

# LIVEWIRE

Community Theatre for young people



## THE LIVEWIRE TRUST ANNUAL REPORT

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## Partners and Friends

We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank our partners, funders and friends for their support this year. It has been a difficult couple of years for a small charity such as ours and at several moments we felt we were unable to carry on. However, with the support from all the people and organisations below we have survived the storm and now stand steady, ready to continue working with Harlow's young people and ready to respond to our towns needs. Thank you. - Sam Ashford, Creative Director



### **The Jack Petchey Foundation**

Without the support of The Jack Petchey Foundation we would not be here today. We have taken advantage of the excellent achievement awards scheme which has been a very rewarding experience for our young people. We would like to thank Nikki Casey, in particular, for her firm support and encouragement which drove our fundraising efforts forward so we are more able to source funding and eventually be self sufficient.



### **Essex Community Foundation**

We regularly deliver work funded through the 'Essex Community Foundation'. Although in this Academic year we did not apply for funding we continue to value their support and look forward to working with them again this year.

Hare Street School continue to be a fantastic supporter of Livewire. Not only promoting our events to their students so they can take part and have been a key part in developing a Livewire project for the Royal Opera House Bridge.



The Harlow Playhouse is now our major partner, our big sister. We run workshops each week and holiday sessions all within this wonderful facility that is the heart of our community. Without The Playhouse we would not be able to deliver the programme of work to the levels we are at now, thank you



We run our Primary School sessions and our Yr7 and 8 group at Pemberley Academy. Without their donation of space, promotion to parents and all round support and enthusiasm we would not be able to run these sessions and reach 80 young people every week. A key part in developing a Livewire project for the Royal Opera House Bridge and we look forward to delivering our first Arts and Culture Theatre Challenge in the Autumn!



The National Lottery Community Fund / Reaching Communities Fund have been a major part of our year. The Community Fund funded a project to reach new areas of the town whilst Reaching Communities are a part of the biggest development in Livewire's existence.....words really don't do enough to state the impact this support will have on our organisation.

#### ECC ARTS AND CULTURAL FUND

Essex County Council funded our Primary Theatre Challenges this academic year allowing us to reach hundreds of young people and new perform to new audiences across our town!

#### Essex Music Hub

EMH have funded our Livewire Vocal Collective sessions meaning we are able to have Roisin Quinn on board as a key member of the Livewire delivery team! These sessions are already making a huge difference to the quality of our young peoples singing and the experiences they are having with us.

#### The Foyle Foundation

FF gave provided 15k of funding to support our Primary School Theatre Challenges. This-project has ben integral to recruiting new members, introducing young pole across the town to devising original theatre, picking up instruments for the first time, dancing and acting and finding new talents.

## A letter from our Chair Person

This has been another fantastic year for Livewire! I still think back to when Livewire started out; with one 2-hour session at Brays Grove every Monday, and how it has grown to now running multiple sessions, for multiple ages across a range of dance, drama, music and choir weekly. This is a fantastic achievement, and we are so happy to be able to offer all young people in Harlow this great range of free workshops.

This year has continued to be packed with amazing theatre and original Livewire performances including the most recent Summer Livewire Theatre Challenge and the Playhouse Summer school 'All alone together'. When I turned up to the Summer Livewire theatre challenge, I could not believe it when I saw over 70 young people from all over the town working together to put on a fantastic show all about war and time travel – this was the biggest number I had personally ever seen in one show! Then the Playhouse Summer School was my personal favourite, and we were so lucky to be able to combine the fantastic work we do with the light and sound production that the Playhouse could offer.

Through the hard work and dedication of Sam, Becky, Roisin and Steve, Livewire has been able to grow, yet again, beyond what we ever thought it could become, so thank you all for this. I would also like to send a huge thank you to our Board of Trustees for your support and passion that you give to Livewire behind the scenes to help keep it running. This has been another great year for Livewire, and I look forward to seeing what comes next!

Gemma Nicholson



# Annual Programme 2024 – 2025

## What do we want to deliver this year?

Primary and secondary age Livewire Sessions every week (Playhouse/Pemberley)

LTC Livewire Sessions at The Playhouse every Thursday.

HeadSpace Sessions every week for every group.

LMC, LDC and LVC sessions for primary and secondary ages.

Development workshops during every half term holiday

Theatre Challenge Workshops during Easter and Summer Holidays.

A successful bid and plan to deliver an interactive Theatre Tour of Primary Schools

A pilot open session for adults - parents and former members.

