

Company registration number: 05385880

Charity registration number: 1110956

# ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

# **ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education**

## **Contents**

Reference and Administrative Details	1
Trustees' Report	2 to 10
Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities	11
Independent Examiner's Report	12
Statement of Financial Activities	13
Balance Sheet	14
Notes to the Financial Statements	15 to 27

# **ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education**

## **Reference and Administrative Details**

<b>Trustees at year end</b>	Ashley Daniells Shawnett Morgan Richard Stokes Julia Thomas Simon Wilks Martin Jones
<b>Secretary</b>	Victoria Gibbs
<b>Principal Office</b>	TLT One Redcliff Street Bristol BS1 6TP
<b>Registered Office</b>	Ablaze c/o TLT One Redcliff Street Bristol BS1 6TP
<b>Company Registration Number</b>	05385880
<b>Charity Registration Number</b>	1110956
<b>Independent Examiner</b>	Anthony Robin Dicker FCA

# **ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education**

## **Trustees' Report**

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements and auditors' report of the charitable company for the year ended 31 August 2024.

### **Objectives and activities**

#### ***Objects and aims***

The aim of our charity is to continue to develop partnerships between business and young people in education and starting out on their careers (originally pioneered by the Bristol Education Action Zone) for the benefit of young people in our region.

The objectives of the charity, as laid down in its Memorandum and Articles of Association, are to tackle inequality of opportunity by raising the aspiration, achievement and attainment of young people in the West of England. We aim to enrich educational opportunities, improve access to education, create and develop sustained learning partnerships between the education, business and public sectors. We also work to advance the learning of professionals involved in these sectors to support the creation of communities where learning comes first, and opportunity is equal for all.

#### ***How the activities deliver public benefit***

The overall aim of the Charity is to provide children and young people the opportunity to develop their skills, raise their attainment and widen aspirations through the assistance and interaction with volunteers from business.

Ablaze's work therefore provides children and young people with the chance they may not otherwise have.

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

### **Achievements and performance**

This year has been a successful one for Ablaze, in terms of our programme delivery levels and our income generation. We have supported 543 young people through our programmes, a significant increase on the previous year.

Increased delivery has meant increased service income from our business and school partners. In 2023/24 our income was higher than we expected, as we were able to run more programmes than we had anticipated, and we were fortunate to receive a number of grants and donations in the year. However, our income was still less than our expenditure. We have therefore again had to use some of our reserves, as well as funds we had designated for growth, to continue providing our services. To ensure we can grow our reserves and grow as a charity, we are working with our Fundraising Consultant to increase our grants and donations. 2025 is our 20th anniversary and we have a target to take this income stream above £150,000. Our reserves remain lower than the figure stated in our reserves policy, however our financial situation is more secure than it has been in previous years.

# **ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education**

## **Trustees' Report**

- Across this financial year we have worked with 543 young people, trained 256 new volunteers, partnered with 31 businesses, delivered programmes in 47 schools and 2 community settings
- 11 Career Mentoring programmes were successfully delivered with 62 volunteers impacting 184 young people
- We successfully ran a Airbus Youth Programme at the Airbus site in Filton with twenty year 9 students from Abbeywood Community School.
- On our Reading and Number Partners programme we trained 181 volunteers who supported 259 young people across 15 schools
- Our Early Career Mentoring programme was delivered by 10 volunteers to 90 children in 3 schools.
- We successfully ran our second NatWest funded Career Sense programme in the Autumn of 2023. We used our learnings from this model to enhance our Employment & Skills programme and managed to win a contract with South Gloucestershire Council to deliver this to NEET young people from South Glos. 9 young people completed the workshops and 8 completed the work placements. A second round of this programme, called Engaging Potential, is running in the Autumn of 2024.
- We held our 8th poetry competition on the theme of 'peace'.
- Our sitting Board of Trustees Chair, Beth Evans finished her term and retired from the Board. A new Chair, Ashley Daniells was voted in and started his tenure in July 2024.
- We continue to increase our social media profile and gaining more followers, raising our profile and helping us to get new business contacts.

Once again, we can report that our delivery levels rose, and we were able to support more young people as a result. Although we didn't achieve our target of matching our income to our expenditure this year, we decreased the shortfall again and ended the year in a more secure position than for a few years.

Programmes are performing well; we are particularly pleased with the development of our Employment & Skills Programme and that we were able to win a contract from South Glos. Council to deliver this - it was very successful and feedback from SGC has been extremely positive. We are submitting a large-scale bid to the National Lottery to enable us to expand our offering for the next three years.

