

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

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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?

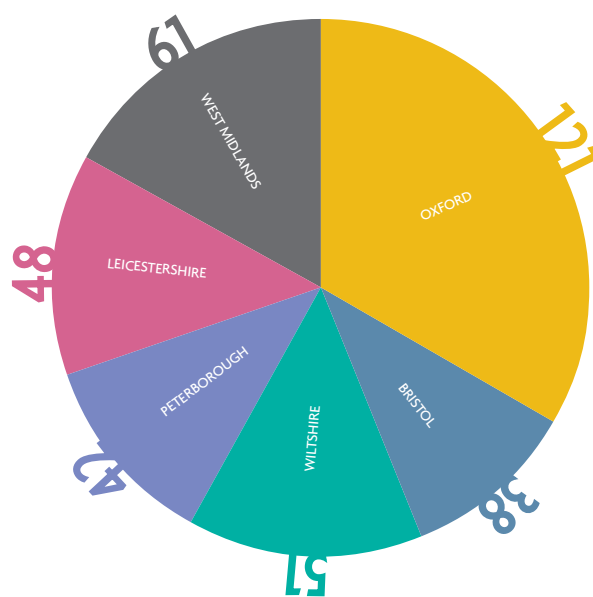
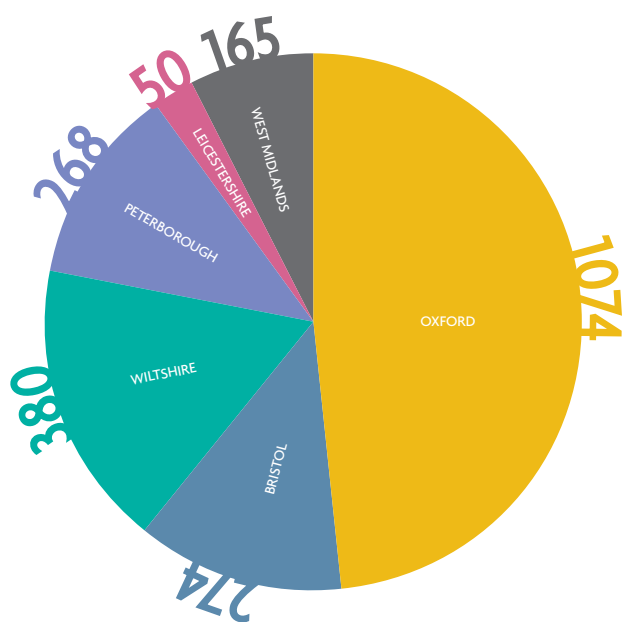
The Soundabout Inclusive Choirs welcome people of all abilities, celebrating that everyone has their own way of sharing their voice. By welcoming all voices we aim to be as inclusive as possible, and actively try to remove barriers to participation from those with severe and profound learning disabilities.

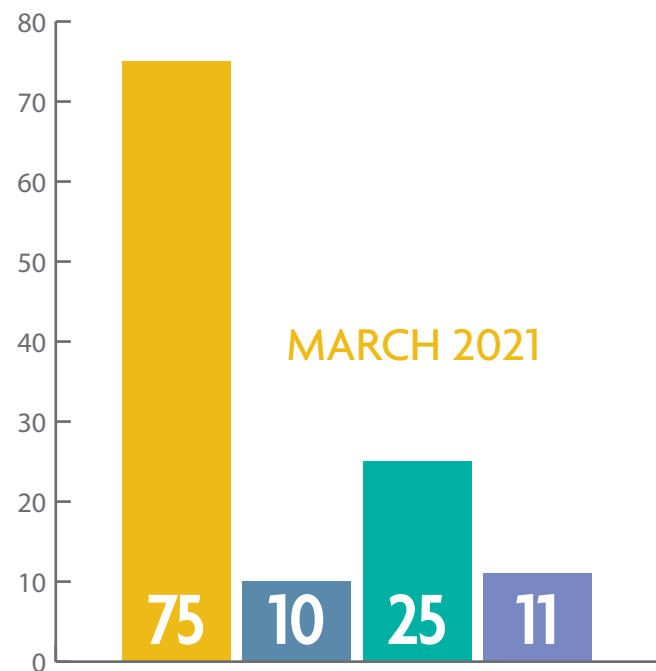
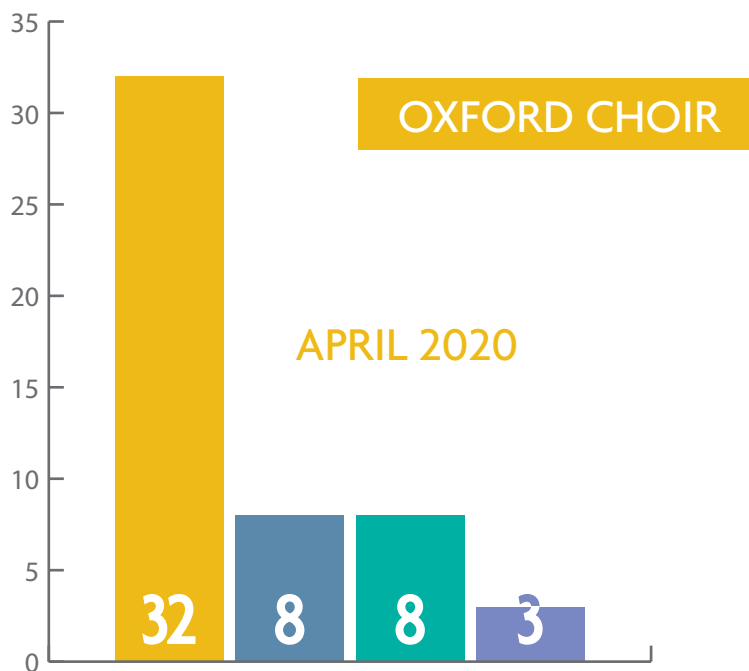
When the pandemic hit, Soundabout quickly moved most of our music provision and all choir rehearsals online. Quite a few participants had not previously been able to participate due to considerations of accessibility, personal care and transport. Our Zoom sessions offer the chance to focus on detail 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".

