

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE

England & Wales · Charity number 1109792

Details

Other names	DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE, Daisy Chain Autism and Neurodiversity
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	04763989
Registered	2005-06-01
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Daisy Chain Project Teesside Calf Fallow Farm Calf Fallow Lane Stockton-On-Tees TS20 1PF
Phone	01642531248
Email	info@daisychainproject.co.uk
Website	www.daisychainproject.co.uk

Activities

Objects: 4. The charity's objects ("Objects") are specifically restricted to the following:4.1.1. the relief of individuals who have a disability or special needs, in particular to but not exclusive to autism, and the relief of carers of such individuals by the provision of respite care;4.1.2. the provision of public education and training for individuals who have a disability or special needs, in particular to but not exclusively arising from autism; and4.1.3. the advancement of public education concerning the care of individuals whose disability or special needs arise out of autism by the publication of literature, the holding of conferences and seminars and such other means as are required to disseminate the relevant information.

Activities: Daisy Chain Project Teesside works with autistic and neurodivergent individuals and their families to support and empower them through the provision of holistic person-centred services, whilst promoting training, wellbeing, inclusion and acceptance regionally and nationwide.Daisy Chain's vision is for every autistic person to live a life they enjoy and is meaningful to them at every stage.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Disability, Amateur Sport, Animals, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** People With Disabilities

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NATIONAL
- Darlington
- Durham
- Gateshead
- Hartlepool
- Middlesbrough
- Redcar And Cleveland
- Stockton-on-tees

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£3,766,031	£3,867,536	£1,965,432	151
2024-03-31	£3,994,904	£3,739,268	£2,071,359	133
2023-03-31	£2,537,253	£2,723,084	£1,808,524	113
2022-03-31	£2,400,912	£2,401,113	£2,004,698	103
2021-03-31	£1,832,811	£1,863,649	£2,003,259	87

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Alexander Cunningham		2024-12-03
Andrew Gilmore		2024-09-09
David Spencer		2024-09-03
Duane Hanson		2019-07-16
Jennifer Stockwell		2024-09-03
John Benjamin Green		2025-09-09
John Richard Martinson		2025-09-09
Matthew Harris		2024-09-03
NICHOLAS STUART WAITES		2022-03-29
Nathan Dominic Kirby Sherratt		2022-06-14
Rachel Margaret Young		2025-12-02
Samantha Eason		2024-09-03

Linked charities

- [LINKS 2 \(1109792-1\)](#)
- [SIBZ \(SIBLINGS SUPPORT GROUP\) \(1109792-2\)](#)

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE

England & Wales - Charity number 1109792

Accounts



**DAISY
CHAIN**
Autism & Neurodiversity

Annual Report

1st April 2024 - 31st March 2025





OPEN



PASSIONATE



INNOVATIVE



INCLUSIVE



AMBITIOUS



EMPOWERING



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VIEW FROM CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

The past year has been one of ambition, growth and deepening impact for Daisy Chain and the communities we serve.

The trustees confirm that we have had due regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in all our decisions and planning. Our charitable purpose to support and empower autistic and neurodivergent individuals and their families is at the heart of every activity we deliver. We are satisfied that our work provides clear, identifiable public benefit by improving wellbeing, inclusion, confidence and life opportunities for those we serve, and by promoting wider understanding and acceptance within our communities.

As a Board, we've supported a period of real momentum, from expanding our services and geographical reach to laying the groundwork for new projects that reflect both the scale of need and the strength of Daisy Chain's response.

One example is the £1.5 million National Lottery funding secured for Neuthread, a programme enabling neurodivergent individuals to take the lead in developing creative, ethical responses to textile waste and climate anxiety. While the programme launched after year-end, the preparatory work this year represents a bold step forward in combining environmental action with inclusion.

We also had the great pleasure of welcoming representatives from People's Postcode Lottery to our site in May, a chance to show how their long-standing support is transforming lives every day.

At Board level, governance has remained a core focus. We welcomed several new trustees through an open and transparent recruitment process, strengthening our leadership with expertise across HR, education, finance, environment, health and public life:

- Jenni Stockwell, HR expert and Chair of the Operations Committee
- Mathew Harris, property and sustainability lead, Chair of the Environment Committee
- Samantha Eason, education specialist and Safeguarding Lead
- Alex Cunningham, former MP
- Andrew Gilmore, Chartered Financial Planner
- David Spencer, Business Partnership Manager
- Dr Vijay Tandle, Consultant Community Paediatrician

[continued]



VIEW FROM CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

This followed a full board skills analysis audit in January 2025, which informed our recruitment priorities and identified a future training plan to ensure all trustees new and existing continue to develop the skills needed to maintain robust and enduring governance. Our induction and ongoing development practices are regularly reviewed to ensure they remain effective and aligned to best practice.

We also said goodbye to several dedicated trustees Jessica Lenham, Lesley Clode, Sean Lawless, Andrew Kindness, David Norris and Martin Pout whose time, heart and insight we deeply appreciate.

The work of the charity would not be possible without the commitment and leadership of our CEO, Neeraj Sharma, and the dedication of our Directors, Senior Leadership Team, staff and volunteers across every site, in every role.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who supports Daisy Chain from individual donors and community groups to corporate partners and major funders. In particular, we extend our thanks to players of People's Postcode Lottery for their continued transformational support, and to the National Lottery for their commitment to innovation through Neuthread. Together, your support changes lives every single day.

Duane Hanson

Chair of Trustees



CEO REPORT

As I reflect on 2024–25, I am immensely proud of what Daisy Chain has achieved, and of the resilience, innovation and compassion that define our charity's culture.

This year, we supported over 7,400 families, worked with 976 children and young people, and delivered services to 713 autistic or neurodivergent adults across the North East and Yorkshire. These are more than numbers, they represent lives changed, futures unlocked, and communities strengthened.

None of this would have been possible without the generosity of our funders. I want to offer a heartfelt thank you to the players of People's Postcode Lottery. Your continued support has been pivotal in helping us deliver life-changing work, expand our reach, and provide the consistency our beneficiaries rely on.

A Leadership Team United by Purpose

I am fortunate to work alongside an exceptional senior leadership team.

Jennifer Hewitt, Director of Services, continues to shape and refine our delivery model, ensuring that every programme is evidence-informed, person-centred, and impactful.

Johnathon Pickard, Director of Income Generation, has led the strategic development of our income streams, securing funding for new services and growing our retail presence at a time of significant economic challenge. His leadership and the dedication of our retail teams have ensured Daisy Chain remains both sustainable and mission-led.

Strategic Planning and Review

In line with our governance framework and commitment to strategic delivery, we undertook a formal review of our three-year business plan during the year. Originally rewritten in 2024, the plan outlines our roadmap through to 2028. This year's review focused on two priorities: assessing Year 1 performance against defined KPIs, and stress-testing the relevance of our longer-term goals in light of changing beneficiary needs and operating conditions.



The review was conducted through a structured away day involving trustees, executive leaders, operational leads and individuals with lived experience. It incorporated SWOT and PEST analysis, beneficiary insight, performance benchmarking, and horizon scanning. Crucially, it provided a platform for newly appointed trustees to understand our delivery model, challenge assumptions, and contribute meaningfully to shaping the strategy they are now accountable for.

This approach ensured the plan remains active, inclusive and evidence led, not a static document, but a strategic tool to guide resource allocation, service development, and organisational priorities. It also strengthened ownership and accountability at all levels of governance and delivery.

Managing Risk and Building Resilience

Daisy Chain maintains a comprehensive organisational risk register that covers all operational and financial aspects of the charity. This register is reviewed monthly by the Senior Leadership Team, with oversight from both the Operations and Finance Committee and the full Board of Trustees.

Throughout 2024–25, this structure was vital in guiding key decisions. For example, the register tracked early warnings around public sector funding reductions, enabling us to proactively model service adjustments and test financial resilience against different income scenarios. It also informed recruitment timelines and partnership choices, balancing ambition with sustainability.

CEO REPORT

In tandem, safeguarding risks were monitored closely, with audit and case file sampling exercises confirming continued compliance with best practice. Environmental and reputational risks were also actively managed, especially in the expansion of our postcode reach and growth in retail operations.

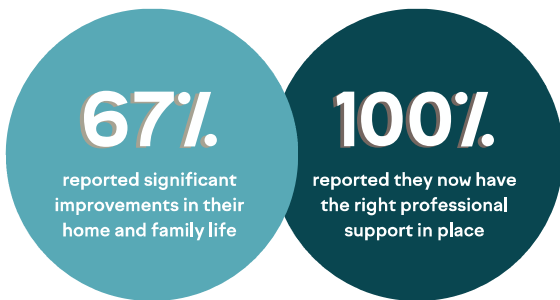
This structured, multi-tiered approach ensures that risk management is not theoretical, but an embedded part of our leadership culture.

By linking risk directly to strategic decision-making, we continue to build a resilient, agile organisation that is prepared for complexity while staying firmly rooted in our values and purpose.

Demonstrating Impact

Our work continues to create tangible, lasting outcomes that go beyond reach, improving wellbeing, confidence, inclusion, and life chances for neurodivergent individuals and their families.

This year, our Keyworking service, which supports families experiencing significant crisis, often involving risk of hospital admission, school exclusion, or mental health breakdown, achieved standout results:



"I wish we had met you at the beginning of our journey. Everything would have been so different."

Parent supported through the Keyworking service

In our Autism Central peer support programme, we set a bold annual target to ensure that 25 percent of families reached came from 'seldom-heard' communities. We are proud to report that we significantly exceeded this, reaching 40 percent.

Our school outreach and training programme strengthened inclusive practice across 20 schools, helping staff better understand the needs of autistic and neurodivergent pupils.

In our adult services, My Life My Community, our regional empowerment programme, was independently evaluated in December 2024. The programme aims to reduce loneliness and social isolation, a national concern for autistic adults who face some of the highest rates of mental health challenges, self-harm, and isolation.

The evaluator concluded: "Individual case studies have described the profound impact the programme has had on improved confidence, independence and wellbeing. Participants have formed meaningful friendships, socialised outside of the group, and made progress on their personal goals."

These are not light-touch outcomes. They represent deep change. Behind every percentage point and case study is a real person – a parent no longer feeling alone, an adult gaining confidence to speak openly, or a young person being understood in school for the first time.

This is what real impact looks like, and it is why we remain fully committed to measuring, strengthening, and scaling the difference we make.

Environmental and Social Responsibility

In line with our values, we have embedded environmental responsibility across our operations.

This year, we completed an internal ESG audit and established an Environmental Committee to monitor our carbon footprint and drive change, particularly in response to the waste generated by our social enterprise stores.

We have sought funding to process surplus textiles and reduce landfill, not only to safeguard the environment, but to create meaningful opportunities for neurodivergent individuals to take positive action on climate anxiety. Inclusion and sustainability can and must go hand in hand.

CEO REPORT

Expanding Our Reach

Daisy Chain continues to grow with purpose. From Teesside to Gateshead, Sunderland to West Yorkshire, our services are now supporting individuals and families across an expanding number of postcodes, areas where demand is high and access to support is often limited.

With every new community we reach, we carry forward the same commitment: to deliver high-quality, inclusive, and empowering support that transforms lives.

Assurance, Monitoring and Systems

Daisy Chain is committed to ensuring that our outcomes are not only meaningful but measurable. Our assurance and monitoring systems, including a state-of-the-art CRM, designated safeguarding infrastructure, and quality assurance (QA) processes, have been developed over recent years and are now fully embedded in our operational culture. In 2024–25, these systems enabled us to:

- Track and analyse over 8,000 support interactions across programmes and regions
- Identify safeguarding trends in real time, informing training priorities and operational alerts
- Report outcome data across services, including My Life My Community and Keyworking, with confidence and accuracy
- Evidence improvements in home life, wellbeing, and inclusion through tools such as Outcome Stars and post-support surveys

Our QA Lead conducted targeted internal audits this year, including case file sampling and policy compliance checks, strengthening our confidence in the consistency and quality of delivery. Our safeguarding systems were externally reviewed and found to meet or exceed sector expectations. Oversight is rigorous: safeguarding, CRM, and QA data are reviewed regularly by senior leaders and reported to the Board through both operational and thematic reports.

On the environmental side, we built on prior success (including the installation of solar panels in the previous year) by applying for further funding to process textile waste and reduce landfill.

Our ESG monitoring was strengthened through committee-led reviews and external environmental audit partnerships.

These systems are not static; they evolve in response to what we learn. They have enabled us this year to act with confidence, demonstrate real impact to funders, and protect the safety and dignity of every person we support.

Working in Partnership with the Board

As CEO, I continue to be supported and constructively challenged by our Board of Trustees. Our Chair, Duane Hanson, leads the Board with energy, insight and a deep understanding of both governance and lived experience. He works tirelessly to strengthen board composition and embed oversight structures that ensure Daisy Chain remains accountable, forward-looking and responsive to the communities we serve. His progressive mindset and return to the charity have brought renewed focus to governance, strategy and trustee development.

Strategic Priority for the Year Ahead: Employment and Inclusion

Looking ahead, our strategic focus for 2025–26 is employability. Too many neurodivergent individuals continue to face inequality, not only in gaining employment, but in sustaining it. That must change. We are working closely with employers to equip them with the insight, tools and confidence to build inclusive, neuro affirming workplaces, environments where individuals feel safe, valued, and able to thrive.

Our approach includes developing training, building partnerships in key sectors such as retail, and expanding supported pathways to help neurodivergent individuals not only access jobs, but succeed in them.

To our staff, volunteers, partners, funders and the families we serve, thank you. Your trust, passion and belief in our mission have carried us through another extraordinary year. We are shaping a society where difference is not only accepted but celebrated, where every neurodivergent individual is recognised for their strength, value and potential.

In delivering these achievements, we remain guided by our charitable purposes and our commitment to providing clear public benefit in line with Charity Commission guidance.

With passion and determination,

Neeraj Sharma

CEO

PRESENTING DAISY CHAIN

The trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the charity qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Our shared vision is for every person we support to live a life they enjoy and is meaningful to them at every stage.

Our mission is to support and empower autistic and neurodivergent individuals through the provision of holistic person-centred services, whilst promoting training, wellbeing, inclusion and acceptance regionally and nationwide.

7,400+

families positively supported by our services.

1,188

1:1 appointments for parents/carers through Autism Central.

976

children and young people accessed our services.

713

adults accessed our services.

4,654

parents supported by Family Support with 5,042 total contacts.

HITTING THE HEADLINES & EXTERNAL RECOGNITION



IMPACTFUL CASE STUDIES - HOW DAISY CHAIN HAS TRANSFORMED LIVES



FUNDRAISING WITH A DIFFERENCE AT TEESIDE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



RECORD BREAKING GREAT NORTH RUN PARTICIPATION



TRUSTEE FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE RAISES OVER £1,000



AWARDED FOR OUR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION AT THE TEES BUSINESS AWARDS 2024



GATESHEAD CHARITY MEGASTORE WINS BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY AWARD



CHILDREN'S SERVICES

In the 2024/25 financial year our services have been accessed by 976 autistic or neurodivergent children and young people and 713 autistic or neurodivergent adults. In addition, we have positively impacted the lives of 7,473 families across the North East and Yorkshire.

Social opportunities for children and young people

In 2024–25, 923 children and young people attended our clubs and activity programme, including after-school sessions, themed clubs such as Dungeons & Dragons and Forest School, inclusive cycling sessions, and community day trips. These activities are designed to build social confidence, nurture friendships, and reduce isolation, in direct support of our strategic aim to increase inclusion and wellbeing for autistic and neurodivergent young people.

Thanks to the generous support of PD Ports, we also provided three overnight residentials at Peat Rigg Activity Centre. For many participants, this was their first experience away from home. Parents and carers consistently told us these opportunities increased their child's independence, helped them try new activities, and strengthened their peer relationships:

“We honestly didn't think our son would manage a night away from home, but he came back from Peat Rigg glowing with pride. He's still talking about the high ropes and the friends he made. For the first time, he feels part of something—and for us, as parents, that's everything.”

Support for the Wider Family

Our family activity days remain a much-loved part of our offer, with 375 families taking part in over 1,500 sessions throughout the year. In addition, thanks to generous funding from Amazon, we were able to provide 35 families with free, fully supported trips during the school holidays to destinations such as Whitby and Adventure Valley. These outings offered families the chance to create special memories together, confident in the knowledge that everything has been taken care of—and that trained staff are on hand to provide support if needed.

“My daughter is pre-verbal, has frequent meltdowns and is prone to absconding. She had the best time and for the first time in nearly 6 years I was able to enjoy a day out with my daughter without the crippling anxiety I normally get when going to places away from home.”

923

children and young people accessed clubs and activities

375

families accessed activity days

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Tackling Food Poverty

We're delighted to have extended our support for financially vulnerable families to cover all school holiday periods this year. Thanks to generous funding from Stockton Borough Council's Holiday Activity Fund, 50 children and young people were able to access free, enriching holiday activities—each paired with a nutritious meal.

Our programme included a variety of inclusive and engaging experiences such as sensory play, cooking, animal therapy, and community-based adventures like paddleboarding and kayaking.

At Christmas, every family who attended received a festive hamper packed with healthy food, seasonal crafts, and thoughtful gifts—adding a little extra joy during what can be a financially and emotionally challenging time.

Alongside these activities, parents and carers were also connected with our Autism Central peer education programme, ensuring the whole family received meaningful, tailored support.

50

children accessed
free holiday
activities with meals



“

“My son had asked to try paddleboarding back in October, but I had to explain that we simply couldn't afford it. When he got to go through Daisy Chain, he was over the moon—and honestly, so was I. I can't thank you enough.”

Personal Development & Therapeutic Packages to Support Education

Our placements programme continues to offer life-changing support for autistic and neurodivergent children and young people. In the past year we provided over 10,000 hours of support to 87 children and young people and introduced placements for primary school aged pupils in order to better support with that difficult transition to secondary school and meet the growing need. Through trauma-informed, person-centred care, we have witnessed transformational outcomes for young people who were previously isolated or at risk.

“

“Our son only managed 5 months in a mainstream secondary - his [challenges with his autism and Tourette's] were so bad at this point, that he was physically sick and no longer our happy boy. Fast forward to now and he is thriving. We honestly never thought we would be at this point - it just shows that with the correct support and encouragement, those with SEN can achieve whatever they want.”

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

School Outreach & Engagement



This year marked a significant expansion of our school outreach support, thanks to our commissioned work under the Partnership for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) project. As part of this initiative, we worked with 20 schools across Redcar & Cleveland, providing in-depth observations, evaluating existing practices and offering tailored feedback.

This bespoke support focused on everything from emotional regulation and classroom communication, to sensory needs and positive behaviour support strategies. Following our visits, each school received a comprehensive feedback report, a classroom visuals pack, and tools to help embed sustainable, inclusive practice. Staff were also supported through individual coaching and the offer of follow-up support.



“—

“The Daisy Chain staff have nurtured wonderful and positive relationships with our students, and the students feel comfortable enough to speak about things they have previously held back.”

Essential Site Improvements

We remain committed to providing the very best environment for the children and young people who access our services—and this year, we've invested in key site improvements to ensure our facilities remain inclusive, accessible and safe.

A key highlight has been the complete redevelopment of our soft play area—a space that has been at the heart of our services for over 15 years. For many autistic children, soft play provides a safe and calming way to explore, regulate, and develop vital motor and social skills. It's a place where they can play freely, build confidence, and enjoy sensory experiences in an environment that feels secure and familiar. Over time, however, the space had aged, and the extent of repairs needed were beyond our financial reach. (cont)



CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Whilst it remained deeply valued by families, we recognised that it was no longer fully meeting the needs of our growing and diverse community. Thanks to generous funding from Cummins, we've now been able to design and install a brand-new, larger, and more inclusive soft play area.

The new space offers more room for older children and young people, and introduces interactive elements that encourage movement, exploration and sensory play. In addition to soft play, we've also upgraded our sensory room, transforming it into a state-of-the-art space designed to support emotional regulation and offer a safe space for children who are feeling overwhelmed or overstimulated.

These newly improved spaces will play a key role in helping us future proof our services, allowing us to continue to deliver high-quality, therapeutic experiences for children and young people for many years to come.

Continual development of animal therapy facilities

Research continues to show that interaction with animals can have a powerful therapeutic effect—offering companionship, emotional regulation, sensory input, and opportunities for non-verbal communication. For many autistic and neurodivergent individuals, animals provide a unique sense of calm, safety, and understanding that can be truly transformative.

Our therapeutic farm and petting barn remain central to our offer, and over the past year we've further enhanced this provision by introducing a new Reptile Club, offering children and young people the chance to safely interact with and care for our exotic animals and improving our dedicated sensory space to allow for one-to-one animal-assisted therapy sessions.

These developments ensure our animal offer is not only engaging and fun, but also purposeful and empowering—building confidence, reducing anxiety, and opening up new ways for children and young people to connect with the world around them.

“Seeing my son interact with the animals has been nothing short of magical. They provide a sense of calm and understanding that is hard to put into words. He's more open, more relaxed, and more himself when he's with them.”



FAMILY SERVICES

Extension of Family Support

This year, we were proud to support over 4,700 families across the Tees Valley and Sunderland, delivering more than 5,000 one-to-one appointments and drop-in sessions —2,000 more than the previous year. The team continues to meet the growing needs of our families, providing support on everything from sensory challenges and emotional wellbeing to education and what to expect during the diagnosis process.

We were thrilled to receive confirmation of a three-year contract extension from the ICB for the Tees Valley element of the service, a powerful endorsement of the service's impact and the trust families place in our support.

5,000+

1:1 appointments
delivered to families in
Tees Valley

“—
| “After the call today I had a bit of a cry—but just from relief. I finally felt understood..”

“—
| “I've received more helpful information from one phone call than I have from months of struggling alone.”

Support for the families with the most complex needs

This year, our Keyworker Team has delivered over 5,000 hours of personalised support to more than 100 families with children and young people under the age of 25 who were at risk of crisis, school placement breakdown, or inpatient mental health admission.

Our keyworkers act as a consistent point of contact—advocating for the family and coordinating their support across education, health and social care services, ensuring that the child or young person's voice is heard. They also provide practical tools, helping the child or young person to understand themselves and their diagnosis and supporting truly person-centred planning.

We're proud to share that, thanks to our support 100% of families now feel they have the right professional support in place and 67% have reported significant improvements in their home and family life.

“—
| “I wish we had met you at the beginning of our journey. Everything would have been so different.”

5,000+

hours of personalised
keyworking support
delivered

FAMILY SERVICES

Empowering families through lived experience



Autism Central, continues to be a vital source of peer-led support for families of autistic children and young people. This year, over 2,785 families engaged with the service, accessing one-to-one appointments and a wide range of workshops, learning opportunities, and resources.

Delivered by trained peer educators with lived experience, Autism Central offers both emotional support and practical guidance—helping families feel less isolated and more confident in navigating diagnosis, education, and everyday life. This year, we expanded into new areas including Leeds and York, increasing access and raising our profile across the region.

A key part of the programme is ensuring accessibility for all families, particularly those who may not traditionally engage with services. We're pleased to report that 40% of the families supported were classed as 'seldom heard', significantly exceeding our target of 25%.

To support the incredible people delivering this work, we hosted our first Peer Educator Wellbeing Day, bringing our team together for learning and reflection. Feedback from the day was overwhelmingly positive:

"I work alone in this role so having this time to connect was really rewarding. It renewed my commitment and made me feel so proud to be a part of this programme."

40%

of families classed as 'seldom heard'

Gateshead Autism Hubs



Now fully embedded in the community, our Gateshead Autism Hubs have supported over 115 families this year through a combination of weekly drop-ins, learning opportunities, and peer support sessions.

The Hubs offer safe, welcoming spaces for families at all stages of their journey—whether newly navigating the diagnostic process or seeking longer-term support. With a dedicated coordinator in place, we've seen steady growth in attendance and meaningful relationships formed between parents, carers, and professionals.

In partnership with Gateshead ICB, we have also launched monthly Welcome Events for parents whose child has recently entered the diagnostic pathway. These sessions help families feel less alone and more informed, with over 25 parents attending each event.



ADULT SERVICES

263

autistic or neurodivergent adults accessed holistic wellbeing support

Wellbeing and mental health support

In 2024–25, our wellbeing service provided 1:1 and group-based support to 263 autistic and neurodivergent individuals aged 15 and over. These sessions, which draw on holistic strategies such as mindfulness, meditation, animal interaction and nature-based activities, aim to build self-awareness, emotional resilience and confidence.

Feedback from participants highlights the positive changes achieved, from feeling more able to express themselves to improved day-to-day coping strategies. This work directly supports our strategic priority to strengthen mental health provision and empower individuals to lead fulfilling lives.

“The sessions truly changed my entire outlook on life. I’ve learned that I can be the real me, and I don’t need to mask anymore.”

Improving digital literacy and inclusion

Through our Fairer Financial Communities programme, 217 autistic and neurodivergent adults gained practical skills in digital literacy, online safety, benefits advice and job search techniques. The service also helped individuals access over £250,000 in previously unclaimed benefits, improving financial stability and reducing stress.

These activities align with our strategy to remove practical barriers to independence and ensure no one is excluded from opportunities because of digital or financial disadvantage. We continue to tailor delivery for those from seldom-heard or marginalised groups, providing additional guidance, accessible resources and targeted outreach.

“I got the job and I start on Monday! Thank you so much for all of your help — I definitely couldn’t have done it without you.”

217

people received bespoke digital skills support

ADULT SERVICES

Reducing loneliness and isolation

Our clubs, activities and community empowerment initiative My Life My Community (MLMC) provided more than 2,500 inclusive sessions this year, reaching 230 adults across the Tees Valley and beyond. An independent evaluation confirmed that MLMC has reduced loneliness, increased community engagement and improved wellbeing for participants. Many have formed lasting friendships, become more active in their communities, and developed the confidence to try new experiences. This work is a direct contribution to our strategic goal of fostering social inclusion and strengthening local networks of support.

“Honestly [My Life My Community is] one of the best clubs I’ve ever been to. The people are kind, and you can feel the connection. I didn’t feel alone.”

230

Adults have accessed My Life My Community

Expansion of our post-16 support

From April 2025, we will launch a new post-16 support service, funded by the ICB, to address gaps in provision for autistic and neurodivergent young people and adults.

The service will provide one-to-one support, drop-in sessions, and psychoeducation focused on self-understanding. This expansion reflects our commitment to ensuring that needs are met well beyond statutory education age, particularly for those awaiting assessment or struggling to access appropriate support.



TRAINING

In 2024–25, Daisy Chain’s training team delivered specialist autism and neurodiversity training to education providers, employers, public sector teams, community organisations, and autistic and neurodivergent individuals themselves. Across the year, we trained participants through face-to-face sessions, online modules, and bespoke workshops. This work directly supports our strategic priority to promote understanding, inclusion, and acceptance regionally and nationally.

Neuro-inclusion in the workplace

We work with employers across sectors to help them build and sustain genuinely neuro-inclusive workplace cultures. This includes targeted leadership training, “Why You Need Us” awareness campaigns, and post-hire neurodiversity support packages. Our training supports employers to review recruitment processes, adapt induction and career development pathways, and embed inclusive policies and environments so that neurodivergent employees can thrive. Many organisations reported that as a result of our work, they have improved staff retention, increased diversity in recruitment, and seen greater employee engagement.

Supporting inclusion in schools

We developed new training for schools and initial teacher training providers, embedding autism awareness and inclusive practice early in professional development. Tailored sessions addressed challenges in recruitment, retention, and creating neuro-affirming learning environments. Educators shared examples of improved classroom communication, flexible teaching strategies, and greater engagement with pupils and families.

Understanding self – training for autistic and neurodivergent adults

We expanded our offer for autistic and neurodivergent adults to include training focused on self-awareness, strengths identification, and navigating the workplace and community as a neurodivergent person. This strand, often delivered alongside our adult support services, helps individuals build confidence, advocate for their needs, and make informed decisions about education, employment, and daily life.



TRAINING

Accessible and inclusive delivery

To ensure training reaches diverse audiences, we offer flexible delivery models — including evening webinars, on-site workshops, and tailored sessions for community groups. Materials are provided in accessible formats, and examples are drawn from lived experience to make content relatable and relevant. We also work with seldom-heard groups to ensure their voices inform both the design and delivery of training.

Developing sector capacity and ensuring quality

These developments align with our strategic aim to influence systemic change by equipping those in key roles — from school leaders to HR managers — with the skills to create inclusive environments. All training content is reviewed annually for accuracy and compliance with current legislation, and our trainers undertake continuing professional development to maintain quality and consistency. Income from paid training is reinvested directly into our charitable work, extending our reach and impact.



RETAIL, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE & INCOME GENERATION

In 2024–25, Daisy Chain’s retail and social enterprise operations continued to provide vital income to sustain our services, while also creating volunteering, training and community engagement opportunities. Our network of shops and the Gateshead Megastore not only raise funds but also act as community hubs where supporters can connect with our mission.

Growing income and customer experience

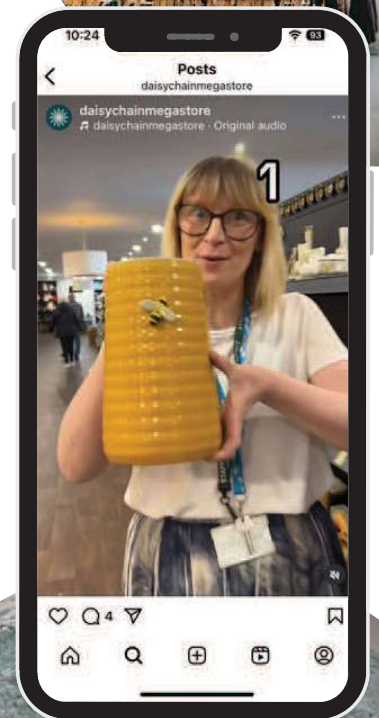
We implemented a standardised pricing structure and improved store layouts, making the shopping experience more consistent and welcoming across all sites. Sales performance was strengthened by targeted seasonal promotions and the introduction of higher-quality donated goods sourced through new corporate partnerships. These developments support our strategic aim to grow and diversify income while keeping our offer accessible.

Neuthread and sustainable retail **NEUTHREAD.**

Preparations for the launch of Neuthread, our innovative neurodivergent-led upcycling and sustainable fashion enterprise progressed throughout the year. The programme tackles two urgent issues: the environmental impact of textile waste and the need for meaningful, creative opportunities for autistic and neurodivergent people. Autistic and neurodivergent individuals are involved at every stage of Neuthread’s design and delivery, from concept development and product creation to marketing and retail. This approach not only reduces waste but also addresses the climate crisis in a way that is inclusive, empowering, and responsive to the voices of those most often excluded from environmental action. Although the official launch falls in 2025–26, groundwork during this year included securing funding, developing training materials, and forging supply partnerships.

685K+

items diverted
from landfill



100K+

views on our social
media video
content



RETAIL AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Community engagement and volunteer development

Retail operations engaged a diverse volunteer base, including autistic and neurodivergent individuals gaining work experience and confidence. Many have progressed to further training or paid employment, demonstrating the role retail plays in delivering our charitable purpose. We continue to tailor volunteer roles to individual strengths and provide training to remove barriers for those from seldom-heard groups.

Gateshead Employability Service **NEW**

Building on the success of our volunteer programme, we began developing a dedicated Gateshead Employability Service in 2024–25, due to launch in 2025–26. Based around our retail and social enterprise operations, this service will provide structured work placements, skills training, and job-readiness support for autistic and neurodivergent individuals.

Participants will gain practical retail experience alongside transferable skills such as customer service, teamwork, and stock management, with progression routes into employment both within and beyond Daisy Chain. The initiative is designed to remove barriers to work, increase confidence, and contribute to our strategic aim of improving employment outcomes for neurodivergent people in the North East.

Driving footfall and digital engagement

We worked proactively to increase footfall to our shops and Megastore through themed events, in-store promotions, and community partnerships. Our retail social media presence on platforms such as TikTok and Instagram grew significantly, with TikTok content achieving over 100,000 views during the year. These channels showcased new stock, upcycling projects, and behind-the-scenes stories from staff and volunteers, helping to attract new customers, reach younger audiences, and strengthen our connection with the wider community. Seasonal fairs, pop-up workshops, and volunteer open days further encouraged in-store visits and provided opportunities to raise awareness of autism and neurodiversity, signpost people to our services, and recruit new volunteers.

729

corporate volunteers supported our stores

RETAIL AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Sustainability and environmental responsibility

In line with our environmental priorities, we expanded textile recycling operations, reduced waste donations, and trialled new processes for upcycling furniture and clothing. These measures not only reduce landfill waste but also generate additional income streams, supporting our strategy to align retail operations with environmental stewardship.

Governance and quality assurance

Retail performance and compliance are overseen by the Finance & Resources Committee, with monthly reporting to trustees. Policies on health and safety, safeguarding, and environmental standards are regularly reviewed, and staff receive training to ensure high standards in all areas of operation. Income generated from retail is reinvested directly into Daisy Chain's charitable activities, ensuring our shops remain a key part of sustaining and expanding our services.



RETAIL AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

The Road Ahead

In 2025–26 we will build on the strong foundations laid this year to further develop retail as both an income generator and a platform for inclusion. Key priorities include:

- Launching Neuthread, placing autistic and neurodivergent people at the heart of an environmentally sustainable fashion and upcycling enterprise.
- Opening the Gateshead Employability Service, providing structured pathways from volunteering and training into paid employment.
- Expanding our retail social media reach to drive both income and awareness, building on the success of achieving over 100,000 TikTok views in 2024–25.
- Increasing the range of sustainable and recycled products, strengthening our response to the climate crisis and embedding environmental responsibility across all retail operations.
- Enhancing the volunteer experience through tailored training and progression opportunities, ensuring roles remain accessible and meaningful.

Through these developments, retail will continue to deliver public benefit in multiple ways — raising vital funds, reducing environmental impact, creating inclusive opportunities, and engaging communities with Daisy Chain’s mission.



VOLUNTEERING

4,607

hours volunteered by those in the community

We are extremely lucky and thankful to have 18 regular, committed community volunteers who work across Daisy Chain, from the day centre gardens and farm, to our retail stores, e-commerce, remote working family support volunteers and volunteers who help out at our many fundraising events. This year they've spent 815 valuable days with us - they have become an integral part of the team, allowing us to raise more awareness, provide more services and raise more funds.

4,048

hours volunteered by corporate supporters

We're also very grateful to the corporate organisations, both locally and nationally, who come back to Daisy Chain time and time again, using their volunteering days to make a positive impact on our services and sites, and meeting their own Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) targets in the process. We've welcomed over 19 companies this year for a total of 81 sessions including:



“It was a real pleasure to step away from the usual office routine and spend time learning more about the amazing work this charity does for autistic and neurodivergent individuals. We were made to feel so welcome, and it was truly rewarding to take part in something so meaningful.”



FUNDRAISING, EVENTS & CORPORATE SUPPORT



The 2024/25 financial year was defined by extraordinary events, fundraising achievements, and the unwavering dedication of our supporters. From scaling mountains to transforming Teesside Airport into an events venue, our community rallied together to raise record breaking amounts - smashing previous records and proving the power of collective action. Despite navigating challenges such as the cancellation of our Summer Open Day due to local unrest, the year shone brightly with creativity, resilience, and generosity.

Scaling New Heights

This year, our supporters truly went the extra mile—literally! The Cleveland 4 Peaks Challenge set the tone for the year followed by a record breaking Great North Run where 82 runners donning our recycled shirts—a symbol of sustainability and unity. Their dedication raised nearly £30,000, tripling last year's total.

Creativity Meets Philanthropy

Our Getaway Ball at Teesside Airport took fundraising to new heights. With 380 guests “boarding” for an evening of glamour and purpose, the event raised a staggering £56,000. Later in the year, the JDR Cables Ball introduced Daisy Chain to new audiences, raising £13,000 while amplifying awareness in untapped sectors.

Though we faced the difficult decision to cancel our Summer Open Day due to local safety concerns, our resilience shone through. The Winter Wonderland event defied gloomy weather forecasts, drawing crowds and spreading festive cheer.

CSR Initiatives with Lasting Impact

Early in 2024, we launched a new CSR initiative that quickly bore fruit. PD Ports pledged £15,000 to fund three transformative residential trips for service users, while CF Fertilizers contributed £3,000. Though we aim higher, these partnerships underscore the growing trust in Daisy Chain's mission and lay the groundwork for future collaborations.

FUNDRAISING, EVENTS & CORPORATE SUPPORT

Volunteers: The Heartbeat of Daisy Chain

Corporate volunteers were invaluable this year, bringing their specific skills to complete critical jobs - without them, we would have had to spend vital funds, pulling them away from services. The companies also benefitted - aligning CSR goals with hands-on impact.

Looking Ahead: Building on Momentum in 2024/25

As we move forward, we aim to:

- Expand corporate partnerships and diversify funding streams.
- Relaunch a safer, reimagined Summer Open Day.
- Strengthen community engagement through dynamic events.
- Prioritise sustainability and inclusion across all initiatives.
- Expand our events calendar and reach.

Here's to another year of breaking barriers, together.

The charity is registered with the Fundraising Regulator and adheres to the Code of Fundraising Practice across all fundraising activities. All fundraising is planned and monitored by the Senior Leadership Team and the Finance Team to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and best practice standards. We provide training for all staff involved in fundraising and ensure adherence to our internal fundraising policies.

We do not engage professional fundraisers or commercial participators; all fundraising is carried out by Daisy Chain staff, trustees, volunteers or partners under our direct supervision. Fundraising activities are regularly reviewed to ensure they reflect our values and safeguard vulnerable people, with clear procedures for identifying and responding to any concerns.

In 2024-25, we received no complaints about our fundraising activities.



POLICY & CAMPAIGN WORK

Our policy and campaign work has continued to go from strength to strength this year,. Highlights include:

Tackling harmful misconceptions head-on

Each post of a myth busting campaign clearly debunked a myth using accessible visuals, fact-based explanations, and thoughtful captions. The campaign aimed to educate the wider public, reduce stigma, and empower our audience to share accurate, respectful representations of neurodivergent people.

#ShareYourStory for #PrideMonth

We invited people living at the intersection of LGBTQIA+ and neurodivergent identities to share their lived experiences. Their voices were amplified across our platforms, highlighting the unique challenges and strengths that come from navigating two marginalised identities. The campaign reminded participants that their voices matter and created space for greater understanding, solidarity, and support within and beyond both communities.

Children's Mental Health Week

We used this campaign to confront a stigmatised topic with honesty and compassion. Through statistics and personal stories, we highlighted the mental health struggles many autistic children and young people face.

#MyDiagnosisMyDefinition

A powerful campaign built from survey responses gathered from autistic people across a range of ages, genders, and backgrounds. We shared impactful quotes describing the complex experience of diagnosis – from the grief and confusion of late discovery, to the validation and relief of finally having language for lifelong experiences.

Stories of unmasking, self-acceptance, and reframing the past through a neurodivergent lens gave deep insight into autistic identity. The campaign challenged outdated stereotypes and reinforced the truth that every autistic person's experience is valid, unique, and worthy of respect.



PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS (2025-26)

In the year ahead, Daisy Chain will build on the achievements of 2024–25 by pursuing strategic priorities designed to extend our reach, strengthen impact, and secure the long-term sustainability of our services. All planned activities are directly aligned with our charitable purpose: to support and empower autistic and neurodivergent individuals through holistic, person-centred services, whilst promoting training, wellbeing, inclusion and acceptance regionally and nationwide.

Expanding and Enhancing Services

- Children & Young People – Develop targeted interventions to reduce school avoidance, including exploring Daisy Chain bases within education settings. Expand sports activities and pursue new pre- and post-diagnostic support contracts in additional geographic areas.
- Adults – Fully embed our newly developed adult support services, including employability and comprehensive pre- and post-diagnostic support. Sustain and grow vital offers such as wellbeing, performing arts, benefits advice, digital inclusion and community outreach.
- Families – Continue to embed women and girls-focused initiatives and widen inclusion for seldom-heard groups.
- Therapeutic & Environmental – Evaluate our therapeutic animal offer, enhance biodiversity and outdoor spaces, and establish a service-user Climate Action Group.

Growing Our Training and Education Impact

- Review and adapt training content to meet evolving sector needs, developing specialist modules on recruitment, retention and inclusive policy.
- Increase employer engagement through targeted campaigns, leadership modules and post-hire neurodiversity support services.
- Seek accreditation options, develop digital training products, and explore micro-credentialing to diversify income and enhance quality assurance.



PLANS FOR FUTURE PERIODS (2025-26)

Retail, Social Enterprise and Income Diversification

- Standardise pricing and optimise store layouts to improve customer experience and maximise sales.
- Relaunch Neuthread within Gateshead Megastore, expand textile upcycling, and pilot pop-up events at colleges/universities to increase awareness and income.
- Strengthen corporate partnerships for in-kind donations, volunteering, and stock sourcing, including innovative routes for high-quality furniture donations.
- Enhance sustainability by reviewing recycling operations, reducing waste donations, and embedding environmental initiatives across retail.

Financial Sustainability and Governance

- Maintain rigorous financial oversight, including quarterly VAT returns, budgeting, forecasting, efficiency reviews and reserves management.
- Explore new income streams across services and training, with charging structures reviewed for fairness and cost recovery.
- Undertake feasibility studies for registering as an independent school and for service capacity utilisation.
- Continue to embed robust risk management, safeguarding and quality assurance systems across all operations.

Public Benefit and Measuring Impact

- All planned activities for 2025–26 are designed to deliver identifiable public benefit by improving wellbeing, inclusion, confidence, independence and life chances for autistic and neurodivergent individuals and their families.
- We will measure progress through service-level KPIs, outcome tools such as Outcome Stars, and feedback from those with lived experience, ensuring beneficiaries' voices inform service development.

