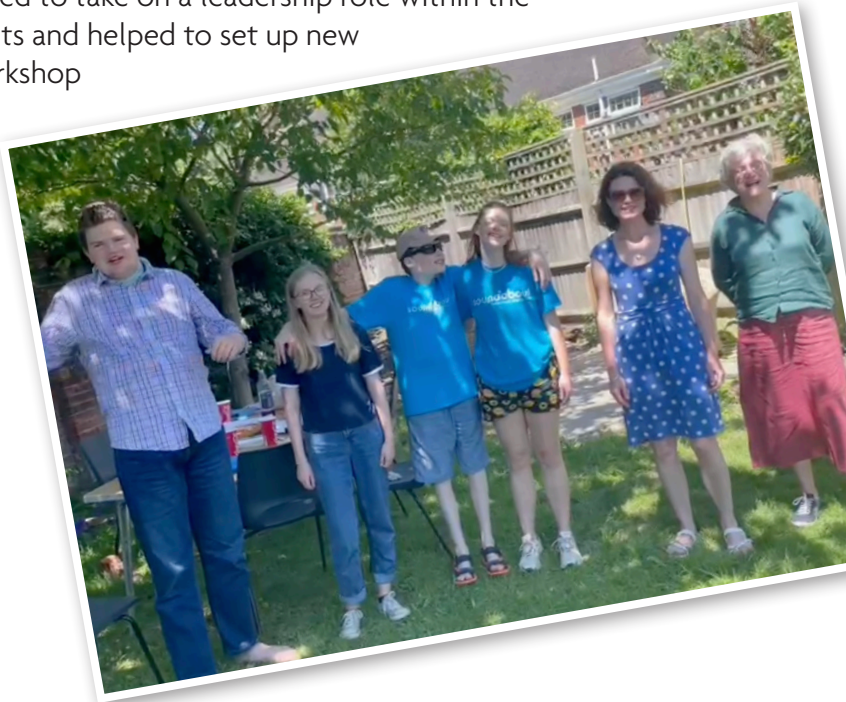


b. Emerging Leaders

Soundabout has piloted a new Emerging Leaders programme, working with a group of seven learning disabled young musicians, who are being trained and supported to take on a leadership role within the choirs and beyond. They have also run external events and helped to set up new choirs. Some particular highlights have been the workshop they led for the My Life My Choice festival, watching them support peers and lead sections of the main choir sessions and their questioning of the trustee applicants.

STORIES

Anna - Emerging Leader Inclusive Choirs



Robin's story (Not his real name)

“Robin came to the very first Soundabout session in an Oxford College.

We had kissed a lot of frogs and been to choirs which ‘welcomed everyone’ only when we arrived they had long complicated written songsheets, no other young people like Robin and certainly no parents sitting in the chair next to their 14 year old autistic with a learning disability son. This meant he (and I) had to fit I with the majority and obey the strict codes of behaviours which are unintelligible and irrelevant to him leaving me to translate and of course increasing his dependence.

What Robin loves is music, singing, the chance to perform, kindness and cake, followed by, the chance to perform in public, wild applause and heaps of praise. Please come forward Soundabout Inclusive Choir.

During the first week of lockdown Robin's Annie died (his grandmother). He was devastated, then school closed, then all his activities closed and his worries ever present – grew and grew – they got so big that by September Robin didn't want to live any more and needed some urgent help.

Enter Young Emerging Leaders (YEL) an amazing online session twice a month with Belle and Elle and two other choir members now ‘choir friends’ who like him and enjoy his company. It has been life changing.

Robin was so unwell when he started, I had to sit with him for the whole session encouraging him to keep going. With coaxing, kindness and carefully graded learning from all the YEL team he has transformed and I am now being sent away.

What inclusive means for Robin is: that he can play the firetruck song every week on his iPad, Belle and Ellen can use siren noises as warm ups and everyone joins in. It means he can cuddle a toy seal, sing in a Scottish accent and then in a Yorkshire one – all in a song's work.”

Written by Robin's Mum.