Theatre Visits and trips for members development

The Development of a Livewire Music School

# An explanation of our work

## Theatre devising

All of livewire's workshops are based around improvisation and the devising of new and original pieces of theatre. The Livewire 'Theatre Challenge', in particular, is a unique and intense programme where the young people are involved in all aspects of putting on a piece of theatre in a theatre for the public. This process allows the young people to:

- Explore different points of view around a key issue and turn them into a performance that is relevant and thought provoking.
- Be involved in a process, which would not normally be accessible to them.
- Be creative in their own way and on their own terms and for their enjoyment.
- Make new friends.
- Gain confidence in their own ability and learn to trust others.
- Improve upon or learn completely new skills.

## Interactive theatre

Interactive theatre is partially controlled by the audience with the assistance of a facilitator. The audience are presented with a scenario, which ends with four key characters all having opposing objectives. The action stops at a key point of decision and the audience guide the characters through the rest of the play. This is done by separating the audience into four groups and allocating one character to each group. The audience then have to tell their character what to do and say according to what the character wants. By being responsible for the actions of one character at a time the audience are required to understand how and why people make decisions that affect theirs and other peoples' lives well beyond the moment of action. The process aims to;

- Free young people from the pressure to make 'knee-jerk' reactions,
- Demonstrate the consequences of different courses of action in a safe environment,
- Help young people to re-assess their views by enabling them to stand in someone else's shoes,
- Give voice to the full range of views in the group rather than predominant, 'cool' opinions.

The interactive model provides young people with a 'challenging' but safe environment where they can experiment with and rehearse a wide range of behaviours in response to a multitude of social pressures. The process has to be based on the principle of 'respect for all' and the preservation of self-esteem. However, there is no attempt to 'preach' a right answer, 'sloganise' or even deliver a specific message, rather it allows young people to;



- Explore different points of view around a key issue,
- Develop discriminatory skills that will allow them to come to informed decisions about their behaviour,
- Engage in a constructive dialogue about personal responsibility within a practical context.

## Music Workshops

The Livewire Music Collective is open to young people who play instruments already and are ready to devise new, original music. Members are given opportunities to explore their own material, record and perform through gigs and as part of our theatre Challenge Projects.

## Dance Workshops

The Livewire Dance Company is open to young people with zero experience or a lot of experience but who want to devise new, original dances. Members will take part in many performances and will work with Drama and Music closely to devise Dances that tell a story or highlight an important issue rather than commercial dancing (although this is still explored for technique purposes).

## Livewire Objectives

- Create and sustain interactive educational theatre using young people from Essex in a tour of Harlow primary schools at least once every year.
- Bring interactive and other forms of theatre to people who may have had little or no contact with the arts before.
- Provide a safe working environment for young people to develop their theatrical, personal and social skills.
- Challenge intolerance and prejudice in all its forms.
- To always produce the highest quality of work possible, therefore promoting young people as talented, dedicated and engaging members of our community
- Use the frequent contact with young people as a basis for regular youth work.
- Use interactive theatre as a forum for discussion.
- As a charitable organisation, raise its own funds in order to provide a free, high quality service to all young people.
- Sustain and Develop weekly music and dance workshops.

To maintain and care for all young people's mental wellbeing

# Creative Director's Report

The entire school year has been incredible with each session we provide being over subscribed and incredibly popular. We have made adjustments and create a new online membership form to help us stay on top of the amount of new members.

On top of our sessions, which now average at 180 young people taking part each and every week, we were able to engage in a variety of community projects. We were also able to grow and develop our work to get our name out there in the community.

Our main highlight was the success we had with our success of achieving five years of founding through the National Lottery. This was an incredible tough task but I would personally like to thank all the trustees for their support and help with the application. It must be noted that we had tremendous participation from our young people and our families and I would like to say a huge thank you, this really wouldn't happen without their enthusiasm and dedication to Livewire.

We are run incredibly well and therefore our application just had to reflect this, our consistent hard work and our excellent evaluations throughout the year meant we had the proof that what we are doing works. Therefore our application was successful and we can now continue to grow, develop and deliver over the next five years!