By pursuing these priorities, Daisy Chain will continue to shape a society where difference is celebrated and every neurodivergent individual is recognised for their strengths, value and potential.



SAFEGUARDING AND QUALITY ASSURANCE

Safeguarding and service quality remain central to all Daisy Chain activities. In 2024–25 we strengthened our safeguarding framework across both children’s and adult services by training and developing staff, undertaking regular audits, and embedding clear quality control measures. Our safeguarding policies were reviewed and expanded to reflect current best practice and legislative requirements.

The charity’s Quality Assurance and Safeguarding Manager, who is also the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) for both children and adults, provides oversight of all safeguarding activity. This role is supported by a Head of Safeguarding, and newly appointed and trained Deputy DSLs, ensuring that every programme is delivered with the highest standards of safety and care.

These measures form part of Daisy Chain’s governance and risk management processes, giving trustees assurance that services remain safe, inclusive and responsive to emerging needs.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Trustees

Alex Cunningham (appointed 03/12/2024)
Samantha Eason (appointed 03/09/2024)
Andrew Gilmore (appointed 03/09/2024)
Duane Hanson (appointed 16/07/2019)
Matthew Harris (appointed 03/09/2024)
Nathan Sheratt (appointed 14/06/2022)
David Spencer (appointed 03/09/2024)
Jennifer Stockwell (appointed 03/09/2024)
Nicholas Waites (appointed 29/03/2022)
Dr Vijay Tandle (appointed 24/05/2025)
John Benjamin Green (appointed 09/09/2025)
John Richard Martinson (appointed 09/09/2025)

Lesley Clode (resigned 03/12/2024)
Andrew Kindness (resigned 03/12/2024)
Sean Lawless (resigned 15/10/2024)
Jessica Lenham (resigned 25/03/2025)
David Norris (resigned 19/04/2024)
Martin Pout (resigned 11/06/2024)

Chief Executive Officer

Neeraj Sharma

Independent auditors

Waltons Business Advisers Limited
Maritime House
Harbour Walk
Hartlepool
TS24 0UX

Investment advisors

Redmayne Bentley LLP
Church House
Middlesbrough
TS9 5DN

Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc
19-23 Wellington Square
Stockton-on-Tees
TS18 1NA

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

At 31st March 2025, the total number of trustees is nine. Recruitment of trustees is in line with skills gaps identified from our annual board appraisal and analysis. Trustees meet formally for full Board meetings at least quarterly, in addition to a monthly Finance Sub-Committee and a quarterly Operations Committee. The charity is administered by the trustees who delegate its day-to-day operations to the CEO.

Trustees ensure that Safeguarding is a governance priority and Daisy Chain's policies for both children and adult safeguarding are reviewed annually. Data Protection registration for our Data Controller is renewed with ICO annually. We have had one serious incident to report to the Charity Commission this year. Key agenda items include Governance, Risk Review, Operational Updates, Policy and Finance. Our annual Health and Safety Audit and Financial Audit of our processes provided a clean bill of health, which enables Daisy Chain to function efficiently and further enhance our governance and business readiness for the future.

We received one inspection from OFSTED, of which the outcome was very positive feedback and no actions.

Remuneration for the CEO is set and determined by the Daisy Chain trustee board with regard to the performance and appraisal system. Remuneration of Daisy Chain staff is set by Daisy Chain Finance Committee in accordance with internal pay scales.

Delegation and Committees

The Board maintains a written schedule of matters reserved for the trustee board and committees which clearly defines specific areas for delegation. Committees report to the Board on a regular basis.

Finance Committee

Primarily responsible for all aspects of the charity's financial strategy, performance and risk management ensuring its resources are being properly and appropriately applied to its key objectives. The committee has a responsibility for safeguarding the charity's assets and ensuring sufficient reserves to fund our delivery.

Operations Committee

Primarily responsible for overseeing all matters concerned with the effective governance of Daisy Chain, supporting the CEO in building and sustaining an effective leadership team, and guiding and modelling the effectiveness of key human resources, risk management and policy for the organisation.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Report of the trustees for the period ending 31st March 2025

The trustees/directors are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the period ended 31st March 2025, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and 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 1st January 2019).

Financial Commentary

Review of Accounting Period

The trustees report that the charity recorded a deficit of £105,927 for the year. Turnover fell from the previous year by 5.7% with this being predominantly due to a one off windfall from the recovery of VAT following the charities VAT registration in the year ended 31 March 2024 and the timing of receipt of restricted grant income funding.

Expenditure increased by a relatively modest 3.4% from the previous year despite an increase in service provision. Certain grant income is recognised under the charities SORP when received despite the expenditure to which it relates being incurred at a later date.

At 31 March 2024, the amount of these restricted funds received but not utilised was £379,648 whilst at 31 March 2025 it had reduced to £247,644. If the income received was matched with the expenditure when incurred, a small surplus of £ 26,078 would have arisen for the year.

The trustees remain confident in the underlying financial strength of the charity, which continues to demonstrate success in attracting new funding, expanding provision, and exercising careful oversight of expenditure.

Review of Financial Position

At the year end, the charity had total funds of £1,965,432, of which £1,717,788 were unrestricted.

The charity's bank balances increased from £472,122 to £728,254, with investments decreasing from £222,048 to £137,043 as a result of the realisation of some of the investments.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Future Period

In March 2025, the trustees approved the budget for year ended the 31 March 2026, projecting further expansion, most notably within Social Enterprise, through Neuthread, and in Adult Services. The charity is currently on track to achieve the modest budgeted surplus and is already looking ahead to year ending 31 March 2026.

Reserves

The charity's reserves policy is to hold at least three months' essential costs. These costs are currently estimated at £364,000 (up from £268,000 in 2024). At the balance sheet date, the charity had free reserves (total reserves less tangible fixed assets and restricted funds) of £550,560 (£480,239 in 2024). Therefore, at the balance sheet date, the actual free reserves covered just over four months of essential costs.

Investments

The trustees continue to delegate the management of the charity's investments to Redmayne Bentley, who operate under the specific criteria set by the trustees, including risk tolerance, investment types and long-term growth objectives. There have been no material changes to the charity's investment approach during the year.

Risk Management

The trustees continue to conduct regular reviews of the major risks to which the charity is exposed, with systems and procedures in place to mitigate these. The principal risks remain consistent with the prior year. Significant external risks to funding are addressed through the strategic plan, which focuses on diversification of fundraising and other activities of the charity. Internal risks are managed through established authorisation procedures for projects and transactions, ensuring consistency and high-quality service delivery.

Significant risks identified continue to include:

- Service Provision: protection and monitoring of children and vulnerable adults.
- Financial: income generation, business planning, budgeting and insurances.
- Personnel: staff, volunteers and placements.
- Property: security and management of premises and risk of fire.
- IT & Communications: security and privacy of data.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The trustees are aware of the importance of developing a risk awareness culture within the charity and continue to work towards embedding this within the day to day working methods and thinking of Daisy Chain's staff and volunteers.

Approval

The Trustee's Report and Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 14/10/2025



On behalf of the Board

Nicholas Stuart Waites FCA
Chair of the Finance Committee

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

Statement of disclosure to auditors

The charity trustees (who are also directors of Daisy Chain Project Teesside for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company and the group's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable group and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

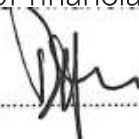
Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are trustees at the time when this trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- So far as that trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable group's auditors are unaware.
- The trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable group's auditors are aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Signed: Duane Hanson, Chair of Trustees



Dated: 14/10/2025

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE

UNQUALIFIED OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of Daisy Chain Project Teesside (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(CONTINUED)

OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(CONTINUED)

AUDITORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the Charity and the area in which it operates and considered the risk of acts by the Charity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud. We designed audit procedures to respond to the risk, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

We identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas: existence and timing of recognition of income and management override of controls (especially in the posting of journals). We discussed these risks with management and designed audit procedures as follows:

- to test the timing and existence of revenue
- to review journals posted to key control accounts or posted around the year end, to look for potential "window dressing" as well as looking at a sample throughout the year.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditors' report.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(CONTINUED)

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Waltons Business Advisers Limited

Waltons Business Advisers Limited

Maritime House
Harbour Walk
The Marina
Hartlepool
TS24 0UX

11 November 2025

Waltons Business Advisers Limited are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	3	633,124	187,142	820,266	933,365
Charitable activities	4	374,571	1,010,504	1,385,075	1,409,811
Other trading activities	5	1,524,319	-	1,524,319	1,476,405
Investments	6	8,513	-	8,513	8,476
Other income	7	27,858	-	27,858	166,847
TOTAL INCOME		2,568,385	1,197,646	3,766,031	3,994,904
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	8	1,638,100	16,955	1,655,055	1,681,295
Charitable activities	9	1,004,583	1,207,898	2,212,481	2,057,973
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		2,642,683	1,224,853	3,867,536	3,739,268
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME BEFORE NET (LOSSES)/GAINS ON INVESTMENTS					
		(74,298)	(27,207)	(101,505)	255,636
Net (losses)/gains on investments		(4,422)	-	(4,422)	7,199
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME		(78,720)	(27,207)	(105,927)	262,835
Transfers between funds	20	104,797	(104,797)	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		26,077	(132,004)	(105,927)	262,835
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		1,691,711	379,648	2,071,359	1,808,524
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		1,717,788	247,644	1,965,432	2,071,359

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 04763989

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	15	1,167,228	1,211,472
Investments	16	137,043	222,048
		<u>1,304,271</u>	<u>1,433,520</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks	17	5,206	6,799
Debtors	18	241,457	397,775
Cash at bank and in hand		728,254	472,122
		<u>974,917</u>	<u>876,696</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	(313,756)	(238,857)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>661,161</u>	<u>637,839</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u><u>1,965,432</u></u>	<u><u>2,071,359</u></u>
CHARITY FUNDS			
Restricted funds	20	247,644	379,648
Unrestricted funds	20	1,717,788	1,691,711
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>1,965,432</u></u>	<u><u>2,071,359</u></u>

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 04763989

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

The entity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the entity to obtain an audit for the period in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

However, an audit is required in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

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

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:



NS Waites FCA
Chair of the Finance Committee
Date: 14 October 2025

The notes on pages 46 to 71 form part of these financial statements.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net cash used in operating activities	22	274,023	71,216
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Dividends and interest		8,513	8,476
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(105,213)	(75,260)
Proceeds from sale of investments		78,311	11,905
Purchase of investments		(15,231)	(14,627)
Investment management fees		(1,775)	(1,243)
NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES		(35,395)	(70,749)
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE PERIOD		238,628	467
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		498,397	497,930
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	23	737,025	498,397

The notes on pages 46 to 71 form part of these financial statements

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England. The members of the company are the trustees named on page 1. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Charity.

The address of the Charity is:

Calf Fallow Farm
Calf Fallow Lane
Norton
Stockton - on - Tees
TS20 1PF

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Daisy Chain Project Teesside meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Going concern

The trustees, having made due and careful enquiry and preparing forecasts, are of the opinion that the Charity has adequate working capital to execute its operations over the next 12 months. The trustees, therefore, have made an informed judgement at the time of approving the financial statements, that there is reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. As a result the trustees have continued to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Legacies are accounted for as incoming resources either upon receipt or where the receipt of the legacy is probable in that confirmation has been received from the personal representatives of the estate that payment will be made.

Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. The trustees acknowledge that they are assets of the Charity as soon as received but due to the fact that a very large number of small value items are received, the time and cost of valuing donated goods at receipt would outweigh any benefit to the users of the financial statements of having them so valued.

Where goods are donated under the gift aid scheme the Charity is not entitled to the income until the goods are sold and the donor has confirmed that they are gifting the proceeds. In this case the income is included as a donation rather than as a sale.

Donated facilities are included at the value to the Charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the Charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

2.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation (continued)

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- 2% straight line
Improvements to long-term leasehold property	- straight line over the remaining term of the lease
Plant and machinery	- 25% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	- 20% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	- 25% reducing balance
Computer equipment	- 33.33% straight line

2.6 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the balance sheet date. The net gains and losses on revaluations and disposals are included in the statement of financial activities.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

2.7 Stocks

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

2.8 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

2.9 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2.10 Pensions

The Charity contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the period.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.11 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds 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 notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Donations	114,261	-	114,261	160,129
Legacies	8,863	-	8,863	-
Grants	510,000	187,142	697,142	773,236
	<u>633,124</u>	<u>187,142</u>	<u>820,266</u>	<u>933,365</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>705,129</u>	<u>228,236</u>	<u>933,365</u>	

Included in unrestricted grants above is £500,000 (2024: £525,000) from People's Postcode Lottery.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Family support	81,409	891,536	972,945	831,872
Educational placements	228,005	-	228,005	256,732
Training services	42,577	-	42,577	186,070
Adult services	22,580	118,968	141,548	135,137
	<u>374,571</u>	<u>1,010,504</u>	<u>1,385,075</u>	<u>1,409,811</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>552,562</u>	<u>857,249</u>	<u>1,409,811</u>	

5. FUNDRAISING INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Retail	1,340,413	1,340,413	1,341,345
Merchandise retail	478	478	2,424
Fundraising events	178,870	178,870	131,561
Other income	4,558	4,558	1,075
	<u>1,524,319</u>	<u>1,524,319</u>	<u>1,476,405</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>1,476,405</u>	<u>1,476,405</u>	

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

6. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Deposit account interest	2,746	2,746	3,600
Dividends and interest on investments	5,767	5,767	4,876
	<u>8,513</u>	<u>8,513</u>	<u>8,476</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u><u>8,476</u></u>	<u><u>8,476</u></u>	

7. OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
VAT recoverable	27,858	27,858	166,847

The Charity registered for VAT during the year. This resulted in VAT repayable in respect of expenditure incurred before the registration was complete.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

8. COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Fundraising costs of grants and donations	35,679	-	35,679	25,277
Cost of fundraising events	71,718	-	71,718	74,466
Retail costs	640,113	-	640,113	717,652
Wages and salaries	851,735	16,955	868,690	821,066
Depreciation	37,080	-	37,080	41,591
Investment management fees	1,775	-	1,775	1,243
Total 2025	1,638,100	16,955	1,655,055	1,681,295
<i>Total 2024</i>	<i>1,599,369</i>	<i>81,926</i>	<i>1,681,295</i>	

9. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	<i>Total 2024 £</i>
Children's services	277,118	15,805	292,923	416,419
Family support	55,469	798,810	854,279	666,379
Educational placements	555,326	10,172	565,498	434,239
Training services	42,042	40,355	82,397	111,363
Adult services	74,628	342,756	417,384	429,573
	1,004,583	1,207,898	2,212,481	2,057,973
<i>Total 2024</i>	<i>1,279,713</i>	<i>778,260</i>	<i>2,057,973</i>	

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

10. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly 2025 £	Support costs 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Children's services	211,582	81,341	292,923	416,419
Family support	524,555	329,724	854,279	666,379
Educational placements	385,384	180,114	565,498	434,239
Training services	66,418	15,979	82,397	111,363
Adult services	298,276	119,108	417,384	429,573
	<u>1,486,215</u>	<u>726,266</u>	<u>2,212,481</u>	<u>2,057,973</u>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<u>1,351,891</u>	<u>706,082</u>	<u>2,057,973</u>	

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Children's Services 2025 £	Family Support 2025 £	Educational placements 2025 £	Training and other services 2025 £	Adult services 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Wages and salaries	29,428	119,289	65,162	5,780	43,091	262,750	258,831
Depreciation	10,280	41,676	22,766	2,020	15,055	91,797	100,939
Staff travel	41	166	91	8	60	366	597
Premises	14,690	59,548	32,529	2,886	21,511	131,164	129,668
Administration	8,196	33,221	18,147	1,610	12,001	73,175	84,372
Sundries	2,036	8,256	4,510	400	2,983	18,185	7,737
Subscriptions	2,318	9,400	5,135	456	3,396	20,705	6,196
Resources	1,887	7,647	4,177	371	2,762	16,844	5,382
Staff costs	2,430	9,848	5,379	477	3,557	21,691	26,078
Governance costs	10,035	40,673	22,218	1,971	14,692	89,589	86,282
Total 2025	81,341	329,724	180,114	15,979	119,108	726,266	706,082
<i>Total 2024</i>	<i>141,218</i>	<i>233,007</i>	<i>155,337</i>	<i>35,305</i>	<i>141,215</i>	<i>706,082</i>	

Support costs are split between activities in line with staff time spent.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS

	Children's Services 2025 £	Family Support 2025 £	Educational Placements 2025 £	Training and other services 2025 £	Adult Services 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Wages and salaries	187,359	483,088	371,904	63,656	258,243	1,364,250	1,201,222
Staff costs	882	2,620	2,455	17	413	6,387	6,315
Staff travel	42	13,492	43	1,376	8,061	23,014	20,059
Volunteer costs	378	-	378	107	63	926	1,197
Premises	5,832	4,027	4,960	122	451	15,392	13,978
Administration	484	5,940	331	-	4,678	11,433	19,299
Advertising	343	922	-	-	61	1,326	916
Resources	16,262	14,466	5,313	1,140	26,306	63,487	88,905
Total 2025	211,582	524,555	385,384	66,418	298,276	1,486,215	1,351,891
<i>Total 2024</i>	<i>275,200</i>	<i>433,373</i>	<i>278,901</i>	<i>76,059</i>	<i>288,358</i>	<i>1,351,891</i>	

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

11. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Auditors' remuneration	6,560	6,560	7,500
Auditors' non audit costs	1,515	1,515	2,267
Consultancy, legal & professional fees	1,210	1,210	3,895
Wages and salaries	80,304	80,304	72,620
	<hr/> 89,589 <hr/>	<hr/> 89,589 <hr/>	<hr/> 86,282 <hr/>
<i>Total 2024</i>	<hr/> 86,282 <hr/>	<hr/> 86,282 <hr/>	

12. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

The auditors' remuneration for the current year, and pre VAT, amounts to an auditor fee of £8,060 (2024 - £7,500), and other services of £1,920 (2024 - £1,925).

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

13. STAFF COSTS

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	2,365,097	2,166,398
Social security costs	168,322	149,760
Contribution to defined contribution pension scheme	42,575	37,581
	<u>2,575,994</u>	<u>2,353,739</u>

During the year, the charity made a termination payment of £25,000 under a settlement agreement, which has been included within staff costs and was funded from unrestricted funds.

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the period was as follows:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
Management and administration	15	18
Fundraising	3	2
Charitable activities - service delivery	83	73
Retail	50	40
	<u>151</u>	<u>133</u>

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1	1

The total employment benefits, including employer pension contributions, of key management personnel were £267,376 (2024: £223,422). Key management personnel include the CEO, Director of Services, Director of Income Generation, Head of Finance, Head of Family Services and Head of HR.

The Charity benefits from the involvement and support of its many volunteers, further details of which are provided in the Trustees Report. In accordance with accounting standards, the economic contribution of volunteers is not measured in the financial statements.

14. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

During the period, no trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2024 - £NIL).

During the period ended 31 March 2025, no trustee expenses have been incurred (2024 - £NIL).

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

15. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Improvements to long-term leasehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Motor vehicles £	Fixtures, fittings and computer equipment £	Total £
Cost						
At 1 April 2024	1,337,095	255,848	98,154	31,330	560,698	2,283,125
Additions	-	-	-	-	105,213	105,213
Disposals	-	(25,438)	-	-	-	(25,438)
At 31 March 2025	<u>1,337,095</u>	<u>230,410</u>	<u>98,154</u>	<u>31,330</u>	<u>665,911</u>	<u>2,362,900</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 April 2024	435,646	100,414	75,102	18,798	441,693	1,071,653
Charge for the period	25,745	37,080	5,764	6,266	54,023	128,878
On disposals	-	(4,859)	-	-	-	(4,859)
At 31 March 2025	<u>461,391</u>	<u>132,635</u>	<u>80,866</u>	<u>25,064</u>	<u>495,716</u>	<u>1,195,672</u>
Net book value						
At 31 March 2025	<u><u>875,704</u></u>	<u><u>97,775</u></u>	<u><u>17,288</u></u>	<u><u>6,266</u></u>	<u><u>170,195</u></u>	<u><u>1,167,228</u></u>
At 31 March 2024	<u><u>901,449</u></u>	<u><u>155,434</u></u>	<u><u>23,052</u></u>	<u><u>12,532</u></u>	<u><u>119,005</u></u>	<u><u>1,211,472</u></u>

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

16. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Investments in subsidiary companies £	Listed investments £	Unlisted investments £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 April 2024	1	195,772	26,275	222,048
Additions	-	15,231	78,311	93,542
Disposals	-	(78,311)	(99,807)	(178,118)
Revaluations	-	(4,421)	-	(4,421)
Investment manager fees	-	-	(1,775)	(1,775)
Dividends received	-	-	5,767	5,767
AT 31 MARCH 2025	<u>1</u>	<u>128,271</u>	<u>8,771</u>	<u>137,043</u>

Net book value

At 31 March 2025	<u>1</u>	<u>128,271</u>	<u>8,771</u>	<u>137,043</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>1</u>	<u>195,772</u>	<u>26,275</u>	<u>222,048</u>

Investments at market value

	2025 £	2024 £
Equities	128,271	195,772
Cash within investment portfolio	8,771	26,275
Investment in trading subsidiary	1	1
	<u>137,043</u>	<u>222,048</u>

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

16. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARIES

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the Charity:

Name	Company number	Registered office or principal place of business	Class of shares
Daisy Chain Trading (Teesside) Limited	05209370	Calf Fallow Farm, Calf Fallow Lane, Norton, Stockton On Tees, TS20 1PF	Ordinary Holding 100%

Daisy Chain Trading (Teesside) Limited was dormant throughout the year. Post year end an application has been made to strike the company off.

17. STOCKS

	2025 £	2024 £
Goods for resale	5,206	6,799

18. DEBTORS

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade debtors	102,787	97,935
Other debtors	4,086	175,053
Prepayments and accrued income	134,584	124,787
	241,457	397,775

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

19. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	91,019	60,459
Taxation and social security	80,615	32,824
Other creditors	10,402	8,849
Accruals and deferred income	131,720	136,725
	<u>313,756</u>	<u>238,857</u>
	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income at 1 April 2024	44,831	102,839
Resources deferred during the period	67,729	44,831
Amounts released from previous periods	(44,831)	(102,839)
Deferred income at 31 March 2025	<u>67,729</u>	<u>44,831</u>

Deferred income comprises money received in advance for sessions/clubs, care contracts and training courses which will take place in the next financial year.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT PERIOD

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
Unrestricted funds						
General funds	1,691,711	2,568,385	(2,642,683)	104,797	(4,422)	1,717,788
Restricted funds						
Climate Action Fund	-	16,955	(16,955)	-	-	-
Morrisons Foundation	-	7,709	-	(7,709)	-	-
Catalyst - Stockton on Tees	-	13,216	(13,216)	-	-	-
Gateshead County Council - Autism Hubs	-	50,000	(50,000)	-	-	-
Together for Children - Sunderland	25,000	99,996	(99,996)	-	-	25,000
Sembcorp	36,000	-	-	(36,000)	-	-
HSBC	-	15,000	-	(15,000)	-	-
Cummins	-	46,088	-	(46,088)	-	-
Santander Foundation	51,142	49,973	(63,635)	-	-	37,480
National Lottery Community Fund - My Life My Community	39,344	118,969	(125,371)	-	-	32,942
NHSA Tees Valley	-	40,355	(40,355)	-	-	-
Scottish Power Foundation	6,697	-	(6,697)	-	-	-
Amazon - Charitable Giving	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-	-
North East Cumbria ICB - Family Support	39,039	201,337	(201,337)	-	-	39,039

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT PERIOD (continued)

	Balance at 1 April 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2025 £
North East Cumbria ICB - Main Contract	172,120	342,765	(431,702)	-	-	83,183
North East Cumbria ICB - Variations	3,334	3,333	(6,667)	-	-	-
National Autistic Society - Autism Central	-	183,750	(153,750)	-	-	30,000
Other grants	1,972	8,200	(10,172)	-	-	-
Total restricted funds	379,648	1,197,646	(1,224,853)	(104,797)	-	247,644
Total of funds	2,071,359	3,766,031	(3,867,536)	-	(4,422)	1,965,432

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR PERIOD

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2023</i> £	<i>Income</i> £	<i>Expenditure</i> £	<i>Transfers in/out</i> £	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i> £	<i>Balance at 31 March 2024</i> £
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds	135,000	-	(50,000)	(85,000)	-	-
General funds	1,519,175	2,909,419	(2,829,082)	85,000	7,199	1,691,711
Total unrestricted funds	1,654,175	2,909,419	(2,879,082)	-	7,199	1,691,711

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2023</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2024</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds						
Gateshead County Council - Autism Hubs	-	37,500	(37,500)	-	-	-
Together for Children - Sunderland	-	100,000	(75,000)	-	-	25,000
Sembcorp	-	43,200	(7,200)	-	-	36,000
Santander Foundation	33,280	49,973	(32,111)	-	-	51,142
National Lottery Community Fund - My Life My Community	-	99,529	(60,185)	-	-	39,344
Catalyst - Stockton on Tees	-	5,445	(5,445)	-	-	-
NHSA Tees Valley	-	2,011	(2,011)	-	-	-
Scottish Power Foundation	-	40,182	(33,485)	-	-	6,697
Amazon - Charitable Giving	-	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
North East Cumbria ICB - Family Support	-	239,174	(200,135)	-	-	39,039
North East Cumbria ICB - Main Contract	93,709	381,046	(302,635)	-	-	172,120
North East Cumbria ICB - Variations	10,000	-	(6,666)	-	-	3,334
National Autistic Society - Autism Central	-	81,925	(81,925)	-	-	-
Other grants	17,360	500	(15,888)	-	-	1,972
Total restricted funds	154,349	1,085,485	(860,186)	-	-	379,648

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Total of funds	<u>1,808,524</u>	<u>3,994,904</u>	<u>(3,739,268)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,199</u>	<u>2,071,359</u>
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DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds are freely available for the use of the Charity.

Restricted funds

Climate Action Fund

This funding was from the National Lottery Community Fund to recycle and upcycle donated clothing that was not fit for resale in its donated state. The fund provided a production lead and garment manufacturers as well as the necessary equipment.

Morrisons Foundation

Funding has been used to repair and improve our outdoor play area, with a focus on sensory elements including music and sand.

Catalyst - Stockton on Tees

This funding was used to provide a holiday club and trips and outings for children and young people.

Gateshead County Council - Autism Hubs

This funding has been used to deliver autism hubs in Gateshead.

Together for Children - Sunderland

This funding is for family support services in Sunderland for children and young people with neurodevelopment needs.

Sembcorp

This funding was for the installation of solar panels with an initial deposit paid in advance of works being carried out in the current year.

HSBC

Funding was used to purchase specialist sensory equipment designed to mitigate sensory overload and provide a safe space for learning.

Cummins

Funding was used to improve and expand our existing soft play area, incorporating more space for older children and new interactive features to encourage engagement, movement, and sensory play.

Santander Foundation

This funding is from the digital empowerment fund and is used to address barriers and consequences of financial, digital, and social exclusion. The project has an end date of March 2026.

National Lottery Community Fund - My Life, My Community

This funding is for the provision of accessible adult community hubs across the Tees Valley, tackling high rates of loneliness and isolation among autistic and neurodivergent adults. The project has an end date of July 2026.

NHSA Tees Valley

This funding was to deliver training sessions for Making Sense of Neurodivergence, Anxiety and Emotional Regulation to primary schools in Redcar & Cleveland, in addition to delivering sessions to Trustees and Senior Leaders of the schools in Good Autism Practice.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Scottish Power Foundation - Rising Stars

This funding was from the rising stars fund and is aimed at enriching the lives of autistic individuals through performing arts and encouraging beneficiaries to express themselves in non-judgemental settings. The project had an end date of May 2024.

Amazon - Charitable Giving

Funding was used to provide free family trips during school holidays to destinations such as Lightwater Valley and Whitby; completed September 2024.

North East Cumbria Integrated Care Board – Main Contract/Family Support

This funding is for the family support service for children and young people with a neurodevelopmental need for and on behalf of NHS Tees Valley CCG, Darlington Borough Council, Hartlepool Borough Council, Middlesbrough Council, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. The main contract has an end date of November 2026 whilst the family support contract had an end date of September 2025.

North East Cumbria Integrated Care Board - Variations

This funding was for a variety of activities, including trips for families, a sleep service and training for staff on the keyworker project. The brought forward funds were spent in the year ending 31 March 2025.

National Autistic Society - Autism Central

Funding is being used to reduce the autism employment gap through internal and external placements and further training; end date March 2026.

21. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,167,228	-	1,167,228
Fixed asset investments	137,043	-	137,043
Current assets	727,273	247,644	974,917
Creditors due within one year	(313,756)	-	(313,756)
Total	1,717,788	247,644	1,965,432

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

21. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2024 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	1,211,472	-	1,211,472
Fixed asset investments	222,048	-	222,048
Current assets	497,048	379,648	876,696
Creditors due within one year	(238,857)	-	(238,857)
Total	<u><u>1,691,711</u></u>	<u><u>379,648</u></u>	<u><u>2,071,359</u></u>

22. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2025 £	2024 £
Net income/expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(105,927)	262,835
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	128,878	142,530
(Gains)/losses on investments	4,421	(7,199)
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	(8,513)	(8,476)
Loss on the sale of fixed assets	20,579	-
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	1,593	(4,143)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	156,318	(275,067)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	74,899	(40,507)
Investment management fees	1,775	1,243
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u><u>274,023</u></u>	<u><u>71,216</u></u>

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

23. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2025	<i>2024</i>
	£	£
Cash in hand	728,254	472,122
Cash within investment portfolio	8,771	26,275
Total cash and cash equivalents	737,025	498,397

24. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 1 April	Cash flows	At 31 March
	2024	£	2025
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	472,122	256,132	728,254
Cash within investment portfolio	26,275	(17,504)	8,771
	498,397	238,628	737,025

25. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	2025	<i>2024</i>
	£	£
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements		
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	-	28,800

26. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The Charity contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity to the fund and amounted to £42,568 (2024: £37,581). Contributions totalling £10,372 (2024: £8,793) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors. This creditor figure includes both employee and employer contributions.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

27. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31 March 2025 the Charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2025	<i>2024</i>
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	326,480	<i>345,515</i>
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	171,100	<i>497,580</i>
	497,580	<i>843,095</i>

28. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Charity has not entered into any related party transaction during the period, nor are there any outstanding balances owing between related parties and the Charity at 31 March 2025.



DAISY CHAIN

Autism & Neurodiversity

Daisy Chain is the working name of the Daisy Chain Project Teesside, Registered Charity Number 1109792.
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Daisy Chain, Calf Fallow Farm, Calf Fallow Lane, Norton, Stockton-on-Tees, TS20 1PF.
[01642 531248](tel:01642531248) | info@daisychainproject.co.uk



DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE

England & Wales - Charity number 1109792

Accounts



**DAISY
CHAIN**
Autism & Neurodiversity

Annual Report

1st April 2023 - 31st March 2024





OPEN



PASSIONATE



INNOVATIVE



INCLUSIVE



AMBITIOUS



EMPOWERING



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VIEW FROM CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

What a year for Daisy Chain! We celebrated our 20th Anniversary, a great achievement, with thousands of autistic and neurodiverse beneficiaries being supported and many new services introduced over the years.

I'm proud to say that we were also awarded the North East Charity of the Year award at the North East Charity Awards 2023, a prestigious title. A massive thanks go to our CEO Neeraj Sharma and his staff for their efforts in achieving this recognition - the Board was thrilled.

This year has also seen our rebrand. I remember working hard with my late wife Lesley, our founder, to make the original logo over twenty years ago! Time moves on and Daisy Chain has broadened its work and a rebrand was much needed. I was pleased, alongside other Trustees, to be involved in the process and I am really happy with the result.

As an addition to our existing retail Superstore in Stockton (big thanks to the team there!), we opened a new retail Megastore in Gateshead. This was a massive commitment from the Board members but with positive results coming in already, in particular building relations with Gateshead Council, local businesses, and the Tyneside community, we are delighted with its progress.

I would like to thank all our Trustees for their expertise and commitment throughout this fantastic year. Thanks also to Trustees who have resigned this year - Katy Wilburn (served two years) and a special thank you to David Norris who has served five years as Chair of the finance committee, who steps down from the Board at the end of financial year .

In keeping with active governance, our Trustees have received re-training on safeguarding, autism awareness and governance. All Trustees are involved in strategic business planning and take an active role in the development and governance of Daisy Chain. This year in line with continued critical governance, all our main policies and procedures have been externally reviewed and amended.

Our Finance and Operations Committees continue to run with a mixture of Trustees and Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to delve deeper into the running of Daisy Chain and advise the Board where necessary.

[continued]



VIEW FROM CHAIR OF TRUSTEES

A big thank you goes to our CEO, Neeraj Sharma who is dedicated to the charity and is consistently diligent in improving all aspects of Daisy Chain. The SLT that he manages deserve recognition for being highly professional and consistently supportive of all of their staff.

The success of Daisy Chain is down to excellence all the way from the Board and its decisions through to the CEO, SLT, staff and volunteers. I would personally like to thank them all for their dedication and hard work.

Lastly, a huge thanks go to all our supporters, individuals, groups, corporates as well as our grant funders. In particular a huge thank you to players of People's Postcode Lottery, our biggest funder, who have continued to help us provide essential support services for our beneficiaries.

Duane Hanson

Chair of Trustees



CEO REPORT

I am immensely proud of everything Daisy Chain has achieved this year. From a grassroots community initiative to an award-winning charity having an impact on a regional and national level, we continue to grow and expand in line with beneficiary need.

The scale of our support is something that has broadened significantly this year, shown visually in the below heat maps. We've introduced services in Gateshead and Sunderland, in addition to delivering Autism Central across North East and Yorkshire.



Oct-Dec 2022



Oct-Dec 2023



This continued development would not be possible without our core funder, People's Postcode Lottery, allowing us to continue providing opportunities for all, ensuring being person-centred and bespoke services are prioritised at every step.

Going for growth

As part of last year's strategy, we committed to developing more community-based services, and the launch of My Life, My Community thanks to funding from The National Lottery Community Fund. Based in all 5 of the Tees Valley towns, this service plays a key part in increasing confidence among autistic and neurodivergent adults through supported community engagement. We plan to introduce support for those with lower perceived support needs and people experiencing co-occurring challenges, positively impacting mental health and reducing rates of loneliness and isolation.

Opportunities for all kinds of mind

We teamed up with Daisy Chain Ambassador Anna Kennedy OBE to showcase the talents of autistic people by bringing Autism's Got Talent Roadshow to the North East of England. This included performances from a non-speaking adult who loves to sing, and a 12-year-old dancer who was wheelchair bound until she was 9 and has battled to be accepted into a dance school. The impact and inspiration of this event was indescribable and a few performers have gone on to sing at our charity balls and events for other organisations.

CEO REPORT

Enterprise goes from strength to strength

Enterprise and retail have continued to go from strength to strength this year following the opening of one of the largest charity megastores in the country in Gateshead on 1st April 2023. The store plays an integral part in communicating the charity mission, promoting awareness and inclusion, and creating local jobs and volunteering opportunities. An additional outcome of the store launch was the identification of need for autism services, leading to an expansion into Gateshead and Sunderland.

One of our major achievements this year was being invited by the British Fashion Council to showcase our neurodiversity and eco-clothing brand, Neuthread, on a main runway at London Fashion Week. This event amplified the charity on a national and international level, showcasing and celebrating neurodivergent talent at every part of the creative process. I am optimistic about the brand's future and hope that we can secure the funding we need to grow it further.

What challenges have we faced?

As we continue to grow we are increasingly locked out of funding, and with beneficiary need continuing to increase, it is essential that we secure larger pots of funding of which we meet the criteria and continue to innovate and develop our offering.

The economic climate continues to be a challenging one for the charity sector, with the pressure to continue providing services, including building on crisis intervention support, weighed up with the increasing costs in running sites, paying experienced teams and ensuring facilities are affordable and accessible. In the next 12 months, we'll be continuing to be ambitious with our funding bids, utilising the skills of our full team to enable us to win contracts and grow services.

What's next?

- Continue to develop opportunities in performing arts, increasing not just confidence but building friendships and developing speech and language skills.
- Further strengthen our complex needs support by securing funding for specific suicide prevention/self-harm support.
- Develop services in Gateshead and Sunderland with further funding to ensure that those that are locked out of support, including individuals and families, are able to access it.

As we move into the 2024/25 financial year, I extend my gratitude to our dedicated team and volunteers, our supporters, our Board and our stakeholders. Your unwavering commitment is the cornerstone of our success.

With passion and determination,

Neeraj Sharma

CEO

PRESENTING DAISY CHAIN

The trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the charity qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Our shared vision is for every person we support to live a life they enjoy and is meaningful to them at every stage.

Our mission is to support and empower autistic and neurodivergent individuals through the provision of holistic person-centred services, whilst promoting training, wellbeing, inclusion and acceptance regionally and nationwide.



HITTING THE HEADLINES & EXTERNAL RECOGNITION



SHINING A LIGHT ON THE TALENTS OF AUTISTIC PEOPLE



CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF DAISY CHAIN



TACKLING LONELINESS AND ISOLATION THROUGH COMMUNITY SUPPORT



ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE CO2 RUNWAY



AWARD WINNING CHARITY OF THE YEAR 2023



NEUTHREAD HITS THE LONDON FASHION WEEK RUNWAY



CHILDREN'S SERVICES

In the 2023/24 financial year our services have been accessed by 881 autistic or neurodivergent children and young people. In addition, we have positively impacted the lives of over 5,000 families from across the North-East and Yorkshire.

Social opportunities for children and young people

We're delighted children and young people access our varied activity programme, which has included residential, sports clubs, community connect sessions and specialist wildlife sessions and forestry schools. Alongside providing our children and young people with social opportunities these clubs and activities play a crucial role in promoting independence and increasing confidence.

"My son absolutely loved [the session] and hasn't stopped talking about it. When he returned home he kept saying he had a funny feeling in his tummy as all he wanted to do was go back to Daisy Chain. You all do such a fab job and knowing he was loving every minute, while we had a break too was invaluable."

First respite day trips for those with higher needs

Thanks for funding received from Openworks Foundation we have, for the first time ever, been able to introduce day trips out in the community for our higher needs children and young people.

The funding enabled us to provide 20 children and young people with the 1:1 support they require to access the community safely and trips on offer have included a local role play village and a harnessed climbing experience at Go Climb. We have been really moved by the number of parents who have written to us since to tell us how grateful they are to us for giving their children the opportunity to experience what so many others take for granted and to give them much needed respite and the opportunity to spend quality time with their other children.

"You have played a big part in helping my daughter's confidence grow and given her opportunities that she wouldn't get anywhere else - I will be forever grateful for this."

881

children and young people through clubs and activities

3,851

1:1's provided by Family Support



CHILDREN'S SERVICES

TBC

Continuing to offer opportunities in performing arts

After the success of our first ever full service user musical which was performed to a live audience of over 400 people, we were absolutely delighted to receive funding from Scottish Power to be able to continue our fantastic performing arts programme, Rising Stars.

This funding has enabled us to create an inclusive platform where autistic and neurodivergent individuals can shine brightly on and off stage. Sessions on offer have included musical theatre, film & video, improv and a brand-new club which focuses on costume design and make-up. Twenty-six of our young people also took part in a local talent show and are now working hard in order to prepare to perform Andrew Lloyd Webber's School of Rock at the prestigious Princess Alexandra Auditorium in Yarm.



“School of Rock isn't just a musical; it's a celebration of diversity, talent, and the boundless potential within each of us. Through this production, we are not only showcasing their remarkable abilities but also breaking down barriers, fostering understanding, and inspiring audiences to embrace the beauty of differences.”

“My first experience of what it was like to act was with Daisy Chain. Since being here I have developed a love of acting and I'm now going to study it at college and am confident enough to go for lead roles.”

Supporting the whole family

Our family activity days have been accessed by 372 families who between them have attended over 1,563 sessions. Thanks to funding received from Country Durham Community Foundation we have been able to provide free day trips for the whole family during the school holidays. These are a great way for a family to spend time together with all their children safe in the knowledge that our trained staff are on hand should they require any additional support.

We have re-introduced our Sibz group which is designed to allow the siblings of autistic and neurodivergent children and young people to spend time together, have fun and learn more about autism and neurodiversity. It has already been accessed by 15 children and young people.

“I just have to say massive thank you for running this trip. The love and support you gave my children is out of this world.”

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Tackling food poverty



Thanks to funding received through Stockton Borough Council's Holiday Activity Fund, 53 primary school aged children have enjoyed activities including sports, cooking, arts and crafts, animal therapy and sensory play, as well as provided with a nutritious meal and food to take home. In addition to this, we have also been able to provide our financially vulnerable teens with free trips out into the community to participate in activities like paddle boarding and kayaking, alongside vouchers for food outlets such as Greggs and Costa. The parents of the children and young people accessing these activities have also been supported through our peer education support programme, Autism Central.

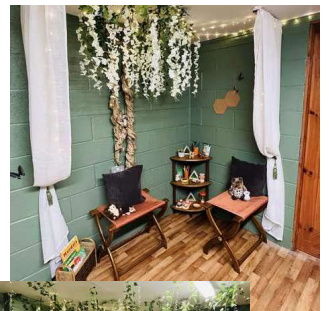
"It was the perfect, the best time. My favourite part of the session was making new friends"



The therapeutic benefits of animals

Research shows that the companionship, emotional support and opportunities for sensory stimulation and social interaction that are provided by interacting with animals is of huge therapeutic benefit to autistic and neurodivergent individuals.

Our therapeutic farm and petting barn remains at the very heart of our services offer, which is why we have continued to focus on transforming our animal offer by introducing a new reptile club, creating a sensory space for animal therapy sessions, and rolling out a training programme for our animals to teach them new skills which can be used to promote communication and interaction with our service users.