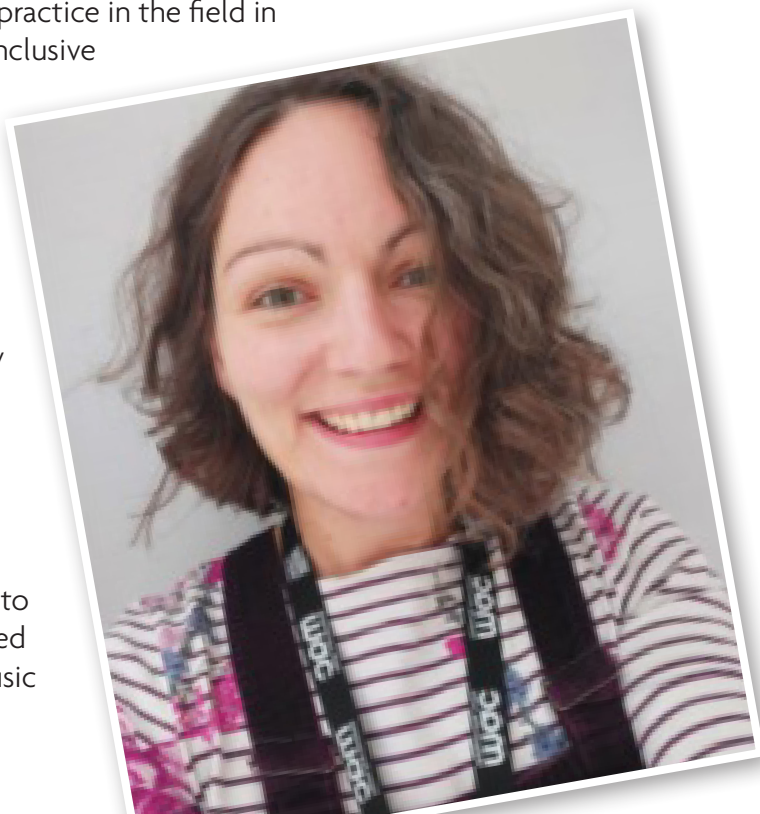
I think the choir is fantastic and I love how they facilitate and support those taking part with equality and joy. I also love how they link in with other Choirs and community projects.

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.