Session	Number of Participants	Number of sessions
Home School/After School Clubs	486	72
Sounds Wild		12
Building Bridges	60	100
Soundabout Live	2800 (peak viewing numbers)	102
LS/SL Youtube		71
Paid LS Sessions		19
Access to Sound		9
Goodnight songs	31,596 (Facebook "reach")	63
Hello Songs	113,609 (Facebook reach)	253
Oxford Swans swimming club		4
Soundabout Friends	40	8
Sebastians Action Trust		56
TOTAL		669
Inspiring Sounds		6
Lewisham Network Planning Day		7
Lewisham Planning day for schools delivery		4
Resonance board training		6
Mentoring sessions		8
Sound Potential		11
TOTAL		42
Lewisham Torridon class delivery		3
Sherbourne Fields School	2644	182
Claremont School		34
TOTAL		219
		1860



STORIES

Liz Chaplin - Mum of Ava

“We’ve had so many magic moments but mainly they’ve all been around Ava finding her voice and making choices! It’s been incredible to watch her grown in confidence and take a lead in what she wants from a session. We’ve had many moments where she’s been able to follow the vocal patterns of the Soundabout practitioner, to copy back or finish their sentence and that’s been just incredible to watch. I feel privileged to have had her home with me for a year and to have witnessed her transform. I’d like to thank Soundabout for helping her find her voice and giving me the confidence to home school moving forward. You’ve empowered me find what truly works for her educationally and take charge of her progress moving forward.”

Georgie Lockett - Soundabout Practitioner

“I then became a practitioner last summer and as the online world of Soundabout expanded massively, I was able to pioneer much more online work and deliver Facebook Lives, ‘home school’ and ‘holiday club’ sessions on zoom, 1-1 sessions on zoom and even a birthday party on Teams!

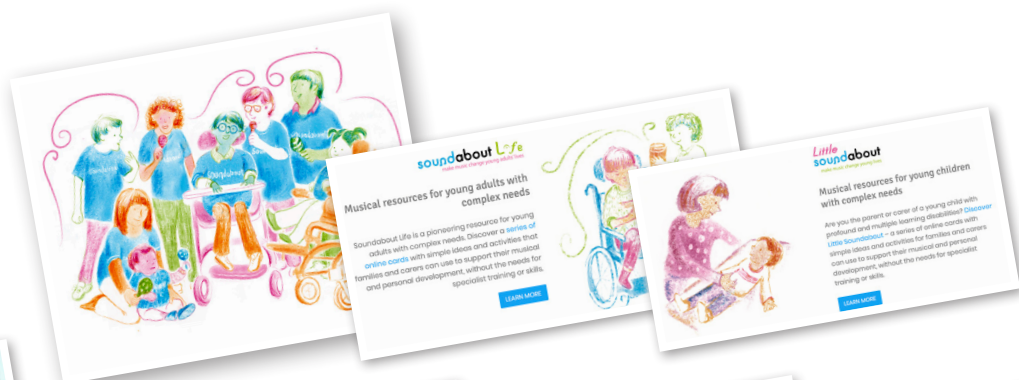
There have been so many magical moments with participants, and without fail there is one in every session. As participants became more familiar with me and my sound, there were noticeable shifts in engagement and interaction during sessions. One participant’s mum emailed to say that her son was now moving side to side with the music and smiling if she asked him if he was dancing - something completely new for him. Getting feedback from families has been so rewarding, and one of the most common things that parents express is gratitude for including their child; it is amazing that we have been able to do that so well online. Soundabout has been such a tangible source of joy and support for families during the pandemic and being a part of that has been incredibly powerful and humbling.”

d. Little Soundabout & Soundabout Life

This year Soundabout launched a dedicated website for the Little Soundabout and Soundabout Life programs. The site enables families to access a collection of free online musical resources for children and young adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities. The resources include a set of innovative cards and music tracks, which set out simple activities, using music and sound, that can be incorporated into everyday life and help to develop listening skills and musical understanding.

Families in England can now also access regular 1-2-1 sessions with a Soundabout music practitioner and we have worked with 100 families over the past year.

This work has been made possible thanks to our partners Youth Music, Global’s Make Some Noise and the Tambour Foundation.



STORIES

Isabel Bedford - Soundabout Development Practitioner

“The Building Bridges project (“Little Soundabout” and “Soundabout Life”) was originally designed as a face-to-face music service involving quarterly visits to families’ homes, but since March 2020, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, we quickly adapted to offering families online sessions instead of home visits. Thanks to this alternative delivery format, we have been delighted to be able to continue to provide 1:1 music sessions to families with young children or young adults with complex needs at a time when lots of other services and support have either been paused or reduced on account of the pandemic.