"Seeing my son interact with the animals has been nothing short of magical. They provide a sense of calm and understanding that is hard to put into words."

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Personal development and therapeutic packages to support education

At Daisy Chain, we offer a variety of bespoke personal development and therapeutic packages for school aged autistic and neurodivergent children and young people. This is a specific approach to enhance engagement and communication and is most beneficial to students who struggle to access full-time education.

These sessions are planned to allow students to develop through physical activity/movement, exploring and engaging within the natural environment. Through these placements we support the development of life skills, interventions and specialist support needed to help with the young person's education pathway, and work in partnership with schools to implement strategies within the classroom and school setting. Each individual package is bespoke and based around the individual needs of the student.

Many students also access our barn, gardens and allotments, wetlands and the local community to work on essential life skills, including budgeting and travel training. In total we have provided over 10,000 hours of 1:1 or small group support to 85 school aged autistic and neurodivergent students.

"My son is a happier boy since his sessions. He's more aware of his emotions and has been given the support he needed to process the fact that he will be leaving primary school soon. During the sessions he was supported to understand what he's been feeling, and also completed a transition booklet which has been shared with his primary school and can be taken with him to secondary school. He is no longer worried about changing schools and is sleeping better. We have our son back again and it's so lovely to hear and see how happy he is."



10,000

hours of 1:1 or small group support to 85 school aged young people.

Support navigating the education system

Neurodivergent children and young people often face additional pressures and challenges as they navigate their way through the education system. Our new outreach team can go into schools and support neurodivergent pupils within the school environment whilst working closely with their SENCO to evaluate practice, and assist in planning appropriate interventions.



ADULT SERVICES

646

autistic or neurodivergent adults accessed our services



59

people received bespoke digital skills support



Inclusive support in a digital age

In today's digital age, it is crucial for individuals to have the necessary knowledge and skills to navigate the online world safely and confidently. In response to this, we launched a new service designed to empower autistic and neurodivergent young people and adults with the digital skills needed to become more independent and stay safe online. The service, which is funded by Santander, has been accessed by 59 individuals who have attended a wide range of bespoke courses and workshops on topics such as online shopping, banking and the safe use of social media. The service also provides 1:1 support and a jobs club aimed at supporting autistic and neurodivergent people to search for and apply for jobs.

“I have improved my knowledge of using technology in a variety of ways, and I feel more confident with using tools such as Google Maps, online shopping and budgeting websites. I think this will help me in the future and keep me safe from online and also real-life scams.”

Specialist benefits support

Providing specialist, accessible, and person-centred advice and guidance for neurodivergent individuals and their families, this service prides itself on being needs-based, flexible, and person-centred. These enhanced financial resources have the potential to be life-changing, enabling greater independence, community engagement, and improved overall wellbeing.

We strive to eliminate barriers and promote inclusion by offering empowerment-focused support and guidance. Thanks to funding received from Santander, we have been able to expand our support to young people aged 15-18 transitioning to Personal Independence Payments. We have provided bespoke advice and guidance to 95 individuals, and in the past year alone, have raised £149,860.74 in unclaimed benefits.

“Moving out was one of the biggest hurdles in my life but the team made it an easier process. I am now doing things I never thought I'd achieve, having the confidence to leave the house by myself, learning to drive and thinking about working in the future.”

ADULT SERVICES

Building self-awareness and resilience

Our wellbeing service and counselling provision offers a range of 1:1 and small group sessions aimed at supporting the individuals who access it to better understand themselves, develop a sense of self-awareness and build resilience. Our unique approach makes use of holistic strategies such as mindfulness, meditation, aromotherapy, animals and nature and continues to be a crucial and highly sought after service.

"Daisy Chain has been one of the best things to happen to me since my autism diagnosis. I was diagnosed nearly 10 years ago and have since gone through my life fighting my diagnosis thinking (hoping) it was wrong. I struggled so much and spent every minute of the day masking. I did not want to attend Daisy Chain because I did not want to accept my diagnosis and feel disabled; however, after my first visit I realised that Daisy Chain is a safe place where you can be yourself, you can take your mask down, and relax.

"Daisy Chain has since given me the ability to begin accepting my autism diagnosis, whilst also giving me the tools to cope much better in daily life. I am learning to understand myself and accept myself. Although it is a slow process, I know one day I will be proud to be autistic, and Daisy Chain has been the catalyst for this change."

Reducing loneliness and isolation

We strive to reduce loneliness and isolation and improve the wellbeing of neuro-divergent adults by providing a range of social opportunities, which in the past year have expanded to include performing arts and our new community empowerment project, 'My Life My Community.' This service provides a range of local and accessible social groups designed exclusively for autistic and neurodivergent adults, living in the Tees Valley. Sessions take place at local venues in each of the Tees Valley towns and give neurodivergent adults the opportunity to connect with others, engage in peer support, be empowered to access their community, and most importantly, have fun!

60

Adults have
accessed My Life
My Community



FAMILY SERVICES

Leading the way in Good Autism Practice

We are delighted that Daisy Chain's Family Support Service has been identified by the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) as being an example of best practice as part of a national review of the government's strategy for autistic children, young people and adults. As part of this the service, Daisy Chain will be showcased in the main outcomes document, so that other localities can learn from our practice. In the last year, the service provided support to nearly 4,000 families, who between them accessed 3,241 1:1 appointments and 170 drop in sessions.

Expansion of Family Support to Sunderland

In September 2023, we expanded our family support offer into Sunderland. The service mirrors our offer in the Tees Valley, which means the parents and carers of autistic and neurodivergent children and young people can access 1:1 appointments and multi agency drop in sessions alongside parent support groups and child and young person sessions. To date the team have supported 230 families from the region and provided 219 1:1 appointments and 23 drop in sessions.

3,241

1:1 appointments delivered to families in Tees Valley

“I've ordered my daughter the resources you suggested and have come away from our conversation with a fresh mindset. Thank you to you all for being a listening ear, and for your excellent support and advice.”

Extension of complex needs support into adulthood

In a response to need, we have expanded the criteria of our Keyworker service to up to 25 years old. As one of a series of pilot and early adopter sites around the country testing a new way of working with young people and their families, the aim of the service is to improve life and mental health, reducing the need for school exclusions and inpatient admission. Working across Tees Valley and Durham, the team ensures that the voice of the young person and their family is at the heart of any decision making and that parents are supported to make well informed choices.

“We wouldn't be where we are now without our Keyworker. She has gone above and beyond and been outstanding during our darkest days. If she can help others like she has helped us the world will be a better place.”

230

families supported in Sunderland in less than a year

FAMILY SERVICES



Providing peer support and creating jobs



The 2023/2024 financial year saw the launch of our new peer support programme for which we are the regional lead for the North East & Yorkshire. Autism Central has been commissioned by NHS England's Workforce, Training and Education Team and employs peer educators; who are autistic people, and parents and carers of autistic people, who have been trained to support other families. Since the launch, we have supported nearly 2,000 families from across the North East & Yorkshire.

The fantastic thing about this programme is that it not only allows us to support parents and carers, but also to provide flexible employment opportunities to people who, due to their own needs or the needs of their loved ones, have been locked out of the job market. To date, we have provided employment and training to 30 individuals, and will continue to recruit throughout the second year of the project.

"After raising two children with additional needs I am passionate and committed to empowering parent carers through education and guidance in navigating the SEN system. My role in Autism Central allows me to provide much-needed targeted support to families across the region."



Gateshead Autism Hubs



Our expansion into Gateshead sees the team provide multi agency drop ins which are delivered across Gateshead, as well as face to face and virtual parent support groups. Face to face learning opportunities are also provided for parents, and training in good autism practice is available for professionals.

Helping Teesside Sleep



The Tees Valley Sleep Service continues to help families across Teesside through telephone support and resources, sleep workshops and 1:1 sleep assessments; which can include the creation of a bespoke sleep plan. The service is delivered in collaboration with the local authority 0-19 teams, and we have been approached by a number of other local authorities keen to replicate what we are doing in their areas. We are currently in the process of rolling out a similar offer in Sunderland.

TRAINING

Making education work for autistic children

As the regional lead for the Autism Education Trust (AET), we are committed to promoting good autism practice in schools and early years/post 16 settings through training and development opportunities.

As well as delivering the AET professional development programme in Stockton and Darlington, we have also worked with the AET to produce a new resource aimed at inspiring educators to adopt a flexible approach to good autism practice by sharing real stories of true collaboration between parents and schools. This research has been shared nationally by the Autism Education Trust and National Network of Parent Carer Forums.

Supporting transitions to secondary school

Thanks to funding received from NHS England, we have been able to adapt our Understanding Myself package so that it can also be used with pupils in years 5 and 6, in order to support with the difficult transition to secondary school.

Understanding Myself is aimed at pupils who are displaying traits associated with, or have a diagnosis of a neurodevelopmental condition, and aims to increase self-awareness, help others understand the needs of the young people and their unique experiences of the world, improve self-confidence, and raise self-esteem. Training has been provided to school SENCO's, specialist teaching assistants, keyworkers and mental health in schools teams across the Tees Valley and we have also recently been commissioned by Sunderland to roll out the training across their region as well.

Inclusivity in the workplace

It's thought that up to 20% of the population are neurodivergent, but with only a fraction of these in full-time employment, inclusivity in the workplace is hugely important to us. It is essential that the entire company understands and embraces neurodiversity as part of its culture. Our corporate offer is aimed at supporting employers to position themselves as leaders in inclusion. The training has been accessed by a variety of different local and national organisations including People's Postcode Lottery, MIND and Teesside University.

“We trained over 90 of our leaders and have since implemented a number of the strategies suggested. I look forward to continuing the good work already started in such a key area. Your training is so valuable.”



RETAIL AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Our retail and social enterprise provides vital income for our charity and frontline support services. This year, Daisy Chain's retail and social enterprise activities had a substantial growth in income, primarily due to the successful launch of the Daisy Chain Megastore, which opened its doors on 1st April 2023 at Team Valley Retail Park, Gateshead. At 22,000 square feet, it proudly stands as the largest store of its kind in the UK.

Social enterprise advancements for lasting impact

Our social enterprises in Stockton and Gateshead have progressed significantly in the following ways:

- Modernised POS till system investment: Future-proofing the charity with enhanced efficiency and improved reporting capabilities.
- Superstore rebranding: Aligning with the Megastore for a cohesive brand identity.
- Affordable white goods scheme expansion: Catering to customer needs and expanding access to essential goods.
- Launch of an apprenticeship scheme: We offered 2 retail apprentices to local young people thus developing charity retail as a viable career option.
- Grown our corporate volunteering support by working with new and existing businesses to enhance our retail performance.
- Retail newsletter relaunched with over 500 signups in the first three months.
- University partnerships development by forging collaborations with Teesside, Newcastle, Sunderland, and London College of Art and Design Universities to enhance our enterprise activities in areas of business, partnership working and fashion.

Quality amidst crisis

Amidst the cost-of-living crisis, Daisy Chain has maintained its commitment to quality donations. Strategic engagement with corporate businesses has resulted in a diverse product offering, including notable donations:

- Over 500 items of luxury furniture
- 150 boxes of designer T-shirts (Nike)
- Over 300 boxes of soft furnishings, including bedding and curtains
- 30 rails of maternity clothing
- Shrubs & plants; Hair Extensions; Brand new books; Garden paint (Rustoleum) and more...

2,000

bags of donated goods received per week



632K+

items diverted from landfill

RETAIL AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Striving towards environmental responsibility

Daisy Chain hosted its CO2 Runway event, showcasing sustainable fashion and transforming the Megastore into a catwalk show. Highlights included:

- Influential Business Women styling.
- Neuthread Autumn/Winter 23 collection exhibition.
- Emerging talent runway by university students with ethical designs.

Neuthread: Pioneering Neurodiverse inclusion in Slow Fashion

Neuthread is a cutting edge new venture, blending innovation with social purpose, paving the way for slow fashion whilst championing meaningful inclusion. At its forefront are neurodiverse designers, volunteers and models. We recognise that neurodiverse people face exclusion and barriers, especially non-verbal individuals and we are committed to ensuring that all views and opinions are sought, considered and acted upon, including upon issues such as climate change. Neuthread project is a testament to how neurodiverse design ideas have precursored the creation of couture clothing made from textile waste, producing groundbreaking results, and ensured inclusion at every stage of the fashion process, including a historic moment of neurodiverse models showcasing at 2024 London Fashion Week. This was a milestone achievement. This year we have:

- Launched a dedicated Neuthread website and logo **NEUTHREAD.**
- Included a concession area within Daisy Chain Megastore, Gateshead.
- Represented climate awareness at industry and charity events.
- Pioneered a partnership with Jaguar Land Rover, integrating waste leather off cuts into avant-garde designs.
- Showcased at a scheduled show at London Fashion Week, featuring neurodiverse designers, models and contributors.

The Road Ahead: navigating challenges with resilience

Despite a challenging political, financial, and social climate, we will be:

- Navigating external pressures to provide ethical and affordable shopping.
- Embedding our stores as the go-to charity shopping outlet in the North East region
- Progressing Neuthread from a pilot scheme to full-scale project.
- Developing CO2 Runway into an established event promoting sustainable fashion.
- Improving donations and shopping options through development activities, inclusive of corporate engagement and exploring Local Authority tenders.
- Developing a dynamic social media content strategy to increase footfall and engagement and reach potential new customers.



LONDON
FASHION
WEEK
40YEARS



VOLUNTEERING

We are extremely lucky and thankful to have over 100 volunteers who work across Daisy Chain, from the day centre gardens and farm, to our retail stores, e-commerce, remote working family support volunteers and volunteers who help out at our many fundraising events.

Volunteers are extremely valuable to us at Daisy Chain. They become an integral part of the team, allowing us to raise more awareness, provide more services and raise more funds.

Volunteers are continually understanding and adaptable to the changing needs of the organisation. The value they bring is exceptional. We're pleased to have retained many long-standing volunteers, and welcomed new ones to the team.

We're also very grateful to the corporate organisations, both locally and nationally, who come back to Daisy Chain time and time again, using their volunteering days to make a positive impact on our services and sites, and meeting their own Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) targets in the process.



Our colleagues enjoy volunteering opportunities ranging from helping at their farm and retail stores, or taking part in fundraising challenges. Our partnership is part of our commitment to being part of and actively supporting and engaging with our local and regional community.



FUNDRAISING & EVENTS

As we reflect on the 23/24 financial year, we look back on the range of dynamic fundraising events, community engagement, and the development of initiatives that continue to shape the future of Daisy Chain. We're pleased to have had our best year yet!



Scaling new heights with sporting events

More than 35 individuals joined forces for the Cleveland 4 Peaks Challenge, raising over £5,000 collectively. In addition, 36 dedicated runners, including both Trustees and staff, took to the streets of Newcastle for the Great North Run. Their efforts raised over £10,000! Sporting events not only challenge participants physically but also ignite a sense of unity and purpose within our community. Both broke previous internal records for our sporting events.

A night of celebration and talent

In a departure from tradition, we transformed our winter ball into a spectacular summer fundraising ball with a Mardi Gras theme to celebrate our 20th year. The event was attended by 380 people, including local businesses.



The highlight of the evening was the performances from our amazing Autism's Got Talent participants, leaving not a dry eye in the house. This event not only raised almost £60,000, but also showcased the incredible talents of individuals we are privileged to support.

Unveiling new traditions

Our annual open day, Daisy Fest, raised an incredible £16,000 and this year, we reimagined our Christmas Fair to launch Winter Wonderland - designed to be a festive version of our open day. This innovative approach saw the participation of 36 local businesses, attracting over 5,000 visitors and raising an impressive £7,800.



What next?

As we go into the 24/25 financial year, we look forward to re-launching our corporate partnerships offer, and continuing to strive to be different, attracting support from a wider variety of audiences than ever before.

POLICY & CAMPAIGN WORK

Our policy and campaign work has continued to go from strength to strength this year, including features in National press. Some of the highlights from this year were:

Attending the Party conference with People's Postcode Lottery

Every Autumn People's Postcode Lottery Public Affairs team attends political party conferences across the country, and this year we were invited to join them at the Party conference. As part of our ongoing commitment to making sure that we meet our annual funding objectives we're always open to getting involved with their work wherever possible. Opportunities like this allow us to make new connections and contacts ourselves, to raise awareness and be a voice for autistic people to help influence beneficial policy changes in future.

Sharing lived neurodivergent experiences

With our charity mission being centered around empowerment, it's important to us to share lived experience stories wherever possible. As part of this, we ran a 3-month social media campaign this year which was an adult version of last year's Walk in My Shoes. The content shone a light on the self-reported strengths and challenges of neurodivergent adults, and all content was collected from our beneficiaries.

Award-winning charity of the year

This year, we won North East Charity of the Year at North East Charity Awards 2023. This was a massively proud moment for the team and has solidified our passion for ensuring we shout more about our achievements and have them recognised in a public setting. Applying for these awards is something we plan to do regularly going forward, when we have evidence for appropriate categories.

Rollout of new branding

Following the hard work on the new branding and launch last financial year, we were pleased to receive very positive feedback as it continued to be rolled out:

"I saw the new branding launch and I just wanted to say WOW. It is so refreshing to see." - Owner of a training company.

"Amazing work! The re-brand is so fitting for your charity and looks so much more modern and fresh."



STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Trustees

Andrew David Kindness
Andrew Gilmore (appointed 03.09.2024)
David Spencer (appointed 03.09.2024)
Duane Hanson
Jessica Faye Lenham
Lesley Clode
Martin John Pout
Matthew Harris (appointed 03.09.2024)
Nathan Dominic Kirby Sherratt
Nicholas Stuart Waites
Samantha Eason (appointed 03.09.2024)
Sean Peter Philip Lawless

Catherine Jane Wilburn (resigned 17.10.2023)
David Matthew Norris (resigned 19.04.2024)

Chief Executive Officer

Neeraj Sharma

Independent auditors

Waltons Business Advisers Limited
Maritime House
Harbour Walk
Hartlepool
TS24 0UX

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc 19-23 Wellington Square Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1NA	Santander UK plc 43-44 High Street Stockton-on-Tees TS18 1SD
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Investment advisors

Redmayne Bentley LLP
Church House
College Square
Stokesley
Middlesbrough
TS9 5DN

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

All trustees are directors of the company and directorship ceases upon termination of trusteeship. At the AGM in October 2023, Duane Hanson (Daisy Chain co-founder) was re-appointed as Chair of Trustees, and Katy Wilburn retired from the board.

At 31st March 2024, the total number of trustees was nine. Recruitment of trustees is in line with skills gaps identified from our annual board appraisal and analysis. Trustees meet formally for full Board meetings at least quarterly, in addition to a monthly Finance Sub-Committee and a quarterly Operations Committee. The charity is administered by the trustees who delegate its day-to-day operations to the CEO.

Trustees ensure that Safeguarding is a governance priority and Daisy Chain's policies for both children and adult safeguarding are reviewed annually. Data Protection registration for our Data Controller is renewed with ICO annually. We have had one serious incident to report to the Charity Commission this year. Key agenda items include Governance, Risk Review, Operational Updates, Policy and Finance. Our annual Health and Safety Audit and Financial Audit of our processes provided a clean bill of health, which enables Daisy Chain to function efficiently and further enhance our governance and business readiness for the future.

We received one inspection from OFSTED, of which the outcome was very positive feedback and no actions.

Remuneration for the CEO is set and determined by the Daisy Chain trustee board with regard to the performance and appraisal system. Remuneration of Daisy Chain staff is set by Daisy Chain Finance Committee in accordance with internal pay scales.

Delegation and Committees

The Board maintains a written schedule of matters reserved for the trustee board and committees which clearly defines specific areas for delegation. Committees report to the Board on a regular basis.

Finance Committee

Primarily responsible for all aspects of the charity's financial strategy, performance and risk management ensuring its resources are being properly and appropriately applied to its key objectives. The committee has a responsibility for safeguarding the charity's assets and ensuring sufficient reserves to fund our delivery.

Operations Committee

Primarily responsible for overseeing all matters concerned with the effective governance of Daisy Chain, supporting the CEO in building and sustaining an effective leadership team, and guiding and modelling the effectiveness of key human resources, risk management and policy for the organisation.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31st March 2024

The trustees are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31st March 2024, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and 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 1st January 2019).

Financial Commentary

Review of Accounting Period

The trustees are pleased to report that the charity returned to making a surplus in the year, albeit a relatively modest amount, as the charity continues to grow dramatically as demand for services increases.

This surplus was achieved through continued success in tendering for new contracts, attracting other sources of funding, growth in commercial activities and careful control over expenditure.

As a result total income increased from £2,537,253 in the previous year to £3,994,904 while expenditure rose from £2,723,084 to £3,739,268.

A significant portion of this surplus is related to restricted funds, with approximately £150,000 of those funds being received during the year for which the corresponding expenditure will be incurred in the year ending 31 March 2025, to deliver the services for which the funds were allocated.

The financial statements show an increase in restricted funds in the year of £225,299 with unrestricted funds increasing by £37,536.

Review of Financial Position

Despite the challenging environment for charities and the UK economy as a whole, the charity had total funds of £2,071,359 at the year end of which £1,691,711 were unrestricted.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The charity's bank balances saw little change over the year (£472,122 compared to £472,566) as did its investments (£222,048 compared to £211,216).

The trustees recognise that as the charity continues to grow, managing cash flow becomes increasingly important, and ongoing efforts are being made to build reserves to support this.

Future Period

In February 2024, the trustees approved the budget for year ending the 31st of March 2025, projecting further expansion and a small forecasted surplus. The charity is currently on track to meet this budget and is already in the process of preparing the budget for the year ending 31 March 2026.

Reserves

The charity's reserves policy aims to maintain sufficient free reserves to cover the essential staff costs and overheads for at least three months. These costs are currently estimated at £268,000 (up from £220,000 in 2023).

At the balance sheet date the charity had free reserves (total reserves less tangible fixed assets and less restricted funds) of £480,239 (£375,433 for 2023).

The charity is currently exploring a number of exciting opportunities, some of which may require the designation of free reserves. However, the trustees remain mindful of the need to ensure all requirements are met.

Investments

The trustees delegate the management of the charity's investments to Redmayne Bentley, who operate under the specific criteria set by the trustees, including risk of tolerance, investment types, and long-term growth objectives.

Risk Management

The trustees conduct constant reviews of the major risks to which the charity is exposed, with a view to establishing systems and procedures aimed at mitigating those risks. Significant external risks to funding have led to the development of a strategic plan which allows for the diversification of fundraising and other activities of the charity. Internal risks are minimised by authorisation procedures for projects and transactions, to ensure consistency and high quality service delivery.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Significant risks identified include;

- Service Provision; protection and monitoring of children and vulnerable adults.
- Financial; income generation, business planning, budgeting and insurances.
- Personnel; staff, volunteers and placements.
- Property; security and management of premises and risk of fire.
- IT & Communications; security and privacy of data.

The trustees are aware of the importance of developing a risk awareness culture within the charity and continue to work towards embedding this within the day to day working methods and thinking of Daisy Chain's staff and volunteers.

Approval

The Trustee's Report and Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 15 October 2024

On behalf of the Board



Dated 15 October 2024.

NS Waites FCA

Chair of the Finance Committee

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

Statement of disclosure to auditors

The charity trustees (who are also directors of Daisy Chain Project Teesside for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company and the group's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable group and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are trustees at the time when this trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- So far as that trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable group's auditors are unaware.
- The trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable group's auditors are aware of that information.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.

Signed: D Hanson, Chair of Trustees



Dated: 15 October 2024

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE

UNQUALIFIED OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of Daisy Chain Project Teesside (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(CONTINUED)

OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(CONTINUED)

AUDITORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the Charity and the area in which it operates and considered the risk of acts by the Charity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud. We designed audit procedures to respond to the risk, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

We identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas: existence and timing of recognition of income and management override of controls (especially in the posting of journals). We discussed these risks with management and designed audit procedures as follows:

- to test the timing and existence of revenue
- to review journals posted to key control accounts or posted around the year end, to look for potential "window dressing" as well as looking at a sample throughout the year.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditors' report.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(CONTINUED)

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Waltons Business Advisers Limited

Waltons Business Advisers Limited

Maritime House
Harbour Walk
The Marina
Hartlepool
TS24 0UX

2 December 2024

Waltons Business Advisers Limited are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	3	705,129	228,236	933,365	792,398
Charitable activities	4	552,562	857,249	1,409,811	936,472
Other trading activities	5	1,476,405	-	1,476,405	799,658
Investments	6	8,476	-	8,476	8,725
Other income	7	166,847	-	166,847	-
TOTAL INCOME		2,909,419	1,085,485	3,994,904	2,537,253
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	8	1,599,369	81,926	1,681,295	894,202
Charitable activities	9	1,279,713	778,260	2,057,973	1,828,882
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		2,879,082	860,186	3,739,268	2,723,084
NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE) BEFORE NET GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS					
		30,337	225,299	255,636	(185,831)
Net gains/(losses) on investments		7,199	-	7,199	(10,343)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		37,536	225,299	262,835	(196,174)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		1,654,175	154,349	1,808,524	2,004,698
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		1,691,711	379,648	2,071,359	1,808,524

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 04763989

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	15	1,211,472	1,278,742
Investments	16	222,048	211,216
		<u>1,433,520</u>	<u>1,489,958</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks	17	6,799	2,656
Debtors	18	397,775	122,708
Cash at bank and in hand		472,122	472,566
		<u>876,696</u>	<u>597,930</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	(238,857)	(279,364)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>637,839</u>	<u>318,566</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u><u>2,071,359</u></u>	<u><u>1,808,524</u></u>
CHARITY FUNDS			
Restricted funds	20	379,648	154,349
Unrestricted funds	20	1,691,711	1,654,175
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>2,071,359</u></u>	<u><u>1,808,524</u></u>

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 04763989

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

The entity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the entity to obtain an audit for the period in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

However, an audit is required in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

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

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:



NS Waites FCA
Chair of the Finance Committee
Date: 15 October 2024

The notes on pages 38 to 62 form part of these financial statements.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net cash used in operating activities	22	71,216	30,448
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Dividends and interest		8,476	8,725
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(75,260)	(112,142)
Proceeds from sale of investments		11,905	80,799
Purchase of investments		(14,627)	(79,398)
Investment management fees		(1,243)	(970)
NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES		(70,749)	(102,986)
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE PERIOD			
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		467	(72,538)
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	23	497,930	570,468
		498,397	497,930

The notes on pages 38 to 62 form part of these financial statements

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England. The members of the company are the trustees named on page 1. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Charity.

The address of the Charity is:

Calf Fallow Farm
Calf Fallow Lane
Norton
Stockton - on - Tees
TS20 1PF

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Daisy Chain Project Teesside meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Going concern

The trustees, having made due and careful enquiry and preparing forecasts, are of the opinion that the Charity has adequate working capital to execute its operations over the next 12 months. The trustees, therefore, have made an informed judgement at the time of approving the financial statements, that there is reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. As a result the trustees have continued to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Legacies are accounted for as incoming resources either upon receipt or where the receipt of the legacy is probable in that confirmation has been received from the personal representatives of the estate that payment will be made.

Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. The trustees acknowledge that they are assets of the Charity as soon as received but due to the fact that a very large number of small value items are received the time and cost of valuing donated goods at receipt would outweigh any benefit to the users of the financial statements of having them so valued.

Where goods are donated under the gift aid scheme the Charity is not entitled to the income until the goods are sold and the donor has confirmed that they are gifting the proceeds. In this case the income is included as a donation rather than as a sale.

Donated facilities are included at the value to the Charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the Charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

2.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation (continued)

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- 2% straight line
Improvements to long-term leasehold property	- straight line over the remaining term of the lease
Plant and machinery	- 25% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	- 20% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	- 25% reducing balance
Computer equipment	- 33.33% straight line

2.6 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the balance sheet date. The net gains and losses on revaluations and disposals are included in the consolidated statement of financial activities.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

2.7 Stocks

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

2.8 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

2.9 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2.10 Pensions

The Charity contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the period.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.11 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds 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 notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Donations	160,129	-	160,129	105,217
Legacies	-	-	-	70,000
Grants	545,000	228,236	773,236	617,181
	<u>705,129</u>	<u>228,236</u>	<u>933,365</u>	<u>792,398</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>575,217</u>	<u>217,181</u>	<u>792,398</u>	

Included in unrestricted grants above is £525,000 (2023: £400,000) from People's Postcode Lottery.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Family support	74,153	757,719	831,872	635,005
Educational placements	256,732	-	256,732	236,327
Training services	186,070	-	186,070	46,886
Adult services	35,607	99,530	135,137	18,254
	<u>552,562</u>	<u>857,249</u>	<u>1,409,811</u>	<u>936,472</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>401,897</u>	<u>534,575</u>	<u>936,472</u>	

5. FUNDRAISING INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Retail	1,341,345	1,341,345	660,560
Merchandise retail	2,424	2,424	3,810
Fundraising events	131,561	131,561	126,171
Other income	1,075	1,075	9,117
	<u>1,476,405</u>	<u>1,476,405</u>	<u>799,658</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>799,658</u>	<u>799,658</u>	

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

6. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Deposit account interest	3,600	3,600	2,027
Dividends and interest on investments	4,876	4,876	6,698
	8,476	8,476	8,725
	8,476	8,476	
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>8,725</i>	<i>8,725</i>	
	<i>8,725</i>	<i>8,725</i>	

7. OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
VAT recoverable	166,847	166,847	-
	166,847	166,847	-
	166,847	166,847	-

After the year end the Charity registered for VAT with £166,847 repayable in respect of expenditure incurred before the year end.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

8. COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2024 £</i>
Fundraising costs of grants and donations	14,223	11,054	25,277	48,253
Cost of fundraising events	74,466	-	74,466	50,701
Retail costs	691,733	25,919	717,652	222,525
Wages and salaries	776,113	44,953	821,066	548,039
Depreciation	41,591	-	41,591	10,802
Investment management fees	1,243	-	1,243	970
Impairment of investment	-	-	-	12,912
Total 2024	1,599,369	81,926	1,681,295	894,202
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>821,959</i>	<i>72,243</i>	<i>894,202</i>	

9. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £	<i>Total 2023 £</i>
Children's services	313,614	102,805	416,419	596,780
Family support	51,109	615,270	666,379	455,191
Educational placements	434,239	-	434,239	346,337
Training services	111,363	-	111,363	118,203
Adult services	369,388	60,185	429,573	312,371
	1,279,713	778,260	2,057,973	1,828,882
<i>Total 2023</i>	<i>1,014,279</i>	<i>814,603</i>	<i>1,828,882</i>	

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

10. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly 2024 £	Support costs 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Children's services	275,200	141,219	416,419	596,780
Family support	433,373	233,006	666,379	455,191
Educational placements	278,901	155,338	434,239	346,337
Training services	76,059	35,304	111,363	118,203
Adult services	288,358	141,215	429,573	312,371
	<u>1,351,891</u>	<u>706,082</u>	<u>2,057,973</u>	<u>1,828,882</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>1,195,216</u>	<u>633,666</u>	<u>1,828,882</u>	

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Children's Services 2024 £	Family Support 2024 £	Educational placements 2024 £	Training and other services 2024 £	Adult services 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Wages and salaries	51,766	85,414	56,943	12,942	51,766	258,831	266,298
Depreciation	20,187	33,310	22,207	5,047	20,188	100,939	118,879
Staff travel	120	197	131	30	119	597	-
Premises	25,934	42,790	28,527	6,483	25,934	129,668	97,723
Administration	16,874	27,843	18,562	4,219	16,874	84,372	55,315
Sundries	1,549	2,552	1,702	387	1,547	7,737	333
Subscriptions	1,239	2,045	1,363	310	1,239	6,196	10,320
Resources	1,077	1,776	1,184	269	1,076	5,382	2,808
Staff costs	5,215	8,606	5,737	1,304	5,216	26,078	13,525
Governance costs	17,257	28,474	18,981	4,314	17,256	86,282	68,465
Total 2024	<u>141,218</u>	<u>233,007</u>	<u>155,337</u>	<u>35,305</u>	<u>141,215</u>	<u>706,082</u>	<u>633,666</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>171,089</u>	<u>164,754</u>	<u>158,418</u>	<u>31,683</u>	<u>107,722</u>	<u>633,666</u>	

Support costs are split between activities in line with staff time spent.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS

	Children's Services 2024 £	Family Support 2024 £	Educational Placements 2024 £	Training and other services 2024 £	Adult Services 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Wages and salaries	238,905	398,140	262,629	58,487	243,061	1,201,222	<i>1,059,524</i>
Staff costs	2,049	329	2,201	-	1,736	6,315	<i>7,171</i>
Staff travel	292	15,097	69	678	3,923	20,059	<i>11,650</i>
Volunteer costs	573	6	546	-	72	1,197	<i>1,622</i>
Premises	6,416	374	5,901	905	382	13,978	<i>8,039</i>
Administration	5,251	6,701	319	396	6,632	19,299	<i>25,649</i>
Advertising	-	600	-	-	316	916	<i>2,455</i>
Resources	21,714	12,126	7,236	15,593	32,236	88,905	<i>79,106</i>
Total 2024	<u>275,200</u>	<u>433,373</u>	<u>278,901</u>	<u>76,059</u>	<u>288,358</u>	<u>1,351,891</u>	<u><i>1,195,216</i></u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>375,712</u>	<u>308,238</u>	<u>205,035</u>	<u>89,943</u>	<u>216,288</u>	<u><i>1,195,216</i></u>	

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

11. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Auditors' remuneration	7,500	7,500	8,040
Auditors' non audit costs	2,267	2,267	1,464
Consultancy, legal & professional fees	3,895	3,895	-
Wages and salaries	72,620	72,620	58,961
	<u>86,282</u>	<u>86,282</u>	<u>68,465</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>68,465</u>	<u>68,465</u>	

12. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

The auditors' remuneration amounts to an auditor fee of £7,500 (2023 - £6,700), and other services of £1,925 (2023 - £1,220).

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

13. STAFF COSTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	2,166,398	1,766,743
Social security costs	149,760	132,193
Contribution to defined contribution pension scheme	37,581	33,886
	2,353,739	1,932,822
	2,353,739	1,932,822

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the period was as follows:

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
Management and administration	18	18
Fundraising	2	2
Charitable activities - service delivery	73	63
Retail	40	30
	133	113
	133	113

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	-	1
In the band £70,001 - £80,000	1	-

The total employment benefits, including employer pension contributions, of key management personnel were £223,422 (2023: £249,928). Key management personnel include the CEO, Director of Services, Director of Income Generation, Head of Finance, Head of Family Services and Head of HR.

The Charity benefits from the involvement and support of its many volunteers, further details of which are provided in the Trustees Report. In accordance with accounting standards, the economic contribution of volunteers is not measured in the financial statements.

14. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

During the period, no trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2023 - £NIL).

During the period ended 31 March 2024, no trustee expenses have been incurred (2023 - £NIL).

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

15. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Improvements to long-term leasehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Motor vehicles £	Fixtures, fittings and computer equipment £	Total £
Cost						
At 1 April 2023	1,337,095	193,896	98,154	31,330	547,390	2,207,865
Additions	-	61,952	-	-	13,308	75,260
At 31 March 2024	<u>1,337,095</u>	<u>255,848</u>	<u>98,154</u>	<u>31,330</u>	<u>560,698</u>	<u>2,283,125</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 April 2023	409,901	58,823	67,415	12,532	380,452	929,123
Charge for the period	25,745	41,591	7,687	6,266	61,241	142,530
At 31 March 2024	<u>435,646</u>	<u>100,414</u>	<u>75,102</u>	<u>18,798</u>	<u>441,693</u>	<u>1,071,653</u>
Net book value						
At 31 March 2024	<u><u>901,449</u></u>	<u><u>155,434</u></u>	<u><u>23,052</u></u>	<u><u>12,532</u></u>	<u><u>119,005</u></u>	<u><u>1,211,472</u></u>
At 31 March 2023	<u><u>927,194</u></u>	<u><u>135,073</u></u>	<u><u>30,739</u></u>	<u><u>18,798</u></u>	<u><u>166,938</u></u>	<u><u>1,278,742</u></u>

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

16. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Investments in subsidiary companies £	Listed investments £	Unlisted investments £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 April 2023	1	185,851	25,364	211,216
Additions	-	14,627	11,905	26,532
Disposals	-	(11,905)	(14,627)	(26,532)
Revaluations	-	7,199	-	7,199
Investment manager fees	-	-	(1,243)	(1,243)
Dividends receivable	-	-	4,876	4,876
AT 31 MARCH 2024	<u>1</u>	<u>195,772</u>	<u>26,275</u>	<u>222,048</u>
Net book value				
At 31 March 2024	<u>1</u>	<u>195,772</u>	<u>26,275</u>	<u>222,048</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>1</u>	<u>185,851</u>	<u>25,364</u>	<u>211,216</u>
Investments at market value				
			2024	2023
			£	£
Equities			195,772	185,851
Cash within investment portfolio			26,275	25,364
Investment in trading subsidiary			1	1
			<u>222,048</u>	<u>211,216</u>

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

16. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARIES

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the Charity:

Name	Company number	Registered office or principal place of business	Class of shares
Daisy Chain Trading (Teesside) Limited	05209370	Calf Fallow Farm, Calf Fallow Lane, Norton, Stockton On Tees, TS20 1PF	Ordinary Holding 100%

Daisy Chain Trading (Teesside) Limited was dormant throughout the year.

17. STOCKS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Goods for resale	6,799	2,656

18. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	97,935	83,503
Other debtors	175,053	3,493
Prepayments and accrued income	124,787	35,712
	397,775	122,708

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

19. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	60,459	57,153
Taxation and social security	32,824	30,808
Other creditors	8,849	7,859
Accruals and deferred income	136,725	183,544
	<u>238,857</u>	<u>279,364</u>
	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 April 2023	102,839	37,915
Resources deferred during the period	44,831	102,839
Amounts released from previous periods	(102,839)	(37,915)
Deferred income at 31 March 2024	<u>44,831</u>	<u>102,839</u>

Deferred income comprises money received in advance for sessions/clubs, care contracts and training courses which will take place in the next financial year.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT PERIOD

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds	135,000	-	(50,000)	(85,000)	-	-
General funds	1,519,175	2,909,419	(2,829,082)	85,000	7,199	1,691,711
Total unrestricted funds	1,654,175	2,909,419	(2,879,082)	-	7,199	1,691,711

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Restricted funds						
Gateshead Family Hubs	-	37,500	(37,500)	-	-	-
Together for Children - Sunderland	-	100,000	(75,000)	-	-	25,000
Sembcorp	-	43,200	(7,200)	-	-	36,000
Santander Foundation	33,280	49,973	(32,111)	-	-	51,142
National Lottery - Community Fund	-	99,529	(60,185)	-	-	39,344
Catalyst - Stockton on Tees	-	5,445	(5,445)	-	-	-
Sport England - Teesside University	-	2,011	(2,011)	-	-	-
Scottish Power Foundation	-	40,182	(33,485)	-	-	6,697
Amazon - Charitable Giving	-	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
North East Cumbria ICB - Family Support	-	239,174	(200,135)	-	-	39,039
North East Cumbria ICB - Main Contract	93,709	381,046	(302,635)	-	-	172,120
North East Cumbria ICB - Variations	10,000	-	(6,666)	-	-	3,334
Climate Action Fund	-	81,925	(81,925)	-	-	-
Other grants	17,360	500	(15,888)	-	-	1,972
Total restricted funds	154,349	1,085,485	(860,186)	-	-	379,648
Total of funds	1,808,524	3,994,904	(3,739,268)	-	7,199	2,071,359

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR PERIOD

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2022</i> £	<i>Income</i> £	<i>Expenditure</i> £	<i>Transfers in/out</i> £	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i> £	<i>Balance at 31 March 2023</i> £
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds	245,000	-	-	(110,000)	-	135,000
General funds	1,470,259	1,785,497	(1,836,238)	110,000	(10,343)	1,519,175
Total unrestricted funds	1,715,259	1,785,497	(1,836,238)	-	(10,343)	1,654,175

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2022</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2023</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds						
Children In Need - Holiday Club	6,281	31,724	(38,005)	-	-	-
People's Postcode Lottery - General	203,344	-	(203,344)	-	-	-
People's Postcode Lottery - Innovation Trust	7,175	-	(7,175)	-	-	-
Santander Foundation	-	65,054	(31,774)	-	-	33,280
Children In Need - First Steps Performing Arts	16,912	-	(16,912)	-	-	-
Masonic Charitable Foundation	19,609	-	(19,609)	-	-	-
North East Cumbria ICB - Main Contract	-	534,575	(440,866)	-	-	93,709
North East Cumbria ICB - Variations	36,118	10,000	(36,118)	-	-	10,000
Climate Action Fund	-	72,243	(72,243)	-	-	-
Other grants	-	38,160	(20,800)	-	-	17,360
Total restricted funds	<u>289,439</u>	<u>751,756</u>	<u>(886,846)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>154,349</u>
Total of funds	<u><u>2,004,698</u></u>	<u><u>2,537,253</u></u>	<u><u>(2,723,084)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(10,343)</u></u>	<u><u>1,808,524</u></u>

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)
Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds are freely available for the use of the Charity.

Designated funds

In the prior year the trustees set aside £135,000 of unrestricted funds with £85,000 of this in respect of a potential permanent diminution in value of an investment and £50,000 in respect of set up costs for a new retail store. The potential diminution in value of the investment will not now arise and the retail store costs have been incurred in the year and therefore the designated funds have been released.

Restricted funds

Gateshead Family Hubs

This funding has been used to deliver autism hubs in Gateshead.

Together for Children - Sunderland

This funding is for family support services in Sunderland for children and young people with a neurodevelopment needs. The project had an end date of June 2024.

Sembcorp

This funding is for the installation of solar panels with an initial deposit paid in advance of works being carried out in the year ending 31 March 2025.