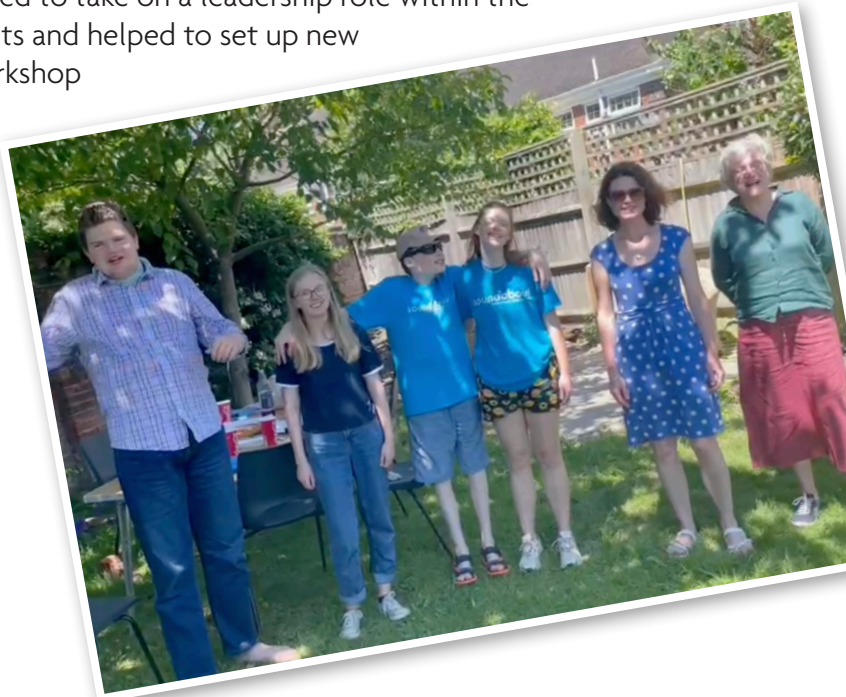
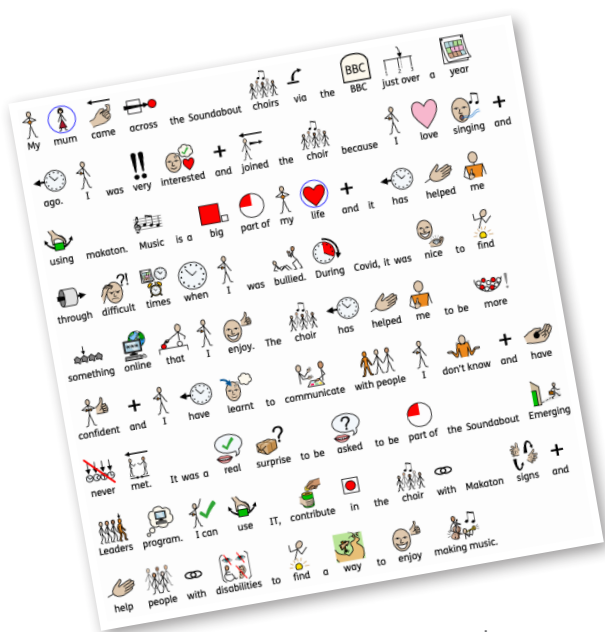


b. Emerging Leaders

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 in 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.

c. Online Music Making

Moving Soundabout's community music sessions online this year has meant that more people could access our services and participate in a way that we had not previously envisioned. Access is never one-size-fits-all; for some, the move to online and communicating to a screen threw up a new barrier, for others, it was a positive game-changer! Our current weekly online schedule remains busy, including after school and homeschooling sessions and Soundabout LIVE! TV. We have undertaken a survey of participants to find out how they prefer to access Soundabout's music provision. Responses showed that 80 per cent of participants would opt for a hybrid approach and, for us this strategy works really well. Where digital access might be a barrier, we will make sure the face-to-face element of our work (when we are able to return to it) remains central to our provision.

We were fortunate to be able to access emergency funding following the first covid lockdown, in order to support the move our services online, from Oxfordshire Community Foundation, Youth Music and the Rose Adeane Charitable Foundation.



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 the 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 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 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 SOUNABOUT 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					

BALANCE SHEET

As at 31st March 2021

			31.03.2021		31.03.2020
	Notes	£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS	8				
Intangible Assets			2,860		6,647
Tangible Assets			6,098		9,860
			8,958		16,507
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks		1,540		4,502	
Debtors	9	4,462		28,063	
Cash at bank and in hand		141,528		31,641	
Total current assets		147,530		64,206	
LIABILITIES					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	10	24,951		13,818	
Net current assets			122,579		50,388
Total assets less current liabilities			131,537		66,895
Net assets			131,537		66,895
THE FUNDS OF THE CHARITY					
Restricted income funds	12		91,686		26,496
Unrestricted income funds			39,851		40,399
Total unrestricted funds			131,537		66,895
Total charity funds			131,537		

The notes form part of these financial statements

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the twelve months ended 31 March 2021. The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021 in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

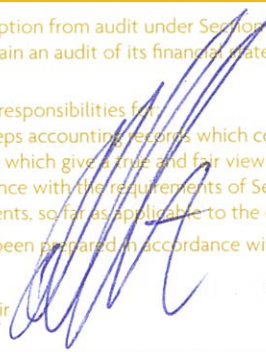
- (a) ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- (b) preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its profit or loss for 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 company.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Nathan Waddington, Interim Chair

Approved by the Board on



22/10/21

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	27007	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	3787	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