School budgets are still very stretched which means hardly any schools can pay for our programmes. Project Managers have worked hard to ensure that this income has not reduced through securing agreements with participating businesses to cover the school fees. This is now baked into SLAs.

- Issues facing young people are not changing or decreasing in challenge - in some areas they are getting worse. The need for our services is as great as ever:
- 1 in 5 children in the UK still don't own a book or read at home
- Over 18,000 of our Bristol children are living in poverty
- 16-year-olds from lower socio-economic backgrounds are 50% less likely than their peers to achieve grade 5 or above in their GCSEs
- There are wards in the city where less than 8% of 18-year-olds even apply to higher education
- Numbers of young NEETS (not in education employment or training) are continuing to rise

Evaluation shows that our programmes do make a difference, and our impact remains strong across the age ranges we support.

# **ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education**

## **Trustees' Report**

### ***Career Mentoring***

- 91% felt more confident about themselves and their abilities
- 99% learned about career pathways
- 96% learned about the skills needed for work
- 74% of students now have more ideas or a better plan for what they might like to do in the future

"It's important to learn and take opportunities if we are to accomplish our dreams" - Student, Bridge Learning Campus

"I've learnt so much from this I want to come back!" -Student, Trinity Academy

"This is a fantastic programme that provides young people with an insight into the future and help them develop key skills they will need later on. It explores a variety of topics and allows students to build on their confidence." -Volunteer mentor, AtkinsRealis

### ***Early Career Mentoring***

- 77% of pupils agreed they had learnt what skills are important for work
- 87% of pupils agreed that they now understood opportunities are for all genders and backgrounds
- 79% agreed that it had been good to talk to and learn from Bristol City Leap

"It was an amazing experience because it gave me an idea what to do in the future!" - Pupil, St Mary Redcliffe Primary

"The day was ridiculously exciting for the pupils, they got to talk to people they didn't know, do things they've not done before and share what they do know." -Teacher, Merchant's Academy

### ***Reading and Number Partners***

Of the pupils on the Reading Partners programme:

- 96% read with more confidence
- 96% improved their literacy attainment levels

Of the pupils on the Number Partners programme:

- 80% are more confident with their mental maths
- 95% have improved their maths attainment levels

Of all pupils supported:

- 92% improved self-confidence

"We love having reading volunteers in school! We target the support specifically on our younger children who have English as an additional language and they find it so beneficial, and the progress they've made is fantastic. The volunteers are also an absolute delight to work with." -Teacher, Badock's Wood

"Participating in this programme is very different from everything else I do and has given me a unique opportunity to develop new skills and give back to the next generation. It's very rewarding." -Volunteer, Airbu

### ***Airbus Foundation Youth Programme***

- 100% of students have a clearer view of their future vocation
- 95% improved their confidence and self-esteem
- 100% have increased knowledge and experience of the world of work
- 47% have increased engagement in learning and school

# **ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education**

## **Trustees' Report**

"It's a great experience and it has helped me especially to take in ideas for future jobs as I was unsure." "I would say that this programme is really fun, useful, and inspiring." - Students, Abbeywood Community School

"I take joy in watching the students learn, challenge and develop. I also enjoy seeing them change personally over the 20 weeks. I have been inspired by some of the students' determination and transformation from a shy individual to a competent, confident young professional." - Airbus Volunteer Mentor

### ***Employment & Skills Programme***

We supported 22 young people through the programme in this academic year.

- 87% now feel more optimistic when thinking about future employment
- 75% have developed their goals for the future
- 75% have better knowledge of how to make a good impression when applying for a job or apprenticeship
- 75% improved in their ability to remain confident in themselves
- 87% now have ideas about which jobs or careers fit their interests and skills

"The programme honestly changed my life; I made new friends and my confidence has been boosted and my skills have been developed. I applied for a role at Southmead Hospital which honestly would make my life change forever. I could never do this if it weren't for Ablaze and the NHS for making this possible"

"One of the best workshops ever, honestly gave me courage and confidence and made me believe in myself." - Participating Young People

"We've hosted two wonderful participants from Ablaze. It's been amazing for them and for our staff team. It's really brought us together and changed our dynamics as it's allowed some staff to manage people for the first time. Overall, amazing benefits and the impact is going to be long-lived so I would definitely recommend getting involved." - Work placement Host, Healthwatch

# **ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education**

## **Trustees' Report**

### **Financial review**

The charity reported net income of £210,069. This was more than forecasted in our budget by £2,646, meaning our funds reduced by £22,612 by the end of the year.