Santander Foundation

This funding is from the digital empowerment fund and is used to address barriers and consequences of financial, digital, and social exclusion. The project has an end date of March 2026.

National Lottery Community Fund - My Life, My Community

This funding is for the provision of accessible adult community hubs across the Tees Valley, tackling high rates of loneliness and isolation among autistic and neurodivergent adults. The project had an end date of July 2024.

Catalyst - Stockton on Tees

This funding was used to provide a holiday club and trips and outings for children and young people.

Sport England - Teesside University

This funding was used for the together fund project delivery which aimed to engage key target groups that have been adversely affected by Coronavirus with the aim of increased participation in sport and physical activity.

Scottish Power Foundation - Rising Stars

This funding is from the rising stars fund and is aimed at enriching the lives of autistic individuals through performing arts and encouraging beneficiaries to express themselves in non-judgemental settings. The project had an end date of May 2024.

Amazon - Charitable Giving

This funding is to be used to cover the costs of running trips/away days for vulnerable families. Expenditure will be incurred in the summer of 2024.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

North East Cumbria Integrated Care Board – Main Contract/Family Support

This funding is for the family support service for children and young people with a neurodevelopmental need for and on behalf of NHS Tees Valley CCG, Darlington Borough Council, Hartlepool Borough Council, Middlesbrough Council, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council. The main contract had an end date of June 2024 whilst the family support contract had an end date of September 2024.

North East Cumbria Integrated Care Board - Variations

This funding is for a variety of activities, including trips for families, a sleep service and training for staff on the keyworker project. The carried forward funds will be spent in the year ending 31 March 2025.

Climate Action Fund

This funding is from The National Lottery Community Fund to recycle and upcycle clothing donated that was not fit for resale in its donated state. The fund provided a production lead and garment manufacturers as well as the necessary equipment.

21. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,211,472	-	1,211,472
Fixed asset investments	222,048	-	222,048
Current assets	497,048	379,648	876,696
Creditors due within one year	(238,857)	-	(238,857)
Total	1,691,711	379,648	2,071,359

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	1,278,742	-	1,278,742
Fixed asset investments	211,216	-	211,216
Current assets	443,581	154,349	597,930
Creditors due within one year	(279,364)	-	(279,364)
Total	1,654,175	154,349	1,808,524

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

21. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS (CONTINUED)

22. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income/expenditure for the period (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	262,835	<i>(196,174)</i>
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	142,530	129,681
(Gains)/losses on investments	(7,199)	23,255
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	(8,476)	<i>(8,725)</i>
Increase in stocks	(4,143)	<i>(2,656)</i>
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(275,067)	14,026
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	(40,507)	70,071
Investment management fees	1,243	970
Net cash provided by operating activities	71,216	30,448

23. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash in hand	472,122	472,566
Cash within investment portfolio	26,275	25,364
Total cash and cash equivalents	498,397	497,930

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

24. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 1 April 2023	Cash flows	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	472,566	(444)	472,122
	<u>472,566</u>	<u>(444)</u>	<u>472,122</u>

25. CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Contracted for but not provided in these financial statements		
Acquisition of tangible fixed assets	28,800	-
	<u>28,800</u>	<u>-</u>

26. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The Charity contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity to the fund and amounted to £37,581 (2023: £33,886). Contributions totalling £8,793 (2023: £7,859) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors. This creditor figure includes both employee and employer contributions.

27. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31 March 2024 the Charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	345,515	343,142
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	497,580	813,595
Later than 5 years	-	29,500
	<u>843,095</u>	<u>1,186,237</u>

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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

28. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Charity has not entered into any related party transactions that required disclosure during the period, nor are there any outstanding balances owing between related parties and the Charity at 31 March 2024 that require disclosure.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE

England & Wales - Charity number 1109792

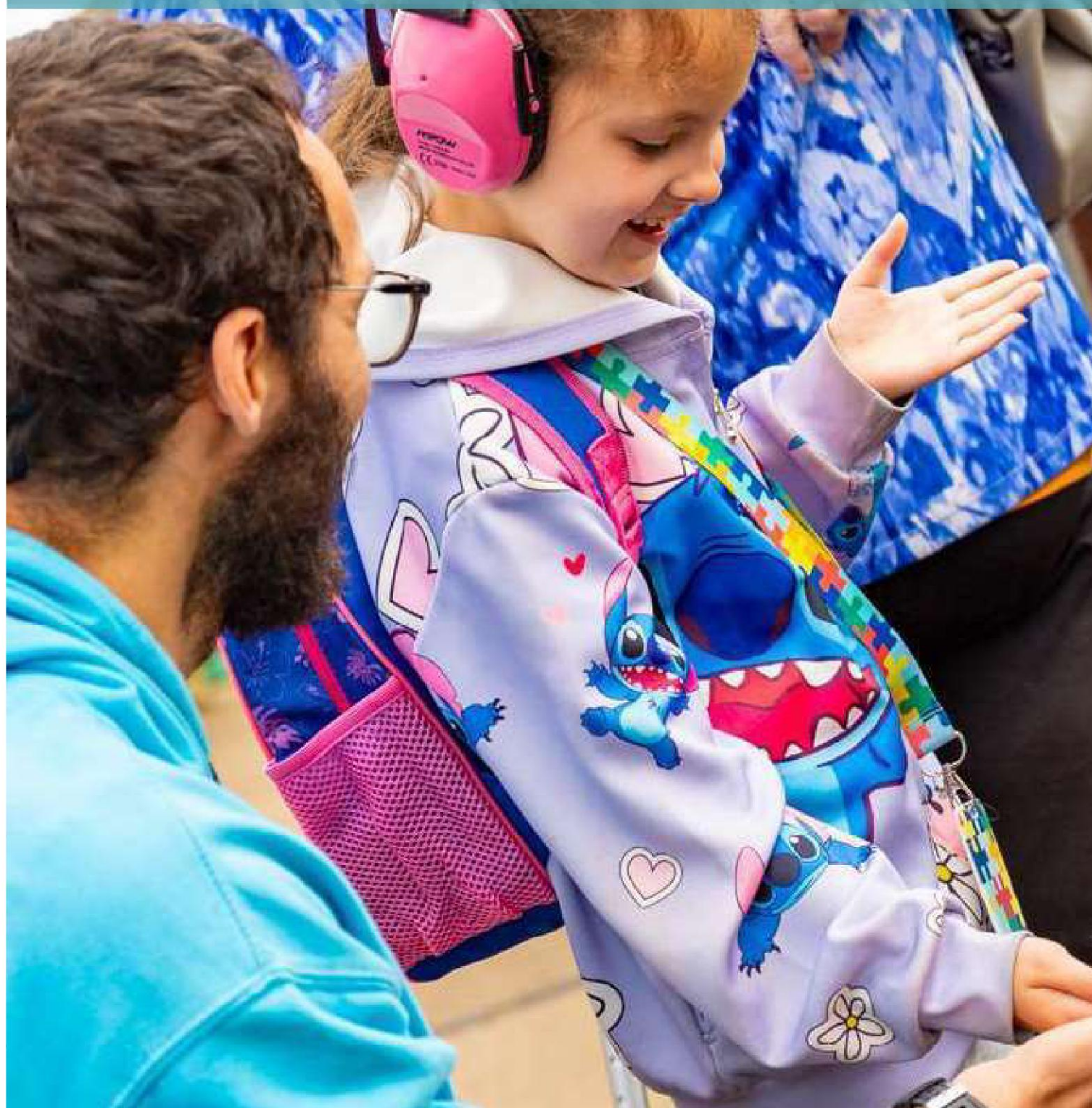
Accounts



**DAISY
CHAIN**
Autism & Neurodiversity

Annual Report

1st April 2022 - 31st March 2023





OPEN



PASSIONATE



INNOVATIVE



INCLUSIVE



AMBITIOUS



EMPOWERING



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*Please note all beneficiary names have been altered throughout this report for confidentiality purposes.

VIEW FROM CHAIR OF TRUSTEES



Once again, the Board of Trustees has continued to make effective governance our priority. This empowers our CEO and staff to continue to provide services and support to the autistic and neurodiverse community in the Tees Valley and beyond.

I am honoured to head the Board in my second year as Chair and I want to personally thank all board members for their continued commitment, enthusiasm and governance.

Our board meetings are enhanced by our sub committees on Finance and Operations, which delve deeper into the workings of Daisy Chain and report back to the main Board to ensure further governance.

We have had two long-standing Trustees retire this year. Ian Kinnery served 8 years and Alison Tasker who was at the forefront of our safeguarding improvements for the last 5 years. Thank you to both Ian and Alison for providing so many years of valuable service as a trustee. During the year we undertook a new recruitment campaign to increase the diversity and expertise on the board and have welcomed two new trustees, Martin Pout and Nathan Sherratt. Martin and Nathan bring education, safeguarding, business, and lived-in autism experience to further strengthen the Board.

Daisy Chain has had a successful year in providing more diverse services and we are growing geographically. This has included our Key Worker project which provides vital support services across the Tees Valley and has now expanded to cover Durham and a wider age range.

A major development has been our rebranding, which we completed and launched in March 2023, in time for our upcoming 20th year anniversary in May 2023. I remember putting together the original artwork, colours and script with Lesley Hanson, our Founder. To be involved in the panel working through the changes for our new logo was exciting and we are really happy with the rebrand.

I would like to give special thanks to the many grants and funders, including People's Postcode Lottery, who have supported us in helping others. Thanks also to the many corporates and individuals who give us their support, whether it has been in time, volunteering, expertise, or funding.

Thank you also to our supporters who donate to our retail stores and to those who fundraise for Daisy Chain, it is very much appreciated. I am looking forward to celebrating our 20th Anniversary.

Duane Hanson

Chair of Trustees

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CEO REPORT



The past financial year has been a journey of growth, resilience, and unwavering commitment to our mission. As we reflect on this year of challenges and opportunities, I am pleased to share with you the dynamic story of Daisy Chain's continued evolution.

As we headed into our 20th year it was clear that despite our brand's emotional recognition, the logo had become dated and was not representative of all of our services. We embarked on a transformative journey which required meticulous research, creative development and collaboration. The response to our new branding has been overwhelmingly positive with wide-scale support and praise received from the community, partners and supporters. The visual identity is more than just a logo - it represents a new chapter in our story.

Financial Progress and Challenges

Our financial year unfolded in two distinct parts, revealing a complex narrative. On one hand, we witnessed a remarkable increase in income, a testament to the steadfast support of our community. However, this positive momentum was accompanied by a substantial draw on our finances due to investment in future projects, the Daisy Chain Megastore and the aforementioned re-branding.

The economic downturn resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with a period of inactivity in our trading activities, presented formidable challenges. Yet, we remain resolute in our commitment to bridge this financial gap. The demand for our services has surged to unprecedented levels, underscoring the critical role Daisy Chain plays in the lives of many.

Meeting Rising Demand with Strategic Priorities

As we look to the future, Daisy Chain's priorities are clear:

- **Service Enhancement:** Daisy Chain's services remain at the heart of our mission. In the coming year, we will continue to refine our employability services, equipping neurodivergent individuals with the skills and support they need to thrive in the workforce. Additionally, we are committed to expanding our outreach locations across the North East, ensuring that our services are accessible to all who need them.
- **Corporate Fundraising Scheme:** To ensure our long-term financial sustainability, we are introducing a corporate fundraising scheme. This strategic move will enable us to engage with businesses that share our commitment to neurodivergence and inclusion. Their support will be instrumental in meeting the growing demand for our services.

[continued]

CEO REPORT

- Retail Expansion: Our due-to-be-launched second retail store, the Daisy Chain Megastore in Team Valley Gateshead, is poised to be a catalyst for change for charity retail. In the coming year, our focus is to not only embed but also expand this initiative. It holds the potential to generate sustainable income streams for funding our services whilst also creating training and employment opportunities for neurodivergent individuals.

A Call to Action

As we embrace the future with optimism and determination, I call upon all of you to stand with us in this pivotal moment. The challenges are significant, but our resolve is unwavering. Together, with external funding commitments, we can expand our impact and create a more inclusive world where neurodivergence is celebrated and valued.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated team, our steadfast supporters, our compassionate stakeholders and the continuous commitment of players of People's Postcode Lottery. Your unwavering commitment is the cornerstone of our success.

With determination and hope,

Neeraj Sharma

CEO

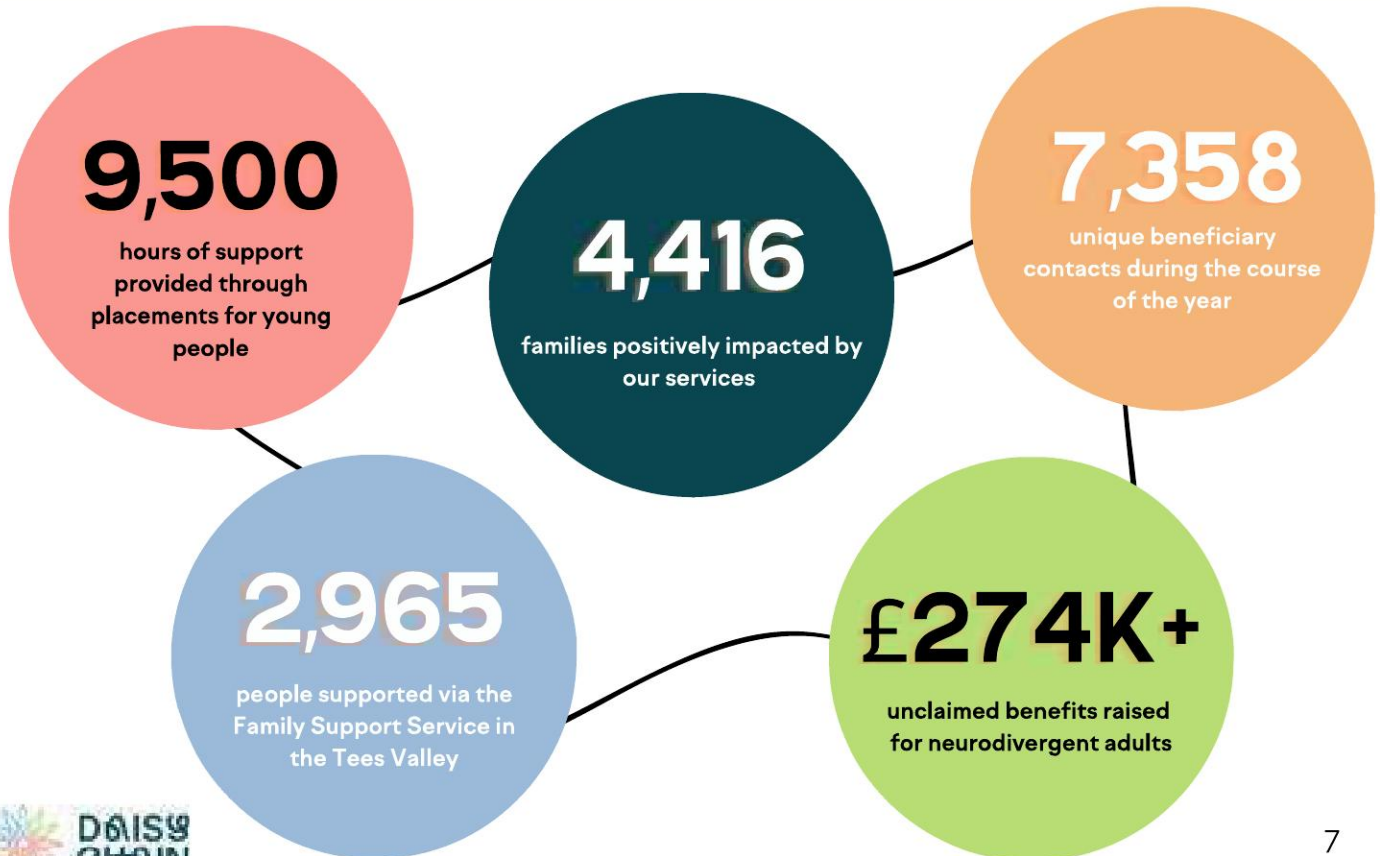
WELCOME TO DAISY CHAIN

The trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the charity qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Our shared vision is for every person we support to live a life they enjoy and is meaningful to them at every stage.

Our mission is to support and empower autistic and neurodivergent individuals through the provision of holistic person-centred services, whilst promoting training, wellbeing, inclusion and acceptance regionally and nationwide.



HITTING THE HEADLINES & EXTERNAL RECOGNITION



MOST SUPPORTIVE CEO AT CHARITY RETAIL ASSOCIATION AWARDS



FIRST ALL AUTISTIC CAST FOR A MUSICAL



MAKING CHRISTMAS POSSIBLE FOR STRUGGLING FAMILIES



CONNECTING WITH FUNDERS AND THE LOCAL COMMUNITY



AWARD WINNING SOCIAL ENTERPRISE



A VOICE FOR THE CHARITY SECTOR

TEES Business.

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

In the 2022/23 financial year our services have been accessed by 839 autistic or neurodivergent children and young people and we have positively impacted the lives of over 4,416 families from across the Tees Valley and beyond.

Offering opportunities through clubs and activities

Clubs and activities play a key part in promoting independence and increasing confidence for the children and young people we support, in addition to the respite they provide for families. We're delighted to have had 772 people access our varied activity programme this year, which includes residential, sports clubs and specialist wildlife and forestry schools.

Transition into adulthood

The introduction of a new community connect group this year has allowed teenagers to learn and develop independent living skills and self-confidence in a real-world environment. The club is based in a different location each week and participants get involved in the planning and preparation for each trip in order to gain valuable experience of independent, budgeting and safety in the community.

Expanded access to our services

At Daisy Chain, we recognise that diagnosis wait times can act as a barrier to accessing support services, and in recognition of those challenges we expanded our criteria so that our services can now be accessed by those who are on the pathway to diagnosis.

Furthermore, we have also broadened our support to include a wider range of neurodivergent conditions such as ADHD, FASD, Sensory processing differences, anxiety and social and communication differences.

772

children and young people through clubs and activities

83

placement places, totalling 9,500 hours of support

2,965

parent/carers supported through Family Support

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

Funding from BBC Children in Need in the 2022/23 financial year has meant we have been able to make school holidays full of fun enrichment for our beneficiaries, by offering a whole host of free activities. This has included weekly sessions for those who require specialist high needs support, alongside a varied programme of trips to destinations including Stockeld Park, Alton Towers, the Pantomime at Christmas and residential facilities such as Peat Rigg Activity Centre.

"I just want to say that today has been a massive game changer for my son. He was biting me this morning after a few bad weeks at school. The school provision is breaking down, he's shutting down and didn't want to leave the house today and took some persuading to come to Daisy Chain for the first time."

"I left in tears but when I arrived back I saw a different child. You have given something that I can't put into words. You brought him back from crisis today."

Over the course of the project we've received a wealth of positive feedback and we're pleased to say that we have managed to secure additional funding in order to continue to provide these wonderful sessions for the 2023/24 financial year.

The 2022/23 financial year also marked the end of our existing BBC Children in Need funded Rising Stars Project, performing arts-based clubs and activities led by drama professionals and aimed at supporting its participants to develop their confidence, learn new skills and form new friendships. These activities have been a resounding success and made a huge difference to the young people who have taken part and we hope to raise additional revenue to continue this service. One parent said:

"He has found a new confidence following a very difficult time in which he found himself isolated and withdrawn. For the first time he sees himself as someone who is quite interesting to others. He is now talking about having friends for the first time. I can honestly say he has not looked back."

"It has helped to develop his confidence, provided a creative outlet and the opportunity to gain social experiences with other children of a similar age. It is such a fantastic programme with dedicated staff to help young people with autism to gain confidence, learn new skills and make friends in a safe, secure environment."



141

children and young people have accessed activities during the school holidays in 2022/23

474

children and young people positively impacted by the project over 3 years

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES



England's first all autistic cast musical

The unique project culminated in a musical production which was performed over three nights to a live audiences of more than 1,200 people at the Arc Theatre in Stockton. The pride we felt seeing the children and young people perform so confidently is hard to describe, particularly when we think about how far they have come.

Bespoke placements supporting education

Many autistic and neurodivergent young people aren't able to access mainstream education full time, and need support with key transitions (such as from school to college).

In total we have provided 9,500 hours of 1:1 or small group support to 83 school aged autistic and neurodivergent children and young people, including a wide range of activities aimed at promoting mental health and wellbeing and developing independent living, budgeting and social skills.



School outreach in the community

As part of this programme we have also developed a school outreach service, whereby specialist staff work with neurodivergent young people within the school environment. This offer continues to expand and now also includes sports activities. This encourages the use of fine motor skills whilst having a positive impact on health and wellbeing.

Essential peer support for families, parents and carers

Our Links parent support group continues to provide a much needed service for parents and carers of autistic and neurodivergent individuals, giving them the opportunity to connect with and provide peer support to one another, with specialist staff on hand to provide advice where needed, and regular guest speakers.

This year there have been over 660 individual contacts via Links, and this number continues to rise.



CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

The therapeutic benefit of animals

Research has shown that interacting with animals can have a far-reaching positive impact on children and young people, from boosting mood to reducing feelings of loneliness. Whilst our farm and barn has always been at the heart of what we do, the work being done to transform this space from a petting farm to a cutting-edge animal therapy facility has taken a huge step forward this year, ensuring that all our animals continue to feel safe and happy in the process.

For the hundreds of individuals who access this facility, it might be the first time they've ever been able to interact with animals in this way, and the sensory experiences can act as a form of therapy, encouraging open communication and increasing positivity. Unlike humans, animals don't expect you to behave in a certain way, which can be especially cathartic for those who struggle to make eye contact or are pre-verbal and allow them to no longer be locked out of these experiences.

Increasing high needs support throughout the year

We've increased activities that focus on those with higher needs, and also ensured some of these involve the whole family unit. This has given autistic and neurodivergent animal lovers, their siblings and carers the opportunity to take part in a range of activities including brushing and walking our large farm animals and relaxing and interacting with a range of small animals and reptiles.

Since the launch of our Sensory Sundays activity day, 46 families have been provided with bespoke animal experiences. After attending a session with her son one parent wrote to us to say the following:

"I just have to say a massive thanks to your staff. They have walked with my son in all weathers. When he has been struggling in the world they have shown true kindness and support to help him overcome his fears of the outside world. My heart is so full of happiness and delight as Daisy Chain makes the world ok for my son."



46

families have accessed
bespoke animal therapy

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

Meeting the needs of parents/carers who need it most

The Tees Wide Family Support Service (TWFSS) can be accessed by children, young people and families who display traits associated with, or have a diagnosis of, a neurodevelopmental condition including autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), sensory processing or Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD).

In the 2022/23 financial year the TWFSS service supported 2,965 families and provided 2,648 1:1 appointments, 231 drop in sessions and 303 spaces at learning workshops to families residing within the Tees Valley.

The team also supported 157 children and young people to access a short-term intervention aimed at developing their communication, interaction and social skills. Feedback from these sessions was very positive with one parent saying:

"Thank you for making him feel like he belongs somewhere. He has made progress with his self-esteem, sharing and talking about his feelings and emotions, especially around school issues. An excellent group and so lovely that it is inclusive for pre-diagnosis."

Tees Valley Sleep Service

The launch of the Tees Valley Sleep Service was designed to help families across Teesside improve sleep through telephone support and resources, sleep workshops and 1:1 sleep assessments which includes the creation of a bespoke sleep plan.

To date the service has been accessed by 241 families and feedback has been very positive with one parent saying:

"Great session, learned a lot from it and these sessions are really boosting my own confidence and it's great to know that I'm not alone in the struggle for sleep. I can't thank you enough"

Supporting families on a local and national level

Parents from outside the Tees Valley have continued to be able to access support via our free national autism helpline which provided support to 817 neurodivergent young people, adults and their families over the course of the year.

241

families supported via the
Tees Valley Sleep Service

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

Complex case support up to the age of 18



In the 2022/23 financial year we have been able to increase the support on offer to our families with children with the most complex needs through the expansion of our keyworker service to include children and young people up to the age of 18. Daisy Chain is one of several pilot and early adopter sites around the country testing a new way of working with children, young people and their families, with the aim of improving their lives and mental health, and reducing the need for school exclusions and inpatient admissions.

The team has worked with families across the Tees Valley and Durham to ensure that the voice of the child, young person and their family is front and centre in any decision making process regarding that individual. In a recent independent report of the service provided by Children North East it was found that the children, young people and parents involved in the service felt safe and happy, listened to and involved in their care and support plans. They experienced a reduction in stress and uncertainty and an increase in stability thanks to their keyworker.

We worked with Anna* to support and sustain her child back into full time education, which she says was achieved by the team really listening and having a clear and effective plan. Her child is now back in full time education and she said the following about her keyworker:



"I would like to thank our keyworker for the fabulous support, care and time given to myself and my daughter. At times of high stress and when resources are low, they have managed what felt like the impossible. My daughter is no longer in crisis and is able to thrive, because of the support given. The role of a complex keyworker is unique in that it creates a bridge between home and school and also provides the much-needed viewpoint of the child. I think we would have been at a total loss without our keyworker."

"They have the ability to gain the trust of the family and the school at a time when relationships between home and school may be tested, particularly if a child is struggling to attend. They provide practical solutions, a listening ear but are also able to gently challenge the perspectives of everyone involved in order to move things forward."

"Three words: compassion, understanding and hope."

CHILDREN & FAMILY SERVICES

Training: A catalyst for change

Our training team continues to provide a blended offer of virtual and face to face training. In the 2022/23 financial year a new package of training was developed, aimed at the business community supporting them to increase their work based inclusion, equality and diversity.

Sessions on offer include how employers can support autistic and neurodiverse staff, strategies for staff to support neurodiverse customers, and HR inclusive recruitment. This new training has been delivered to a variety of different local and national organisations including to employees of People's Postcode Lottery, Hartlepool Power Station, Thirteen Group and many more.

Real organisations making real change

"Training helped us understand the 'why' behind neurodiversity and challenges that can be experienced as a result. It certainly gave us food for thought on developing policies, procedures and environments in the future to best support our neurodiverse workforce." - Durham Police

Training for education and public sector

Alongside our corporate offer the team also provide training to education settings, public sector staff, care providers, personal assistants and parents and carers. Our free weekly parent learning opportunities are very well accessed and are delivered on a variety of topics, including wellbeing for parents/carers, anxiety, transitions, and girls and autism.

We also continue to be the regional lead for the Autism Education Trust (AET) and have expanded our offer beyond Stockton into Darlington, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Gateshead. The team supported heavily with the Autism in Schools Project, a NHS funded national pilot, by providing AET training across the whole of the North East and Cumbria. Over the year the team has delivered training to over 270 members of staff from schools, keyworker and mental health teams.

Training directly to young people

We continue to provide training in our own package, Understanding Myself across the country. This was developed thanks to funding from NHS England. It is aimed at secondary school aged pupils and increases self-awareness and self-confidence and helps others understand their needs and unique experiences of the world. We have secured additional funding to adapt the package for primary school aged pupils.



ADULT SERVICES

In the 2022/23 financial year our adult services have been accessed by 461 autistic or neurodivergent adults across the Tees Valley and beyond.

Bespoke housing, benefits and independent living support

These services have provided 170 individuals with 1:1 benefit, housing and independent living advice this financial year, with funding secured to continue to develop our bespoke benefits service. This funding will allow us to continue providing person-centred benefits advice and guidance to autistic and neurodivergent adults and expand our support to young people aged 15-18 transitioning to Personal Independence Payments.

170

received housing, benefits and independent living support

In total, we supported with 129 benefits cases leading to more than £274,000 of unclaimed benefits drawn down for autistic and neurodivergent adults. This has meant that adults living independently have been able to maximise their income and claim their entitlement.

Remarkably, the service has achieved a 100% success rate for benefit appeals, representing people both in writing and in court.

Alex*, an autistic man was living alone and was struggling to make ends meet. We successfully appealed a Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) decision in regards to his disability benefits. As a result, his weekly income was increased to £150 and he received a back dated lump sum of over £7,500.

£274K+

of unclaimed benefits raised for autistic adults

Katie*, a neurodivergent woman, was at risk of eviction when she contacted us due to breaching her tenancy agreement by having three dogs.

Our specialist advisor intervened and coordinated a multi-agency meeting to establish safeguarding goals and objectives, ensuring a suitable network of support for the beneficiary. Through negotiations with the housing provider, additional time was granted to find suitable alternative accommodation, ultimately preventing homelessness for this individual. Importantly, Katie, who regarded her dogs as her family, was able to keep her pets in her home.

192

young people and adults accessed wellbeing support

ADULT SERVICES

Kyle* spoke of the impact that our benefits support had had on his life:

"The Daisy Chain staff member was able to fix the underpayment issue immediately. Being able to see friends without worrying if I was gonna skip a couple of meals. [Before accessing this support] there were times when I had £12 to last me a week and a half."

Promoting positive wellbeing and mental health

Our provision stands out due to its unique approach, which focuses on helping beneficiaries learn about themselves and their neurodivergence, fostering self-awareness and acceptance. Through a variety of approaches and strategies, we assist individuals in developing a sense of connection to themselves, expanding their understanding, and building resilience.

Our wellbeing and counselling provision continues to be a crucial and highly sought-after service, with approximately 25 young people and adults accessing it weekly. Throughout the 2022/23 financial year, we have provided support to 192 individuals through more than 700 support sessions.

We also offer a range of holistic approaches, such as mindfulness, meditation, aromatherapy, and wellbeing activities involving animals and nature. Our services are delivered through 1:1 sessions, small groups, weekly drop-in sessions, and one-off workshops.

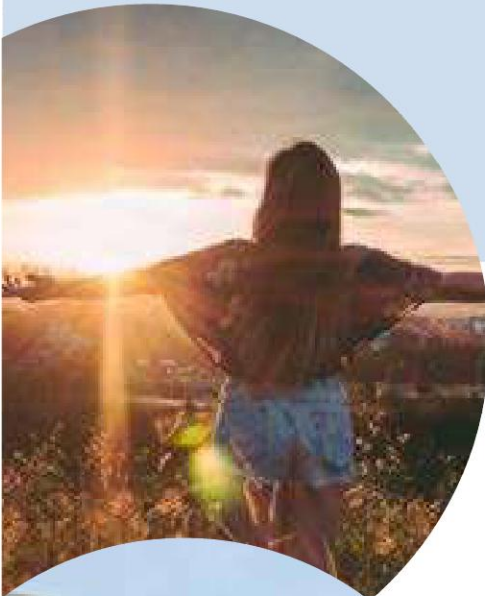
Laura* - Coming to terms with diagnosis and self acceptance

"Daisy Chain has been one of the best things to happen to me since my autism diagnosis. I was diagnosed nearly 10 years ago and have since gone through my life fighting my diagnosis thinking (hoping) it was wrong."

"I struggled so much and spent every minute of the day masking. I did not want to attend Daisy Chain because I did not want to accept my diagnosis and feel disabled; however, after my first visit I realised that Daisy Chain is a safe place where you can be yourself, you can take your mask down, and relax."

[continued]

ADULT SERVICES



"Daisy Chain has since given me the ability to begin accepting my autism diagnosis, whilst also giving me the tools to cope much better in daily life. I am learning to understand myself and accept myself. Although it is a slow process, I know one day I will be proud to be autistic, and Daisy Chain has been the catalyst for this change."

Beth* - Breaking the negative cycle

"When I signed up to Daisy Chain's wellbeing service I wanted to learn about autism, meet other autistic people and rise up my mental health. I had just been diagnosed as autistic and was given no support. I was embarrassed and there were lots of aspects that were challenging. I was quite alone and didn't get any help. At that point, I was not optimistic about the future. I was in the depths of depression."



"From accessing this support, I have made brilliant friends and I have gained great knowledge of the brain and understand about autism. I have been given space to explore my emotions and feelings. We do 'catch-up and check-in' at the start of every session. Having the space to share the good and bad makes me feel comfortable and we are given the time to share. I have got better at asking for help when I need it, at home and with my friends and family. I feel more positive about my autism. I don't feel alone and look forward to coming to Daisy Chain. If I had not gone to Daisy Chain, I'd be worse than I am now. I don't know if I'd necessarily be alive."

Dan* - Proud to be autistic

"I hated myself and I hated the idea that I was autistic. These sessions truly have changed my entire outlook on life. I am now proud to be autistic. I am learning who I am again. I now look forward to the future. Most importantly, I learned that I can be the real me."



"I don't need to mask any more. You allowed me the opportunity for the first time in my conscious life, to truly be me. I will forever be grateful for that."

ADULT SERVICES

Preventing those at risk from entering the criminal justice system

Short term pilot funding from the Cleveland Unit for the Reduction of Violent Crime, 'Be Safe. Be Me', allowed us to scope the value of early intervention and prevention for autistic and neurodivergent young people at risk of entering into criminal activity and violent crime.

The key aims of the pilot were to divert young people away from a criminal justice pathway, and to enhance wellbeing, resilience, and safety. We provided ongoing, weekly support to five autistic and neurodivergent young people who were identified as being at high risk of entering into criminal justice. Almost all of the young people were regularly engaging in risk-taking behaviour, more than half were engaging in anti-social behaviour and were either at risk of, or already had been, permanently excluded from school.

The pilot

Our specialist wellbeing worker developed a package of weekly 1:1 person-centred interventions, designed specifically around each young person's own individual needs, whilst focusing on key themes such as understanding yourself and neurodivergence, setting goals, understanding and managing emotions, and understanding safe relationships and personal boundaries. Support was delivered in an accessible and informal manner, making use of outdoor space and natural environments such as our gardens and farm, with animal interaction being a key feature in most sessions.

Evaluation

Despite the short time frame for the pilot, we were able to evidence indicators of impact for all of the young people who engaged, including increased happiness and optimism, improved school engagement, reduced family stress, and improvements in young people's understanding of how to keep safe. 100% of the young people engaged proactively with therapeutic learning activities, and 100% are now transitioning to access Daisy Chain's wider services. As a result of their engagement, all of the young people presented with improved confidence and self-esteem.

100%

reported improvements in happiness and self-esteem



100%

transitioned into wider Daisy Chain services

ADULT SERVICES



Of the young people who completed an impact questionnaire, 100% reported improvements in happiness, self-esteem, and optimism, 100% felt safe and supported at Daisy Chain, and 100% reported feeling safer and having a better understanding of how to keep safe.

The young people and their families told us:

"I am learning to keep myself safe."

"She is calmer and more open to meaningful conversations."

"She would not engage in any other service."

"I feel better in myself."

"Things are becoming less stressful."

Addressing the autism employment gap

In the year 2022/23, our employability service experienced its highest number of beneficiaries to date. A total of 69 individuals were supported, with 59 of them being new to the service. Of these beneficiaries, 100% received 1:1 employability coaching, 39% completed a work placement, and 16% completed an internal employability course.



Within the year we have established successful partnerships that have provided our beneficiaries with valuable work placement opportunities regionally and nationwide, including with companies such as Altrad and Cummins.

Of the 69 adults who engaged with our service, 12 gained paid employment, 25 either enrolled onto education/training or gained a qualification and 14 gained independent volunteering. This surpasses our project target by 14%. Clients have also been supported into a number of volunteering roles including internal positions within Daisy Chain's gardens and Superstore, a leaflet distributor, and an assistant cook.

ADULT SERVICES

Training outcomes have included food hygiene qualifications, maths functional skills (delivered as an exclusive course at Daisy Chain), catering courses, and self-employment training. Of those beneficiaries who achieved paid employment, positions have included working in cyber security, supermarket customer service, a reception position within a local authority, and digital admin roles.

David* was struggling to find employment, and explains how our service assisted him to gain employment with an IT company:

"I just couldn't get any employer to take a second look at me, so I settled into a routine of doing enough to get past the job centre for another week. I wasn't particularly optimistic about the future. The team gave me something new to point at and aim for, particularly in regard to looking at training for admin work or learning to code."

"A lot of my role involves auditing spreadsheets. I love it. Before joining the service, I think I'd just given up but after accessing this support I was able to actually start thinking something might work out again. I think for a lot of people like me that have slipped through the cracks a little, just the opportunity to get a foot in the door anywhere can be enough."

Connecting with others and gaining confidence through social clubs

We strive to reduce loneliness and isolation and improve the wellbeing of neurodivergent young adults, we continually develop our adult social clubs offering, including chill and chat clubs, clubs out in the community and Dungeons & Dragons.

In 2022/23 we have been able to provide support to 60 adults with weekly support places and have accompanied adults on trips to Whitby and York, which have been enjoyed by 19 adult club members.

The voice of autistic and neurodivergent adults is key to the development of this offer and the activities selected.

60

adults access weekly support places in social clubs

19

club members have enjoyed 2 adult excursions

ADULT SERVICES

A parent provided the following feedback for a young adult who accesses social clubs:

"I just wanted to say thank you for last night. My son really enjoyed himself and took some lovely pictures. In particular, I wanted to say thank you for supporting him to take a taxi home, a first for him. His Dad is working away, and I am feeling poorly so not only was it a big step for him but very helpful for me."

"Thank you very much for all the support you have given him. It has boosted his confidence in many areas. It has helped him to develop relationships outside of college and to understand better how social outings work. Sadly, without support and prompting he doesn't meet up with anyone or go anywhere unless the other person arranges it all. Reconnect has helped him to see how he can arrange a social meet-up by planning an activity with purpose and time limits. It also helps to reduce his anxiety about uncertainty."



RETAIL AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

This year, Daisy Chain's retail and social enterprise operations took ambitious leaps forward in respect of sustainability and future proofing the charities financial position through the acquisition of a second retail store and the development of the charities own clothing brand.

Changing the face of charity retail - Daisy Chain Megastore

Back in 2021, the Board of Trustees approved the concept development of a second store. However, this was put on hold for the past two years due to the uncertainty of COVID-19. During the pandemic we built and launched an online store as a virtual store. In 2022, we returned to the planning and acquisition of second physical store.

The aim of the 2022/23 financial year was to strengthen the charity's financial position by securing a second retail store in a new locality. This would create new opportunities, diversify income streams further and increase the charity's income potential.

The first part of the financial year was spent scouring the region for a suitable unit and negotiating with landlords. In October 2022 we secured a 24,000sq ft unit on Team Valley Retail Park, Gateshead - the UK's 9th busiest retail park.

The latter part of the year was spent finalising terms of the lease and planning a full opening strategy inclusive of recruitment strategy, fit out, marketing and media and much more. After months of planning and preparation the Megastore which will open in April 2023.

Behind the decision-making: today's retail landscape

The high street has been suffering for many years with multiple units vacant and retailers unable to afford high rent and rates. This has caused increased investment in retail parks across the country. There is a definite shift of big-name retailers moving to retail parks on long term leases. In addition to this, demand for industrial space for warehousing is at all time high with many businesses from a variety of sectors needing warehouses. This is driving up the cost of warehouse space with warehousing costs almost matching that of retail space.



1,000

bags of donated goods
received per week

22K

items diverted from
landfill

RETAIL AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Therefore, our focus on finding a new site for a second store saw a shift in our previous Superstore model of an industrial unit and focused on securing a busy retail park with high customer footfall to safeguard our position given the volatility of the retail sector.

Neuthread

The fashion industry is responsible for 10% of annual global carbon emissions with less than 1% of material used to produce clothing recycled into new clothing. Daisy Chain's retail arm provides a solution for waste material by extending the life of clothing. However with a third of textile donations, particularly fast fashion, not being fit for sale we felt empowered to do something about this.

2022 saw the birth of the charities own high fashion clothing brand- Neuthread. This two year pilot, funded by The National Lottery Community Fund Climate Action Fund, sees us take donated waste fabric destined for landfill and transform it into desirable clothing apparel. We aim to appeal to the eco-conscious consumers by offering sustainable clothing without compromising on fashion.

The brand has progressed significantly in the following ways:

- Creation of an industrial standard workshop.
- Developed active project partners including Teesside University, Middlesbrough College and HMP Kirkclevington.
- Design, curation and production of our first clothing range for Autumn/Winter 22 and Spring/Summer 23.
- Development of 'Neuthread' and subsequent branding to embody the charities cause of autism and neurodiversity which threads through everything we do. In addition to this, we are interpreting 'threads' as discarded fabrics used for the purpose of autism.
- Represented Daisy Chain at a Circular Economy event where we delivered a presentation on waste and consumption and took part in a panel discussion.
- Welcomed Lucy London, an International Fashion Specialist, as a brand ambassador.



RETAIL AND SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

North East Social Enterprise of the Year

We were delighted to be recognised for this at the prestigious North East Charity Awards where we were awarded Outstanding Social Enterprise of the Year.

Our Superstore on Portrack Lane, Stockton inclusive of the coffee shop and eCommerce departments, continues to trade well despite the socioeconomic environment, including the War on Ukraine and cost of living crisis.

Given these challenges and in the face of adversity, the Superstore team of staff and volunteers work tirelessly to continue to provide an affordable shopping solution to local people whilst generating vital income for front-line autism services.

What's to come?

The Megastore, Gateshead will embark on it's journey as the UK's biggest charity store of its kind and we will focus on distribution and logistics to maximise cross store profit potential. Finally, Neuthread will make its way online and will also be sold in store at our Megastore.

We also look forward to the business development side of our retail operations, including:

- Presence at community events such as Daisy Chain Annual Open Day.
- Investment in technology to modernise and future proof Daisy Chain, including upgrading till systems.
- Recognising that families with neurodivergent children are struggling amidst the cost of living crisis, we have partnered with Whirlpool to offer a new White Goods Scheme from our Megastore in Gateshead. We look forward to building relationships with local organisations and the Council in order for this scheme to have as far reaching impact as possible.



VOLUNTEERING

We're lucky to have over 70 volunteers who work across Daisy Chain, from the gardens and farm, to our Superstores, e-commerce and remote working family support volunteers. Volunteers are continually understanding and adaptable to the changing needs of the organisation, and the value they bring is exceptional. We're pleased to have retained long-standing community volunteers, and welcomed new ones to the team.