All of the Sounds of Intent data being gathered as part of the evaluation of the impact the project also shows that the sessions are having a positive impact in terms of the participants’ musical and wider development. We’ve been delighted that lots of the families who are part of Building Bridges have also started attending some of the other online sessions Soundabout have been offering during the pandemic and becoming part of our virtual Soundabout community.”

Family member Artittaya Drabble, whose daughter Iris attends regular Little Soundabout sessions

“Our daughter, Iris, enjoyed every sessions with Steve (even though it was virtual one). She’s in school now, they also have Soundabout session for her. She enjoys all the activities with Soundabout.”

Family member Shabina Hamid, whose son Firas attends regular Soundabout Life sessions

“I would like to start off by thanking Soundabout for making us a part of their project. It has had a very positive effect on our family, especially on Firas, who is partially verbal and Aisha, who both have learning difficulties. Firas has become so much more confident and thoroughly enjoys his lessons with Matthew. Matthew has been great and Firas really looks forward to all his sessions.

Firas is able to recognise sounds and apply them to certain emotions, he enjoys playing different instruments especially the drums at home which enables him work on his fine and gross motor skills. He is also able to form his own rhythms. Music helps Firas with developing his speech like certain sounds which he finds difficult.”

e. Schools and Music Hubs

Schools Work

Soundabout provides specialist training for early years, primary and secondary schools, colleges and other post-16 setting including adult care providers, to enable them to offer music making opportunities for pupils and their families. Our music-making techniques help to stimulate communication, learning and self-expression, enabling pupils who may be unable to hold an instrument or speak to make their own unique contribution.

Soundabout’s school partners have had a challenging year, nonetheless our school’s colleagues have continued to support their pupils with great expertise, creativity and flexibility. We have been able to deliver a mixture of face to face and online work for our regular school partners, maintaining consistency and support during the uncertainty of continuing lockdowns. At Soundabout we have been challenged to offer a more flexible way to engage with our services and, whilst face to face work remains a priority, the opportunity to develop our online delivery has meant that we are now able to support participants over a far greater area and to provide a cost-effective provision for the schools we work with.

Jo Colton - Soundabout Director of Programmes

Schools work:

“Soundabout’s school partners have had one of the most challenging years possible during the pandemic and the whole Soundabout team take our hats off to how our education colleagues have managed to support their pupils so expertly - there is so much care and love in SEN school communities and that really shone out of all our interactions in our school-based work. We have been so privileged to continue to be able to deliver a mixture of face to face and online work for our regular school partners. We’ve shifted our focus to offer a much more flexible way to engage with our offer, while face to face work cannot be replaced, our online delivery can help us support and reach further and can prove more cost effective for tight school budgets.”

Music Education Hubs

Soundabout works in partnership with Music Services, Music Hubs, Special Schools and Specialist units within mainstream schools to provide bespoke learning opportunities for teachers and school staff. The training is developed with each organisation, to determine the needs and requirements of the staff and to develop a package of teaching and learning that will enable staff to work effectively with children and adults with severe and profound learning disabilities. This year has seen a noticeable change in the focus on EDI globally. Soundabout has been able to use this raised awareness to further engage with music education hubs on a national scale and to support them in ensuring that training and delivery is completely inclusive and that no one experiences and obstacle to music making.

Jo Colton - Soundabout Director of Programmes

Hubs work:

“Soundabout’s work with Music Education Hubs has really benefitted from the sharp national focus this year on equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), it has been a real opportunity to work with Hubs who share our mission to make music inclusive for all and to re-assess how we are best place to deliver that. We have been reconfiguring our offer and we are at an exciting stage of designing a membership system for Hubs and schools partners to enable easy access to training, resources and SEN music making networks. We hope that Soundabout is well positioned to play a key role in galvanising that inclusive music approach as broadly as possible and championing that voice at a national level.”

1. TRAINING

We created an online library of short training courses, that can be accessed by anyone interested in learning about our techniques and practices. Made up of a number of short modules, we currently have five courses available, with more under development. We aim to give an understanding of the impact of music on learning, development and communication of people with profound, severe and complex learning disabilities and autism and to teach practical and effective techniques that enable children and young people with learning disabilities to have a musical life that is interactive and enhances their lives and learning.