It's been a busy year:

**Christmas Performance** - The entire cast of Livewire involved in one performance

**Easter Theatre Challenge** - The Comet

**Livewire Forever** - The continuation of The Livewire Podcast

**Quiz Nights** - Raising funds for the youngest LDC group

**Open Mic** - Live Lounge sessions at The Playhouse

**Gig Night** - Fundraising event at Phoenix Live

**Celebrate Harlow** - LMC performance in Theatre 2

**Celebrate Harlow** - LDC / LMC performance on the Main Stage Harlow Playhouse

**Jack Petchey Awards**

**Primary School Summer Fete** - LMC / LDC performance at Tanys Dell

**I'm Here** - LMC / Drama / LDC music video

**Funding** - Success with the National Lottery

**Sing and Play** - Primary School sessions funded through Essex Community Foundation

**Primary School Theatre Challenges** - Funded by The Foyle Foundation, visiting 6 schools diving original theatre with Drama, Dance and music.

**Livewire Vocal Collective** - Essex Music Services continuation of our choir.

**Summer Theatre Challenge** - “Poohnami” performed at Victoria Hall Theatre

**Playhouse Summer School** - “Play Dead” our most accomplished piece yet and booked to be performed again June 22nd 2025

All in all it has been the best ever year for Livewire and things look set to grow in the next academic year with The Livewire Music School and the Livewire Stow Project.

As we continue to expand and offer opportunities to our older members to develop their skills as tutors it is also important to remember who we are. We are here to make sure young people who may have little to no access to the arts can come to us to press themselves, find friends and have fun.

We will continue to support young people's mental health and we will continue to develop their performance skills. Most of all, we will make sure they know they are important, they are valued and we will always be there for them.

.....Finally I would like to say thank you to “Eddy”. Eddy is a host at Harlow Playhouse, his wife was a dancer and he has a passion for the arts. Since giving up smoking Eddy has donated his cigarette money to Livewire to make sure our younger dancers will have a session every single week. Over the next year we would like to develop an award with Eddy, in his wife's honour, for our most dedicated dancer.....thank you Eddy.

Sam Ashford  
Creative Director

### *Annual Averages*

Drama 3up	Pemberley Academy	52
Drama 7up	Pemberley Academy	35
Drama 10up	Harlow Playhouse	26
LDC 1up	Harlow Playhouse	15
LDC 4up	Harlow Playhouse	27
LDC 7up	Harlow Playhouse	25
LDC 10up	Harlow Playhouse	12
LMC 3up	Harlow Playhouse	8
LMC 5up	Harlow Playhouse	10
LMC 7up	Harlow Playhouse	20
LVC 3up	Pemberley Academy	12
LVC 7up	Harlow Playhouse	8

**Total weekly average attendance**

**250 (increase of 76 from last year)**



## Organisation

- Livewire's working address for correspondence and day-to-day management is:

Livewire C/O Gemma Nicholson

Chair Person

Harlow Playhouse

Playhouse Square

Essex

CM20 1LS

- Livewire's contact number is:

Sam Ashford - 07974 241647

- Livewire has its own email address which is managed by the Creative Director
- [livewiretheatre@live.com](mailto:livewiretheatre@live.com)
- [www.livewiretheatre.co.uk](http://www.livewiretheatre.co.uk)



## Recruitment

- Livewire have an open door policy allowing for a constant flow of members
- Livewire will continue to deliver and develop delivery in schools to promote Livewire as well as addressing key issues within our community
  - Toxic Masculinity Workshops for Essex Community Foundation
  - Primary Theatre Challenges for ECC Arts and Culture
- At the beginning of each school term Livewire will advertise to all of Harlow's Secondary schools with posters and letters to the appropriate members of staff
- Livewire will recruit through existing Youth Work organisations in Harlow
- Livewire will recruit through existing Arts Organisations such as 'The Harlow Playhouse'
- Livewire will recruit through connections within Local Secondary and Primary Schools
- If Required Livewire will recruit through Taster workshops within Local Secondary and Primary Schools

# Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy

## Livewire Theatre Company Safeguarding Policy Statement

### The purpose and scope of this policy statement

Livewire Community Theatre Company is a non-profit community theatre charity offering free and accessible drama, dance and music workshops and weekly sessions to young people in Harlow.

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- To protect children and young people who receive Livewire Community Theatre's services from harm.
- To provide staff and volunteers as well as children and young people and their families with the overarching principles that guides our approach to child protection.

This policy applies to anyone working on behalf of Livewire Theatre including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers and sessional workers.

### Legal framework

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children in England

### Supporting documents

This policy statement should be read alongside our organisational policies, procedures, guidance and other related documents

### We recognise that:

- The welfare of children is paramount in all the work we do and in all the decisions we take all children, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have and equal right to protection from all types of harm and abuse
- Some children are additionally vulnerable because of the impact of previous experiences, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues
- Working in partnership with children, young people, their parents, carers and other agencies is essential in promoting young people's welfare.