We're also grateful to the corporate organisations, both locally and nationally, who come back to Daisy Chain time and time again, using their volunteering days to make a positive impact on our services and sites, and meeting their own Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) targets in the process.



1,156

hours of time donated by
corporate volunteers

"We got to spend a couple of hours this afternoon supporting Daisy Chain using some of our volunteering hours to make a difference at their farm for beneficiaries. This is an amazing organisation making a huge difference and allowed us to have a full of energy, fun and focus as a team." - Newcastle Building Society

7,568

hours donated to our retail
and social enterprise

"What a fantastic day we have had helping out at Daisy Chain. We really enjoyed our day in the farm and gardens, clearing overgrown shrubs and trees to support with ongoing site improvement work." - Handelsbanken

3,828

donated to our day centre
including barn, care, admin
and office support and
wellbeing

FUNDRAISING & EVENTS



As we reflect upon 2022/23 year, we celebrate the success of this year's fundraising and events. In many ways, this year has been a testament to our resilience and the unwavering support of our community, corporate partners, and individuals, without whom we could not do the amazing work we do.

The year has presented its own set of challenges, with the cost of living crisis impacting our community and reducing the financial donations received. However, it also marked the start of a redesign for our fundraising and events offer.

A night in Vegas!

Our flagship event, the Winter Ball, adopted a Viva Las Vegas theme this year and was held at Hardwick Hall in Sedgefield. The event was a resounding success. It was a night filled with enchantment and entertainment and thanks to the unwavering support of our attendees and sponsors, we raised over £30,000.

A year of triumphs

In addition to our biggest event we also saw a day full of friendly competition at our Annual Boat Race, welcomed over 5,000 local people to our Open Day (renamed Daisy Fest) and raised over £25,000 at The Lobster Ball, an event organised by Ramside Estates with Daisy Chain as the nominated charity.

The year also saw the incredible #TeamDaisyChain take on the Great North Run once again with participants training and fundraising tirelessly to challenge themselves and raise money for Daisy Chain in the process.

What's to come?

In 2023/24, we look forward to building upon our successes and continuing to make a positive impact in the lives of the individuals and families we support. We are confident that we can achieve even greater milestones in the coming year, with lots of fundraising and events to look forward to as we celebrate our 20th year!



POLICY & CAMPAIGN WORK

Our policy and campaign work has continued to go from strength to strength this year. Some of the highlights from this year were:

Exposing gender inequality

In 2023 we still live in an unequal society where autistic and neurodivergent women are less likely to be correctly diagnosed and more likely to be misdiagnosed, compared to men (Gesi et al., 2021).

During International Women's Week 2023, Daisy Chain's conference 'Exposing Gender Inequality - Women, Autism, and Neurodivergence' brought together Tees Valley senior leaders to shine a light on this issue, raise awareness, and formulate a plan for change. We heard from a range of lived-experience speakers who shared their expertise in the areas of business, social policy, mental health, late diagnosis, and misdiagnosis as well as an esteemed academic who presented key research and data, Professor Francesca Happé.

Of the 100 guests who attended, almost 90% were either neurodivergent themselves or know someone who is. Consultation took place during the event, with attendees working together in small groups to identify the societal changes they feel are needed in the areas of education, employment, diagnosis, and mental health.

Key recommendations from the event and from our conclusion activity are summarised below.

- We need to listen to the voices of lived-experience autistic women and girls.
- The diagnostic criteria need to be changed/adapted to make it representative of autistic women and girls.
- Training is essential across all health and education professionals and within businesses, to upskill staff and dispel outdated myths and stereotypes.

To watch an impactful video that was shown at the conference, scan the QR code.



We look forward to continuing to develop this work going into the next financial year.



POLICY & CAMPAIGN WORK

In the news

Daisy Chain has continued to achieve press coverage for our work and fundraising, from print and online features in print publications like The Northern Echo and The Gazette, to appearing on local and national news.

Removing barriers in performing arts

Daisy Chain's performing arts continues to provide a platform for autistic talent. The organisation is set to bring the Autism's Got Talent Roadshow to the North East in May 2023.

Fresh as a daisy

In March, we revealed our new branding which sets a solid foundation for future growth. Daisy Chain has grown substantially in the last 20 years, and we wanted to make sure that the brand was representative of all of the support we provide, whilst simultaneously preserving our founding ethos. The new brand received a wealth of positive feedback from staff, the community and professionals.

We have some significant projects planned for 2023/24 and we look forward to working on them.



STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

Trustees

Lesley Clode
Duane Hanson
Andrew David Kindness
Sean Peter Philip Lawless
Jessica Faye Lenham
David Matthew Norris
Martin John Pout (appointed 14.6.2022)
Nathan Dominic Kirby Sherratt (appointed 14.6.2022)
Nicholas Stuart Waites
Catherine Jane Wilburn

Ian Kinnery (retired 7.9.2022)
Alison Tasker (retired 14.3.2023)

Chief Executive Officer

Neeraj Sharma

Independent auditors

Waltons Business Advisers Limited
Maritime House
Harbour Walk
The Marina
Hartlepool
TS24 0UX

Investment advice

Redmayne Bentley LLP
3 Wellington Place
Leeds
LS1 4AP

Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc
49 High Street
Stockton-on-Tees
TS18 1AH

Santander
43-44 High Street
Stockton-on-Tees
TS18 1SD

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

All trustees are directors of the company and directorship ceases upon termination of trusteeship. We give special thanks to two of our long-standing trustees, Ian Kinnery and Alison Tasker, who retired from the board this year. Duane Hanson (Daisy Chain co-founder) was re-appointed the role of Chair of Trustees at the AGM in October 2022.

The total number of trustees is currently ten and recruitment of trustees is in line with skills gaps identified from our annual board appraisal and analysis. Trustees meet formally for full Board meetings at least quarterly, in addition to a monthly Finance Sub-Committee and a quarterly Operations Committee. The charity is administered by the trustees who delegate its day-to-day operations to the CEO.

Trustees ensure that Safeguarding is a governance priority and Daisy Chain's policies for both children and adult safeguarding are reviewed annually. Data Protection registration for our Data Controller is renewed with ICO annually. We have had no serious incidents to report to the Charity Commission this year. Key agenda items include Governance, Risk Review, Operational Updates, Finance. Our annual Health and Safety Audit and Financial Audit for many of our processes provided a clean bill of health, which enables Daisy Chain to function efficiently and further enhance our governance and business readiness for the future.

Remuneration for the CEO is set and determined by the Daisy Chain trustee board with regard to the performance and appraisal system. Remuneration of Daisy Chain staff is set by Daisy Chain finance committee in accordance with internal pay scales.

Delegation and Committees

The Board maintains a written schedule of matters reserved for the trustee board and committees which clearly defines specific areas for delegation. Committees report to the Board on a regular basis.

Finance Committee

Primary responsible for all aspects of the charity's financial strategy, performance and risk management ensuring its resources are being properly and appropriately applied to its key objectives. The committee has a responsibility for safeguarding the charity's assets and ensuring sufficient reserves to fund our delivery.

Operations Committee

Primarily responsible for overseeing all matters concerned with the effective governance of Daisy Chain, supporting the CEO in building and sustaining an effective leadership team, and guiding and modelling the effectiveness of key human resources, risk management and policy for the organisation.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Report of the trustees for the period ending 31st March 2023

The trustees/directors are pleased to present their annual report together with the financial statements of the Charity for the period ended 31st March 2023, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and 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 1st January 2019).

Financial Commentary

Review of Accounting Period

During this financial year, we have built on our success in growing the organisation's work and continue to be successful in attracting new funding and contracts. Income had increased once again, although expenditure also increased as a result of this.

Review of Financial Position

During this financial period, we have reported a deficit of £196,000. The balance sheet shows funds of just over £1.8m.

Overall, the income for the year was £2.5m; £136,000 higher than in the previous year. The growth was predominantly attributed to growth in restricted funds where more specific projects and contracts were obtained.

The total expenditure reported in the financial statements has also increased significantly because of the expansion of activities – both in providing services to beneficiaries and in enterprise. Expenditure has risen by £322,000.

Additional grant funding received during the year helped to diversify income and has led to a decrease in restricted funds of £135,000. Details of the funds receivable, and what they relate to, can be seen in the statement of funds note in the accounts.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Overall, we saw an unrestricted funds deficit of £61,000 and unrestricted reserves fell to £1.7m as a result. We reduced our cash balances which fell to £473,000, still allowing the charity to remain in a strong position to meet its requirements for working capital. Free reserves of £375,000 were available meaning reserves were in line with that required by our reserves policy.

Fixed asset additions also increased the non-liquid value of the reserves by £112,000.

Future Period

Looking ahead to 2023/24, the trustees have approved a budget that allows for developing and enhancing our services and staff. The economic conditions have led to an extremely challenging financial environment. However, successful bids and additional grant income has mitigated income shortfalls. The forecast out turn for the year estimates that a break-even position may be achieved.

Reserves

The trustees review the reserves policy annually and consider the charity should hold free reserves of approximately three months' of essential services staff costs £220,000 (2021-22 - £220,000). At 31st March 2023, the charity had restricted reserves of £154,000 (2021-22 - £289,000).

There are also funds of £15,000 designated at year end to the following projects:

- £15,000 Improvements to site

Investments

The trustees of Daisy Chain collectively agreed an investment portfolio to provide long term income returns. Investments are reviewed by the Finance Committee (which met monthly) and trustees are advised of any recommended changes at full meetings of the Trustee Board. The balance sheet value of the investment has reduced since last reported. The financial statement provides further details.

Risk Management

The trustees conduct periodic reviews of the major risks to which the charity is exposed, with a view to establishing systems and procedures aimed at mitigating those risks. Significant external risks to funding have led to the development of a strategic plan which allows for the diversification of fundraising and other activities of the charity. Internal risks are minimised by authorisation procedures for projects and transactions, to ensure consistently high-quality service delivery.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Significant risks are divided into a number of areas including:

- Service Provision: protection and monitoring of children and vulnerable adults.
- Financial Risk: income generation, business planning, budgeting and insurances.
- Personnel: staff, volunteers and placements.
- Property: security and management of premises and risk of fire.
- IT and Communications: security and privacy of data.

The trustees are aware of the importance of developing a risk awareness culture within the charity and continue to work towards embedding this within the day to day working methods and thinking of Daisy Chain's staff and volunteers.

Approval

The Trustees' Report and Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 17/12/2023

On behalf of the Board



David Norris
Chair of Finance Committee

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

Statement of disclosure to auditors

The charity trustees (who are also directors of Daisy Chain Project Teesside for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company and the group's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable group and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are trustees at the time when this trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- So far as that trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable group's auditors are unaware.
- The trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable group's auditors are aware of that information.

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.



Duane Hanson
Chair of Trustees

Date: 17/10/23

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE

UNQUALIFIED OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of Daisy Chain Project Teesside (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(CONTINUED)

OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters where the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESIDE
(CONTINUED)

AUDITORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Act and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the Charity and the area in which it operates and considered the risk of acts by the Charity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud. We designed audit procedures to respond to the risk, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

We identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas: existence and timing of recognition of income and management override of controls (especially in the posting of journals). We discussed these risks with management and designed audit procedures as follows:

- to test the timing and existence of revenue
- to review journals posted to key control accounts or posted around the year end, to look for potential "window dressing" as well as looking at a sample throughout the year.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditors' report.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(CONTINUED)

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charitable company's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Waltons Business Advisers Limited

Waltons Business Advisers Limited

Maritime House
Harbour Walk
The Marina
Hartlepool
TS24 0UX

23 October 2023

Waltons Business Advisers Limited are eligible to act as auditors in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	3	575,217	217,181	792,398	1,131,061
Charitable activities	4	401,897	534,575	936,472	471,569
Other trading activities	5	799,658	-	799,658	793,300
Investments	6	8,725	-	8,725	4,982
TOTAL INCOME		1,785,497	751,756	2,537,253	2,400,912
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	7	821,959	72,243	894,202	893,433
Charitable activities	8	1,014,279	814,603	1,828,882	1,507,680
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		1,836,238	886,846	2,723,084	2,401,113
NET EXPENDITURE BEFORE NET (LOSSES)/GAINS ON INVESTMENTS					
		(50,741)	(135,090)	(185,831)	(201)
Net (losses)/gains on investments		(10,343)	-	(10,343)	1,640
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(61,084)	(135,090)	(196,174)	1,439
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		1,715,259	289,439	2,004,698	2,003,259
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		1,654,175	154,349	1,808,524	2,004,698

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 04763989

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	14	1,278,742	1,296,281
Investments	15	211,216	228,743
		<u>1,489,958</u>	<u>1,525,024</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks	16	2,656	-
Debtors	17	122,708	136,734
Cash at bank and in hand		472,566	552,233
		<u>597,930</u>	<u>688,967</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(279,364)	(209,293)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>318,566</u>	<u>479,674</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u><u>1,808,524</u></u>	<u><u>2,004,698</u></u>
CHARITY FUNDS			
Restricted funds	19	154,349	289,439
Unrestricted funds	19	1,654,175	1,715,259
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>1,808,524</u></u>	<u><u>2,004,698</u></u>

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 04763989

BALANCE SHEET (CONTINUED)
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

The entity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

The members have not required the entity to obtain an audit for the period in question in accordance with section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

However, an audit is required in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011.

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

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

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:



David Matthew Norris
Chair of Finance Committee
Date: 17/10/2023

The notes on pages 45 to 67 form part of these financial statements.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net cash used in operating activities	21	30,448	69,239
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Dividends and interest		8,725	4,982
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(112,142)	(146,309)
Proceeds from sale of investments		80,799	29,221
Purchase of investments		(79,398)	(31,628)
Investment management fees		(970)	(1,395)
NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES		(102,986)	(145,129)
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE PERIOD		(72,538)	(75,890)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		570,468	646,358
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	22	497,930	570,468

The notes on pages 45 to 67 form part of these financial statements

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England. The members of the company are the trustees named on page 1. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Charity.

The address of the Charity is:

Calf Fallow Farm
Calf Fallow Lane
Norton
Stockton - on - Tees
TS20 1PF

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Daisy Chain Project Teesside meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Going concern

The trustees, having made due and careful enquiry and preparing forecasts, are of the opinion that the Charity has adequate working capital to execute its operations over the next 12 months. The trustees, therefore, have made an informed judgement at the time of approving the financial statements, that there is reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. As a result the trustees have continued to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Legacies are accounted for as incoming resources either upon receipt or where the receipt of the legacy is probable in that confirmation has been received from the personal representatives of the estate that payment will be made.

Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. The trustees acknowledge that they are assets of the Charity as soon as received but due to the fact that a very large number of small value items are received the time and cost of valuing donated goods at receipt would outweigh any benefit to the users of the financial statements of having them so valued.

Where goods are donated under the gift aid scheme the Charity is not entitled to the income until the goods are sold and the donor has confirmed that they are gifting the proceeds. In this case the income is included as a donation rather than as a sale.

Donated facilities are included at the value to the Charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the Charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

2.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.5 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation (continued)

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- 2% straight line
Improvements to long-term leasehold property	- straight line over the remaining term of the lease
Plant and machinery	- 25% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	- 20% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	- 25% reducing balance
Computer equipment	- 33.33% straight line

2.6 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the balance sheet date. The net gains and losses on revaluations and disposals are included in the consolidated statement of financial activities.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

2.7 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

2.8 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2.9 Pensions

The Charity contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the period.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.10 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds 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 notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Donations	105,217	-	105,217	326,222
Legacies	70,000	-	70,000	2,500
Grants	400,000	217,181	617,181	797,854
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	-	-	-	4,485
	575,217	217,181	792,398	<i>1,131,061</i>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<i>633,157</i>	<i>497,904</i>	<i>1,131,061</i>	

Included in grants above is £400,000 (2022: £500,000) from People's Postcode Lottery. In the prior year 50% (£250,000) was treated as restricted and 50% (£250,000) as unrestricted.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Children's services	-	-	-	1,345
Family support	100,430	534,575	635,005	235,334
Educational placements	236,327	-	236,327	195,560
Training services	46,886	-	46,886	24,940
Adult services	18,254	-	18,254	14,390
	<u>401,897</u>	<u>534,575</u>	<u>936,472</u>	
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>283,571</u>	<u>187,998</u>	<u>471,569</u>	

5. FUNDRAISING INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Retail	660,560	660,560	684,565
Merchandise sales	3,810	3,810	280
Fundraising events	126,171	126,171	102,401
Other income	9,117	9,117	6,054
	<u>799,658</u>	<u>799,658</u>	<u>793,300</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>793,300</u>	<u>793,300</u>	

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

6. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Deposit account interest	2,027	2,027	189
Investment income	6,698	6,698	4,793
	<u>8,725</u>	<u>8,725</u>	<u>4,982</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>4,982</u>	<u>4,982</u>	

7. COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Fundraising costs of grants and donations	35,653	12,600	48,253	5,686
Cost of fundraising events	50,701	-	50,701	27,689
Superstore costs	212,525	10,000	222,525	246,138
Wages and salaries	498,396	49,643	548,039	602,335
Depreciation	10,802	-	10,802	10,190
Investment management fees	970	-	970	1,395
Impairment of investment	12,912	-	12,912	-
Total 2023	<u>821,959</u>	<u>72,243</u>	<u>894,202</u>	<u>893,433</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>847,070</u>	<u>46,363</u>	<u>893,433</u>	

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Children's services	243,336	353,444	596,780	416,677
Family support	1,456	453,735	455,191	381,512
Educational placements	346,337	-	346,337	324,167
Training services	118,203	-	118,203	84,817
Adult services	304,947	7,424	312,371	300,507
	<u>1,014,279</u>	<u>814,603</u>	<u>1,828,882</u>	<u>1,507,680</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>888,106</u>	<u>619,574</u>	<u>1,507,680</u>	

9. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly 2023 £	Support costs 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Children's services	375,712	221,068	596,780	416,677
Family support	308,238	146,953	455,191	381,512
Educational placements	205,035	141,302	346,337	324,167
Training services	89,943	28,260	118,203	84,817
Adult services	216,288	96,083	312,371	300,507
	<u>1,195,216</u>	<u>633,666</u>	<u>1,828,882</u>	<u>1,507,680</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>1,026,098</u>	<u>481,582</u>	<u>1,507,680</u>	

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Children's Services 2023 £	Family Support 2023 £	Educational placements 2023 £	Training and other services 2023 £	Adult services 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Wages and salaries	71,900	69,237	66,575	13,315	45,271	266,298	131,780
Depreciation	32,097	30,909	29,720	5,944	20,209	118,879	101,018
Premises	26,385	25,408	24,431	4,886	16,613	97,723	96,816
Administration	14,935	14,382	13,829	2,766	9,403	55,315	55,952
Sundries	90	87	84	17	55	333	(596)
Subscriptions	2,786	2,683	2,580	516	1,755	10,320	7,088
Resources	758	730	702	140	478	2,808	1,347
Staff costs	3,652	3,517	3,381	676	2,299	13,525	20,082
Governance costs	18,486	17,801	17,116	3,423	11,639	68,465	68,095
Total 2023	171,089	164,754	158,418	31,683	107,722	633,666	481,582
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>130,024</i>	<i>125,212</i>	<i>120,397</i>	<i>24,079</i>	<i>81,870</i>	<i>481,582</i>	

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS

	Children's Services 2023 £	Family Support 2023 £	Educational Placements 2023 £	Training and other services 2023 £	Adult Services 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Wages and salaries	324,693	283,099	192,359	72,989	186,384	1,059,524	896,902
Staff costs	2,968	2,627	1,072	244	260	7,171	10,414
Staff travel	607	9,398	20	1,567	58	11,650	3,884
Volunteer costs	911	-	702	-	9	1,622	1,859
Premises	4,293	38	3,556	120	32	8,039	7,361
Administration	4,671	451	435	14,468	5,624	25,649	16,879
Advertising	1,433	184	312	390	136	2,455	724
Resources	36,136	12,441	6,579	165	23,785	79,106	88,075
Total 2023	375,712	308,238	205,035	89,943	216,288	1,195,216	1,026,098
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>286,653</i>	<i>256,300</i>	<i>203,770</i>	<i>60,738</i>	<i>218,637</i>	<i>1,026,098</i>	

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

10. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Auditors' remuneration	8,040	8,040	6,822
Auditors' non audit costs	1,464	1,464	1,488
Consultancy, legal & professional fees	-	-	960
Wages and salaries	58,961	58,961	58,825
	68,465	68,465	68,095
<i>Total 2022</i>	<i>68,095</i>	<i>68,095</i>	

11. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

The auditors' remuneration amounts to an audit fee of £6,700 (2022 - £5,685), and other services of £1,220 (2022 - £1,240) (all excluding VAT).

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

12. STAFF COSTS

	2023	<i>2022</i>
	£	<i>£</i>
Wages and salaries	1,766,743	<i>1,551,380</i>
Social security costs	132,193	<i>108,886</i>
Contribution to defined contribution pension scheme	33,886	<i>29,576</i>
	1,932,822	<i>1,689,842</i>
	1,932,822	<i>1,689,842</i>

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the period was as follows:

	2023	<i>2022</i>
	No.	<i>No.</i>
Management and administration	18	<i>12</i>
Fundraising	2	<i>4</i>
Charitable activities - service delivery	63	<i>57</i>
Retail	30	<i>30</i>
	113	<i>103</i>
	113	<i>103</i>

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2023	<i>2022</i>
	No.	<i>No.</i>
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	1	<i>1</i>

The total employment benefits, including employer pension contributions, of key management personnel were £249,928 (2022: £251,835).

The Charity benefits from the involvement and support of its many volunteers, further details of which are provided in the Trustees Report. In accordance with accounting standards, the economic contribution of volunteers is not measured in the financial statements.

13. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

During the period, no trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2022 - £NIL).

During the period ended 31 March 2023, no trustee expenses have been incurred (2022 - £NIL).

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Improvements to long-term leasehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Motor vehicles £	Fixtures, fittings and computer equipment £	Total £
Cost						
At 1 April 2022	1,335,085	119,389	83,859	31,330	526,060	2,095,723
Additions	2,010	74,507	14,295	-	21,330	112,142
At 31 March 2023	<u>1,337,095</u>	<u>193,896</u>	<u>98,154</u>	<u>31,330</u>	<u>547,390</u>	<u>2,207,865</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 April 2022	384,196	48,021	61,932	6,266	299,027	799,442
Charge for the period	25,705	10,802	5,483	6,266	81,425	129,681
At 31 March 2023	<u>409,901</u>	<u>58,823</u>	<u>67,415</u>	<u>12,532</u>	<u>380,452</u>	<u>929,123</u>
Net book value						
At 31 March 2023	<u><u>927,194</u></u>	<u><u>135,073</u></u>	<u><u>30,739</u></u>	<u><u>18,798</u></u>	<u><u>166,938</u></u>	<u><u>1,278,742</u></u>
At 31 March 2022	<u><u>950,889</u></u>	<u><u>71,368</u></u>	<u><u>21,927</u></u>	<u><u>25,064</u></u>	<u><u>227,033</u></u>	<u><u>1,296,281</u></u>

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

15. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Investments in subsidiary companies £	Listed investments £	Unlisted investments £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 April 2022	1	210,507	18,235	228,743
Additions	-	79,398	80,799	160,197
Disposals	-	(80,799)	(79,398)	(160,197)
Revaluations	-	(23,255)	-	(23,255)
Investment manager fees	-	-	(970)	(970)
Dividends receivable	-	-	6,698	6,698
At 31 March 2022	1	185,851	25,364	211,216

Investments at market value

	2023 £	2022 £
Equities	185,851	210,507
Cash within investment portfolio	25,364	18,235
Investment in trading subsidiary	1	1
	211,216	228,743

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

15. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARIES

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the Charity:

Name	Company number	Registered office or principal place of business	Class of shares
Daisy Chain Trading (Teesside) Limited-Dormant	05209370	Calf Fallow Farm, Calf Fallow Lane, Norton, Stockton On Tees, TS20 1PF	Ordinary Holding 100%

16. STOCKS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Goods for resale	2,656	-

17. DEBTORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade debtors	83,503	68,034
Other debtors	3,493	5,319
Prepayments and accrued income	35,712	63,381
	122,708	136,734

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2023	2022
	£	£
Trade creditors	57,153	46,156
Taxation and social security	30,808	26,212
Other creditors	7,859	6,555
Accruals and deferred income	183,544	130,370
	<u>279,364</u>	<u>209,293</u>
	<u>279,364</u>	<u>209,293</u>
	2023	2022
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 April 2022	37,915	12,802
Resources deferred during the period	102,839	37,915
Amounts released from previous periods	(37,915)	(12,802)
Deferred income at 31 March 2023	<u>102,839</u>	<u>37,915</u>
	<u>102,839</u>	<u>37,915</u>

Deferred income comprises money received in advance for sessions/clubs and for training courses which will take place in the next financial year.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESIDE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT PERIOD

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds	245,000	-	-	(110,000)	-	135,000
General funds	1,470,259	1,785,497	(1,836,238)	110,000	(10,343)	1,519,175
Total unrestricted funds	1,715,259	1,785,497	(1,836,238)	-	(10,343)	1,654,175
Restricted funds						
Children In Need - Holiday Club	6,281	31,724	(38,005)	-	-	-
People's Postcode Lottery - General	203,344	-	(203,344)	-	-	-
People's Postcode Lottery Innovation Trust	7,175	-	(7,175)	-	-	-
Santander Foundation	-	65,054	(31,774)	-	-	33,280
Children In Need - First Steps Performing Arts	16,912	-	(16,912)	-	-	-
Masonic Charitable Foundation	19,609	-	(19,609)	-	-	-

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT PERIOD (continued)

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
North East Cumbria ICB - Main Contract	-	534,575	(440,866)	-	-	93,709
North East Cumbria ICB - Variations	36,118	10,000	(36,118)	-	-	10,000
Climate Action Fund	-	72,243	(72,243)	-	-	-
Other grants	-	38,160	(20,800)	-	-	17,360
Total restricted funds	289,439	751,756	(886,846)	-	-	154,349
Total of funds	2,004,698	2,537,253	(2,723,084)	-	(10,343)	1,808,524

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESIDE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR PERIOD

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2021</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2022</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds						
Designated funds	30,000	-	(15,000)	230,000	-	245,000
General funds	1,615,726	1,715,010	(1,720,176)	(141,941)	1,640	1,470,259
Total unrestricted funds	1,645,726	1,715,010	(1,735,176)	88,059	1,640	1,715,259
Restricted funds						
CCG Hartlepool	-	55,333	(55,333)	-	-	-
Cummins	33,363	-	(33,363)	-	-	-
The Mercers Company	6,078	-	(6,078)	-	-	-
Children In Need - Holiday Club	4,134	31,224	(29,077)	-	-	6,281
People's Postcode Lottery	111,174	250,000	(157,830)	-	-	203,344
Coronavirus Mental Health Response Fund	10,420	-	(10,420)	-	-	-
Nationwide	34,798	-	(34,798)	-	-	-
People's Postcode Lottery Innovation Trust	99,030	-	(4,556)	(87,299)	-	7,175

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESIDE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR PERIOD (CONTINUED)

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2021</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2022</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Children In Need - First Steps						
Performing Arts	14,971	53,231	(51,290)	-	-	16,912
County Durham Community Foundation	6,466	-	(6,466)	-	-	-
Masonic Charitable Foundation	22,099	28,100	(30,590)	-	-	19,609
Newcastle Building Society	6,000	-	(6,000)	-	-	-
Stockton Borough Council	-	6,000	(6,000)	-	-	-
Tees Family Foundation	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-	-
Tees Valley CCG	-	64,000	(66,562)	2,562	-	-
Tees Valley CCG	-	123,998	(123,998)	-	-	-
CCG NHS Tees	-	59,016	(22,898)	-	-	36,118
Climate Action Fund	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-	-
Small grants	9,000	4,000	(9,678)	(3,322)	-	-
Total restricted funds	<u>357,533</u>	<u>685,902</u>	<u>(665,937)</u>	<u>(88,059)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>289,439</u>
Total of funds	<u>2,003,259</u>	<u>2,400,912</u>	<u>(2,401,113)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,640</u>	<u>2,004,698</u>

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Unrestricted funds

These are funds which are freely available for the use of the Charity.

Designated funds

In the prior year the trustees set aside £245,000 of the unrestricted funds. During the year, a transfer of £110,000 was made back to the general funds. This leaves £135,000 in designated funds.

The investment funds include £85,000 held with Vertem Asset Management. This is currently inaccessible as the company has been ordered to cease trading. The Trustees are therefore unsure when this will be accessible and have allowed £85,000 in designated funds to ease any cashflow difficulties this may present.

A further £50,000 has been put into designated funds in order to cover additional costs associated with the Megastore as this comes to full trading capacity.

Restricted funds

Children in Need - Holiday Club

To provide a holiday club and trips and outings for children and young people with autism. This has now all been spent.

People's Postcode Lottery- General

This was used for the provision of subsidised Children's Services, the Employability programme (including housing and benefits) and Wellbeing Support. This is now paid quarterly in advance.

People's Postcode Lottery - Innovation Trust

Funding received towards the development of an "Autism Pod Village". This has now all been spent.

Children in Need - First Steps Performing Arts

To deliver performing arts activities for Autistic children, supporting them to grow in confidence, develop communication skills, develop language and use expression. This has now all been spent.

Masonic Charitable Foundation

Funding for a "Complex Case Support Service". The second year of funding ran to November 2022 and this has now all been spent.

North East North Cumbria Integrated Care Board – Main Contract

Funding for Family Support Service for Children and Young People with a Neurodevelopmental Need for and on behalf of NHS Tees Valley CCG, Darlington Borough Council, Hartlepool Borough Council, Middlesbrough Council, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.

North East North Cumbria Integrated Care Board - Variations

Funding for a variety of activities, including trips for families, a sleep project and training for the staff on the Keyworker project.

Climate Action Fund

Funding received from The National Lottery Community Fund to recycle and upcycle clothing donated that was not fit for resale in its current state. The fund provided a lead manufacturer and garment upcyclers as well as the necessary equipment.

Santander Foundation

£65,054 from the Digital Empowerment Fund to address barriers and consequences of financial, digital and social exclusion.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Other grants

A number of other grants have been received in the year for the following purposes. Where a balance has been carried forward it has been noted:

- Openworks Foundation: £12,360 all of which is carried forward to provide trips for beneficiaries in 2023/24.
- Police Crime Commissioning: £7,424 from the Preventing Violence Fund. All spent.
- CLA Charitable Trust: £5,000 all of which is carried forward into 2023/24.
- Durham County Council: £5,000 to fund family trips. All spent.
- Tees Valley Community: £2,500 to support Autism's Got Talent All spent.
- North Star: £2,500 for Open Day. All spent.
- Poverty Hurts: £2,000 to provide food hampers to families of beneficiaries at Christmas time. All spent.
- Other small grants: £1,376. Miscellaneous minor grants. All spent.

20. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,278,742	-	1,278,742
Fixed asset investments	211,216	-	211,216
Current assets	443,581	154,349	597,930
Creditors due within one year	(279,364)	-	(279,364)
Total	1,654,175	154,349	1,808,524

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2022 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2022 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	1,296,281	-	1,296,281
Fixed asset investments	228,743	-	228,743
Current assets	399,528	289,439	688,967
Creditors due within one year	(209,293)	-	(209,293)
Total	1,715,259	289,439	2,004,698

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESIDE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

21. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income/expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	<u>(196,174)</u>	<u>1,439</u>
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	129,681	111,208
(Gains)/losses on investments	23,255	(1,640)
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	(8,725)	(4,982)
Loss on the sale of fixed assets	-	12,564
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	(2,656)	1,054
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	14,026	(70,871)
Increase in creditors	70,071	19,072
Investment management fees	970	1,395
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u><u>30,448</u></u>	<u><u>69,239</u></u>

22. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash in hand	472,566	552,233
Cash within investment portfolio	25,364	18,235
Total cash and cash equivalents	<u><u>497,930</u></u>	<u><u>570,468</u></u>

23. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 1 April 2022 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	552,233	(79,667)	472,566
	<u>552,233</u>	<u>(79,667)</u>	<u>472,566</u>

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

24. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The Charity contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity to the fund and amounted to £33,886 (2022: £29,576). Contributions totalling £7,859 (2022: £6,555) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors. This creditor figure includes both employee and employer contributions.

25. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31 March 2023 the Charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	343,142	<i>89,835</i>
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	813,595	<i>354,000</i>
Later than 5 years	29,500	<i>29,500</i>
	1,186,237	<i>473,335</i>

26. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year under review the company had no related party transactions.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE

England & Wales - Charity number 1109792

Accounts



Annual Report 2021 - 2022

1st April 2021 - 31st March 2022



Welcome to Daisy Chain

The trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the charity qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

Our shared vision is for every person we support to live a life they enjoy and is meaningful to them at every stage.

AIMS

- Supporting individuals and families through the provision of respite care.
- Through the advancement of public education through the dissemination of information, we strive to promote liberty and independence in a safe, supportive and nurturing environment.

IMPACT

3,000+

families supported

3

Overnight residentials,
supporting 31 children

12

prevented hospital admissions
through Keyworking

1,350

referrals in the first 6 months
of the Family Support Service

74%

increase in capacity for our
adult clubs and services

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View from Chair of Trustees

The year ended March 2022 was Daisy Chain's 19th year of operation and has seen continued growth, improvement of services, new contracts with the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group and introduction of many new services such as our Key Worker Project. There has also been improvement in our governance, more about that later.



I would like to thank all of the Trustees for their continued diligence and governance. Two of our long-standing Trustees retired this year. Edwin Pugh and Ian Parker both who have served Daisy Chain diligently over many years, providing support, guidance and governance throughout their time. Both have been previous Chairs of the board. I would like to record my thanks for their service in helping the charity grow in size, strength and impact.

I became Chair of the Trustees in October 2021 after a year as Chair of our Operations Committee. It was an emotional appointment for me as Daisy Chain is of course very personal to me. My late wife Lesley had the vision for Daisy Chain and we founded the charity together in 2003. I aim to respect the position of Chair and take the responsibility of governance along with the other Trustees.

With recent Trustee retirements, we sought to strengthen and diversify our Board. We went through a recruitment process in 2021 and have appointed new board members. I would like to welcome Andrew Kindness, Jessica Lenham, Sean Lawless and Katy Wilburn. Laura Garry was appointed but has since retired from the board.

All Trustees bring a variety of experience, knowledge and have already been a great asset for our Board and the governance of the charity. Our Finance Committee and Operations Committee who are made up of Trustees and our Senior Leadership Team have been invaluable in bringing another level of governance to our decisions. Thanks to them.

It would be remiss not to thank our CEO Neeraj Sharma who has diligently led the charity in continuous improvement. Equally our Senior Leadership Team who have worked imaginatively and passionately to respond to beneficiaries needs. I wish to record thanks from all the Trustees for the excellent work and leadership over the past year.

Thanks also to all of our staff and volunteers within Daisy Chain, they all possess passion, professionalism and a hard work ethic which make us successful in the work we do. Lastly, we are grateful to our funders and supporters who continue to help us grow and create innovative services. Thanks in particular to People's Postcode Lottery, our biggest funder, who recognise the excellent work we do and continue to champion it.

Duane Hanson

Chair of Trustees

CEO Report



In the financial year ending the 31st March 2022, I am pleased to report fortitude, determination and resolve have continued to build. On a daily basis staff and volunteers have ensured that only the very best and high-quality care, support and training are delivered. All of this was achieved against a backdrop of COVID-19-related disruptions and obstacles which have become the 'new normal' in this post-pandemic era.

On a financial footing, we were unable to fully restore our pre-pandemic fundraising calendar and instead opted for a phased return of activity, commencing with our Annual Winter Ball. Other parts of the charity's resources impacted were our charity superstore, forced into temporary lockdown closure and our training income, impacted by the reduction of corporate bookings as businesses also grappled with the impact of COVID-19. On this basis, it was necessary for the charity to pivot with the crucial financial support from our amazing funders, including the continuous commitment of players of People's Postcode Lottery. We are extremely grateful to them all and with this, we were able to meet challenges head-on. In addition, we were able to ensure that new initiatives that we had introduced to combat lockdown restrictions, such as our Virtual Support offering, were mainstreamed as main Daisy Chain services, ensuring autism support was available to families residing in areas where there previously wasn't any available.

In the sphere of training, we also had major progression where a training programme we had developed, 'Understanding Myself' was referenced in the Government's Autism Strategy. Consequently, there has been a rise in enquiries for our training to be delivered nationwide.

I am also pleased to report that during the year we have continued to tackle and raise the profile for equality and diversity for neurodivergent individuals. In late 2021, we held our very first Employability Summit, designed to highlight the barriers faced by autistic job seekers and employees struggling to sustain work due to a lack of adaptations by employers.

At the end of 2021, we were successful in tendering for the Tees Wide Family Support Service, enabling us to deliver face-to-face services across all of the Tees Valley local authorities.

We have continued to explore ways in which we can generate income and create jobs and volunteer opportunities for autistic people. This is evidenced by securing funding to further develop untapped potential and utilise products and waste. In the case of the former, this was to introduce and build another polytunnel and recruit plant and production workers to develop produce and support beneficiaries. In respect of the latter, this was to look at ways we could reformat the mountains of textile donations which are unsuitable for resale.

In regard to governance, we have continued to bring forth improvements, delivering upon our commitment to ensuring that we are more diverse and skilled to deliver upon our strategic objectives. We did this through an open and transparent recruitment and selection programme. During the year we also undertook a full refresh of our three-year strategic plan and also separately revisited and revised our charity mission.

CEO Report

Plans for the future

- Continue to push for an inclusive environment for neurodivergent people through the introduction of our 'walk in my shoes' campaign.
- Continue to refine our employability and skills based support programmes to strengthen our offer to our beneficiaries.
- Enrich our outcome-based recording through the introduction of a new care CRMS system.
- Introduce an adult community connect service designed to support neurodivergent adults to increase confidence and overcome loneliness and isolation through socialisation.
- Continue to provide a platform for autism talent to be recognised through the creative arts sector.
- Establish an outlet for textile waste to be transformed into sale garments, supporting the charity financially, creating jobs and volunteering opportunities whilst ensuring that we better manage our environmental waste from our social enterprise.
- Strengthen our financial position by securing our second retail store.

Our challenges

The impact of COVID-19 will be with us for the foreseeable future. At the time of writing this report we are as a country heading into a recession, this will mean that there will be less available income in respect of our traditional fundraising activities as businesses also feel the financial impact. At the same time, the charity will experience rising costs both in respect of fuel prices and in respect of having the resources to recruit and retain employees in a period of labour shortage. Competition for grant funding will also continue to be intense.

Despite these challenges, I look forward to what the next year holds for Daisy Chain, as we celebrate our 20th year in 2023.

Neeraj Sharma

CEO

Children & Family Services

In the 2021-22 financial year we are proud to say that our services have been accessed by more than 600 children and young people and that we have supported more than 3000 new families from across the Tees Valley and beyond. As always, our priority has been to ensure that our existing services continue to be delivered to the highest standard whilst also developing our services and activities in response to community need.

Clubs & activities

Daisy Chain's clubs and activities remain at the very heart of our service delivery and in the 2021-22 financial year we have been delighted to be able to provide a more stable programme of activities as the country slowly recovered from the chaos caused by the pandemic. As well as re-instating our fortnightly after school clubs we have also introduced a variety of additional services, including a new sports club and family messy play session, many of which are now accessible to children undergoing the diagnostic process or with other neurodivergent needs such as ADHD or FASD.



For our children and young people these services have provided them with an opportunity to reduce their social isolation, connect with their peers and learn new skills in a safe and familiar environment. For parents and carers these services have provided them with some much needed respite and the chance to spend quality time with their other children, safe in the knowledge that their autistic child is being cared for by experienced staff with the skills and expertise to support them. In addition, our weekend and holiday family activities have given the whole family the confidence to venture out into the community again and the opportunity to spend quality time together and connect with others.



Running alongside our core clubs and activities, we have also provided a programme of free activities in the school holidays to our children and young people thanks to BBC Children in Need. This has included weekly sessions on-site for children, who due to their individual needs require 1:1 support, alongside a varied programme of day trips and overnight excursions to destinations including Lightwater Valley, Diggerland, the Pantomime at Christmas and residential facilities such as Peat Rigg activity centre.

Towards the end of the year we were delighted that, thanks to this funding, we were also able to take 12 young people on a free three-night residential to Center Parcs which was a resounding success and allowed our young people to form lasting friendships and develop important new skills, such as how to ride a bike or make their own lunch. In the 2021-22 financial year 166 children and young people have accessed this programme of free activities.

Children & Family Services

Shining a spotlight on the rising stars of Daisy Chain

Additional funding, received through BBC Children in Need's Next Steps Grant, has allowed us to continue to run a free programme of performance arts-based clubs and activities dubbed Rising Stars. Led by a team of drama professionals the Rising Stars project, which runs until July 2022, covers all aspects of performing arts and has supported its participants to develop their confidence, learn new skills and form new friendships. These activities have been a resounding success and we have had lots of positive feedback from our children and young people alongside their families. One parent said:

"I actually can't put into words what Rising Stars has done for my daughter. She would never join in any sort of group we had tried and tried numerous things but she always gave up and would be anxious when she did go. After hearing about this I asked her to give it a go for a few weeks. In the first session she came out and I couldn't shut her up. After a couple of weeks she started talking about friends, I asked her what the difference was as she doesn't make friends at school and her answer was simply 'mam, they're all like me.'"



To date the project has been accessed by 83 children and young people, a group of which are currently rehearsing the musical Bugsy Malone, which will be performed to a live audience made up of family, friends and the general public at the Arc Theatre in Stockton.