Our charging income was still lower than pre-Covid levels in 2023/24 although up from the year before. Our income from grants, contracts and fundraising was higher than last year.

Once again, as predicted, our expenditure has been greater than our income in 2023/24. We continue to invest in fundraising and new ways to deliver our programmes in order to bring our income and expenditure back in line. Our 20th Anniversary campaign should help to boost our income, as well as some significant grant applications we are waiting for news on. We are hopeful we come closer to balancing the books in 2024/25.

### **Fundraising activities**

We designated £2,210 during 2023/24 to spend on fundraising to try and recoup our current and expected losses. We spent £2,210 of these designated funds, so no funds are carried forward to 2024/25. The need for fundraising to support our activities continues, and we will be running a fundraising campaign in 2024/25 to celebrate our 20th anniversary, using the Fundraising Campaign restricted funds.

2023/24 saw a growth in programme delivery from the previous year. We increased the number of school and business partnerships, ran a full programme of the Airbus Foundation Youth Programme, and started a new Employment and Skills Programme run in partnership with South Gloucestershire Council thanks to funding from the West of England Combined Authority and the National Lottery.

The focus for fundraising is in part to support the schools' programmes, due to the pressures on schools' budgets, but mostly on funding our core costs, such as insurance, accountancy costs, administration and programme development.

We received grants and donations from the Burges Salmon Charitable Trust, The Woodward Charitable Trust, Rotary Club of Bath, Tesco Stronger Starts, the Quartet Community Foundation, Triodos Foundation, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the Wiltshire Community Foundation, the Medlock Charitable Trust, the Hargreaves Foundation, Fund Their Future, the Grace Trust, CMS Cameron McKenna Foundation, the DWF Foundation, the Denman Charitable Trust, Bristol Airport Diamond Fund, Postcode Local Trust, Society of Merchant Venturers, Action Funder and the Nisbet Trust. We also had our wonderful volunteers from Clarke Willmott and Unite Students fundraise for Ablaze.

### ***Investment policy and objectives***

The trustees have wide powers of investment. Surplus short-term funds are held in an interest-bearing deposit account.



# **ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education**

## **Trustees' Report**

### ***Policy on reserves***

Unrestricted reserves at 31st August 2024 were £80,249.

The charity's aims require activities to be sustained for the foreseeable future and as such the charity aims to carry forward sufficient reserves to facilitate this. The Trustees have set Ablaze's reserves policy at a level sufficient to fund working capital and any unexpected expenditure or shortfalls in income. £120,599 in unrestricted reserves, being equivalent to 6 months operating expenditure, including overheads, as well as redundancy and wind-up costs is ringfenced to satisfy this policy. These funds would enable Ablaze to continue in operations for six months should its funding cease or decrease to the point that Ablaze can no longer continue as a going concern.

In addition to these reserves, and in accordance with our Business Plan, the Trustees have also designated the following funds from our unrestricted reserves for the year 2024/25.

### **Fundraising**

We carried forward £2,210 from 2022/23, to continue to recoup the anticipated shortfall between our expenditure and income. We spent all of these funds during the financial year. We have contracted a new fundraiser to work on the Trusts and Foundations fundraising and allocated a portion of our Project Coordinators time to support with this. Our CEO will continue to focus her time on securing financial support from business and winning new contract work. She was successful in winning the contract with South Glos. Council and then securing match funding from the National Lottery Awards for All to deliver the Employment & Skills Programme.

### **IT**

We carried forward £1,000 of designated funds for IT, which could be used to upgrade our IT equipment as needed. These funds remained unspent in 2023/24; however, as much of our current IT equipment is aging, we are retaining these funds for future replacements.

The total unrestricted reserves less designated funds leaves us with a shortfall of £72,267 at the end of the 2023/24 financial year. The Trustees are looking to raise funds to cover this shortfall through our fundraising in 2024/25.

### **Office accommodation**

TLT Solicitors provided Ablaze with office accommodation in 2023/24. This contribution is valued at £20,000 per annum.

However, due to taking on Government Contracts, TLT will no longer be able to provide us with pro-bono office space within their office floors from February 2025. They have offered us space on their public meeting floor for one day a week and storage for our equipment. We will be researching alternative pro-bono options and may need to fundraise to pay for space next year.