STORIES

Jo Colton - Soundabout
Director of Programmes

“Sharing our Soundabout tools and techniques has always been a critical part of our work, empowering others to use our simple ideas to support people of all ages with profound and multiple learning disabilities. We began to share our training in an online format at the start of lockdown, we have invested in new courses being recorded which are available to buy through our website in our new ‘ready to go’ format, in addition we have continued to deliver live training to SEN schools, Music Hubs and other organisations albeit in an online format. The highlight of this year for me has been watching our creative, adaptable practitioner team rising to the challenge of delivering in this new way and reading the positive feedback from our training participants. Our experiences of this year have inspired a new ‘Soundabout Membership’ idea as a way for our music making and SEN colleagues to access our resources in a new format. We’re looking forward to continuing to offer a mix of online and face to face training going into the future and sharing our resources as widely as possible to keep sound making at the heart of supporting people with learning difficulties of all ages.”

Quotes from online training feedback:

“A great mixture of demonstration, interactive elements and input. It certainly gave me lots of ideas as to how to make music sessions more inclusive.”

“Great lively presentation and managed to deliver with great energy over Zoom Well Done!”

“Such great simple ideas to build on and delivered in a fun way!”

2. SOUNABOUT TEAM

The Soundabout team has worked tirelessly over the course of the pandemic to ensure the charity's existing services moved online with as little disruption as possible and to enable continued advancement of the diverse projects that have been under development this year. With the growing number of projects and the expansion of the reach of Soundabout's services, several members have joined the core Soundabout team, including our Emerging Leader Anna, who has been supporting the administration of the choirs and three interns. Alongside this, our team of freelance music practitioners has grown to 40 active members of the team, working across the country to deliver our services locally.

It's been a time of significant change, with a move to remote working that has seen us give up our office space and think creatively about our building an effective and efficient team at a distance. The murder of George Floyd profoundly affected our team members and the shock to the organisation resulted in important and challenging conversations. Equality, diversity and inclusion (and regular review of the processes and procedures that uphold these values) have become central to how we operate as a team and a charity.

We mandated a working group representing all these interests to review our structures using a toolkit provided by Youth Music, one of our key funders. The changes we are instigating as a result cover many aspects of our work; at the simplest level, to ensure that the images used on the website/social media reflect the diversity of our community and to publicly state our EDI commitment unambiguously and at a more complex level, to ensure the voices of under-represented groups are present and heard at all levels of our Soundabout community.

The Soundabout workplace has experienced enormous and rapid change this year. Moving from being an office-based organisation to working entirely remotely required the staff and music practitioners to discover and manage new ways of operating. Overall, this change has been beneficial and, working together collaboratively and with some trial and error, the team has discovered a way of working remotely that is efficient, effective and inclusive and maintains the personal interaction vital to our success.



STORIES

Maryse Degbegni - Soundabout Business Administrator

“The rapid spread of the coronavirus over the past year has hit everyone without exception and has forced us to adapt. Soundabout revisited its music provision to create online music services. Despite being such a fundamental change, the move was swift and the response from our participants has been incredibly positive. Many families have expressed their gratitude and by going online it has been possible to reach out to individuals who have never been able to attend face-to-face music sessions. This has been so rewarding! Amongst the major events of 2020, the brutal murder of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter protests prompted many organisations to start uncomfortable and difficult discussions around Equality, Diversity and Inclusion processes. Through EDI working groups we ensure our commitment to developing a fully diverse and inclusive team. I feel EDI is now at the heart of what we do and although the journey is long and there are many challenges we are moving forwards, learning and constantly measuring progress along the way.”