Providing bespoke placement support



In the 2021-22 financial year we have provided over 7000 hours of 1:1 and small group support to school aged autistic children and young people. As always, each individual package is bespoke and based around the individual needs of the student, but typically includes a wide range of activities aimed at promoting mental health and well-being, developing independent living and social skills and supporting with key transitions such as from school to college. Many students also access our farm, gardens and allotments, wetlands and the local community to work on essential life skills including budgeting and travel training.

For example, one student who currently accesses Daisy Chain had objectives around accessing the community and independent travel. This student is now confidently accessing the local community independently and with their peers.

New for the 2021-22 financial year is our school outreach service which involves a team of specialist staff going into the school environment to work with a small group of young people for a time limited period. Feedback from these sessions has been fantastic and we are delighted to now be in a position to increase the number of schools who can access this service.

Children & Family Services

A space for parents to access specialist and peer support

In April 2021 we were delighted to be able to relaunch our parent support group 'Links' which gives parents the opportunity to come together for a coffee and chat whilst their children are cared for at our on-site creche. Many of our parents view this service as a life line and the only opportunity they get on a regular basis to sit down, relax and share their journey and experiences with like-minded parents who understand what they are going through.



The therapeutic benefit of animals



In the 2021-22 financial year our farm has undergone a full-scale review in order to ensure that it functions not just as a petting farm but also as a cutting-edge animal therapy facility. This has involved the creation of new indoor and outdoor therapeutic spaces which can be used as a base for animal therapy sessions alongside social and educational experiences and the recruitment of a new and highly skilled animal trainer to join our staff team.

Some of this work is still underway but once complete will allow us to maximise the use of this unique facility and launch new services, including Sensory Sundays, which will be based in the farm and incorporate activities such as alpaca walking, grooming our ponies and spending time with our small animals and reptiles.

Family services

In December 2021 we launched the new Tees Wide Family Support Service (TWSS) which can be accessed by children, young people and families who display traits associated with, or have a diagnosis of, a neurodevelopmental condition including autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), sensory processing or Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). Jointly commissioned by the CCG and local authorities the service provides drop in sessions, 1:1 and telephone appointments, learning workshops for parents and short-term interventions for children and young people. In partnership with national charity CONTACT families are also able to access specialist Speech and Language workshops. Initial feedback on the service has been positive and in particular families have highlighted the multi-agency approach taken to the drop-in's which allows them to meet from representatives from different services in one place. One parent said:

"To have Daisy Chain, CAMHS, the council and housing, plus the parent carer forum in one place is great – meaning that us parents can get a few things done in one place instead of spending hours on the phone to different services."

Children & Family Services

In the 4 months since the Family Support Service went live it has been accessed by 1,714 families and the team have provided 87 drop-in sessions, 145 1:1 appointments and telephone support to over 1,000 parents.

Parents from outside the Tees Valley have also been able to access support via our free national autism helpline which has provided 2,982 hours of specialist advice and guidance to 3,093 neurodivergent young people, adults and their families.



Since the closure of the National Autistic Society's autism helpline in June 2021 this has become the only service of its kind in England and is regularly accessed by families from as far away as Oxford and Southampton.

Working in co-production

Our Key Worker service is also new for 2021-22 which has been made possible thanks to NHS England funding and which we were asked to pilot in co-production with the CCG, PCF and TEWV NHS Foundation Trust. This service is one of a number of national pilots being run as part of the government's commitment to provide a keyworker for all children and young people with a learning disability and/or autism, a commitment set out in the NHS Long Term Plan.

The team work with families across the Tees Valley and Durham whose child is between the age of 4 and 12 and is at risk of school placement breakdown or, in the worst-case scenario, admittance to an inpatient facility. The team can extend this age range up to the age of 18 years if a child is red or amber on the dynamic support register (DSR) which indicates they need more input from services and are at serious risk of admittance to a specialist mental health hospital. The Key Workers also provide Positive Behaviour Support training to families whose child has been put forward for a learning disability and/or autism diagnosis.

Positive outcomes from the first year of the pilot include the following:

- Stabilisation of 8 home situations that were at risk of breakdown, preventing the child/young person being moved into Local Authority care.
- Stabilisation of 7 school placements which has prevented the need to fund costly specialist provision or an out of area placement.
- Prevention of 4 hospital admissions.
- 3 successful discharges from a Tier 4 inpatient setting which has allowed the young person involved to be integrated back into the community and their home-based setting or family home.



Training

In the 2021-2022 financial year we have invested heavily in our training department, recruiting two new staff, and expanding our reach nationally. Our training team continues to provide a blended offer of virtual and face to face training to meet the individual needs of the organisation being trained and prides itself on providing the gold standard in training. New relationships have been formed with Middlesbrough Football Club and Teesside University and existing relationships with Newcastle Building Society and Thirteen Group have been expanded upon.

Autism Education Trust (AET) and training in schools

We continue to be a strategic partner with the Autism Education Trust (AET) and have expanded our offer into Darlington, in addition to Stockton.

In 2021-22 we have trained 362 delegates from a range of early years, school years and post 16 settings. Feedback from these sessions has been fantastic with 97% of delegates reporting that the training has increased their confidence around and understanding of autism.



Empowerment for young people

In 2022-23 financial year we are looking forward to supporting with the Autism in Schools Project, an NHS funded national pilot, by providing AET training across the North East and Cumbria.

Additional to this, and as part of this same project, we will also be providing training in our own package, 'Understanding Myself', to local authorities across the country and from as far away as Isle of Wight. 'Understanding Myself' was developed thanks to funding from NHS England and is aimed at 14 to 17 year olds who are displaying traits associated with, or have a diagnosis of, a neurodevelopmental condition, and aims to increase self-awareness, help others understand the needs of the young people and their unique experiences of the world, improve self-confidence and raise self-esteem.

Equipping businesses and local authorities



We offer neurodiversity and autism acceptance training to businesses and local authorities which can be adapted to suit individual requirements, including how employers can support autistic and neurodiverse staff, strategies for staff to support neurodiverse customers, HR inclusive recruitment, and understanding around what reasonable adjustments are needed to support both staff and service users.

Adult Services

Housing, benefits & independent living

148

individuals supported

7

cases of homelessness
prevented

£360K

of unclaimed benefits raised

Since the launch of our Nationwide funded Housing, Benefits and Independent Living project in January 2021, this service has gone from strength to strength. To date, the service has supported 148 individuals over 244 unique cases. 10 clients have been supported into independent living and 7 neurodivergent adults have been prevented from homelessness. We have assisted with 88 welfare benefits cases and have raised over £360,000 in unclaimed benefits for neurodivergent individuals – financial support that clients were entitled to but were not receiving prior to input from our service.

In addition to housing and benefits advice, we have run a wide range of independent living skills workshops, collaborating with local partners and industry experts to enhance course content and maximise impact. Workshops have covered topics such as budgeting, cooking an easy meal, first aid in the home, fire safety, personal safety, and a bespoke 5-week independent living skills course. These workshops have been attended by 34 individuals who have reported increased confidence and told us that the workshops were useful, and they would be interested in attending more.



We have worked hard to ensure that the procedures and approaches embedded within this new service are needs-based, flexible and person-centred. Statutory advice services can tend to be difficult to access for autistic and neurodivergent clients, so we wanted to ensure that we removed barriers and promoted inclusion throughout.

We are delighted that we have received further funding from the players of People's Postcode Lottery, which is allowing us to continue offering this unique and vital service throughout the 2022-23 financial year.

"I was new to single life and didn't have a clue with regards to how to get a house or what benefits I should be getting. The staff member gave me all of the advice that I needed and pointed me in the right direction when I didn't know. If this service didn't exist, I would still be sofa surfing and struggling. I don't know where I'd be if Daisy Chain didn't step in to be fair. The service helped me. Really friendly, supportive, lots of information available and lots of help available. Just really helpful."

Adult Services

Wellbeing

After establishing our Wellbeing Service in 2020-21, we have been delighted to be able to continue the growth and enhancement of this much-needed service, through generous funding from The Masonic Charitable Foundation. Through a more intensive support package, including the provision of formal counselling, we have supported 101 individuals with complex wellbeing needs, across 730 support contacts.

“Daisy Chain has been one of the best things to happen to me since my autism diagnosis. It has given me the ability to begin accepting my autism diagnosis, whilst also giving me the tools to cope much better in daily life. I am learning to understand myself and accept myself. Although it is a slow process, I know one day I will be proud to be autistic, and Daisy Chain has been the catalyst for this change.”

A holistic approach



The service provides a range of holistic activities which are designed to equip clients with a personalised toolkit of strategies to draw upon in day-to-day life – empowering people to take control of their own wellbeing. This includes self-care and daily wellbeing strategies, learning the art of relaxation, wellbeing through nature, mindfulness and meditation, aromatherapy, and strategies for managing anxiety. We run regular drop-in sessions, workshops, and wellbeing events, which so far have included a fireworks night, sexual health workshop, yoga sessions, pizza evening and an LGBTQ+ workshop. Many of our clients have gone on to develop friendship groups that have extended outside of Daisy Chain – providing them with long-lasting peer support as well as reduced loneliness and isolation and enhanced overall wellbeing.

Counselling for vulnerable people

Around 50% of the support delivered has been counselling specific. Offering inclusive counselling support is something we are incredibly proud of, particularly since this can be difficult to access within statutory services. We ensure that all of the wellbeing and counselling support we offer is person-centred and focusses on the unique preferences, qualities, and challenges of the wonderfully diverse neurodivergent clients we serve.

By collecting service user feedback, we can evidence the impact of our fantastic service. Of the clients we spoke to, 100% felt more confident about making decisions, 92% felt that their coping skills had improved, 94% felt that their overall wellbeing had improved and 100% felt more positive about the future. We are incredibly passionate about improving wellbeing and mental health for the autistic and neurodivergent community and aim to continue to grow our wellbeing support to ensure that as many people as possible can benefit from this incredible, impactful service.

Adult Services

Employability

As part of the 'National Strategy for Autistic Children, Young People and Adults (2021-26)' the government has committed to supporting more autistic people into employment and reducing the autism employment gap – which is still shockingly large. In response to this huge need, Daisy Chain continues to deliver specialist employability support to autistic and neurodivergent jobseekers, which is made possible by ongoing funding from players of People's Postcode Lottery.

In the wake of COVID-19, we felt it was extremely important for us to re-connect with Tees Valley businesses and organisations and to wave the flag for the diverse wealth of autistic talent which many employers are missing out on. We launched our first ever Autism Employability Summit, which allowed us to connect with over 100 local professionals and organisations in relation to inclusion and autism acceptance. The event showcased a variety of inspirational, autistic speakers, all successful professionals in their own right. We squashed misconceptions and celebrated the unique skills and talents of the autistic community – highlighting the bottom-line benefits that this can bring to business.



The event was a huge success, with 98% of guests saying that they would be more likely to promote inclusion in their workplace, and that they would attend a similar event again.

Guest feedback included:

“Absolutely incredible event. I have worked for employability support and people often say in-work support is about making reasonable adjustments. I never understood how I could support and I now know how to help.”

“This was by far the best set of speakers reflecting needs of autistic people I have ever heard.”

“I have gained a wider understanding of neurodiversity which has been really informative, and I have learnt some very helpful suggestions, we as a business can apply to recruitment processes.”

In addition to this wider campaigning work, we have continued to support autistic adults to move forwards on their employability journeys. Of the 49 individuals who accessed the services within 2021-22, 55% have moved into paid employment, independent volunteering or have begun/achieved a new qualification. We were delighted when, in April 2021, one of our employability clients was offered a paid role within Daisy Chain. See case study on following page.

Adult Services

Employability - Jasmine's Story

Jasmine, a young autistic woman, describes her journey from an anxious Employability Service user to becoming a more optimistic and confident Daisy Chain employee.



When I first joined Daisy Chain's Employability Service in 2019 I had just finished university. My whole purpose of going to university in the first place was to avoid the world of work – I just wasn't ready for it yet. I joined the Employability Service because I was looking for work experience but without the pressure of a regular job. In the past, whenever I was talking to people who were trying to help me with my CV they always told me to hide a certain aspect of my autism until after I had been employed. It felt like I couldn't be honest, and I didn't feel like that was fair to me or to them.

At that point in my life, I was not optimistic about the future. In fact, I think I was just dreading the future. I didn't feel mature enough to get a job, I didn't feel like an adult. When I first started with Daisy Chain, I thought that maybe I would be there a couple of weeks, but the team helped me a lot – they made me feel comfortable and I didn't feel like I was under any pressure to perform. They worked with me on my CV skills, interview skills and the more I got to know them the easier it got. They helped me prepare for talking to strangers and they also helped me with my social skills and interpersonal skills.

It can be very intimidating in the workplace to hide certain aspects of your autism, so if there is someone there who understands it, you feel like you can be more yourself and you don't feel as much pressure to pretend to be someone you are not.

Now, fast forward two years and Jasmine is employed by Daisy Chain.

I work in the eCommerce team primarily doing eBay listings. We get a lot of donations of goods that are higher price items and it is my job to list them, which includes writing descriptions, pricing, taking the pictures and things like that. I never would have imagined two years ago that I was going to be able to get work.

I definitely think that the support and experience of the Employability Service has had a positive impact on my mental health. I have gained a lot of confidence since I have started coming to Daisy Chain. I wouldn't be where I am now if it wasn't for the employability team. I definitely feel more optimistic about the future.

Working here – this is something I actually find enjoyable and that makes me happy. If I do end up moving on, I feel more confident about looking for and seeking other types of work. I would recommend Daisy Chain's Employability Service to other autistic adults. The team are very patient and if you are struggling, they will give you as much time as you need. Being a part of this service has helped me to grow as an adult and as an autistic person. I have learned to understand myself a lot more.

Jasmine

Adult Services

Adult clubs and activities

2021-22 has been a year of expansion and change for our adult clubs and activities which has seen us increase the availability of club places by 73%. We have introduced a wider range of clubs and progression routes, including the introduction of an additional Chill and Chat club, and the launch of our new Community Connect groups, and a Dungeons and Dragons club. Refreshed processes and procedures have allowed us to dramatically reduce waiting lists by 74% and ensure fair access for all.

Members of our community-based groups are empowered to choose the activities they would like to engage in, which have included bowling, picnics, walks, pubs, and a current favourite – escape rooms! In our Chill and Chat clubs, we run a monthly programme of ‘independence for adulthood’ workshops, which have so far included CV writing, cooking ‘easy meals’, budgeting and e-safety – with future sessions booked to cover alcohol awareness and yoga. On a weekly basis, we continue to have a group of green-fingered adults who work together within our gardens and allotments – making friends, developing skills, and enhancing their wellbeing.



Feedback from the groups is positive, with groups members reporting that attending has helped them to make friends (95%), feel more connected to others (90%), feel happier and more cheerful (92%) and that their overall wellbeing has improved (97%).

“I have stopped walking on my own due to the pandemic and now I am ready to build up my confidence again where I feel safe.”

“I enjoy socialising with other autistic people.”

97%

**reported improvement
in overall wellbeing**

90%

**reported feeling more
connected to others**

95%

**reported attendance has
helped them make friends**

Adult Services

Support for adults aged 30+

In addition to being able to access our wide range of services, autistic and neurodivergent individuals who are aged 30+ now have the opportunity to access our new and exclusive 30+ Community Connect group.

This group, which meets fortnightly, offers the chance to access peer support and develop friendships in a supportive and safe setting. Current group members range between 30 and 60+ years old, and for some, accessing the group has been transformative and eye opening - particularly for individuals who have been recently diagnosed.



Daisy Chain is committed to the continued growth and enhancement of support services for the wider autistic and neurodivergent community – including those aged 30+. A formal diagnosis is not essential and individuals who self-identify or self-diagnose as autistic or neurodivergent are welcome.



“I have spent my whole life masking I don’t even know who I am. I decided to come to the group because I want to uncover the real me and socialise with people that understand me and who I am. I tend not to tell people I am autistic, but I think by coming here I will feel comfortable to.”

“I have spent so many years blaming myself for my behaviours and annoyed that I wasn’t able to control them with my family, but now I understand why I was doing them, and I feel so much better. I wanted to join the group to be able to share experiences and socialise with people who think like me.”

Retail & Social Enterprise

In the immediate period post-pandemic, Daisy Chain reviewed its retail operations. This year's aim at the Superstore has been the rebuild and bounce back post-pandemic with the focus being on driving new opportunities, increasing customer engagement and cultivating multi-channel sales success (store, online and coffee shop).

900+

**bags of donations
received per week**

3,464

volunteer hours donated

33%

**of Daisy Chain's annual
income comes from retail**

In order to recover from the financial losses and return to profit, it was essential to improve shopper experiences. The income from the retail arm of Daisy Chain is vital for providing support services, and the money is needed now more than ever as beneficiary need increases.

We took the opportunity to invest in the look and feel of the store to concentrate on improving the customer experience in a variety of ways, including:

- Themed and seasonal window displays.
- Updated fixtures and fittings to modernise store aesthetic.
- Adaption of restrictive COVID-19 protocols whilst maintaining customer safety.
- Ecommerce sales catapulted during COVID-19 and we have continued to excel in the online world.



Taking retail into the community

With the rise of fast fashion, charity shops have been inundated with donations. We are constantly looking at ways to utilise waste in a way that is good for the planet, and have placed a strong emphasis on sustainability. This focus has led to some exciting opportunities for Daisy Chain inclusive of:

Designing sustainably

We were commissioned to lead a project that created the national dress for Miss Eco UK to represent the UK in Egypt. We utilised recycled and donated materials to produce an impactful ecological statement about climate change. This elevated the charity on a worldwide level being showcased in over 50 countries and has led to charitable income through sponsorship post event.



Retail & Social Enterprise



Festival of Thrift

The UK's National Festival of Sustainability attended by over 50,000 people. Daisy Chain were named Charity of Choice for the festival and we hosted a marquee stall selling a broad range of donated clothing. In addition to this, we curated a fashion edit as part of the Festival's ECOure fashion show and took part in a sustainable fashion talk/podcast.



ASOS charity boutique

We launched a charity boutique as part of ASOS' autumn/winter campaign. Here, we competed with National charities and were the best performing charity boutique. As part of the 4-month campaign we achieved the following:

- Curated 4 high fashion photoshoots.
- Imagery selected to feature on ASOS main homepage on multiple occasions.
- Growth of international sales to countries including France, Denmark, Bogota and Norway.
- 151% increase on social media engagement.
- Increase of ASOS sales by 500%.



Future superstore plans are ambitious and include scaling up our retail operations inclusive of a second physical store and expansion of our online presence. In addition to this we will be bringing forward our own pilot clothing range of upcycled clothing using fabrics destined for landfill. This exciting initiative will address the themes of waste and consumption by providing an ethical, affordable alternative to fast and throw away fashion.

Volunteering

As restrictions began to lift in Summer 2021, we were able to welcome our volunteers back to both our Day Centre and Superstore sites in a safe way.

We're lucky to have over 100 volunteers that work across Daisy Chain, from the gardens and farm to upcycling clothing, e-commerce and remote working family support volunteers. Volunteers have been flexible, adaptable and understanding during the last few years of uncertainty and significant change, we're so grateful for them!

In the last year, we've also been able to welcome back some of our corporate volunteers from various companies including EE, BT and Virgin Media.



"Daisy Chain is close to my heart, as my son has autism. When I heard of an opportunity to volunteer for them through work I absolutely had to jump at the chance.

Every one of us has the ability to raise awareness, educate our friends and family, and give back to our communities. I would recommend anyone go spend a few hours volunteering here."

Kaylie Westmorland - CSR Broadband Tech, EE

In the period 2021-22, volunteers donated many hours of their time across our services:

350

**hours donated to events
and fundraising**

3,464

**hours donated to
our retail and social enterprise**

6,489

donated to our day centre
including barn, care services, gardens, admin and office support, wellbeing, housing and Family Support Service

Fundraising & Events

We are hugely grateful for the support we receive from individuals, our local community, businesses and service users, who have all donated to us so generously throughout the year.

A comeback from COVID-19

The support we have received from our corporate supporters is essential in allowing us to continue providing support to our families, and each is phenomenal in their generosity. Fundraising and events continued to be hit hard by COVID-19 due to the forced cancellation of most of our events programme during the first half of the year and cessation of our community presence which, coupled with some of our valued corporate partners being unable to support us due to their own challenges, led to a negative impact on fundraising.

However, as we moved into the second half of the year, we were able to re-launch our Annual Boat Race, have runners compete in the Great North Run, and community fundraising came back to life, with many corporates and individuals taking part in challenges to raise money for us such as the Cleveland 4 Peaks.



Winter Ball in Wonderland

Our flagship event, our Winter Ball, also returned in November 2021, with the theme Winter Ball in Wonderland. Held at Hardwick Hall, Sedgfield the event welcomed guests from across the Tees Valley for a night of fundraising, entertainment and delicious food.

We also welcomed a parent speaker, to tell guests about the impact that the pandemic had on her autistic son, and how support from Daisy Chain helped her family in a significant way. The speaker moved the audience to tears, and shone a light on the hardships neurodivergent people and their families have faced through such a difficult time.



From this event, we raised over £17,000, and we look forward to raising that total higher for 2022!

What's to come

We look forward to bringing back some of our favourite events next year, from the Winter Ball, to our Annual Boat Race, Annual Golf Day and Christmas Fair. 2023 marks our 20th Anniversary year and we've got some amazing things planned in terms of fundraising and events.

Policy & Campaign Work

Our policy and campaign work has gone from strength to strength this year, with significant things planned for the next year going into 2023.

Some of the highlights from this year were:

In the news

Daisy Chain has continued to achieve press coverage for our work and fundraising, from a print and online features for our Employability Summit in publications like The Gazette, to appearing in local newspaper Hartlepool Life when we invited families to come and join us for an autism-friendly view of Stockton's annual fireworks display.

Celebrating neurodiversity

During Neurodiversity Celebration Week we created a resource pack for schools to support teachers to educate students about what it means to be different in a change-driven and positive way. The pack was accessed by 5 local schools, the team delivered 7 assemblies and received really positive feedback such as:

"The resources are brilliant- my autistic children loved them!"

Tackling workplace inequalities

We launched our first ever Autism Employability Summit this year, which allowed us to connect with over 100 local professionals and organisations in relation to inclusion and autism acceptance. The aim was to shine a light on autism talent, and we received press coverage surrounding the event which helped us to spread the message of autism acceptance Tees Valley wide.



End-of-year celebrations

Placement Prom is an inclusive celebration for people, who may not be able to attend school prom due to their specific needs, to come together, be their authentic selves and have fun at the end of the school year. The digital campaign surrounding this received some of our highest social media engagement.

Structure, Governance & Management

Trustees

Lesley Clode

Laura Garry (appointed September 2021, resigned December 2021)

Duane Hanson - Chair

Andrew Kindness (appointed September 2021)

Ian Kinnery

Sean Lawless (appointed November 2021)

Jessica Lenham (appointed September 2021)

David Norris

Ian Parker (retired October 2021)

Dr Edwin Pugh (retired October 2021)

Alison Tasker

Catherine Wilburn (appointed September 2021)

Nicholas Waites (appointed March 2022)

Chief Executive Officer

Neeraj Sharma

Independent auditors

Waltons Business Advisers Limited

Maritime House

Harbour Walk

The Marina

Hartlepool

TS24 0UX

Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc

49 High Street

Stockton-on-Tees

TS18 1AH

Santander

43-44 High Street

Stockton-on-Tees

TS18 1SD

Investment advice

Vertem Asset Management

The Gresham

92 Osborne Road

Jesmond

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE2 2TD

Structure, Governance & Management

All trustees are directors of the company and directorship ceases upon termination of trusteeship. We give special thanks to two of our long-standing trustees, Edwin Pugh and Ian Parker, who retired from the board at the AGM, each having dedicated almost 8 years' service on the board of Daisy Chain and have served in the role of Chair during their trusteeship. They will be missed. We are pleased to announce that Duane Hanson (Daisy Chain co-founder) was appointed the role of Chair of Trustees at the AGM in October 2021.

The total number of trustees is currently ten, following a trustee recruitment campaign for additional trustees in line with skills gaps identified from our annual board appraisal and analysis.

Trustees meet formally for full Board meetings at least quarterly, in addition to a monthly Finance Sub-Committee and a quarterly Operations Committee. The charity is administered by the trustees who delegate its day-to-day operations to the CEO.

Trustees ensure that Safeguarding is a governance priority and Daisy Chain's policies for children and adult safeguarding are reviewed annually. Data Protection registration for our Data Controller is renewed with ICO annually. We have had no serious incidents to report to the Charity Commission this year. Key agenda items include Governance, Risk Review, Operational Updates, Finance. Both our annual Health and Safety Audit and Financial Audit for many of our processes provided a clean bill of health, which enables Daisy Chain to function efficiently and further enhance our governance and business readiness for the future.

Remuneration for CEO is set and determined by the Daisy Chain trustee board with regard to the performance and appraisal system. Remuneration of Daisy Chain staff is set by Daisy Chain CEO in accordance with internal pay scales and external competitive pay scale environment.

Delegation and Committees

The Board maintains a written schedule of matters reserved for the trustee board and committees which clearly defines specific areas for delegation. Committees report to the Board on a regular basis.



Finance Review

Report of the trustees for the period ending 31st March 2022

The trustees are pleased to present their annual directors' report together with the consolidated financial statements of the charity and its subsidiary for the period ending 31st March 2022, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and 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 1st January 2019).

Financial Commentary

Review of Accounting Period

During this financial year, we have once again consolidated Daisy Chain Project's financial position. We have built on our success in growing the organisation's work and continue to be successful in attracting new funding and contracts. Income has recovered to pre-pandemic levels, and expenditure has grown reflecting the increased activity of the Charity.

Review of Financial Position

During this financial period, we have reported a small surplus of £1,439. The balance sheet remains strong with total funds of just over £2m.

Overall, the income for the year was £2.4m; £568,101 or 31% higher than in the previous year. Income last financial year was severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic which stopped all activities with national lockdowns.

The total expenditure reported in the financial statements has also increased dramatically because of the resumption of activities – both in providing services to beneficiaries and in enterprise. Expenditure has risen by £537,464 or 29% in the year.

Additional grant funding received during the year helped to diversify income and has led to a decrease in restricted funds of £68K. Details of the funds receivable, and what they relate to, can be seen in the statement of funds note in the accounts.

Finance Review

Overall, we saw an unrestricted funds surplus of £69,533 and unrestricted reserves rose to £1.7m as a result. We depleted our cash balances which fell to £552,233. still allowing the charity to remain in a strong position to meet its requirements for working capital. Free reserves of £418,978 were available which meant reserves were in line with that required by our reserves policy.

Fixed asset additions also increased the non-liquid value of the reserves by £22,537.

Future Period

Looking ahead to 2022-23, the trustees have approved a budget that is prudent but allows for developing and enhancing our services and staff. The economic conditions post-pandemic have led to an extremely challenging financial environment. However, additional grant income has been successfully bid for and has mitigated some of the losses. The forecast outturn for the year therefore estimates that a break-even position may be achieved.

Reserves

The trustees review the reserves policy annually and consider the charity should hold free reserves of approximately three months' of essential services staff costs £220,000 (2020-21 - £400,000). At 31st March 2022, the charity had restricted reserves of £289,000 (2020-21 - £358,000).

There are also funds of £245,000 designated at year end to the following projects:

- £15,000 Changing Places accessible toilet.
- £230,000 Match funding for a potential new adult centre.

Investments

The trustees of Daisy Chain Project collectively agreed an investment portfolio to provide long term income returns. Investments are reviewed by the Finance Committee (which meets monthly) and trustees are advised of any recommended changes at full meetings of the Trustee Board.

The balance sheet value of the investment has grown since last reported.

Risk Management

The trustees conduct periodic reviews of the major risks to which the charity is exposed, with a view to establishing systems and procedures aimed at mitigating those risks. Significant external risks to funding have led to the development of a strategic plan which allows for the diversification of fundraising and other activities of the charity. Internal risks are minimised by authorisation procedures for projects and transactions, to ensure consistently high-quality service delivery.

Finance Review

Significant risks are divided into a number of areas including:

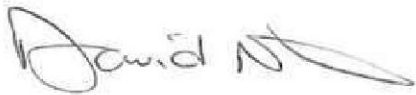
- Service Provision: protection and monitoring of children and vulnerable adults.
- Financial Risk: income generation, business planning, budgeting and insurances.
- Personnel: staff, volunteers and placements.
- Property: security and management of premises and risk of fire.
- IT and Communications: security and privacy of data.

The trustees are aware of the importance of developing a risk awareness culture within the charity and continue to work towards embedding this within the day to day working methods and thinking of Daisy Chain's staff and volunteers.

Approval

The Trustees' Report and Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 18/10/2022

On behalf of the Board



David Norris
Chair of Finance Committee

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Statement of disclosure to auditors

The charity trustees (who are also directors of Daisy Chain Project Teesside for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice). Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently.
- Observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP.
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.
- State whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- Prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company and the group's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable group and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are trustees at the time when this trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- So far as that trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable group's auditors are unaware.
- The trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable group's auditors are aware of that information.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the charity and financial information included on the charity's website in accordance with legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements.



Duane Hanson
Chair of Trustees
Date: 18/10/2022

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE

UNQUALIFIED OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of Daisy Chain Project Teesside (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(CONTINUED)

OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

OPINION ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report .

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Report.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESIDE
(CONTINUED)

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the Charity and the area in which it operates and considered the risk of acts by the Charity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud. We designed audit procedures to respond to the risk, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

We identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas: existence and timing of recognition of income and management override of controls (especially in the posting of journals). We discussed these risks with management and designed audit procedures as follows:

- to test the timing and existence of revenue
- to review journals posted to key control accounts or posted around the year end, to look for potential "window dressing" as well as looking at a sample throughout the year.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditors' report.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(CONTINUED)

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



H O'Driscoll FCA (senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

Waltons Business Advisers Limited

Maritime House

Harbour Walk

The Marina

Hartlepool

TS24 0UX

28 November 2022

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	3	633,157	497,904	1,131,061	1,351,841
Charitable activities	4	283,571	187,998	471,569	108,836
Other trading activities	5	793,300	-	793,300	367,333
Investments	6	4,982	-	4,982	4,801
TOTAL INCOME		1,715,010	685,902	2,400,912	1,832,811
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	7	847,070	46,363	893,433	700,283
Charitable activities	8	888,106	619,574	1,507,680	1,163,366
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		1,735,176	665,937	2,401,113	1,863,649
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME BEFORE NET GAINS ON INVESTMENTS					
		(20,166)	19,965	(201)	(30,838)
Net gains on investments		1,640	-	1,640	30,105
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME		(18,526)	19,965	1,439	(733)
Transfers between funds	19	88,059	(88,059)	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		69,533	(68,094)	1,439	(733)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		1,645,726	357,533	2,003,259	2,003,992
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		1,715,259	289,439	2,004,698	2,003,259

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 04763989

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	14	1,296,281	1,273,744
Investments	15	228,743	223,705
		<u>1,525,024</u>	<u>1,497,449</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks	16	-	1,054
Debtors	17	136,734	65,863
Cash at bank and in hand		552,233	629,114
		<u>688,967</u>	<u>696,031</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(209,293)	(190,221)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>479,674</u>	<u>505,810</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u><u>2,004,698</u></u>	<u><u>2,003,259</u></u>
CHARITY FUNDS			
Restricted funds	19	289,439	357,533
Unrestricted funds	19	1,715,259	1,645,726
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>2,004,698</u></u>	<u><u>2,003,259</u></u>

The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

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

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:



David Matthew Norris
Chair of Finance Committee
Date: 18 October 2022

The notes on pages 37 to 60 form part of these financial statements.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net cash used in operating activities	21	69,239	189,703
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Dividends, interests and rents from investments		4,982	4,801
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(146,309)	(172,968)
Proceeds from sale of investments		29,221	36,517
Purchase of investments		(31,628)	(77,069)
Investment management fees		(1,395)	(1,250)
NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES		(145,129)	(209,969)
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE PERIOD		(75,890)	(20,266)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		646,358	666,624
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	22	570,468	646,358

The notes on pages 37 to 60 form part of these financial statements

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England. The members of the company are the trustees named on page 1. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Charity.

The address of the Charity is:

Calf Fallow Farm
Calf Fallow Lane
Norton
Stockton - on - Tees
TS20 1PF

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements 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), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Daisy Chain Project Teesside meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Going concern

The trustees, having made due and careful enquiry and preparing forecasts, are of the opinion that the Charity has adequate working capital to execute its operations over the next 12 months. The trustees, therefore, have made an informed judgement at the time of approving the financial statements, that there is reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. As a result the trustees have continued to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Legacies are accounted for as incoming resources either upon receipt or where the receipt of the legacy is probable in that confirmation has been received from the personal representatives of the estate that payment will be made.

Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. The trustees acknowledge that they are assets of the Charity as soon as received but due to the fact that a very large number of small value items are received the time and cost of valuing donated goods at receipt would outweigh any benefit to the users of the financial statements of having them so valued.

Where goods are donated under the gift aid scheme the Charity is not entitled to the income until the goods are sold and the donor has confirmed that they are gifting the proceeds. In this case the income is included as a donation rather than as a sale.

Donated facilities are included at the value to the Charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the Charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

2.5 Government grants

Government grants relating to tangible fixed assets are treated as deferred income and released to the statement of financial activities over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned. Other grants are credited to the statement of financial activities as the related expenditure is incurred.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- 2% straight line
Improvements to long-term leasehold property	- straight line over the remaining term of the lease
Plant and machinery	- 25% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	- 20% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	- 25% reducing balance
Computer equipment	- 33.33% straight line

2.7 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the balance sheet date. The net gains and losses on revaluations and disposals are included in the consolidated statement of financial activities.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

2.8 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

2.9 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2.10 Pensions

The Charity contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the period.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.11 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds 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 notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

3. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Donations	326,222	-	326,222	61,726
Legacies	2,500	-	2,500	-
Grants	299,950	497,904	797,854	1,018,276
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	4,485	-	4,485	271,839
	<u>633,157</u>	<u>497,904</u>	<u>1,131,061</u>	<u>1,351,841</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>615,315</u>	<u>736,526</u>	<u>1,351,841</u>	

Included in grants above is £500,000 (2021: £400,000) from People's Postcode Lottery. This is split with £250,000 (2021: £150,000) treated as restricted and £250,000 (2021: £250,000) treated as unrestricted.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

4. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Children's services	1,345	-	1,345	1,510
Family support	47,336	187,998	235,334	12,684
Educational placements	195,560	-	195,560	84,805
Training and other services	24,940	-	24,940	9,837
Adult services	14,390	-	14,390	-
	<u>283,571</u>	<u>187,998</u>	<u>471,569</u>	<u>108,836</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>108,836</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>108,836</u>	

5. FUNDRAISING INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Superstore	684,565	684,565	301,860
Merchandise sales	280	280	10
Fundraising events	102,401	102,401	65,326
Other income	6,054	6,054	137
	<u>793,300</u>	<u>793,300</u>	<u>367,333</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>367,333</u>	<u>367,333</u>	

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

6. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Deposit account interest	189	189	781
Investment income	4,793	4,793	4,020
	<u>4,982</u>	<u>4,982</u>	<u>4,801</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>4,801</u>	<u>4,801</u>	

7. COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Fundraising costs of grants and donations	4,686	1,000	5,686	7,245
Cost of fundraising events	27,689	-	27,689	17,059
Superstore costs	238,805	7,333	246,138	167,431
Wages and salaries	564,305	38,030	602,335	478,743
Depreciation	10,190	-	10,190	28,555
Investment manager fees	1,395	-	1,395	1,250
Total 2022	<u>847,070</u>	<u>46,363</u>	<u>893,433</u>	<u>700,283</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>695,283</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>700,283</u>	

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

8. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total 2022 £	<i>Total 2021 £</i>
Children's services	177,839	238,838	416,677	444,115
Family support	41,651	339,861	381,512	355,586
Educational placements	318,089	6,078	324,167	317,239
Training and other services	50,020	34,797	84,817	46,426
Adult services	300,507	-	300,507	-
	<u>888,106</u>	<u>619,574</u>	<u>1,507,680</u>	<u>1,163,366</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>644,501</u>	<u>518,865</u>	<u>1,163,366</u>	

9. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly 2022 £	Support costs 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Children's services	286,653	130,024	416,677	444,115
Family support	256,300	125,212	381,512	355,586
Educational placements	203,770	120,397	324,167	317,239
Training and other services	60,738	24,079	84,817	46,426
Adult services	218,637	81,870	300,507	-
	<u>1,026,098</u>	<u>481,582</u>	<u>1,507,680</u>	<u>1,163,366</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>672,922</u>	<u>490,444</u>	<u>1,163,366</u>	

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ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Children's Services 2022 £	Family Support 2022 £	Educational placements 2022 £	Training and other services 2022 £	Adult services 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Wages and salaries	35,580	34,263	32,945	6,589	22,403	131,780	200,411
Depreciation	27,274	26,265	25,255	5,051	17,173	101,018	79,528
Premises	26,140	25,172	24,204	4,841	16,459	96,816	61,920
Administration	15,107	14,547	13,988	2,798	9,512	55,952	72,479
Advertising	-	-	-	-	-	-	394
Professional fees	(161)	(155)	(149)	(30)	(101)	(596)	3,396
Subscriptions	1,914	1,843	1,772	354	1,205	7,088	2,526
Volunteer costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	40
Resources	364	350	337	67	229	1,347	3,071
Staff costs	5,422	5,221	5,021	1,004	3,414	20,082	16,123
Governance costs	18,384	17,706	17,024	3,405	11,576	68,095	50,556
Total 2022	130,024	125,212	120,397	24,079	81,870	481,582	490,444
<i>Total 2021</i>	<i>196,178</i>	<i>137,324</i>	<i>142,229</i>	<i>14,713</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>490,444</i>	

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ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS

	Children's Services 2022 £	Family Support 2022 £	Educational Placements 2022 £	Training and other services 2022 £	Adult Services 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Wages and salaries	249,157	243,981	192,530	53,323	157,911	896,902	623,769
Staff costs	2,564	1,883	374	5,346	247	10,414	4,645
Staff travel	283	3,357	13	203	28	3,884	124
Volunteer costs	1,102	242	510	-	5	1,859	731
Premises	3,599	-	3,012	750	-	7,361	6,999
Administration	4,363	101	397	144	11,874	16,879	19,032
Advertising	-	724	-	-	-	724	445
Resources	25,585	6,012	6,934	972	48,572	88,075	17,177
Total 2022	286,653	256,300	203,770	60,738	218,637	1,026,098	672,922
<i>Total 2021</i>	<i>247,937</i>	<i>218,262</i>	<i>175,010</i>	<i>31,713</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>672,922</i>	

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

10. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	<i>Total funds 2021 £</i>
Auditors' remuneration	6,822	6,822	6,552
Auditors' non audit costs	1,488	1,488	1,968
Consultancy, legal & professional fees	960	960	960
Wages and salaries	58,825	58,825	41,076
	68,095	68,095	50,556
<i>Total 2021</i>	<i>50,556</i>	<i>50,556</i>	

11. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

The auditors' remuneration amounts to an audit fee of £5,685 (2021 - £5,460), and other services of £1,240 (2021 - £1,640) (all excluding VAT).

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

12. STAFF COSTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,551,380	1,243,769
Social security costs	108,886	76,528
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	29,576	23,702
	1,689,842	1,343,999

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the period was as follows:

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Management and administration	12	13
Fundraising	4	2
Charitable activities - service delivery	57	50
Charity Shop	30	22
	103	87

The number of employees whose employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) exceeded £60,000 was:

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
In the band £60,001 - £70,000	1	-

The total employment benefits, including employer pension contributions, of key management personnel were £251,835 (2021: £188,773).

The Charity benefits from the involvement and support of its many volunteers, further details of which are provided in the Trustees Report. In accordance with accounting standards the economic contribution of volunteers is not measured in the financial statements.

13. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

During the year, no trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2021 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2022, no trustee expenses have been incurred (2021 - £NIL).