### We will seek to keep children and young people safe by:

- Valuing, listening to and respecting them
- Appointing a nominated child protection lead for children and young people, a deputy and a lead trustee/board member for safeguarding [check if two can be same person owing to our set up]
- Adopting child protection and safeguarding best practice through our policies, procedures and code of conduct for staff and volunteers
- Developing and implementing an effective online safety policy and related procedures
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support, training and quality assurance measures so that all staff know about and follow our policies, procedures and behaviour codes confidently and competently
- Recruiting staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance
- Sharing information about safeguarding and good practice with children and their families via leaflets, posters, group work and one to one discussions
- Making sure that children, young people and their families know where to go if they have a concern
- Using our safeguarding and child protection procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving children, young people, parents, families and carers appropriately
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately
- Creating and maintaining an anti-bullying environment and ensuring that we have a policy and procedure to help us deal effectively with any bullying that does arise
- Ensuring that we have effective complaints and whistleblowing measures in place
- Ensuring we provide a safe physical environment for our children, young people, staff and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- Building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, children, young people and their families treat each other with respect and are comfortable sharing their concerns

### **Nominated child protection lead**

Name: Abbie Cody  
Phone/email: abbie\_cody@yahoo.co.uk

### **Deputy child protection lead**

Name: Sam Ashford  
Phone/email: sam\_ashford@live.com

### **Trustee/Senior lead for safeguarding and child protection**

Name: Neil Coster  
Phone/email: head@harestreet.sch.essex.uk

# LIVEWIRE

Community Theatre for young people

## Financial Report



## Receipts and pay

45022

For the period from

### Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds
	to the nearest £	to the nearest £
<b>A1 Receipts</b>		
Grants		3,760
Donations / Fundraising	1,186	
Essex Community Fund		5,460
Harlow Council/ Harlow Rec Trust		4,185
Essex County Council	-	4,500
Foyle Foundation		15,000
TNL Reaching Communities		73,980
<b>Sub total</b> (Gross income for AR)	1,186	106,885
<b>A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).</b>		
	-	-
	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-
<b>Total receipts</b>	1,186	106,885
<b>A3 Payments</b>		
Schools Tour, Workshops and Theatre challenges		89,658
Website		
Insurance	467	
Consultant		
Essex CC		75
Music Equipment		420
Hall Hire		
<b>Sub total</b>	467	90,153

A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)

	-	-
	-	-
<b>Sub total</b>	-	-
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>90,153</b>
<b>Net of receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>16,732</b>
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end		
<b>Cash funds this year end</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>16,732</b>

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

Categories	Details
B1 Cash funds	
	<b>Total cash funds</b>
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))
	<b>Details</b>
B2 Other monetary assets	
	<b>Details</b>
B3 Investment assets	



## Details

## Details

Signature

1104838

## ments accounts

## CC16a

To

45387

### Endowment funds

### Total funds

### Last year

to the nearest £

to the nearest £

to the nearest £

-	3,760	3,800
-	1,186	2,232
-	5,460	6,336
-	4,185	4,185
-	4,500	20,000
-		54,360
-	108,071	90,913
-		
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	108,071	90,913
-		
-		79,378
-		
-		441
-		
-		
-		350
-		-
-		-
-	90,620	80,169

-	-	
-	-	
-	-	-
-	90,620	80,169
-	17,451	10,744
-	-	-
-	22,630	11,886
-	40,081	22,630

## period

Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds
to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
		-
-	-	-
-	-	-
719	16,732	-

OK Unrestricted funds	OK Restricted funds	OK Endowment funds
to nearest £	to nearest £	to nearest £
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-

Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-

	-	-
<b>Fund to which asset belongs</b>	<b>Cost (optional)</b>	<b>Current value (optional)</b>
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-
	-	-

<b>Fund to which liability relates</b>	<b>Amount due (optional)</b>	<b>When due (optional)</b>
	-	
	-	
	-	
	-	
	-	

Print Name

Date of approval









Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/  
members of

Charity Name  
THE LIVEWIRE TRUST

On accounts for the year  
ended

2024

Charity no  
(if any)

1104838

Set out on pages

1-2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 05/04/2024.

Responsibilities and  
basis of report

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

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

Independent  
examiner's statement

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

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

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

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

Signed:

Date:

25/11/24

Name:

SARAH WHELAN

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

SBM

<b>Address:</b>	13 HAWFINCH CRESCENT HARLOW ESSEX CM17 0GB

**Section B****Disclosure**

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

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

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