### **Pay policy for senior staff**

The directors consider that the board of directors, who are the Trustees, comprise the key management personnel of the charity in charge of directing and controlling, running and operating the charity on a day-to-day basis. All directors give their time freely and no director received remuneration in the year. Details of directors' expenses and related party transactions are disclosed in note 8 to the accounts.

# **ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education**

## **Trustees' Report**

### **Plans for future periods**

#### ***Aims and key objectives for future periods***

Successes to note against targets set in our 2023/24 business plan:

- Maintaining delivery levels of CM through the one-day programme
- Growing delivery of our RP/NP partnerships by 25% this year
- The negotiation of funding for the Airbus programme with the British Early Careers Team to enable delivery to continue into 24/25
- Winning the contract with South Glos. to deliver the Engaging Potential programme, an iteration of our Employment & Skills package for NEET young people
- Securing match funding from National Lottery to top up the funding for this programme which enabled us to bring our Project Assistant Lucy Meadows back on board
- Ensuring good levels of impact for our participants on the one-day CM and ECM programmes
- Securing a sizable grant from Garfield Weston, £25K a year for two years
- Increasing our Linked In followers to 583

Our 2024/25 business plan has the following key goals for Ablaze:

1. Retain and strengthen our current partnerships across all our programmes and contracts to ensure retention and progression with businesses and schools
2. Achieve the programme targets set out in Project Plan for Career Mentoring
  - Create two new One Day CM partnerships
  - Create two new ECM partnerships
3. Achieve the targets set out in the Project Plan for RP/NP
  - To ensure effective growth, all existing businesses and schools in 2024-25 will continue with RP/NP going into the following academic year.
  - Of the new partnerships created, at least 2 of these programmes will be delivered outside Bristol, with an increasing interest from potential new partners.
  - To have sourced funding from existing business partners and external funds to ensure RP/NP is free for all schools going forward.
4. Achieve the targets set out in the Project Plan for Employment & Skills
  - Secure repeat funding from South Glos. and other sources to continue the programme beyond March 25
  - Produce 4 case studies.
  - Secure one large business to fund and participate in an E&S programme by autumn 2025.
5. Raise £60,000 through fundraising and business development activity
6. Raise a further £50,000 through our 20th Anniversary campaign in 2025, our 20th year

# **ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education**

## **Trustees' Report**

### **Trustees and officers**

The trustees and officers serving during the year and since the year end were as follows:

Trustees:

Bethan Evans (resigned 9 July 2024)  
Ashley Daniells  
Shawnett Morgan  
Richard Stokes  
Julia Thomas  
Simon Wilks  
Martin Jones (appointed 15 October 2024)

Secretary: Victoria Gibbs

### **Structure, governance and management**

#### ***Nature of governing document***

The charity is constituted as a private company, limited by guarantee and therefore has no share capital. It is governed by a memorandum and Articles of Association, dated 8 March 2005, and amended by Written Resolution, dated 1 August 2005. It is a registered charity with the Charity Commission.

#### ***Recruitment and appointment of trustees***

The Board undertook a fundamental review of the governance of the charity in 2020/21 to ensure that arrangements were robust and represented best practice. New Articles of Association were adopted on 26th February 2021. In addition, a New Governance Handbook was prepared.

The Directors constantly review the skill set and experiences required by the Board of Trustees to ensure that Board membership reflects the correct balance and skills required to maximise effectiveness. The Directors who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 1.

During this year we have appointed another new Trustee. He works at Unite Students and has been volunteering for Ablaze for several years. He brings an understanding of the challenges facing young people alongside a first hand perspective of being a volunteer.

#### ***Induction and training of trustees***

Trustees receive training and are regularly updated on changes in legislation and best practice guidance issued from time to time by the Charity Commission.

# **ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education**

## **Trustees' Report**

### **Risk management**

The Directors have carried out a thorough review of the risks facing the charity; the next review is scheduled for December 2024. The top risks are reviewed at every Board meeting. The risks are prioritised, and the CEO and Directors are tasked to formulate and implement plans to minimise risks.

Ablaze's current main risk remains that depleted reserves continue to put pressure on the charity to focus attention on raising funds and does not enable medium term strategy. Our budget is insufficient to enable key objectives and priorities to flourish. Funding our expenditure leads to our shortfall increasing. The shortfall in programme income is not raised through funding bids and expenditure continues to exceed income eventually leading to the charity running out of viable reserves. Clearly articulated mitigations are in place for these main risks.