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESIDE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Improvements to long-term leasehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Motor vehicles £	Fixtures, fittings and computer equipment £	Total £
Cost						
At 1 April 2021	1,335,085	148,855	69,916	31,330	393,694	1,978,880
Additions	-	-	13,944	-	132,365	146,309
Disposals	-	(29,466)	-	-	-	(29,466)
At 31 March 2022	<u>1,335,085</u>	<u>119,389</u>	<u>83,860</u>	<u>31,330</u>	<u>526,059</u>	<u>2,095,723</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 April 2021	358,491	54,733	59,270	-	232,642	705,136
Charge for the period	25,705	10,190	2,662	6,266	66,385	111,208
On disposals	-	(16,902)	-	-	-	(16,902)
At 31 March 2022	<u>384,196</u>	<u>48,021</u>	<u>61,932</u>	<u>6,266</u>	<u>299,027</u>	<u>799,442</u>
Net book value						
At 31 March 2022	<u><u>950,889</u></u>	<u><u>71,368</u></u>	<u><u>21,928</u></u>	<u><u>25,064</u></u>	<u><u>227,032</u></u>	<u><u>1,296,281</u></u>
At 31 March 2021	<u><u>976,594</u></u>	<u><u>94,122</u></u>	<u><u>10,646</u></u>	<u><u>31,330</u></u>	<u><u>161,052</u></u>	<u><u>1,273,744</u></u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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15. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Investments in subsidiary companies £	Listed investments £	Unlisted investments £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 April 2021	1	206,460	17,244	223,705
Additions	-	31,628	29,221	60,849
Disposals	-	(29,221)	(31,628)	(60,849)
Revaluations	-	1,640	-	1,640
Investment manager fees	-	-	(1,395)	(1,395)
Dividends received	-	-	4,793	4,793
At 31 March 2022	1	210,507	18,235	228,743

Investments at market value

	2022 £	2021 £
Equities	210,507	206,460
Cash within investment portfolio	18,235	17,244
Investment in trading subsidiary	1	1
	228,743	223,705

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

15. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARIES

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the Charity:

Name	Company number	Registered office or principal place of business	Class of shares
Daisy Chain Trading (Teesside) Limited-Dormant	05209370	Calf Fallow Farm, Calf Fallow Lane, Norton, Stockton On Tees, TS20 1PF	Ordinary
Holding			
100%			

16. STOCKS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Goods for resale	-	1,054

17. DEBTORS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	68,034	22,475
Other debtors	5,319	5,251
Prepayments and accrued income	63,381	38,137
	136,734	65,863

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

18. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	46,156	59,185
Taxation and social security	26,212	18,204
Other creditors	6,555	5,095
Accruals and deferred income	130,370	107,737
	<u>209,293</u>	<u>190,221</u>
	<u>209,293</u>	<u>190,221</u>
	2022	2021
	£	£
Deferred income at 1 April 2021	12,802	54,843
Resources deferred during the year	37,915	12,802
Amounts released from previous periods	(12,802)	(54,843)
	<u>37,915</u>	<u>12,802</u>
	<u>37,915</u>	<u>12,802</u>

Deferred income comprises money received in advance for sessions/clubs and for training courses which were planned to take place in the next financial year.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT PERIOD

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Designated funds						
Designated Funds	30,000	-	(15,000)	230,000	-	245,000
General funds						
General Funds	1,615,726	1,715,010	(1,720,176)	(141,941)	1,640	1,470,259
Total Unrestricted funds	1,645,726	1,715,010	(1,735,176)	88,059	1,640	1,715,259
Restricted funds						
CCG Hartlepool	-	55,333	(55,333)	-	-	-
Cummins	33,363	-	(33,363)	-	-	-
The Mercer's Company	6,078	-	(6,078)	-	-	-
Children In Need - Holiday Club	4,134	31,224	(29,077)	-	-	6,281
People's Postcode Lottery	111,174	250,000	(157,830)	-	-	203,344
Coronavirus Mental Health Response Fund	10,420	-	(10,420)	-	-	-
Nationwide	34,798	-	(34,798)	-	-	-
People's Postcode Lottery Innovation Trust	99,030	-	(4,556)	(87,299)	-	7,175
Children In Need - First Steps Performing Arts	14,971	53,231	(51,290)	-	-	16,912

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT PERIOD (continued)

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
County Durham Community Foundation	6,466	-	(6,466)	-	-	-
Masonic Charitable Foundation	22,099	28,100	(30,590)	-	-	19,609
Newcastle Building Society	6,000	-	(6,000)	-	-	-
Stockton Borough Council	-	6,000	(6,000)	-	-	-
Tees Family Foundation	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-	-
Tees Valley CCG	-	64,000	(66,562)	2,562	-	-
Tees Valley CCG	-	123,998	(123,998)	-	-	-
CCG NHS Tees	-	59,016	(22,898)	-	-	36,118
Climate Action Fund	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-	-
Small Grants	9,000	4,000	(9,678)	(3,322)	-	-
	<u>357,533</u>	<u>685,902</u>	<u>(665,937)</u>	<u>(88,059)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>289,439</u>
Total of funds	<u><u>2,003,259</u></u>	<u><u>2,400,912</u></u>	<u><u>(2,401,113)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>1,640</u></u>	<u><u>2,004,698</u></u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR PERIOD

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2020</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2021</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds						
Designated Funds	90,000	-	(60,000)	-	-	30,000
General funds						
General Funds	1,708,867	1,096,285	(1,279,784)	60,253	30,105	1,615,726
Total Unrestricted funds	1,798,867	1,096,285	(1,339,784)	60,253	30,105	1,645,726
Restricted funds						
BLF Youth Foundation	14,350	-	(14,350)	-	-	-
CCG Harlepool	35,037	80,750	(115,787)	-	-	-
Warburtons Family Matters	2,252	-	(2,252)	-	-	-
Cummins	2,536	33,363	-	(2,536)	-	33,363
The Mercer's Company	1,473	47,683	(43,078)	-	-	6,078
Children In Need - Holiday Club	30,373	-	(26,239)	-	-	4,134
People's Postcode Lottery	101,586	150,000	(140,412)	-	-	111,174
CCG Darlington	13,000	-	(13,000)	-	-	-
Coronavirus Mental Health Response Fund	-	49,836	(38,319)	(1,097)	-	10,420
Nationwide	-	43,584	(8,786)	-	-	34,798
Finlay Cooper	-	30,000	-	(30,000)	-	-

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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19. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR PERIOD (CONTINUED)

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2020</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2021</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Coronavirus Community Support Fund	-	99,378	(81,707)	(17,671)	-	-
People's Postcode Lottery Innovation Trust	-	100,000	(970)	-	-	99,030
Children In Need - First Steps Performing Arts	-	26,615	(10,245)	(1,399)	-	14,971
County Durham Community Foundation	-	14,818	(802)	(7,550)	-	6,466
Masonic Charitable Foundation	-	28,999	(6,900)	-	-	22,099
Newcastle Building Society	-	11,000	(5,000)	-	-	6,000
Small Grants	4,518	20,500	(16,018)	-	-	9,000
	<u>205,125</u>	<u>736,526</u>	<u>(523,865)</u>	<u>(60,253)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>357,533</u>
Total of funds	<u><u>2,003,992</u></u>	<u><u>1,832,811</u></u>	<u><u>(1,863,649)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>30,105</u></u>	<u><u>2,003,259</u></u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Unrestricted funds

These are funds which are freely available for the use of the Charity.

Designated funds

In the prior year the trustees set aside £30,000 of the unrestricted funds. £15,000 has again been set aside for accessible changing and toilets. This work was unable to be completed due to post-Covid shortages. The remaining designated funds at the end of the year are made up of:

1. £230,000 match funding for a potential new build
2. £15,000 changing places accessible toilets

Restricted funds

CCG Hartlepool

A further £55,333 was received to fund family support for the year to 31 March 2022.

Cummins

£33,363 was received last year towards supporting the "My Autism My Call" project, a mini call centre to offer remote assistance to broader community during COVID-19 and beyond. This has now been fully spent.

The Mercer's Company

Funding for an employability skills programme whereby individuals with autism are upskilled, supported and empowered to transform items destined for landfill into resaleable products. A small balance was carried forward from last year and has now been fully spent.

Children in Need - Holiday Club

To provide a holiday club and trips and outings for children and young people with autism.

People's Postcode Lottery

Of the £500,000 received in total £250,000 was restricted. This was for the Employability programme (£80,000), Virtual Support (£50,000), Horticultural project (£10,000) and Wellbeing Support (£10,000). A balance on this is carried forward, and £100,000 was paid in advance relating to quarter 1 of the next financial year.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Coronavirus Mental Health Response Fund

Funding was received from Mind for the support of service users mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic.

People's Postcode Lottery Innovation Trust

Funding received towards the development of an "Autism Pod Village". A small balance remains to be spent.

Children in Need - First Steps Performing Arts

To deliver performing arts activities for Autistic children to mitigate the impact COVID-19 is having on their lives, supporting them to grow in confidence, develop communication skills, develop language and use expression.

County Durham Community Foundation

Funding towards a Polytunnel. The work is now complete.

Masonic Charitable Foundation

Funding for a "Complex Case Support Service". The second year of funding runs to November 2022 and the carried forward balance will be used to continue the service until that point.

Newcastle Building Society

Grants received towards the ecommerce project and the costs of employing an "upcycler".

Stockton Borough Council

Coronavirus (Covid-19) recovery grants from the local authority for the Superstore.

Tees Family Foundation

Grant given towards the cost of a second collection and delivery van for the Superstore.

Tees Valley CC

Funding for Family Support Service for Children and Young People with a Neurodevelopmental Need for and on behalf of NHS Tees Valley CCG, Darlington Borough Council, Hartlepool Borough Council, Middlesbrough Council, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council and Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council.

CCG NHS Trust

Funding for a variety of activities, including trips for families, a sleep project and training for the staff on the Keyworker project.

Climate Action Fund

Funding received by The National Lottery Community Fund to recycle and upcycle items donated at the Superstore that are not fit for resale in their current state. It provides a lead manufacturer and a garment upcyclers as well as the necessary equipment.

Small grants

A number of small grants have been received in the year for the following purposes. Where a balance has been carried forward it has been noted:

- Thirteen Group: £1,500 towards event costs, brought forward from the previous year and fully spent.
- Zedra: £2,500 towards the cost of a VR headset, brought forward from the previous year and fully spent.
- Bailey Thomas: £5,000 towards staffing of the barn, brought forward from the previous year and fully spent.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

- Tesco bags: £1,000, fully spent
- Warburtons: £3,000, fully spent

20. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,296,281	-	1,296,281
Fixed asset investments	228,743	-	228,743
Current assets	399,528	289,439	688,967
Creditors due within one year	(209,293)	-	(209,293)
Total	1,715,259	289,439	2,004,698

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	<i>Unrestricted</i> <i>funds</i> 2021 £	<i>Restricted</i> <i>funds</i> 2021 £	<i>Total</i> <i>funds</i> 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,273,744	-	1,273,744
Fixed asset investments	223,705	-	223,705
Current assets	338,498	357,533	696,031
Creditors due within one year	(190,221)	-	(190,221)
Total	1,645,726	357,533	2,003,259

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

21. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2022 £	2021 £
Net income/expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	1,439	(733)
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	111,208	108,083
Gains/(losses) on investments	(1,640)	(30,105)
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	(4,982)	(4,801)
Loss on the sale of fixed assets	12,564	11,687
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	1,054	(53)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	(70,871)	74,457
Increase in creditors	19,072	29,918
Investment management fees	1,395	1,250
Net cash provided by operating activities	69,239	189,703

22. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2022 £	2021 £
Cash in hand	552,233	629,114
Cash within investment portfolio	18,235	17,244
Total cash and cash equivalents	570,468	646,358

23. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 1 April 2021 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	629,114	(76,881)	552,233
Cash within investment portfolio	17,244	991	18,235
	646,358	(75,890)	570,468

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

24. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The Charity contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity to the fund and amounted to £29,576 (2021: £23,702). Contributions totalling £6,555 (2021: £5,095) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

25. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31 March 2022 the Charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2022	<i>2021</i>
	£	<i>£</i>
Not later than 1 year	89,835	<i>86,663</i>
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	354,000	<i>260,935</i>
Later than 5 years	29,500	<i>-</i>
	473,335	<i>347,598</i>

26. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year under review the company had no related party transactions.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE

England & Wales - Charity number 1109792

Accounts



Annual Report 2020-2021

1st April 2020 - 31st March 2021



Improving the lives of people affected by autism and their families and empowering them to reach their full potential

Daisy Chain Project (Teesside) | Calf Fallow Lane | Norton | Stockton-on-Tees | TS20 1PF
Registered Charity No. 1109792 | Company Limited by Guarantee 4763989

Welcome to Daisy Chain Project

The trustees present their annual report together with the audited financial statements of the charity for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. The annual report serves the purposes of both a trustees' report and a directors' report under company law. The trustees confirm that the annual report and financial statements of the charitable company comply with the current statutory requirements, the requirements of the charitable company's governing document and the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS102) (effective 1 January 2019).

Since the the charity qualifies as small under section 382 of the Companies Act 2006, the strategic report required of medium and large companies under the Companies Act 2006 (Strategic Report and Directors' Report) Regulations 2013 has been omitted.

We are an independent charity dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families living with a disability or special needs, in particular but not exclusive to autism.

Aims

1. Supporting individuals and families through the provision of respite care
2. Through the advancement of public education through the dissemination of information

We strive to promote liberty and independence within a safe supportive nurturing environment.

Service

1. We have supported over 4,559 families
2. Over 800 children, young people and adults accessed our services within the reporting period
3. We provided over 2,863 hours worth of bespoke placement time to schools last year
4. We received £47,730 worth of financial contribution of volunteer time last year
5. We provided 150 professionals with virtual autism training (schools, corporates and employers)
6. 13 adults accessed our employability services during the period.

In planning such activities, we keep in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.



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View from Chair of Trustees



The year ended March 2021 was Daisy Chain's 18th year of operation and like many charities probably the most challenging due to the impact of the global coronavirus pandemic. Challenges, however, provide opportunities to strengthen, innovate and develop and it is pleasing to be able to report that Daisy Chain is emerging from the pandemic as a stronger, fitter, more innovative organisation serving more people than ever before.

Although I am pleased to report organisational success, I am aware that there are members of the Daisy Chain family who have suffered the loss of loved ones and the thoughts of all of the Trustees are with them. We were also aware at Daisy Chain, that the lockdowns that we have all experienced have been particularly difficult for people and families who are living with autism. This realisation has motivated Daisy Chain to not merely focus on survival but to imagine and develop new ways of serving and supporting our beneficiaries.

I would like to thank all of the Trustees for their hard work and flexibility in their oversight of Daisy Chain during the last year. Ian Kinnery stepped down as Chair in October 2020 and I would like to record my thanks to him for his time as Chair which saw the charity grow in size, strength and impact. I am also grateful that he has remained on the Board as a Trustee. Emma Hansford retired as a Trustee and Chair of the Finance Committee due to work commitments and we thank her for her excellent contribution to Daisy Chain. David Norris has proved a more than able replacement in that role. Duane Hanson has taken over the role of Operations Committee that I vacated when I took over the role of Chair and has continued to develop its role and influence. Elaine McLaine-Wood also retired as a Trustee due to her work commitments and we thank her for her work as a trustee. I am grateful to all of the Trustees who play valuable and active roles in the governance and oversight of Daisy Chain. We are aware that there is a need to strengthen the board further, not least due to the growth in size and scope of the charity, and though the process was delayed due to the pandemic, a recruitment campaign is underway and we expect to be adding to the board in the coming months.

The Senior Leadership Team has remained constant throughout the last year and have worked imaginatively and tirelessly in the most challenging of circumstances, not only to provide continuity of service provision, but to increase it, most notably with the introduction of a telephone/online support service and an e-commerce arm to our retail operation. I wish to record thanks of all of the trustees to the Senior Leadership Team for their excellent work and leadership over the last year.

We are grateful to our funders for their continued support, understanding and flexibility throughout the last year. Many have allowed us to extend, defer or redirect funds to help us face the difficulties that the pandemic has presented. In particular, support from players of People's Postcode Lottery remains our largest funder and we are grateful for their ongoing support. The continued support and flexibility of many existing and new funders have been instrumental with helping us navigate through this most unusual of years and we are extremely grateful and give sincere thanks to each and every one of them.

Daisy Chain is also reliant on the passion, commitment, professionalism and hard work of all of the teams made up of staff and volunteers who provide care services, administrative support, financial management, retail business, fundraising services and all of the rest of the elements that make Daisy Chain what it is and I wish to record my thanks to everyone who has contributed to Daisy Chain throughout the last year. Their efforts have ensured that the charity has successfully navigated the financial turbulence of the last year and has emerged stronger than ever before to support people and families who are living with autism, which has always been the consuming passion of Daisy Chain.

Ian Parker

Chair of Trustees

Daisy Chain CEO Report



In 2020, we faced the biggest challenge in our 18-year charity history, COVID-19. We have likened the impact of the global pandemic as a metaphoric tsunami which had the real potential of sweeping away the vital support which we provide to families, children and young people. Critically, the financial commitment made by players of People's Postcode Lottery towards Daisy Chain's core service has enabled us to meet this challenge head on.

We are also grateful to all our new and existing funders who have supported us with their flexibility and adaptability with their funds and Covid-related funded support. This has made it possible for us as a charity to mitigate some of the losses sustained by cessation of all our fundraising events and loss of our store trading income.

With the support and backing of our funders, we have built and introduced a virtual telephone call centre. Callers accessing the free service were able to speak to trained autism care staff. The virtual centre also provided online video appointments and virtual social club sessions. Additionally, we relaunched face-to-face support in summer 2020 and have continued to deliver adapted services throughout the two lockdowns which followed.

Demand for support has been high, pursuant to the sudden and rapid forced change in routine and structure resulting from COVID-19. Ultimately this had a destabilizing effect on the mental health and physical wellbeing of individuals with autism. Beneficiaries have faced distressing circumstances in relation to:

- loss of routine and structure;
- problems with key functions such as sleeping and eating;
- adapting quickly to forced change;
- lack of understanding and difficulty processing information leading to confusion, anger, sadness and anxiety;
- reduced support network leading to loneliness and isolation;
- OCD around cleanliness and social distancing measures;
- feeling trapped - sensory overload and social impact of this;
- bereavement - struggling to cope with loss of friends/family;
- increased feelings of isolation and depression inclusive of suicidal thoughts;
- increased strain on the family unit.

The impact of our support has been far reaching and has also meant that we have been able to co-support NHS colleagues by ensuring that individuals struggling with mental health did not fall into acute admissions, thereby ensuring staff were able to focus on fighting this devastating disease.

Whilst the road map in front of us is still very much unknown in respect of our journey out of COVID-19, the position for our beneficiaries is clearer. There is a greater need for complex support from a far larger number of individuals with autism. The senior leadership team and the board of trustees are resolute that we will continue to strive to generate the income we need to service this need.

Plans for the future

Irrespective of the financial and operational challenges that COVID-19 has brought forward, we nevertheless intend to achieve the following in the next financial year:

- deliver autism outreach services for families across the Tees Valley and County Durham;
- mainstream the telephone advice service for families across the region and beyond;
- launch a volunteer care professional training programme;
- expand autism educational training across schools and colleges in the Tees Valley;
- launch primary school placement programme for schools;
- work with the regions employers to reduced barriers for autistic young people seeking employment;
- explore new social revenue streams which create opportunities whilst at the same time combating textile waste received at Daisy Chain Charity Superstore;
- expand benefit advice support.

Hitting the Headlines

Daisy Chain has continued to achieve press coverage for our work and fundraising:



8th September 2020

Cash will create more opportunities for people with autism

By Jo Kelly | @jobshop98
Deputy Head of Content

The Northern Echo

3rd March

Cummins, Darlington, highlights work to support employees with autism

AN autism charity is urging employers to support workers with neurodiverse conditions to try and keep them in the workforce.

People with autism are much more likely to be unemployed, with just 22 per cent of people with the condition in work.



Love a designer label? Biba and Vivienne Westwood items on sale at charity's high-end online shop

Labels include Mulberry, Valentino and even our own coveted Teesside designer Kate Fearnley

DAISY CHAIN LAUNCHES SPECIALIST HOUSING AND BENEFITS SERVICE

Posted by ellacawthorne | Feb 3, 2021 | Charity, Life, Social | 0



neconnected.co.uk

Teesside couple win dream wedding competition

By Laura Nolan | @lauravenolan1
Live Reporter (Teesside)



Coronavirus: Effect on autistic people 'little understood'

© 24 July 2020

An autism charity say it has seen a "significant increase" in demand for help over the "little understood" effects of lockdown on autistic people.

Our Services

Daisy Chain supports over 4,560 families across the Tees Valley and surrounding area. Throughout the reporting period, we have been able to support 1,500 new families, whilst more than 500 children and young people and 80 adults continue to attend our services on a weekly basis. As always, our priority has been to ensure that our existing services continue to be delivered to the highest standard whilst also developing our services and activities in response to community need.

Clubs and Activities

Daisy Chain's clubs and activities remain at the very heart of our service delivery. In a year that has seen a global pandemic, the closure of schools and multiple lockdowns, they have acted as a lifeline and point of stability to our children, young people and families. Whilst we had to make the very difficult decision to close these essential services at times in order to keep everyone safe, we have done our best to be creative and flexible in order to ensure that we could remain open as much as possible and still provide the same level of support that we always have. We are proud to say that despite the challenges the pandemic has left us with, we have still been able to welcome more than 500 children and young people to our site across the year.

For our children and young people these services have provided them with an opportunity to reduce their social isolation, connect with their peers and learn new skills in a safe and familiar environment. This has been particularly important this year due to the significant impact that COVID-19 has had on the mental health of so many of the children and young people we support. For parents and carers these services have provided them with some much needed respite and the chance to spend quality time with their other children, safe in the knowledge that their autistic child is being cared for by experienced staff with the skills and expertise to support them. In addition, our weekend and holiday family activities have given the whole family the confidence to venture out into the community again and the opportunity to spend quality time together and connect with others.

Alongside our core clubs and activities, we have continued to provide additional free holiday activities for our children and young people thanks to BBC Children in Need. This has included a weekly high needs session for children who require 1:1 support and a varied programme of holiday activities including drumming workshops, forest school sessions, archery and axe-throwing workshops, birds of prey demonstrations and the chance to experience a real climbing wall. These activities have been a resounding success and we have had lots of positive feedback from families. One parent said:

"Coming to Daisy Chain has helped all of our children to learn to interact with different people and to feel accepted and valued for who they are. After a recent session my daughter said she felt much happier about going to secondary school because her experience at Daisy Chain showed her that she can find people like her who share her interests and she can strike up a conversation and interact with strangers when she feels safe and supported."



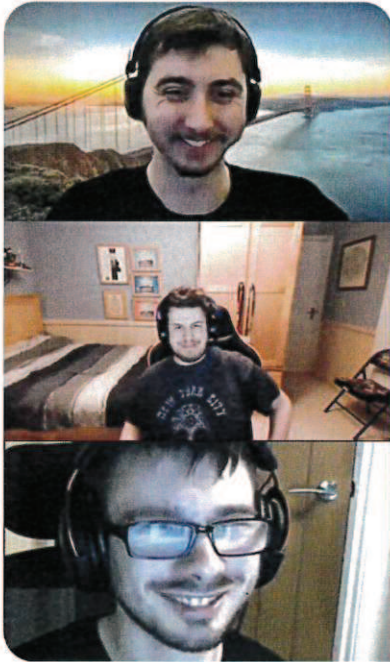
Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, the planned residential visits were not able to take place but we are overjoyed to say we have been given permission to use the funding set aside for this to take a group of young people to Centre Parcs in 2022.

In January 2021 we were also delighted to receive funding from the BBC Children in Need Next Steps Grant which has allowed us to develop a new free programme of performance arts-based clubs and activities dubbed Rising Stars. Lead by a team of drama professionals the Rising Stars project, which runs until June 2022, covers all aspects of performing arts and supports the participants to develop their confidence and reintegrate back into society following the pandemic. The funding has also allowed us to purchase state-of-the-art equipment so that the sessions can be run virtually as well as face to face, which not only allowed the service to continue through lockdown but also means we can engage with children and young people across the country. In the first 3 months of the project the team has supported 54 children & young people many of whom are currently working towards a showcase event which will take place in the summer holidays.

Adult Clubs and Activities

Our adult clubs and activities have understandably been impacted by the restrictions caused by COVID-19. The temporary closure of our adult club as a result of social distancing measures was something we undertook with a heavy heart, but with the health and safety of our service users in mind. Adult clubs and activities can provide an invaluable lifeline for autistic adults as a form of routine and structure, a safe space to have fun and gain new skills and an opportunity for peer support and connection with other adults who may have similar experiences.

Despite the challenges faced this year, we have continued to run our adult club whenever possible and in line with social distancing guidelines. Over the course of the year, 25 adults have accessed the club. During periods where we were unable to deliver face-to-face sessions, club members were invited to attend weekly virtual meetups run by our Daisy Chain Wellbeing Team. These virtual sessions allowed members the opportunity to stay connected and maintain some form of routine whilst we were in lockdown.



Furthermore, in addition to our regular adult club, we ran two successful pilot groups – gardening and a Dungeons and Dragons club. Both of these trials were successful and have been used to inform an enhanced and expanded menu of adult clubs and activities for launch in 2021/22.

A service user taking part in the gardening sessions provided the following feedback:

"I enjoy the practical sessions at Daisy Chain because I enjoy being busy and there's always plenty to do around the farm. The sessions get me out of the house and interacting with other people that I get along with, which otherwise can sometimes be a struggle. Working in the fresh air is really good for both physical and mental health and the staff are always really friendly and helpful. I do as many sessions as I can with Daisy Chain because they give me a really good sense of purpose"

Placements

Despite the pandemic we have continued to offer our bespoke placements to autistic school aged children and young people whenever possible, although unfortunately this service did have to close in line with the school closures during the first and third lockdown. That being said, we have still provided 2863 hours of support to 36 children and young people in the 2020-21 financial year and have expanded our offer to include a wider range of activities aimed at promoting mental health and wellbeing, such as art & mindfulness sessions or yoga. This has had a positive impact on many of our young people including a young lady who has been a school/college refuser for many years and in the past has refused to discuss her feelings or engage with new people. We are delighted to say that she has recently passed her exams in English and Maths and is due to start a new college course in September and is exploring independent living options.

In addition, during the summer holidays and as the country emerged from the first lockdown, we introduced a new type of placement aimed at supporting our children and young people's transition back into school. 16 children and young people attended over the six-week period and the feedback we received from the schools and young people themselves was fantastic with many reporting that they found returning to school in September an easier and more positive experience. We plan to expand this new offer in the forthcoming academic year to include support for children transitioning from primary to secondary school and secondary school to college.

The young people who come to us on placements have grown in complexity over the year due to the impact that the pandemic and lockdowns has had on their levels of anxiety and mental health. This has resulted in an increase in demand for our placements and in order to meet this we have introduced additional group sessions and are piloting a new outreach programme which will allow our staff to go into schools and work with small groups of students for time limited periods.

Family Support

Our family support service, funded by Stockton Borough Council and the Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group, continues to provide a phenomenal level of support to an ever-increasing number of families across Stockton & Hartlepool. The team responded to the pandemic almost overnight and moved seamlessly to a virtual support offer which includes 1:1 telephone consultations, email support, drop-in sessions & video calls alongside the creation and distribution of bespoke resources. In addition, they have adapted their training offer to allow parents to still access it virtually. This has included sessions on 'Transition back to School', 'Wellbeing for Parents' and 'Speech & Language Therapy' which was delivered in collaboration with a trained practitioner. Throughout the last year the team have supported 2189 families resulting in 3118 hours of direct personalised support. It is worth noting this is a 250% increase on the previous year and highlights just how important this service has been during the pandemic, which has seen many families cut off from their existing support mechanisms and on the verge of crisis.

As a direct result of the pandemic we were also able to secure funding from The National Lottery's Reaching Communities Fund to establish a new free national telephone support line. This has allowed us to put the staff and infrastructure in place to increase our support offer to families outside of Stockton and Hartlepool, with 20% of the calls now coming in from outside of the North East. The team have supported 2175 families since it was established with approximately 50% of them being new to Daisy Chain. Demand for this service is high and we are in the process of recruiting volunteers and streamlining processes to reduce waiting times, to ensure all families are able to access this support as and when they need it.

"Before speaking with the team I was bewildered as to what to do and struggling to absorb the information that had been given to me. I now feel much more positive about my daughter's future and want to thank Daisy chain for their help and assistance."



Unfortunately, our 'Links' parent support group has been closed for the duration of the year due to the pandemic. Parents have been re-directed to the Family Support Team and telephone support line and we are looking forward to being able to re-launch Links later in the year when it is safe to do so.

Training

Our training team has responded quickly to the pandemic and put together a new virtual offer which has been accessed by over 150 parents and professionals. We have continued to develop our partnership with Cleveland Police assisting them with the roll out of their new Autism Alert Cards and forged a new positive relationship with Stockton Borough Council's housing team. Raising awareness in this way and working to support positive interactions between professionals and autistic individuals remains one of our top priorities and we are excited to see the expansion of this work in the future.

"Previously, I didn't really understand that my young person's difficulties were due to anxiety and stress."

I see his struggles in a new light, now and am able to support him better because of that."

We continue to be a strategic partner with the Autism Education Trust and have expanded our offer to include their post-16 training package meaning we can now deliver a range of high-quality training packages to early years settings, schools and colleges across the North East. We are supported in this work by the Accelerator Project who recently funded two workshop series for 30 secondary school staff on 'Good Autism Practice and the Transition Back to School.' Feedback from the sessions was fantastic with 100% of delegates reporting that the workshop series increased their confidence and had a positive impact on both their personal practice and their settings support of children and young people with autism.'

"Thank you for the training. It has been very beneficial in that it has changed the way I approach the children within my class/setting. I now try to understand how they are feeling when faced with everyday circumstances at school, such as noise and information overload and ensure I break down the tasks set into bite size chunks and use basic language with very few instructions. The positive impact that this has had has been astounding."

Employability

Daisy Chain's employability services exist in order to empower autistic adults to overcome barriers and make progress towards their personal employability goals. In February 2021, the Office for National Statistics published data revealing that only 22% of autistic adults are in any kind of employment. This shocking statistic makes us more determined than ever to close the employment gap for autistic people and to continue offering our specialist services. We are forever grateful for the players of People's Postcode Lottery, whose support allows us to continue running this valuable and necessary service.

This year, the COVID-19 pandemic has been a huge barrier to us being able to deliver our usual employability services. The closure of our superstore, due to government guidelines and safety measures, has resulted in us losing around 8 months of service delivery. Furthermore, with many external organisations moving to home-working and the strict implementation of social distancing measures, our opportunities to provide external work placement opportunities to service users were drastically reduced.

Despite the above challenges, this year we have supported 12 autistic adults via internal placement opportunities, 1:1 support and workshops. One of our service users was supported into a paid freelance employment opportunity, creating a promotional video for a local organisation. He is currently in the process of launching his own business. Another service user was supported to undertake a level 2 Business Administration course alongside her internal administration placement and service users were successful in achieving new paid employment roles.



In addition to the above, one particular success story for the year relates to a young man called George. Through liaison and partnership between Daisy Chain's employability team and Darlington-based manufacturing company Cummins, George has successfully completed a paid work placement role with the organisation. This work placement was extended on multiple occasions to span the course of a year, in total, and also included an increase in paid hours. George has been an asset to Cummins and in February 2021, as a result of his fantastic performance within the placement role, Cummins offered him a two-year full-time, paid apprenticeship.

When reflecting on his paid placement experience with Cummins, George said:

"The support that has been given to me during the last 11 months has really made me feel a key part of the team. My work experience so far has enabled me to feel more confident in my ability to carry out my day to day tasks, as well as making me more confident in social interactions."

Our upcycling service has provided work experience and valuable upcycling skills to 20 autistic adults through the provision of skills workshops and longer-term placements. Service users have worked with staff to upcycle items donated to our superstore and that were otherwise destined for landfill, as part of our new focus on eco-awareness and sustainability.

Barn

The farm is one of our most popular and well used facilities and is currently home to over 100 animals including pigs, sheep, alpacas, goats, chickens and a variety of other small mammals and reptiles. Our animals continue to be an effective way of encouraging interaction and communication and the children who visit the farm love to get involved in feeding, training and other aspects of animal care.

In the 2020 to 2021 financial year we worked with 9 student placements and a further 131 families have accessed the barn and benefited from spending time with the animals during activity days. We have also introduced after school and holiday clubs which have been very popular with our children and young people and the feedback we have collected has shown that they find these sessions soothing and a great way to make new friends.

Plans for the coming year include the introduction of new activities such as alpaca walking and 'Farmer for the Day' sessions as well as 1:1 and small group animal therapy sessions delivered by a trained counsellor in collaboration with our animal technicians.

Wellbeing Services

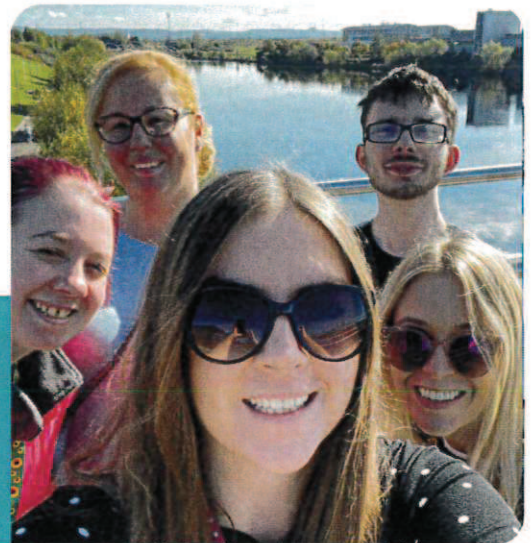
We were delighted to be awarded funding from the Coronavirus Mental Health Response Fund through Mind, which allowed us to launch an enhanced and expanded wellbeing support service from June 2020. This vital service was launched during lockdown and operated remotely using virtual means until we were able to return to face-to-face delivery. Throughout 2020/2021 the service has provided support to 380 individuals, either via face to face or virtual 1:1 and group-based support.

Autistic young people and adults have presented with a variety of support needs, the most common of which include friendships and relationships, understanding themselves and their autism, understanding emotions and anxiety support. The demand for the service has been huge and we developed a wide range of external referral networks, including GPs, CAMHS and social workers. In addition to this, we have worked with Darlington CAMHS to deliver wellbeing support services from within their offices. The impact of this was enormous. For example, one particular service user, who was not previously engaging with the support being offered by CAMHS, responded really well to the support offered by our wellbeing staff. Mum reported that, since engaging in the sessions, the young man had become much more positive about his pending autism diagnosis and had begun sharing his thoughts and feelings about it with family at home.

As part of the project we established a 'Voice' group – a group for autistic adults to share their views, engage in peer support and feed into Daisy Chain's adult services strategy. We also set up and ran a specific group for autistic women which was attended by a female autistic public speaker and provided the attendees the opportunity to discuss shared experiences around being an autistic woman.

One wellbeing service user commented that:

"In my experience, the autistic adult groups were primarily suited to men with autism, and myself and some other women with autism (who tended to suffer more from anxiety, often social anxiety) felt uncomfortable and out of place in these groups. The benefit of having a group catered to our needs was immeasurable."



Questionnaire feedback collected from service users has highlighted and evidenced the impact of this service. Of those completing the questionnaire, 90% said that the support they received had a positive impact on their mental wellbeing, 90% said that it had helped them to feel more positive and 74% said that the support had helped them to feel more able to face challenges.

Observational evidence and service user testimonials further back this up. For example, two sets of girls, who met because of their involvement in the project, developed a strong connection with each other and have been empowered and supported to connect and socialise outside of Daisy Chain. Another service user, who was struggling to engage positively with anyone and was not attending education, was supported to begin forming relationships with other Daisy Chain staff members and begin accessing a formal placement at Daisy Chain in conjunction with her school. The service user has described Daisy Chain as her happy place – the only place she felt understood.

Finally, we were thrilled to have been awarded funding through the Masonic Charitable Foundation to enhance the complex support element of our wellbeing service. Through this funding, we were able to recruit a qualified counsellor who joined the wellbeing team in January 2021. We are overjoyed to be able to offer this specialised support.

"I think it's incredibly important (to have services specifically to support the mental health and wellbeing of autistic young people and adults) and in regards to mental health, severely lacking, for adults – especially autistic women. Autistic people suffer from mental health problems directly arising from their autism and the majority of mainstream counsellors (in my experience) don't know enough about how autism and mental health interact."

Housing and Independent Living

We were overjoyed to receive funding from Nationwide Building Society allowing us to launch our brand-new Housing, Benefits and Independent Living Service specifically for autistic adults across the Tees Valley. Through 1:1 advice and guidance and small group workshops, this service provides adults with the support they need to develop independent living skills, receive the benefits they are rightfully entitled to and take steps forwards in their independent living journey.

The service launched in January 2021 and began direct service delivery in February. By 31st March 2021 support had been provided to 12 individual adults and more than £5000 had been achieved for service users in previously unclaimed benefits. Within a short space of time, the wide-reaching impact of this service is becoming apparent. We have worked with one young adult to access new living accommodation, closer to their family and with a more suitable amount of space for their needs. Another service user has received a charitable grant as a result of our input, allowing them to purchase furniture for their new home.



Independent living workshops have been hugely popular, covering topics such as cooking an easy meal, keeping safe in the community and budgeting skills. At Daisy Chain, we are passionate about empowering autistic adults and providing them with the advice and support they need in order to thrive in the community and as an adult in their own right. We are so excited to continue developing this project over the coming year.

Safeguarding

We continue to prioritise safeguarding and as an organisation recognise our responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all children, young people and at-risk adults at all times. In the 2020-21 financial year we conducted a thorough and robust safeguarding audit, from which a safeguarding action plan was created to ensure we are fulfilling our organisational safeguarding responsibilities. As part of this, we have updated our safeguarding statement to reflect our commitment to being a safer organisation, invested in additional training for our staff and developed and rolled out a new case files system to promote joined-up working across the different branches of our services. In addition, within the year we have dealt with 779 safeguarding cases, working closely with the police, social services and other relevant organisations to ensure our service users are safe.

A word from our beneficiaries

"The 1:1 support helped me immensely as I had received a diagnosis relatively late in my life and knew nothing about what autism was. I had been discharged from CAMHS youth services without being given any information on autism except for the tip that Daisy Chain could help me. It improved my mental health a lot, especially my anxiety, as now I can recognise and understand issues that arise from autism and now, I know how to combat these issues. The social group also improved my wellbeing as I was isolated at the time and this gave me a new friend group and a bit of structure to my life."

Young autistic adult

"They personalised to my needs and addressed my problems at the time, which were also around COVID. Compassionate and reassuring"

"Helped me understand my autism after diagnosis and how autism affects me personally"

"My daughter is gaining so much from her sessions. She loves singing and the staff have really helped her confidence."

Volunteering

Volunteers are at the heart of our service. They provide support to our staff and service users with their knowledge, skills and experiences which really helps to add value to everything we do. The continued support from our volunteers ensures Daisy Chain is a much stronger and sustainable organisation.

Volunteer Area	Number of Volunteers	Number of Hours
Barn	25	1,260.5
Superstore	26	2,558.5
Garden & Groundworks	9	588
Care Clubs	10	84.5
Upcycling	10	136.5
Admin, Family Support & Wellbeing	11	348
E-commerce	4	381
Total:	95	5,357



Due to COVID-19 and the subsequent numerous lockdowns many of our valued volunteers were unable to continue in their roles. When government regulations allowed, a small number of volunteers were able to return. We would like to say a huge thank you to the team of barn and garden volunteers who were able to continue providing vital care to our animals and undertake essential ground maintenance during this period. As restrictions allowed we were then also able to welcome back upcycling, e-commerce and remote working family support volunteers.

Volunteers have been flexible, adaptable and understanding during this period of uncertainty and significant change. The pandemic has impacted upon our volunteers, altering their own personal circumstances meaning that not all Daisy Chain volunteers are able to return to volunteering. We are very grateful to those volunteers who have been able to return, for their continued support during this challenging period.

"Myself (Dawn) and Emma (my daughter) volunteer at the Daisy chain farm helping to look after all the lovely animals. Emma has autism and missed out on school for the last few years due to her autism and anxiety. She started as a service user only visiting the farm and as soon as she turned 16 we both started volunteering in the Barn. We love it so much and I cant thank the staff enough for the patience and kindness they show Emma - such amazing people and we can't imagine life without Daisy chain You are our lifeline"



Volunteer Awards

We always strive to make our volunteers feel valued and appreciated, and following the first lockdown, we were able to have a belated Volunteer Week celebration event where staff and volunteers came together to acknowledge and celebrate the contribution made by volunteers across the organisation throughout the year and importantly, during lockdown.

Commemorative awards were given to three volunteers who were nominated for their work and dedication during lockdown in maintaining the site at Norton and in helping to establish and grow the e-commerce initiative which enabled us to continue trading while our superstore was closed.

Julie Kemp

Julie worked tirelessly throughout lockdown to ensure that the allotment and polytunnels were maintained and animals cared for. The outdoor areas of Daisy Chain play an important part in supporting autistic young people and adults with their mental wellbeing as well as offering a safe space to learn new skills and grow confidence.

Without Julie's immense contribution, the areas growing plants and produce would have been ruined, leading to additional costs and wasted resources - instead, service users were able to return to activities in a well-maintained environment, and social enterprise activities were able to start on schedule.



Stuart Fearn MBE

A long-term corporate partner through Newcastle Building Society, Stuart was instrumental in establishing the new e-commerce initiative on his own time during the first lockdown, including bringing together a team of photographers to catalogue items for sale, photographing dozens of items in his home studio, and helping us access funding for the equipment needed for us to be able to continue this work ourselves.

Stuart has given selflessly to a wide variety of causes including Daisy Chain for a number of years, and was awarded an MBE in the 2020 Queen's Birthday Honours List in recognition of his commitment to helping local businesses and people through the COVID-19 pandemic.



Mark Lloyd

Mark was introduced to Daisy Chain by Stuart during the first lockdown and has gone on to become an essential part of the e-commerce initiative, working with volunteer models to produce high-quality, professional images which fit with the look and feel of the new brand.

By offering his time and expertise, he has enabled us to establish a presence across a range of digital platforms, launching Daisy Chain Store into the marketplace of vintage and retro clothing.



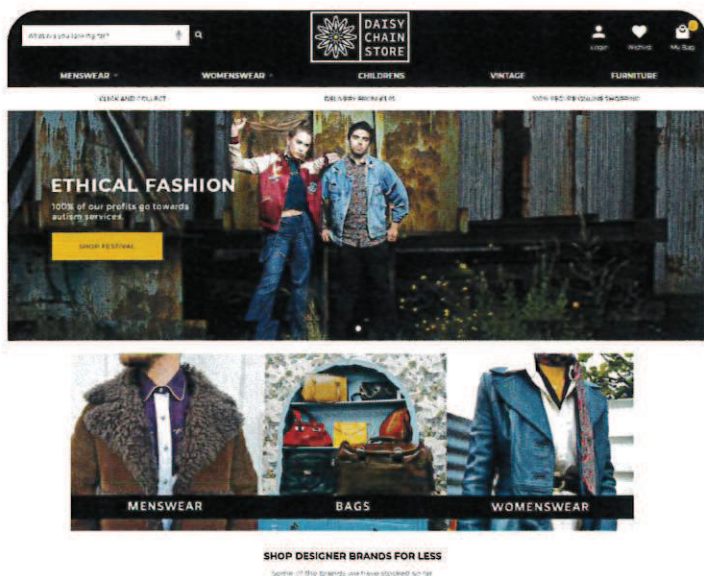
Our Superstore

This year, the Superstore faced its biggest ever challenge in the form of cessation of trading due to COVID-19. The Superstore remained closed for almost six months of the financial year which resulted in significant losses.