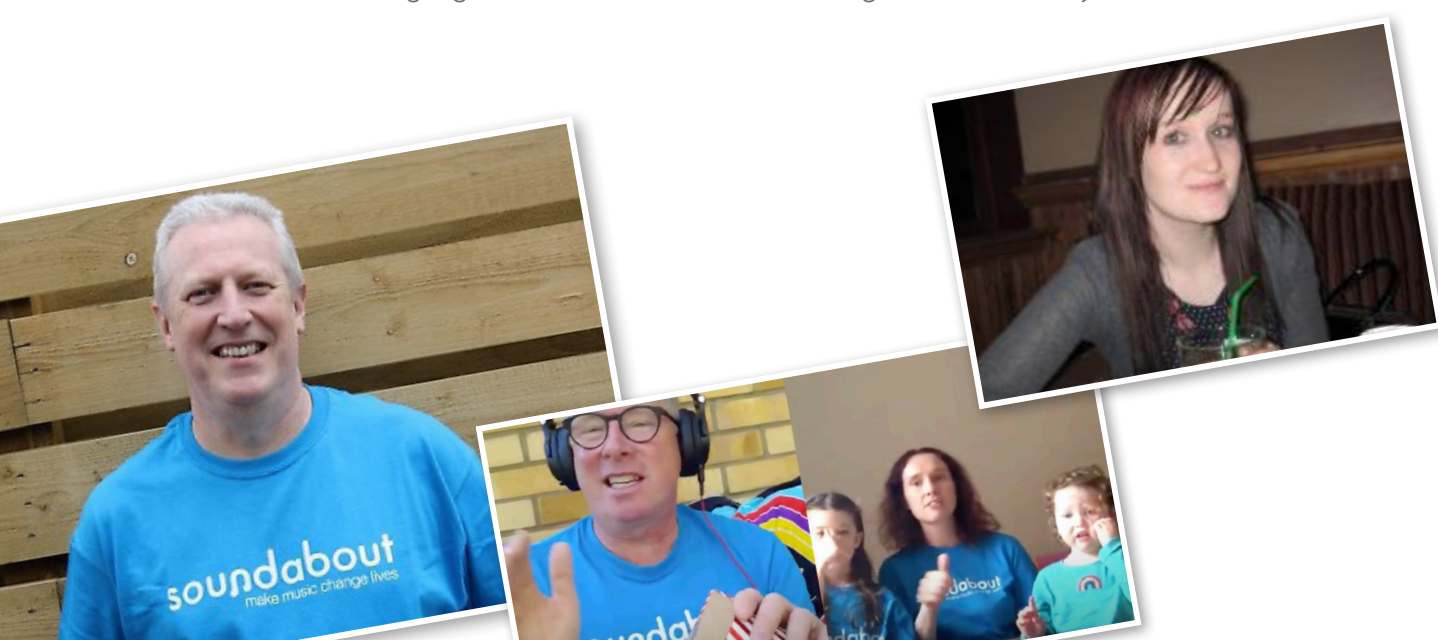
3. Volunteers

2020 has seen exponential growth in our team of volunteers at Soundabout, both in volunteer numbers and the diversity of their roles and responsibilities within the charity. From supporting the Inclusive Choirs and group music sessions to administration, marketing and communications, social media and corporate partnerships, the online interactions of the last year have enabled Soundabout to connect with volunteers from across the country. Currently we have a team of 34 volunteers who give both their time and skills to support the work we do, averaging (as a team) over 100 hours of volunteering time every month. With many more volunteering opportunities available, we hope to continue to recruit an even more diverse team, both in capabilities and background.

STORIES

Naomi Scott, Soundabout Volunteer Support Co-ordinator Volunteer

“The support of the team of volunteers at Soundabout is a vital part of enabling us to provide our music services. The last year has seen our team grow from a core group of 7 to a team of 34. The move to online provision and interaction during Covid has enabled many volunteers to join us from across the UK, bringing a wide variety of skills and experience to the charity. Thanks to their generosity in giving their time and expertise, Soundabout has been able to expand and develop many new roles for volunteers. These include volunteering in the Inclusive Choirs and group music sessions to behind-the-scenes roles of administration, fundraising, marketing and communications, social media and, most recently, developing corporate partnerships. Volunteering is an incredibly rewarding experience; from meeting new people and learning new skills to being part of a charity that brings joy and connection to so many, joining the volunteering team at Soundabout has been a highlight for me in an otherwise strange and turbulent year.”



Darren Rawnsley, Inclusive Choir Volunteer

“I volunteer for the Peterborough Choir. I look forward to the Saturday get together and I am always disappointed if I have to miss one. Never having worked with a choir before, I am amazed at the talent of both the choir members and the leaders. The immersive leaders within the choir demonstrate their enthusiasm, encouragement for other members, and their ability to share experiences and knowledge. I was made to feel that I too had something to offer the choir right from the start. My confidence has grown over the sessions on Zoom and I can't wait to meet in person.