### **Conclusion**

I am incredibly proud of how Ablaze has adapted and evolved over the past year - my first as Chair of the board. Our programmes have grown in response to changing needs, ensuring that we continue to make a meaningful impact. We have embraced new ways of working, expanded our reach and strengthened existing partnerships, all while staying true to our mission of tackling inequality of opportunity. The changes have allowed us to support more young people in more effective ways, whether through early career mentoring, reading and number partners or our fantastic Employment and Skills programme.

This year is particularly special as we celebrate Ablaze's 20th anniversary - a milestone that reflects two decades of dedication to empowering young people. I want to take the opportunity to reiterate how fantastic it is for a charity of Ablaze's size to be celebrating its 20th anniversary. It is not just a chance for us to look back at what we achieved, but an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to closing education gaps, creating new partnerships and driving our programmes forward. The team have exciting plans ahead to celebrate this remarkable achievement.

Thank you to our dedicated team, who work tirelessly to make the charity the success it is. They make a huge difference to countless young people across the region.

### **Small companies provision statement**

This report has been prepared in accordance with the small companies regime under the Companies Act 2006.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 13 May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
Ashley Daniells  
Trustee

## **ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education**

### **Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities**

The trustees (who are also the directors of ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice), including FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland".

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable accounting standards, comprising FRS 102 have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that can disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company 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 hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 13 May 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



.....  
Ashley Daniells  
Trustee

## **ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education**

### **Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education ('the Company')**

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

#### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

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

#### **Independent examiner's statement**

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

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

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

*Mr A R Dicker*

.....  
Anthony Robin Dicker FCA

16 / 05 / 2025  
Date:.....

## ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education

### Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 August 2024 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
<b>Income and Endowments from:</b>					
Donations and legacies	3	61,423	110,221	171,644	119,089
Charitable activities	4	37,462	-	37,462	64,302
Investment income	5	963	-	963	634
Other income		-	-	-	828
Total income		<u>99,848</u>	<u>110,221</u>	<u>210,069</u>	<u>184,853</u>
<b>Expenditure on:</b>					
Charitable activities	6	<u>(128,790)</u>	<u>(103,891)</u>	<u>(232,681)</u>	<u>(202,687)</u>
Total expenditure		<u>(128,790)</u>	<u>(103,891)</u>	<u>(232,681)</u>	<u>(202,687)</u>
Net (expenditure)/income		<u>(28,942)</u>	<u>6,330</u>	<u>(22,612)</u>	<u>(17,834)</u>
Net movement in funds		(28,942)	6,330	(22,612)	(17,834)
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
Total funds brought forward		<u>80,249</u>	<u>16,178</u>	<u>96,427</u>	<u>114,261</u>
Total funds carried forward	18	<u><u>51,307</u></u>	<u><u>22,508</u></u>	<u><u>73,815</u></u>	<u><u>96,427</u></u>

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for 2024 is shown in note 18.

The notes on pages 15 to 27 form an integral part of these financial statements.

# ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education

(Registration number: 05385880)  
Balance Sheet as at 31 August 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
<b>Fixed assets</b>			
Tangible assets	12	568	1,570
<b>Current assets</b>			
Debtors	13	12,931	20,496
Cash at bank and in hand	14	<u>65,083</u>	<u>77,391</u>
		78,014	97,887
<b>Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year</b>	15	<u>(4,767)</u>	<u>(3,030)</u>
<b>Net current assets</b>		<u>73,247</u>	<u>94,857</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>73,815</u>	<u>96,427</u>
<b>Funds of the charity:</b>			
<b>Restricted income funds</b>			
Restricted funds	18	24,483	16,178
<b>Unrestricted income funds</b>			
Unrestricted funds		<u>49,332</u>	<u>80,249</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	18	<u>73,815</u>	<u>96,427</u>


For the financial year ending 31 August 2024 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

- The members have not required the charity to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476; and
- The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

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

The financial statements on pages 13 to 27 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 13 May 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

  
.....  
Ashley Daniells  
Trustee

The notes on pages 15 to 27 form an integral part of these financial statements.



# **ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024**

### **1 Charity status**

The charity is a private company limited by guarantee, incorporated in England and Wales, and consequently does not have share capital. Each of the trustees is liable to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 towards the assets of the charity in the event of liquidation.

The address of its registered office is:

Ablaze  
c/o TLT  
One Redcliff Street  
Bristol  
BS1 6TP

The principal place of business is:

TLT  
One Redcliff Street  
Bristol  
BS1 6TP

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the trustees on .....