The Superstore is Daisy Chain's flagship social enterprise which provides significant unrestricted income which is ploughed directly into autism services. In direct response to forced closures we ramped up our efforts to launch our first e-commerce initiative - www.daisychainstore.co.uk - which has been instrumental in:

- providing a vital source of income during lockdown;
- diversifying our charitable income streams and future-proofing our retail operation;
- growing our local audience to nationwide and global;
- providing a diverse range of platforms to maximise income from donations.

During lockdown 1 (March 2020) we designed and built our own website which launched in September selling designer and high-end textiles as well as upcycled furniture. In addition to this we:



- launched our own Depop shop selling fashionable, desirable and on-trend clothing;
- launched on ASOS with our very own charity boutique focusing on true vintage;
- launched an Ebay Store selling items which would attract greater amounts than in-store value;
- planned, designed and delivered two separate fashion shoots (washed up plastic and industrial-vintage themes) promoting 'Ethical Fashion for Autism';
- shipped items worldwide to countries including Holland, Ireland, America and Germany;
- delivered a successful online-only Black Friday event which generated income during a period of lockdown.

Post-lockdown 1 we were able to open our doors in June and then again later in the year and in early 2021. In preparation for this we had to overcome a number of barriers in order to allow for a safe reopening. Store alterations included:

- transformation of shop floor layout to ensure we were covid-secure. This included extensive risk assessment, one-way system introduced, screens at till point, limit on people who can enter the shop;
- logistics in respect of quarantining donations, resulting in a redesign of warehouse space and procedures;
- a fully-operational separate distribution centre which allowed us to bring warehousing space back into commercial use.

We also took the opportunity to redevelop our existing coffee shop which will launch during April 2021 serving a modernised menu and offering placements to autistic adults seeking work experience. We will be introducing a number of placement opportunities inclusive of barista, customer service and food preparation.

Future plans for the superstore include ambitious plans to not only recover losses suffered during the pandemic but come back stronger with the provision of a memorable customer experience both in store and online.



Corporate and Community Fundraising

We are hugely grateful for the support we receive from individuals, our local community, businesses and service users, who have all donated to us so generously throughout the year.



The support we have received from our corporate supporters is essential in allowing us to continue providing support to our families, and each is phenomenal in their generosity.

This year, all areas of fundraising were hit hard by COVID-19 due to the forced cancellation of most of our events programme and cessation of our community presence which, coupled with some of our valued corporate partners being unable to support us due to their own challenges, led to a devastating impact on fundraising.

In response to this, we launched an urgent appeal, asking new and existing supporters to contribute towards our target of £400,000 and we were overwhelmed with the response.

This included four-figure donations from organisations who had never engaged with us before alongside contributions from long-term supporters.

In addition, to try and combat some of the losses and to continue engaging supporters during the first lockdown, we launched a number of virtual events including a bi-weekly online quiz night and a virtual dog show. These proved popular with individuals who were already linked to the charity in some way, and many expressed their gratitude at being able to still have some contact with Daisy Chain.

In September, between the changes in lockdown restrictions, we were able to hold our annual Golf Day, bringing together 15 corporate teams who enjoyed a socially distanced round of golf, with long-term supporters Brewin Dolphin taking home the trophy.



With continuing restrictions in place, we worked with a number of corporate partners, including Ramside Estates, to create a wedding package that we used to hold a fundraising competition offering couples the opportunity to win their dream wedding. The competition attracted a lot of attention in local press including through newspapers and on BBC Radio Tees, and culminated in one lucky couple winning the complete wedding package.

The support from the community is always incredible, but during the period, they have continued to astound us with their creativity and drive including Helen, mum to an autistic child, who shaved her head during lockdown and raised over £2,200.

All fundraising activity is undertaken by in-house staff and vetted volunteers, and Daisy Chain is registered with the Fundraising Regulator who set out the standards that we work to. No complaints were received during the year in relation to our fundraising activity. Fundraisers are given guidance on how to remain within the law and the Fundraising Code, either verbally or in writing, and volunteers are given training.

Structure, Governance and Management

Trustees

Lesley Clode

Emma Hansford *(retired November 2020)*

Duane Hanson

Ian Dennis Kinnery

Elaine McLaine-Wood *(retired July 2020)*

David Norris

Ian Parker

Dr. Edwin John Pugh

Alison Tasker

Chief Executive Officer

Neeraj Sharma

Independent Auditors

Waltons Clark Whitehill Limited

Maritime House

Harbour Walk

The Marina

Hartlepool

TS24 0UX

Bankers

Barclays Bank Plc

49 High Street

Stockton-on-Tees

TS18 1AH

Santander

43-44 High Street

Stockton-on-Tees

TS18 1SD

Investment Advice

Vertem Asset Management

The Gresham

92 Osborne Road

Jesmond

Newcastle upon Tyne

NE2 2TD

Daisy Chain Project Teesside was incorporated on 14th May 2003 and is a company limited by guarantee not having a share capital. It has been a registered charity since 27th June 2003 when it commenced its activities. The original Memorandum of Association and Articles of Association were updated in 2018 as agreed by special resolution of the board. The new Articles of Association were approved by the Charity Commission.

All trustees are directors of the company and directorship ceases upon termination of trusteeship. We give a special thanks to trustees Elaine McLaine-Wood and Emma Hansford who retired from the board during the year. Also to Ian Kinnery who, after two years as Chair, stood down from the role at our AGM but still remains a member on the board of trustees. We are pleased to announce that Ian Parker was appointed the role of Chair at the AGM in October 2020.



The total number of trustees is currently seven and we will begin a trustee recruitment campaign for additional trustees in line with skills gaps identified from our board appraisal and analysis, which is undertaken annually to evaluate our board.

New trustees undertake an induction process that gives them an insight into the roles and responsibilities, ethos, aims and objectives of the charity. We continue to ensure a strong skills matrix exists within our board.

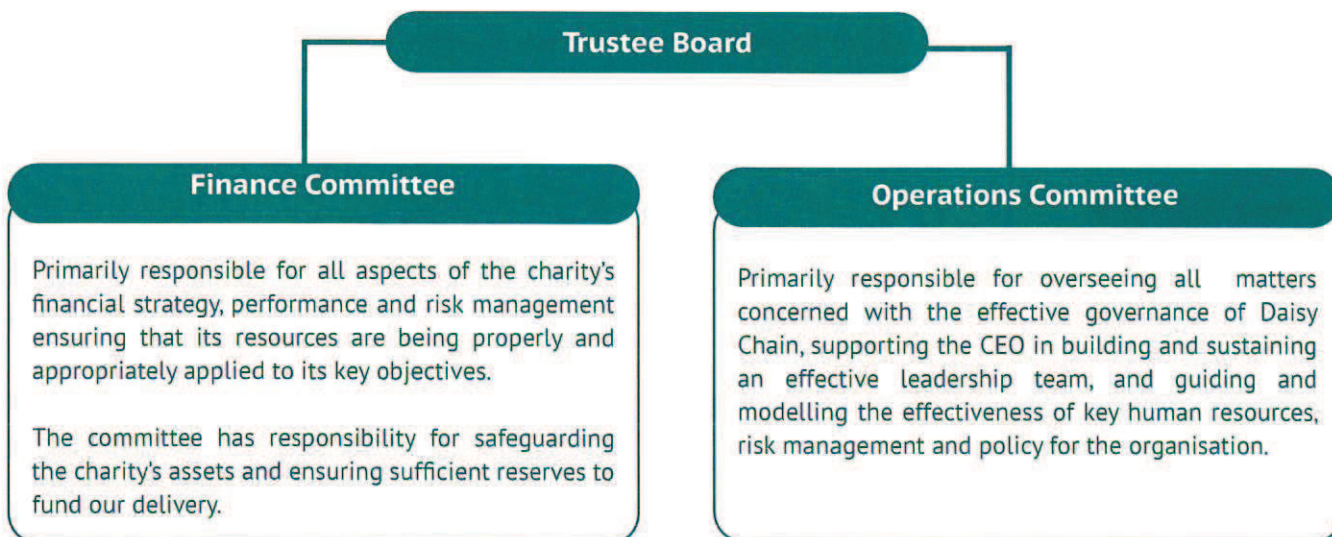
Trustees meet formally for full Board meetings at least quarterly, in addition to a monthly Finance Sub-Committee and a quarterly Operations Committee. The charity is administered by the trustees who delegate its day-to-day operations to the CEO.

Trustees ensure that Safeguarding is a governance priority and Daisy Chain's policies for children and adult safeguarding are reviewed annually. Data Protection registration for our Data Controller is renewed with ICO annually. We have had no serious incidents to report to the Charity Commission this year. Key agenda items include Governance, Risk Review, Operational Updates, Finance. Both our annual Health and Safety Audit and Financial Audit for many of our processes provided a clean bill of health, which enables Daisy Chain to function efficiently and further enhance our governance and business readiness for the future.

Remuneration for CEO is set and determined by the Daisy Chain trustee board with regard to the performance and appraisal system. Remuneration of Daisy Chain staff is set by Daisy Chain CEO in accordance with internal pay scales and external competitive pay scale environment.

Delegation and Committees

The Board maintains a written schedule of matters reserved for the trustee board and committees which clearly defines specific areas for delegation. Committees report to the Board on a regular basis.



Financial Review

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31st March 2021

The trustees are pleased to present their annual directors' report together with the consolidated financial statements of the charity and its subsidiary for the year ended 31st March 2021, which are also prepared to meet the requirements for a directors' report and accounts for Companies Act purposes.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, and 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 1st January 2019).

Financial Commentary

Review of Accounting Period

During this financial year, we have once again consolidated Daisy Chain Project's financial position. We have built on our success in growing the organisation's work and continue to be successful in attracting new funding and contracts.

As explained in the notes in the financial statements, the COVID-19 outbreak and resulting measures taken by government to contain the virus negatively affected our business throughout 2020. In addition to the already known effects, the macroeconomic uncertainty causes disruption to economic activity and it is unknown what the longer-term impact on our business may be. The scale and duration of this pandemic remain uncertain but are expected to further impact our business.

Review of Financial Position

During this difficult financial period, we have reported a £733 deficit. The balance sheet remains strong with total funds of just over £2m.

Overall, the income for the year was £1.8m; £129k or 7% lower than in the previous year. Income would have been higher had it not been for the COVID-19 pandemic which stopped all activities on 23rd March 2020 with a national lockdown.

The total expenditure reported in the financial statements has also decreased slightly because of the reduction of on site activity caused by the pandemic. Staff were placed on furlough, and were paid only 80% of their salary to mirror the government support provided through the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. Expenditure has fallen by £55k in the year.

Additional grant funding received during the year helped to diversify income and has led to an increase in restricted funds of £152k. Details of the funds received, and what they relate, can be seen in the statement of funds note in the accounts.

Overall, we saw an unrestricted funds deficit of £153k and unrestricted reserves fell to £1.6m as a result. We generated a cash surplus and cash balances increased to £629k, putting the charity in a strong position to meet its requirements for working capital. Free reserves of £148k were available, alongside our fixed asset investment, which meant reserves were slightly less than the minimum level of £400k required by our reserves policy.

The reasons for this include the increase in restricted income in the year. The closures of both the main site and the superstore due to the national lockdowns severely hampered income generation throughout the year. The closure of the store allowed for improvement work to be carried out, and going forward the superstore is expected to help increase the free reserves once more.

Fixed asset additions also increased the non-liquid value of the reserves by £173k.

Future Period

Looking ahead to 2021-22, the trustees have approved a budget that is both prudent but allows for developing and enhancing our services and staff. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to an extremely challenging financial environment however, additional grant income has been successfully bid for and has mitigated some of the losses. The forecast outturn for the year end therefore estimates that a small surplus may be achieved, subject of course to further national lockdown arrangements being reintroduced.

Reserves

The trustees review the reserve policy annually and consider the charity should hold free reserves of approximately £400,000 (2019-20 - £400,000) to cover three months' operating costs with a further contingency of £100,000 in the event of a significant reduction in planned income. At 31st March 2021, the charity had restricted reserves of £358,000 (2019-20 - £205,000).

There are funds of £30,000 designated at year end to the following projects:

£20k Changing places accessible toilet

£10k Restructure fund

Investments

The trustees of Daisy Chain Project collectively agreed an investment portfolio to provide long term income returns. Investments are reviewed by the Finance Committee (which meets monthly) and trustees are advised of any recommended changes at full meetings of the Trustee Board.

The balance sheet value of the investment has recovered since last reported. Last year the value of the investments deteriorated significantly due to the onset of the pandemic. In 2020/21 the value recovered and has encouragingly grown beyond the 2019 balance.

Risk Management

The trustees conduct periodic reviews of the major risks to which the charity is exposed, with a view to establishing systems and procedures aimed at mitigating those risks. Significant external risks to funding have led to the development of a strategic plan which allows for the diversification of fundraising and other activities of the charity. Internal risks are minimised by authorisation procedures for projects and transactions, to ensure consistently high-quality service delivery.

Significant risks are divided into a number of areas including:

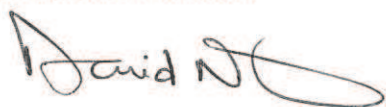
- Service Provision: protection and monitoring of children and vulnerable adults.
- Financial Risk: income generation, business planning, budgeting, and insurances.
- Personnel: staff, volunteers, and placements.
- Property: security and management of premises and risk of fire.
- IT and Communications: security and privacy of data.

The trustees are aware of the importance of developing a risk awareness culture within the charity and continue to work towards embedding this within the day to day working methods and thinking of Daisy Chain's staff and volunteers.

Approval

The Trustees' Report and Financial Statements were approved by the Board of Trustees on 21/10/2021.

On behalf of the Board



David Norris
Chair of Finance Committee

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

Statement of disclosure to auditors

The charity trustees (who are also directors of Daisy Chain Project Teesside for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and the group and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.


The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company and the group's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable group and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Disclosure of information to auditors

Each of the persons who are trustees at the time when this trustees' report is approved has confirmed that:

- so far as that trustee is aware, there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable group's auditors are unaware, and
- that trustee has taken all the steps that ought to have been taken as a trustee in order to be aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable group's auditors are aware of that information.

Ian Parker
Chair of Trustees
Date:


21/10/2021

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

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DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE

UNQUALIFIED OPINION

We have audited the financial statements of Daisy Chain Project Teesside (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the United Kingdom, including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

CONCLUSIONS RELATING TO GOING CONCERN

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(CONTINUED)

OTHER INFORMATION

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

OPINION ON OTHER MATTERS PRESCRIBED BY THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the Trustees' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements.
- the Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

MATTERS ON WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT BY EXCEPTION

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' Report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemptions in preparing the Trustees' Report.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(CONTINUED)

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TRUSTEES

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

AUDITORS' RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We gained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the company and the area in which it operates, and considered the risk of acts by the Charity that were contrary to applicable laws and regulations, including fraud. We designed audit procedures to respond to the risk, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment by, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

We identified the greatest potential for fraud in the following areas: existence and timing of recognition of income and management override of controls (especially in the posting of journals). We discussed these risks with management and designed audit procedures as follows:

- to test the timing and existence of revenue,
- to review journals posted to key control accounts or posted around the year end, to look for potential "window dressing" as well as looking at a sample throughout the year.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of our auditors' report.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(CONTINUED)

USE OF OUR REPORT

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and its members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



H O'Driscoll FCA (senior statutory auditor)

for and on behalf of

Waltons Clark Whitehill Limited

Maritime House

Harbour Walk

The Marina

Hartlepool

TS24 0UX

Date: 3 November 2021

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	4	615,315	736,526	1,351,841	881,440
Charitable activities	5	108,836	-	108,836	261,486
Other trading activities	6	367,333	-	367,333	813,836
Investments	7	4,801	-	4,801	5,180
		<u>1,096,285</u>	<u>736,526</u>	<u>1,832,811</u>	<u>1,961,942</u>
TOTAL INCOME					
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds	8	695,283	5,000	700,283	841,142
Charitable activities	9	644,501	518,865	1,163,366	1,077,682
		<u>1,339,784</u>	<u>523,865</u>	<u>1,863,649</u>	<u>1,918,824</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE					
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME BEFORE NET GAINS/(LOSSES) ON INVESTMENTS					
		(243,499)	212,661	(30,838)	43,118
Net gains/(losses) on investments		30,105	-	30,105	(14,608)
		<u>(213,394)</u>	<u>212,661</u>	<u>(733)</u>	<u>28,510</u>
NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME		(213,394)	212,661	(733)	28,510
Transfers between funds	20	60,253	(60,253)	-	-
		<u>(153,141)</u>	<u>152,408</u>	<u>(733)</u>	<u>28,510</u>
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS					
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		1,798,867	205,125	2,003,992	1,975,482
		<u>1,645,726</u>	<u>357,533</u>	<u>2,003,259</u>	<u>2,003,992</u>
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD					

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 04763989

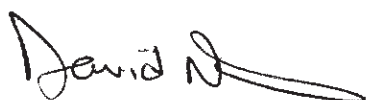
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	15	1,273,744	1,220,546
Investments	16	223,705	190,830
		<u>1,497,449</u>	<u>1,411,376</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Stocks	17	1,054	1,001
Debtors	18	65,863	140,320
Cash at bank and in hand		629,114	611,598
		<u>696,031</u>	<u>752,919</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	19	(190,221)	(160,303)
NET CURRENT ASSETS		<u>505,810</u>	<u>592,616</u>
TOTAL NET ASSETS		<u><u>2,003,259</u></u>	<u><u>2,003,992</u></u>
CHARITY FUNDS			
Restricted funds	20	357,533	205,125
Unrestricted funds	20	1,645,726	1,798,867
TOTAL FUNDS		<u><u>2,003,259</u></u>	<u><u>2,003,992</u></u>

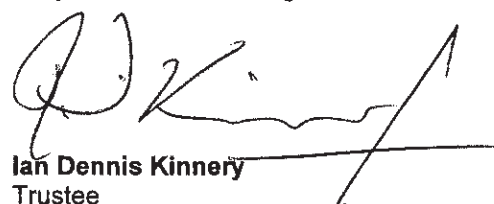
The trustees acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and preparation of financial statements.

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

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees and signed on their behalf by:



David Matthew Norris
Chair of Finance Committee
Date: 21/10/2021



Ian Dennis Kinnerly
Trustee

21/10/2021

The notes on pages 29 to 53 form part of these financial statements.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Net cash used in operating activities	22	189,703	121,570
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Dividends, interests and rents from investments		4,801	5,180
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(172,968)	(107,398)
Proceeds from sale of investments		36,517	19,486
Purchase of investments		(77,069)	(11,822)
Investment management fees		(1,250)	(1,258)
NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES		(209,969)	(95,812)
CHANGE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS IN THE PERIOD		(20,266)	25,758
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the period		666,624	640,866
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	23	646,358	666,624

The notes on pages 29 to 53 form part of these financial statements

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. GENERAL INFORMATION

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England. The members of the company are the trustees named on page 1. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the Charity.

The address of the Charity is:

Calf Fallow Farm
Calf Fallow Lane
Norton
Stockton - on - Tees
TS20 1PF

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

The financial statements 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 2015), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Daisy Chain Project Teesside meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy.

2.2 Going concern

The trustees, having made due and careful enquiry and preparing forecasts, are of the opinion that the Charity has adequate working capital to execute its operations over the next 12 months. The trustees, therefore, have made an informed judgement at the time of approving the financial statements, that there is reasonable expectation that the Charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. As a result the trustees have continued to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the annual financial statements.

In making this assessment the trustees are aware of the global impact of COVID-19 and the continuing uncertainty on society and the economy.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.3 Income

All income is recognised once the Charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Legacies are accounted for as incoming resources either upon receipt or where the receipt of the legacy is probable in that confirmation has been received from the personal representatives of the estate that payment will be made.

Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. The trustees acknowledge that they are assets of the Charity as soon as received but due to the fact that a very large number of small value items are received the time and cost of valuing donated goods at receipt would outweigh any benefit to the users of the financial statements of having them so valued.

Where goods are donated under the gift aid scheme the Charity is not entitled to the income until the goods are sold and the donor has confirmed that they are gifting the proceeds. In this case the income is included as a donation rather than as a sale.

Donated facilities are included at the value to the Charity where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

2.4 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

Expenditure on raising funds includes all expenditure incurred by the Charity to raise funds for its charitable purposes and includes costs of all fundraising activities events and non-charitable trading.

Governance costs are those incurred in connection with administration of the Charity and compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements.

2.5 Government grants

Government grants relating to tangible fixed assets are treated as deferred income and released to the statement of financial activities over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned. Other grants are credited to the statement of financial activities as the related expenditure is incurred.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.6 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets costing £1,000 or more are capitalised and recognised when future economic benefits are probable and the cost or value of the asset can be measured reliably.

Tangible fixed assets are initially recognised at cost. After recognition, under the cost model, tangible fixed assets are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any accumulated impairment losses.

Depreciation is charged so as to allocate the cost of tangible fixed assets less their residual value over their estimated useful lives.

Depreciation is provided on the following bases:

Freehold property	- 2% straight line
Improvements to long-term leasehold property	- straight line over the remaining term of the lease
Plant and machinery	- 25% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	- 20% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	- 25% reducing balance
Computer equipment	- 33.33% straight line

2.7 Investments

Fixed asset investments are a form of financial instrument and are initially recognised at their transaction cost and subsequently measured at fair value at the balance sheet date. The net gains and losses on revaluations and disposals are included in the consolidated statement of financial activities.

Investments in subsidiaries are valued at cost less provision for impairment.

2.8 Operating leases

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the statement of financial activities on a straight line basis over the lease term.

2.9 Financial instruments

The Charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value.

2.10 Pensions

The Charity contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the Charity to the fund in respect of the period.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

2.11 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the Charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds 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 notes to the financial statements.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the Charity for particular purposes. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

The Charity has two linked charities, Links 2 and Sibz (Sibling support group). All activity is now undertaken within Daisy Chain Project Teesside.

3. CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES AND AREAS OF JUDGMENT

Estimates and judgments are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. This will include judgments in applying the most appropriate accounting policies.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions:

In preparing these financial statements the trustees have used the going concern basis of accounting. This is based on the best information available at the date of signature. As explained in the Trustees report the macroeconomic environment continues to be challenging and uncertainties remain over any future restrictions on movement being introduced.

At this stage this is not expected to change the status of the Charity from a going concern and the financial statements therefore continue to be prepared on the going concern basis.

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

4. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Donations	61,726	-	61,726	138,856
Legacies	-	-	-	5,000
Grants	281,750	736,526	1,018,276	729,189
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	271,839	-	271,839	8,395
	<u>615,315</u>	<u>736,526</u>	<u>1,351,841</u>	<u>881,440</u>
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>393,856</u>	<u>487,584</u>	<u>881,440</u>	

Included in grants above is £400,000 (2020: £400,000) from People's Postcode Lottery. This is split with £150,000 (2020: £150,000) treated as restricted and £250,000 (2020: £250,000) treated as unrestricted.

5. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Children's services	1,510	1,510	5,476
Family support	12,684	12,684	87,038
Educational placements	84,805	84,805	117,711
Training & other services	9,837	9,837	51,261
	<u>108,836</u>	<u>108,836</u>	<u>261,486</u>
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>261,486</u>	<u>261,486</u>	

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESIDE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

6. FUNDRAISING INCOME

Income from fundraising events

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Superstore	301,860	301,860	596,436
Merchandise sales	10	10	2,744
Fundraising events	65,326	65,326	197,706
Other income	137	137	16,950
	<u>367,333</u>	<u>367,333</u>	<u>813,836</u>
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>813,836</u>	<u>813,836</u>	

7. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Deposit account interest	781	781	1,499
Investment income	4,020	4,020	3,681
	<u>4,801</u>	<u>4,801</u>	<u>5,180</u>
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>5,180</u>	<u>5,180</u>	

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

8. COSTS OF RAISING FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Fundraising costs of grants and donations	7,245	-	7,245	4,850
Cost of fundraising events	17,059	-	17,059	87,168
Superstore costs	164,431	3,000	167,431	146,690
Wages and salaries	476,743	2,000	478,743	590,197
Depreciation	28,555	-	28,555	10,979
Investment manager fees	1,250	-	1,250	1,258
	<u>695,283</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>700,283</u>	<u>841,142</u>
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>841,142</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>841,142</u>	

9. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

Summary by fund type

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Children's services	231,577	212,538	444,115	517,782
Family support	111,872	243,714	355,586	171,972
Educational placements	276,411	40,828	317,239	319,840
Training & other services	24,641	21,785	46,426	68,088
	<u>644,501</u>	<u>518,865</u>	<u>1,163,366</u>	<u>1,077,682</u>
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>700,740</u>	<u>376,942</u>	<u>1,077,682</u>	

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

10. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES

	Activities undertaken directly 2021 £	Support costs 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Children's services	247,937	196,178	444,115	517,782
Family support	218,262	137,324	355,586	171,972
Educational placements	175,010	142,229	317,239	319,840
Training & other services	31,713	14,713	46,426	68,088
	<u>672,922</u>	<u>490,444</u>	<u>1,163,366</u>	<u>1,077,682</u>
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>659,936</u>	<u>417,746</u>	<u>1,077,682</u>	

ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS

	Children's services 2021 £	Family support 2021 £	Educational placements 2021 £	Training & other services 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Wages and salaries	230,681	202,767	166,903	23,418	623,769	562,012
Staff costs	2,032	2,292	275	46	4,645	13,899
Staff travel	29	66	29	-	124	1,670
Volunteer costs	378	216	137	-	731	1,728
Premises	2,493	33	2,461	2,012	6,999	24,661
Administration	5,150	5,156	3,051	5,675	19,032	7,842
Advertising	58	237	150	-	445	2,496
Resources	7,116	7,495	2,004	562	17,177	45,628
	<u>247,937</u>	<u>218,262</u>	<u>175,010</u>	<u>31,713</u>	<u>672,922</u>	<u>659,936</u>
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>379,392</u>	<u>113,183</u>	<u>119,676</u>	<u>47,685</u>	<u>659,936</u>	

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

10. ANALYSIS OF EXPENDITURE BY ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Children's services 2021 £	Family support 2021 £	Educational placements 2021 £	Training & other services 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Wages and salaries	80,165	56,115	58,119	6,012	200,411	113,786
Depreciation	31,811	22,268	23,063	2,386	79,528	72,366
Staff costs	6,449	4,514	4,676	484	16,123	18,539
Staff travel	-	-	-	-	-	415
Volunteer costs	16	11	12	1	40	574
Premises	24,768	17,338	17,957	1,857	61,920	74,907
Administration	28,992	20,294	21,019	2,174	72,479	60,215
Advertising	158	110	114	12	394	330
Professional fees	1,358	951	985	102	3,396	11,050
Subscriptions	1,010	707	733	76	2,526	4,184
Resources	1,228	860	891	92	3,071	6,134
Governance costs	20,223	14,156	14,660	1,517	50,556	55,246
	<u>196,178</u>	<u>137,324</u>	<u>142,229</u>	<u>14,713</u>	<u>490,444</u>	<u>417,746</u>
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>138,390</u>	<u>58,789</u>	<u>200,164</u>	<u>20,403</u>	<u>417,746</u>	

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

11. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Auditors' remuneration	6,552	6,552	6,300
Auditors' non audit costs	1,968	1,968	1,302
Consultancy, legal & professional fees	960	960	960
Wages and salaries	41,076	41,076	46,684
	<u>50,556</u>	<u>50,556</u>	<u>55,246</u>
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>55,246</u>	<u>55,246</u>	

12. AUDITORS' REMUNERATION

The auditors' remuneration amounts to an auditor fee of £5,460 (2020 - £5,250), and other services of £1,640 (2020 - £1,085).

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

13. STAFF COSTS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,243,769	1,206,548
Social security costs	76,528	82,064
Contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	23,702	24,068
	<u>1,343,999</u>	<u>1,312,680</u>

The average number of persons employed by the Charity during the period was as follows:

	2021	2020
	No.	No.
Management and administration	13	13
Fundraising	2	6
Charitable activities - service delivery	50	48
Charity Shop	22	25
	<u>87</u>	<u>92</u>

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

The above equates to full time equivalent staff of 57 (2020: 57).

The total employment benefits, including employer pension contributions, of key management personnel were £188,773 (2020: £208,245).

The Charity benefits from the involvement and support of its many volunteers, further details of which are provided in the Trustees Report. In accordance with accounting standards the economic contribution of volunteers is not measured in the financial statements.

14. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

During the year, no trustees received any remuneration or other benefits (2020 - £NIL).

During the year ended 31 March 2021, no trustee expenses have been incurred (2020 - £NIL).

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
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**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

15. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Freehold property £	Improvements to long- term leasehold property £	Plant and machinery £	Motor vehicles £	Fixtures, fittings and computer equipment £	Total £
Cost						
At 1 April 2020	1,304,427	93,292	73,441	12,000	413,105	1,896,265
Additions	30,658	72,128	-	31,330	38,852	172,968
Disposals	-	(16,565)	(3,525)	(12,000)	(58,263)	(90,353)
At 31 March 2021	<u>1,335,085</u>	<u>148,855</u>	<u>69,916</u>	<u>31,330</u>	<u>393,694</u>	<u>1,978,880</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 April 2020	333,129	34,065	59,036	9,200	240,289	675,719
Charge for the period	25,362	28,555	3,550	-	50,616	108,083
On disposals	-	(7,887)	(3,316)	(9,200)	(58,263)	(78,666)
At 31 March 2021	<u>358,491</u>	<u>54,733</u>	<u>59,270</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>232,642</u>	<u>705,136</u>
Net book value						
At 31 March 2021	<u>976,594</u>	<u>94,122</u>	<u>10,646</u>	<u>31,330</u>	<u>161,052</u>	<u>1,273,744</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>971,298</u>	<u>59,227</u>	<u>14,405</u>	<u>2,800</u>	<u>172,816</u>	<u>1,220,546</u>

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

16. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS

	Investments in subsidiary companies £	Listed investments £	Unlisted investments £	Total £
Cost or valuation				
At 1 April 2020	1	135,803	55,026	190,830
Additions	-	77,069	36,517	113,586
Disposals	-	(36,517)	(77,069)	(113,586)
Revaluations	-	30,105	-	30,105
Investment manager fees	-	-	(1,250)	(1,250)
Dividends received	-	-	4,020	4,020
At 31 March 2021	1	206,460	17,244	223,705

Investments at market value

	2021 £	2020 £
Equities	206,460	135,803
Cash within investment portfolio	17,244	55,026
Investment in trading subsidiary	1	1
	223,705	190,830

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

16. FIXED ASSET INVESTMENTS (CONTINUED)

PRINCIPAL SUBSIDIARIES

The following was a subsidiary undertaking of the Charity:

Name	Company number	Registered office or principal place of business	Class of shares
Daisy Chain Trading (Teesside) Limited	05209370	Calf Fallow Farm, Calf Fallow Lane, Norton, Stockton On Tees, TS20 1PF	Ordinary

Holding

100%

The financial results of the subsidiary for the year were:

Name	Expenditure £	Profit/(Loss) / Surplus/ (Deficit) for the year £
Daisy Chain Trading (Teesside) Limited	(15,258)	15,258

17. STOCKS

	2021 £	2020 £
Goods for resale	1,054	1,001

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

18. DEBTORS

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	22,475	55,587
Amounts owed by group undertakings	-	14,353
Other debtors	5,251	10,154
Prepayments and accrued income	38,137	60,226
	<u>65,863</u>	<u>140,320</u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

19. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	59,185	32,642
Other taxation and social security	18,204	17,791
Other creditors	5,095	10,335
Accruals and deferred income	107,737	99,535
	<u>190,221</u>	<u>160,303</u>
	2021 £	2020 £
Deferred income at 1 April 2020	54,843	45,867
Resources deferred during the year	12,802	54,843
Amounts released from previous periods	(54,843)	(45,867)
	<u>12,802</u>	<u>54,843</u>

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT PERIOD

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Designated funds						
Designated Funds	90,000	-	(60,000)	-	-	30,000
General funds						
General Funds	1,708,867	1,096,285	(1,279,784)	60,253	30,105	1,615,726
Total Unrestricted funds	1,798,867	1,096,285	(1,339,784)	60,253	30,105	1,645,726
Restricted funds						
BLF Youth Initiative	14,350	-	(14,350)	-	-	-
CCG Hartlepool	35,037	80,750	(115,787)	-	-	-
Warbutons Family Matters	2,252	-	(2,252)	-	-	-
Cummins	2,536	33,363	-	(2,536)	-	33,363
The Mercer's Company	1,473	47,683	(43,078)	-	-	6,078
Children In Need - Holiday Club	30,373	-	(26,239)	-	-	4,134
People's Postcode Lottery	101,586	150,000	(140,412)	-	-	111,174
CCG Darlington	13,000	-	(13,000)	-	-	-
Coronavirus Mental Health Response Fund	-	49,836	(38,319)	(1,097)	-	10,420
Nationwide	-	43,584	(8,786)	-	-	34,798
Finlay Cooper	-	30,000	-	(30,000)	-	-

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT PERIOD (continued)

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers in/out £	Gains/ (Losses) £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Coronavirus Community Support Fund	-	99,378	(81,707)	(17,671)	-	-
People's Postcode Lottery Innovation Trust	-	100,000	(970)	-	-	99,030
Children In Need - First Steps Performing Arts	-	26,615	(10,245)	(1,399)	-	14,971
County Durham Community Foundation	-	14,818	(802)	(7,550)	-	6,466
Masonic Charitable Foundation	-	28,999	(6,900)	-	-	22,099
Newcastle Building Society	-	11,000	(5,000)	-	-	6,000
Small Grants	4,518	20,500	(16,018)	-	-	9,000
	<u>205,125</u>	<u>736,526</u>	<u>(523,865)</u>	<u>(60,253)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>357,533</u>
Total of funds	<u><u>2,003,992</u></u>	<u><u>1,832,811</u></u>	<u><u>(1,863,649)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>30,105</u></u>	<u><u>2,003,259</u></u>

DAISY CHAIN PROJECT TEESSIDE
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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR PERIOD

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2019</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2020</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Designated funds						
Designated Funds	90,000	-	(40,000)	40,000	-	90,000
General funds						
General Funds	1,727,609	1,474,358	(1,501,881)	23,389	(14,608)	1,708,867
Total Unrestricted funds	1,817,609	-	(1,541,881)	63,389	(14,608)	1,798,867
Restricted funds						
Sobell Foundation	5,000	-	(5,000)	-	-	-
Northstar Foundation	5,358	-	(5,358)	-	-	-
BLF Youth Initiative	13,662	82,918	(82,230)	-	-	14,350
Warbutons Family Matters	-	10,000	(7,748)	-	-	2,252
Co Op Community Grants	8,077	-	(1,009)	(7,068)	-	-
Co Op Building Connections	5,191	-	(5,191)	-	-	-
CCG Hartlepool Awards For All	36,000	60,000	(60,963)	-	-	35,037
	7,322	-	(7,322)	-	-	-
People's Postcode Lottery	74,476	150,000	(122,890)	-	-	101,586
Finlay Cooper	-	50,000	(3,062)	(46,938)	-	-
The Mercer's Company	-	49,453	(47,980)	-	-	1,473

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

20. STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR PERIOD (CONTINUED)

	<i>Balance at 1 April 2019</i>	<i>Income</i>	<i>Expenditure</i>	<i>Transfers in/out</i>	<i>Gains/ (Losses)</i>	<i>Balance at 31 March 2020</i>
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cummins	-	11,919	-	(9,383)	-	2,536
Children In Need	-	31,224	(851)	-	-	30,373
CDCF Tampon Tax	-	9,813	(9,813)	-	-	-
CCG Darlington	-	13,000	-	-	-	13,000
Small Grants	2,786	19,257	(17,525)	-	-	4,518
	<u>157,872</u>	<u>487,584</u>	<u>(376,942)</u>	<u>(63,389)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>205,125</u>
Total of funds	<u><u>1,975,481</u></u>	<u><u>487,584</u></u>	<u><u>(1,918,823)</u></u>	<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>(14,608)</u></u>	<u><u>2,003,992</u></u>

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Unrestricted funds

These are funds which are freely available for the use of the Charity.

Designated funds

In the prior year the trustees set aside £90k of the unrestricted funds. £25k was spent during the year making internal accommodation changes and £35k was spent during the year opening a distribution centre to support the Superstore. The remaining designated funds at the end of the year are made up of:

1. £20k Changing places accessible toilets
2. £10k Restructure fund

Restricted funds

Big Lottery Fund Youth Initiative

Funding to develop youth provision for young people with autism and associated disabilities. The funding has now come to an end.

CCG Hartlepool

A further £80,750 was received to fund family support for the year to 31 March 2021.

Warburtons Family Matters

Funding towards the adult group which has now been fully spent.

Cummins

£2,536 of funding for capital improvements to the superstore has been spent and the additions have been transferred to unrestricted funds in line with other fixed assets once purchased.

A further £33,363 has been received towards supporting the "My Autism My Call" project, a mini call centre to offer remote assistance to broader community during COVID-19 and beyond.

The Mercer's Company

£40,433 was received for the second year of funding for an employability skills programme whereby individuals with autism are upskilled, supported and empowered to transform items destined for landfill into resaleable products. A small balance was carried forward into the next year.

A further £7,250 was received to launch the ecommerce offer during COVID-19.

Children in Need - Holiday Club

To provide a holiday club and trips and outings for children and young people with autism.

People's Postcode Lottery

Of the £400,000 received in total £150,000 was restricted. This was for the Employability programme (£90,000), Outdoor Provision (£30,000), and for Virtual Support (£30,000). A balance on this is carried forward into the next financial year.

CCG Darlington

A grant to provide training to child minders, early years providers, primary and secondary schools in Darlington. The training has helped with identification and support for the benefit of children and young people with neurodevelopmental needs.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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STATEMENT OF FUNDS (CONTINUED)

Coronavirus Mental Health Response Fund

Funding was received from Mind for the support of service users mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nationwide

Funding received for the My Autism My Home project to fund a Housing Office to help service users access housing and accommodation.

Finlay Cooper

£30,000 received to fund improvements to the cafe in the Superstore. The improvements have been capitalised and transferred to unrestricted funds in line with other fixed assets once purchased.

Coronavirus Community Support Fund

Funding for the "My Autism My Call" project.

People's Postcode Lottery Innovation Trust

Funding received towards the development of an "Autism Pod Village".

Children in Need - First Steps Performing Arts

To deliver performing arts activities for Autistic children to mitigate the impact COVID-19 is having on their lives, supporting them to grow in confidence, develop communication skills, develop language and use expression.

County Durham Community Foundation

Funding towards a Polytunnel. The work is ongoing at the year end and plans are for it to be completed in the 2021/22 year.

Masonic Charitable Foundation

Funding for a "Complex Case Support Service". The first year of funding runs to November 2021 and the carried forward balance will be used to continue the service until that point.

Newcastle Building Society

Grants received towards the ecommerce project and the costs of employing an "upcycler".

Small grants

A number of small grants have been received in the year for the following purposes. Where a balance has been carried forward it has been noted:

- Thirteen Group: £1,500 towards event costs, all carried forward.
- Zedra: £2,500 towards the cost of a VR headset, all carried forward.
- Nineveh: £5,000 towards the cost of family support staff.
- CF Fertiliser: £500 towards Ithica films.
- Tesco Widgit: £500 towards clubs and activities.
- Ineos: £5,000 towards education and placement staff.
- Tesco: £500 towards the cost of phone bills to provide support during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Bailey Thomas: £5,000 towards staffing of the barn, all carried forward.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

21. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

Analysis of net assets between funds - current year

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	1,273,744	-	1,273,744
Fixed asset investments	223,705	-	223,705
Current assets	338,498	357,533	696,031
Creditors due within one year	(190,221)	-	(190,221)
Total	1,645,726	357,533	2,003,259

Analysis of net assets between funds - prior year

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2020 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2020 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	1,220,546	-	1,220,546
Fixed asset investments	190,830	-	190,830
Current assets	547,794	205,125	752,919
Creditors due within one year	(160,303)	-	(160,303)
Total	1,798,867	205,125	2,003,992

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

22. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2021 £	2020 £
Net income/expenditure for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(733)	28,510
Adjustments for:		
Depreciation charges	108,083	83,346
Gains/(losses) on investments	(30,105)	14,608
Dividends, interests and rents from investments	(4,801)	(5,180)
Loss on the sale of fixed assets	11,687	-
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	(53)	1,443
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	74,457	(9,574)
Increase in creditors	29,918	7,159
Investment management fees	1,250	1,258
Net cash provided by operating activities	189,703	121,570

23. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash in hand	629,114	611,598
Cash within investment portfolio	17,244	55,026
Total cash and cash equivalents	646,358	666,624

24. ANALYSIS OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT

	At 1 April 2020 £	Cash flows £	At 31 March 2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	611,598	17,516	629,114
Cash within investment portfolio	55,026	(37,782)	17,244
	666,624	(20,266)	646,358

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
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25. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The Charity contributes to a defined contribution pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Charity in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the Charity to the fund and amounted to £23,702 (2020: £24,068). Contributions totalling £5,095 (2020: £4,744) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in creditors.

26. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

At 31 March 2021 the Charity had commitments to make future minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Not later than 1 year	86,663	83,490
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	260,935	318,098
Later than 5 years	-	29,500
	<u>347,598</u>	<u>431,088</u>

27. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

During the year under review the company had the following related party transactions:

During the year a debtor due from Daisy Chain Trading (Teesside) Limited, a subsidiary of Daisy Chain Project Teesside, of £15,258 was written off.