I have chosen Soundabout as one of my fundraising charities this year. Already my friends and I have completed a 100 mile run/walk over the pandemic and raised over £300. I am hoping to have a group busking session once we are allowed and I can get it organised. Soundabout are fully inclusive, which I find thrilling, because they allow everyone to have a voice in whatever way suits each individual. My experience with Soundabout has always been positive, exciting, motivating and although only on Zoom, I feel I am making new”

4. Fundraising and comms

The past year has seen a step-change in awareness of Soundabout's work, thanks to significant national media coverage. In May BBC journalist Fergal Keane made a moving film about how the charity's move online for BBC News. We had a wonderful response to this piece, which clearly illustrates the power of our community supporting each other at this difficult time. The choir also featured on Songs of Praise on 30 August and released two music videos - Amazing Grace and I'd Like To Teach the World To Sing in collaboration with The King's Singers.

The charity has regularly appeared on local BBC Radio and News and had two 'first person' articles in the Metro newspaper written by parents of two of the charity's participants.



Virtual Challenges

As a result, our community of supporters has grown significantly - our Facebook online community alone more than quadrupled during this period from under 1,000 to over 4,000 followers.

Soundabout also ran our first ever virtual fundraisers - taking part in the 2.6 challenge which raised more than £13,000 thanks to our incredible supporters. For the first year we invited our community of supporters to take part in our very own inclusive Soundabout Moveabout challenge after New Year. This saw 84 people sign up to take part, and between them they moved a total of 21817.4 km over three months. In total, thanks to generous support from Hibarn, we raised over £12,000

Thomas' Tea Party

Every year Soundabout supporters gather at the beautiful Chalkhouse Green Farm in Reading for a special fundraising event. Sadly, due to COVID-19, this event was unable to go ahead for the second year in a row, so we ran our first ever online music festival in June, hosted by BAFTA Award winning actor Jessica Hynes, in memory of Thomas Hall who inspired the foundation of the charity.

Supporters were invited to throw their own tea parties and bake sales at home raising funds for Soundabout - and over £1,000 was raised.

Soundabout Christmas Virtual Concert

Once again Jessica Hynes hosted our virtual Christmas concert which included readings and performances by Sara Cox, Celia Imrie, Lost Voice Guy, Noriko Ogawa and the Soundabout Inclusive Choirs. Over £6000 was raised thanks to donations from our generous community.

Our Top Soundabout Moveabouters' Story

"In January-March 2021, Hannah took on the challenge of collecting an incredible 600km and raised £1,130 for Soundabout

I am Hannah an East London SEN teacher. I work in a school for children with complex and multiple needs which is such a fun, challenging, inspiring, exciting job... I have had the privilege of working with Soundabout through my job. They have supported us with our Instagram assemblies and have run virtual music sessions for some classes. Throughout 2020 they worked tirelessly to provide online sessions for individuals who were staying home to stay safe... Soundabout believes that people with complex and multiple disabilities should have a life full of expression, passion and enjoyment...I think you'll agree, the vision of Soundabout, is something we can all get on board with."



7. Thanks to our funders

Thanks to the support of charitable trusts and foundations, companies, community groups and kind individuals, we have been able to reduce social isolation through creating a musical community without barriers for hundreds of people in 2020-21. We are grateful to all of our funders and have listed below, with thanks, those who gave over £5,000:

The Rose Adeane Trust
E B M Charitable Trust
Global's Make Some Noise
Edward Gostling Foundation
The John and Ruth Howard Charitable Trust
Masonic Charitable Foundation
The Merchant Taylors' Foundation
Morgan Blake Charitable Trust
The National Lottery Community Fund
Oxfordshire Community Foundation
The Revere Charitable Trust
The Tambour Foundation
Youth Music



8 . Company Information

For the year ended 31st March 2021

DIRECTORS and TRUSTEES A. Ockelford (Chair)
J. Hall (Treasurer)
D. Harker
S. Claridge
C. Pattinson
E. Newsome
R. Marshall

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS C Cook (Chief Executive Officer)
J Colton (Director of Programmes)
P Higginbottom (Director of Operations)
J Rees (Head of Finance)
M Degbegni (Business Administrator)

PRINCIPAL AND REGISTERED OFFICE John Eccles House Oxford
OX4 4GP

REGISTERED NUMBER Company limited by Guarantee
05023067 (England and Wales)

CHARITY NUMBER 1103002

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER D R Kerins FCCA
ECL Howard Watson Smith LLP Chartered Accountants
ECL House
Lake Street
Leighton Buzzard
Bedfordshire
LU7 1RT

BANKERS CAF Bank
25 Kings Hill Avenue Kings Hill
West Malling
Kent
ME19 4JQ

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES OF SOUNDABOUT Ltd

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Soundabout

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the period ended 31st March 2021 which are set out on pages ?? to ??.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity 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 company's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ('the 2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, 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 that in any material respect:

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 requirements 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.