### **2 Accounting policies**

#### **Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates**

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

#### **Statement of compliance**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with 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) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

#### **Basis of preparation**

Ablaze 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 notes.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company, and rounded to the nearest £.

#### **Going concern**

The worldwide Covid-19 pandemic continued to impact upon the charity's trading activity during the year. The trustees consider the impact on the charity to not be material and are confident that the charity, through bank reserves, has adequate resources and accordingly the charity has continued to prepare its financial statements on a going concern basis.

# **ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024**

### **Income and endowments**

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 the income receivable can be measured reliably.

### ***Donations and legacies***

Donations are recognised when the charity has been notified in writing of both the amount and settlement date. In the event that a donation is subject to conditions that require a level of performance by the charity before the charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable that these conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

### ***Grants receivable***

Grants are recognised when the charity has an entitlement to the funds and any conditions linked to the grants have been met. Where performance conditions are attached to the grant and are yet to be met, the income is recognised as a liability and included on the balance sheet as deferred income to be released.

### ***Donated services and facilities***

Where services are provided to the charity as a donation that would normally be purchased from our suppliers, this contribution is included in the financial statements at an estimate based on the value of the contributions to the charity whenever the value exceeds £1,000. A corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

### ***Investment income***

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

### **Expenditure**

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, when it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregate similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

### ***Charitable activities***

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

### ***Support costs***

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources, for example, allocating property costs by floor areas, or per capita, staff costs by the time spent and other costs by their usage.

# **ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024**

### **Governance costs**

These include the costs attributable to the charity's compliance with constitutional and statutory requirements, including audit, strategic management and trustee's meetings and reimbursed expenses.

### **Taxation**

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

### **Tangible fixed assets**

Individual fixed assets costing £200 or more are initially recorded at cost, less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses.

### **Depreciation and amortisation**

Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic life as follows:

<b>Asset class</b>	<b>Depreciation method and rate</b>
Fixtures, fittings and equipment	33% straight line basis

### **Trade debtors**

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of trade debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

### **Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

## ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

#### Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

#### Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

#### Pensions and other post retirement obligations

A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which fixed contributions are paid into a pension fund and the charity has no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions even if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods.

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as employee benefit expense when they are due. If contribution payments exceed the contribution due for service, the excess is recognised as a prepayment.

### 3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Donations and legacies;				
Donations from individuals	1,923	29,862	31,785	47,336
Grants, including capital grants;				
Grants from companies	39,500	80,359	119,859	51,753
Donated services and facilities	20,000	-	20,000	20,000
	<u>61,423</u>	<u>110,221</u>	<u>171,644</u>	<u>119,089</u>

For the year ended 31 August 2023 £69,218 of the income above was attributable to unrestricted funds and £49,871 attributable to restricted funds.

# ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### 4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Primary purpose trading	<u>37,462</u>	<u>37,462</u>	<u>64,302</u>

For the year ended 31 August 2023 £64,302 of the income above was attributable to unrestricted funds and £nil attributable to restricted funds.

### 5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Interest receivable and similar income; Interest receivable on bank deposits	<u>963</u>	<u>963</u>	<u>634</u>

For the year ended 31 August 2023 £634 of the income above was attributable to unrestricted funds and £nil attributable to restricted funds.

### 6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Activity undertaken directly £	Activity support costs £	2024 £	2023 £
Travel and subsistence	687	-	687	894
Direct costs	11,572	-	11,572	15,114
Subcontract costs	1,488	-	1,488	2,311
Employment costs	172,792	-	172,792	148,651
Website development and improvements to IT infrastructure	-	747	747	2,027
Rent	-	20,000	20,000	20,000
Sundry and other costs	-	92	92	385
Printing, postage and stationery	-	138	138	423
Accountancy fees	3,027	-	3,027	3,020
Independent examiner's fee	360	-	360	470
Legal and professional fees	1,701	-	1,701	1,612

# ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

	Activity undertaken directly £	Activity support costs £	2024 £	2023 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	-	1,002	1,002	1,230
Contract expenses	19,075	-	19,075	6,550
	<u>210,702</u>	<u>21,979</u>	<u>232,681</u>	<u>202,687</u>

£128,790 (2023 - £157,319) of the expenditure above was attributable to unrestricted funds and £103,891 (2023 - £45,368) attributable to restricted funds.

In addition to the expenditure analysed above, there are also governance costs of £5,088 (2023 - £5,102) which relate directly to charitable activities. See note 7 for further details.