ECL Howard Watson Smith LLP

D R Kerins FCCA

For and on behalf of:
ECL Howard Watson Smith LLP
Chartered Accountants
ECL House
Lake Street
Leighton Buzzard
Bedfordshire
LU7 1RT

Date: *25/10/21*

STATEMENT of FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

For the twelve months ended 31st March 2021

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	Notes	£	£	£	£
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS FROM					
Donations & legacies		56,882	-	56,882	50,027
Charitable activities		55,115	258,291	313,406	226,520
Other trading activities		81,668	-	81,668	100,207
Investments		35		35	85
Total income and endowments		193,700	258,291	451,991	376,839
EXPENDITURE ON					
Raising funds		9,445	-	9,445	10,623
Charitable activities		184,803	193,101	377,904	407,061
Total expenditure		194,248	193,101	387,349	417,684
Transfers between funds					
		-	-	-	-
Net movements in funds		(548)	65,190	64,642	(40,845)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS					
Total funds brought forward		40,399	26,496	66,895	107,740
Total funds carried forward		39,851	91,686	131,537	66,895
The notes form part of these financial statements					

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the twelve months ended 31st March 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Statutory Information

Soundabout is a private limited company, limited by guarantee, registered in England & Wales. The company's registered number and registered office can be found on the company information page. The presentation of the financial statements is in pound sterling (£).

Accounting convention

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Incoming resources / Turnover

Income has been recognised on the following basis:

- Donations and grants are generally recognised when received.
- Invoiced income is accrued monthly.
- Interest income is recognised on receipt.

Resources expended

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis.

Allocation of expenditure

Salary and related staff costs are directly allocated to a charitable activity or other resources expended heading on the basis of time spent. The charity distinguishes between overhead costs in support of its charitable work, for example course administration, marketing and training equipment, and general administration costs. Both categories of overhead are allocated to fundraising, charitable activity and governance costs based on the amount of direct expenditure incurred.

Amortisation

Amortisation is calculated to write off the cost of intangible fixed assets on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives at the following rate:

Website and software: Straight line, 3 years.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write off the cost or revalued amount less estimated residual value of fixed assets on a straight line basis over their estimated useful lives at the following rate:

Training equipment: Straight line, 3 years.

Office equipment: Straight line, 3 years.

Fund accounting

Funds held by the charity are:

Unrestricted funds - these are funds which can be used in accordance with the charitable objects at the discretion of the trustees. Income is recognised as unrestricted income when the charity becomes entitled to the income as a result of activities already performed and any pre-conditions have been met. Where this is not the case the income is deferred and not included in incoming resources until the activities have been performed.

Designated funds - these comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the Trustees Report; any movements are in the notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds - these are funds that 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. The Trustees monitor and discuss the restricted funds at meetings to ensure the - restricted expenditure is allocated accordingly.

2. TRUSTEES

The trustees/directors have not received any emoluments or benefits or claimed any other expenses in the reporting period (2020: none).

3. OPERATING PROFIT / NET OUTGOING RESOURCES

The operating profit/(loss) is stated after charging:

	2021	15 months ending in 2020
	£	£
Amortisation intangible asset	3,787	6,046
Depreciation tangible assets	5,330	3,642
Accountants' remuneration	1,682	2,500

4. STAFF COSTS

	2021	15 months ending in 2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	136,629	164,222
Social security costs	11,242	13,513
Freelance and other staff costs	110,733	141,947
	258,604	319,682
No member of staff earned a full time equivalent (fte) salary of more than £60,000.		

No member of staff earned a full time equivalent (fte) salary of more than £60,000.

5. AVERAGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

During the twelve months to March 2021 the average number of employees was 7 (2020: 7)

6. TAXATION

The company is a registered charity and is exempt from corporation tax on its income.

7. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITY

The company is a registered charity and is exempt from corporation tax on its income.

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total Costs	2020
	£	£	£	£
Costs of generating funds				
Costs of generating voluntary income	8,288		8,288	10,623
Charitable Activities				
PG Cert	1,394	784	2,178	7,630
Schools				51,497
Building Bridges	33,973	19,110	53,083	27,692
Equipment	2,125	1,196	3,321	5,545
Adults				0
Family Community Programme	27,372	15,396	42,768	72,975
Inclusive Choir	16,779	9,438	26,217	18,753
Festivals	0	0	0	17,244
Sounds Wild	1,808	1,017	2,825	18,971
Sounds of Intent	0	0		
Sounds of Intent Young Champions	0	0		
Coronavirus Crisis Response	6,400	3,600	10,000	
CPD and Training New Trainers	0	0		
Research	0	0		
Music Hubs	97	55	152	80,034
Early Years	0	0		786
Other	137,068	77,101	214,169	100,010
Total charitable activities	227,016	127,697	354,713	405,178
Governance Costs	1,883		3,061	1,883
Total resources expended	238,365	127,697	366,062	417,684

8. FIXED ASSETS

	Intangible Asset	Training Equipment	Office Equipment	Total Tangible	Total fixed assets
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost:					
As at 1 January 2020	27,007	28,147	12,638	40,784	67,791
Additions			1,569	1,569	1,569
Disposals				0	0
Balance carried fwd 31 March 2021	27,007	28,147	14,206	42,353	69,360
Depreciation:					
As at 1 January 2020	20,360	18,557	12,368	30,925	51,285
Charge for period	3,787	4,536	794	5,330	9,117
Disposals				-	0
Balance carried fwd 31 March 2021	24,147	23,093	13,162	36,255	60,402
Net book Value:					
As at 31 March 2021	2,860	5,054	1,044	6,098	8,958
As at 31 December 2020	6,647	9,590	270	9,860	16,507

9. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.03.2021	31.03.2020
	£	£
Trade debtors & accrued income	2,279	23,840
Prepayments	2,183	4,223
	4,462	28,063

10. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	31.03.2021	31.03.2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	0	0
Social security and other taxes	3,161	2,134
Accruals and other creditors	21,790	11,684
	24,951	13,818

11. STATUS

The company is both a charity and a company limited by guarantee and does not have share capital.

12. SUMMARY OF FUND MOVEMENTS

	Funds at 31.03.20	Incoming Resources	Outgoing Resources	Transfers	Funds at 31.03.21
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted income funds					
Schools	3,000	-	-		3,000
Building Bridges	15,096	79,695	76,991		17,800
Music Hubs	-	20,376	152		20,224
Family Community Programme		70,661	63,400		7,261
Inclusive Choir	1,400	43,456	26,217		18,639
Equipment		9,855	3,321		6,534
Sounds Wild	2,000	2,960	2,825		2,135
Festivals	5,000	-	-		5,000
Early Years					-
Virus Emergency Response		10,000	10,000		-
Leicestershire SMS		6,735	1,550		5,185
Peterborough MH		7,610	4,330		3,280
Wiltshire Music Connect		6,943	4,315		2,628
					-
Total restricted income funds	26,496	258,291	193,101	-	91,686
Unrestricted income funds					
Unrestricted income funds	40,399	193,700	194,248		39,851
Total charity funds	107,740	451,991	387,349	-	131,537
Under the Charity's Reserve Policy the Trustees have resolved that unrestricted funds should be set at approximately 3 months' operating costs. As at 31st March 2021, the charity held approximately 2 months' operating costs in unrestricted funds.					

13. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Adam Ockelford, a director of Soundabout, is Professor of Music and Director of the Applied Music Research Centre at the University of Roehampton. The University has undertaken research for Soundabout, payments for which are negotiated and approved by other Trustees of the charity. Professor Ockelford receives no personal benefit from these payments.

There have been no other related party transactions in the year.

soundabout

make music change lives

Soundabout
John Eccles House
Robert Robinson Avenue
Oxford Science Park
Oxford OX4 4GP
Office: 01235 797474

For more information about how we use music
to create musical communities without barriers
you can find us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram
and Youtube.

or visit www.soundabout.org.uk



Registered Charity Number: 1103002