### 7 Analysis of governance and support costs

#### Support costs allocated to charitable activities

	Basis of allocation	Information technology £	Premises costs £	Other support costs £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Primary purpose trading	A	<u>747</u>	<u>20,000</u>	<u>1,232</u>	<u>21,979</u>	<u>24,065</u>

#### Basis of allocation

Reference	Method of allocation
A	Support costs are apportioned across the main activities of the charity on the basis of total staff time spent on each of these during the year.

#### Governance costs

	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Accountancy fees	3,027	3,027	3,020
Independent examiner's fees	360	360	470
Legal and professional fees	<u>1,701</u>	<u>1,701</u>	<u>1,612</u>
	<u>5,088</u>	<u>5,088</u>	<u>5,102</u>

For the year ended 31 August 2023 £5,102 of the above expenditure was attributable to unrestricted funds and £nil to restricted funds.

## ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education

### Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

#### 8 Net incoming/outgoing resources

Net outgoing resources for the year include:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Depreciation of fixed assets	1,002	1,230
Independent Examiner's remuneration	360	470

#### 9 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees, nor any persons connected with them, have received any remuneration from the charity during the year.

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

#### 10 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
<b>Staff costs during the year were:</b>		
Wages and salaries	159,334	138,505
Social security costs	9,815	6,955
Pension costs	3,643	3,191
	172,792	148,651

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management / leadership team) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2024	2023
	No	No
Charitable activities	4	4

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year.

#### 11 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore potentially exempt from taxation. No tax liabilities have arisen during the year.

# ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### 12 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment £	Total £
<b>Cost</b>		
At 1 September 2023	4,373	4,373
At 31 August 2024	4,373	4,373
<b>Depreciation</b>		
At 1 September 2023	2,803	2,803
Charge for the year	1,002	1,002
At 31 August 2024	3,805	3,805
<b>Net book value</b>		
At 31 August 2024	568	568
At 31 August 2023	1,570	1,570

### 13 Debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	3,525	18,795
Prepayments	1,562	1,701
Accrued income	7,844	-
	12,931	20,496

### 14 Cash and cash equivalents

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash on hand	24	-
Cash at bank	65,059	77,391
	65,083	77,391



## **ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024**

#### **15 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Trade creditors	2,033	252
Other creditors	-	49
Accruals	2,734	2,729
	<u>4,767</u>	<u>3,030</u>

#### **16 Pension and other schemes**

##### **Defined contribution pension scheme**

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £Nil (2023 - £Nil).

#### **17 Contingent liabilities**

The charity has previously received a donation with the condition that it could become repayable at some point in the future although this is considered unlikely. If any part of this donation becomes repayable to the donor, the maximum amount the charity would have to repay is £10,330.

# ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

### 18 Funds

	Balance at 1 September 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 August 2024 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
<i><b>General</b></i>				
Unrestricted income fund	77,039	99,848	(128,555)	48,332
<i><b>Designated</b></i>				
Fundraising	2,210	-	(2,210)	-
IT	1,000	-	-	1,000
	<u>3,210</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,210)</u>	<u>1,000</u>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<u>80,249</u>	<u>99,848</u>	<u>(130,765)</u>	<u>49,332</u>
<b>Restricted funds</b>				
Airbus fund	-	23,450	(23,450)	-
Fundraising campaign	3,500	-	-	3,500
Primary programmes	4,548	11,800	(13,348)	3,000
The Herman Miller Cares	3,930	-	(3,930)	-
Bristol Airport Community Fund	3,000	-	(3,000)	-
Quartet donation	-	6,000	(1,000)	5,000
The Siobhan Dowd Trust	1,200	-	(1,200)	-
Wiltshire Community Foundation	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
National Grid	-	19,000	(19,000)	-
We are Futures	-	15,000	(15,000)	-
WECA Grant - Engaging Potential	-	10,581	(10,581)	-
National Lottery	-	19,390	(6,407)	12,983
	<u>16,178</u>	<u>110,221</u>	<u>(101,916)</u>	<u>24,483</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>16,178</u>	<u>110,221</u>	<u>(101,916)</u>	<u>24,483</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>96,427</u>	<u>210,069</u>	<u>(232,681)</u>	<u>73,815</u>

# ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education

## Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024

	Balance at 1 September 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 August 2023 £
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>				
<i><b>General</b></i>				
Unrestricted income fund	97,166	134,982	(155,109)	77,039
<i><b>Designated</b></i>				
Fundraising	4,420	-	(2,210)	2,210
IT	1,000	-	-	1,000
	<u>5,420</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,210)</u>	<u>3,210</u>
<b>Total unrestricted funds</b>	<u>102,586</u>	<u>134,982</u>	<u>(157,319)</u>	<u>80,249</u>
<b>Restricted</b>				
Airbus fund	-	18,200	(18,200)	-
Fundraising campaign	5,000	-	(1,500)	3,500
Future Quest	1,425	-	(1,425)	-
Poetry competition donations	1,750	-	(1,750)	-
Early career mentoring	2,500	400	(2,900)	-
Primary programmes	1,000	8,448	(4,900)	4,548
The Herman Miller Cares	-	6,496	(2,566)	3,930
Bristol Airport Community Fund	-	3,000	-	3,000
Fund Their Future donation	-	1,827	(1,827)	-
Quartet donation	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
The Siobhan Dowd Trust	-	1,500	(300)	1,200
Wiltshire Community Foundation	-	5,000	(5,000)	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>(5,000)</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Total restricted funds</b>	<u>11,675</u>	<u>49,871</u>	<u>(45,368)</u>	<u>16,178</u>
<b>Total funds</b>	<u>114,261</u>	<u>184,853</u>	<u>(202,687)</u>	<u>96,427</u>

## **ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education**

### **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024**

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Unrestricted funds are expendable at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objectives of the charity. Such funds are held in order to finance both working capital and capital investment.

Restricted funds are expendable in accordance with the agreement with donors as follows:

Airbus funds are for the management of the programme logistics and to pay for the cost of the coaches used to transport the students to and from Airbus.

Fundraising campaign funds was money donated to Ablaze from National Friendly to assist with the costs of running a fundraising campaign.

Future Quest funds are for the management of the programme, supporting delivery of Year 11 Mentoring in the 27 cohort schools on the Future Quest Secondary School programme.

Poetry competition funds are for running poetry workshops in selected local Primary Schools, as well as for the costs involved in running the poetry competition.

Early career mentoring funds are to develop and implement an Early Career Mentoring programme designed to introduce Year 6 pupils to the skills needed to work, raise their aspirations and prepare them for the transition to secondary school.

Primary programmes funds are for the management of the programme logistics for the Reading Buddies and Number Partners Primary School programmes.

The Herman Miller Cares funds are to support the Career Mentoring programme.

Bristol Airport Community Fund provided a donation from Bristol Airport's Environmental Improvement Fund to support programmes taking place in the fund's core area of support.

Fund Their Future provided a grant for purchasing new technology for running our programmes.

Quartet provided a grant to support programmes in the Quartet area of work (Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Bath and North East Somerset).

The Siobhan Dowd Trust donated money to purchase books for children taking part in the ABLAZE Reading Partners programme.

The Wiltshire Community Foundation provided a grant to support Career Mentoring programmes in Wiltshire.

The National Grid Community Grant was to support the provision of programmes in the fund's core area of support.

We Are Futures funds were a grant to provide an employability support programme to young people, supported by NatWest CareerSense.

WECA Engaging Potential was a grant from the West of England Combined Authority, paid to Ablaze by South Gloucestershire Council, to provide an employment and skills programme to NEET young people ages 16-25 living in South Gloucestershire.

# **ABLAZE A Business Learning Action Zone for Education**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 August 2024**

The National Lottery Community Fund grant was to provide extra support to young people taking part in the Engaging Potential employability programme, as well as to further develop the programme so that we can support more young people in the West of England region.

### **19 Analysis of net assets between funds**

	<b>Unrestricted funds at 31 August 2023 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds at 31 August 2023 £</b>	<b>Total funds at 31 August 2024 £</b>
Tangible fixed assets	568	-	568
Current assets	53,531	24,483	78,014
Current liabilities	(4,767)	-	(4,767)
Total net assets	<u>49,332</u>	<u>24,483</u>	<u>73,815</u>
	<b>Unrestricted funds at 31 August 2022 £</b>	<b>Restricted funds at 31 August 2022 £</b>	<b>Total funds at 31 August 2023 £</b>
Tangible fixed assets	1,570	-	1,570
Current assets	81,709	16,178	97,887
Current liabilities	(3,030)	-	(3,030)
Total net assets	<u>80,249</u>	<u>16,178</u>	<u>96,427</u>

### **20 Related party transactions**

There were no related party transactions in the year.

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## Document history



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