

London Funders

**Report and Accounts
for the year ended
31 March 2023**

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Company registration: 5596299
Charity registration: 1116201

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STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

London Funders is a charity and company limited by guarantee. The London Funders' Board is the board of directors of the company and its board of trustees.

The formal objects of London Funders (revised and approved at the AGM in 2022) are for the benefit of the public and particularly to improve the conditions of life of people who live and work in Greater London. This is through the advancement of citizenship and community development, particularly by:

- promoting the voluntary and community sector;
- providing advice and information particularly on funding and social investment opportunities to facilitate co-operation and collaboration between the voluntary and community sector and funding organisations; and
- providing resources and funding to the voluntary and community sector.

As well as the advancement of education, particularly by providing training and information to, and facilitating the exchange of information, knowledge and experience between, the voluntary and community sector and funding organisations, to enable funding organisations to provide support and funding to the voluntary and community sector more effectively.

Board officers

Chair	David Farnsworth
Vice Chairs	Sally Dickinson Edith Galliers Sara Cooney
Treasurer	Ugo Ikokwu

Board members

Shabana Aslam	Access to Justice Foundation
Susan Barry	Haberdashers' Company (elected 6 December 2022)
Dominic Briant	Metropolitan Thames Valley
Yolande Burgess	London Councils
Sara Cooney	Lloyds Bank Foundation for England & Wales
Emma Corrigan	National Lottery Community Fund
Sally Dickinson	Berkeley Foundation
David Farnsworth	The City Bridge Foundation
Edith Galliers	London Borough of Waltham Forest
John Griffiths	Rocket Science (retired 6 December 2022)
Lynne Guyton	John Lyon's Charity (elected 6 December 2022)
Ugo Ikokwu	Trust for London
Victoria Lawson	London Borough of Hounslow (retired 6 December 2022)
Andrew Matheson	London Borough of Southwark
Tunde Olayinka	Greater London Authority
Matthew Parsonage	Clarion Housing

Staff members

Nasyah Bando	Membership Manager (joined 20 February 2023)
James Banks	Chief Executive (and Company Secretary)
Geraldine Blake	Director of Collaboration and Development
Malene Bratlie	Learning and Communications Manager
Louise Henry	Programme Development Manager (joined 20 February 2023)
Jessica Herbert	Team Coordinator
Helen Mathie	Director of Partnerships and Place
Grace Perry	Head of Programme Delivery
Kamari Romeo	Events and Administration Coordinator (joined 20 February 2023)

Professional advisers

Bankers

Unity Trust Bank	Charity Bank	CAF Bank
Four Brindleyplace	Fosse House, 182 High Street	25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill
Birmingham B1 2JB	Tonbridge TN9 1BE	West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Solicitors

Russell-Cooke LLP
2 Putney Hill
London SW15 6AB

The Board members are the Trustees and Directors of the Company. There are up to 12 elected members, each can serve a maximum of three three-year terms and are drawn from London Funders' Full members. In addition, the Board can appoint up to three co-opted members. Honorary Officers are elected by the Board from among its members.

London Funders has a small office and at the end of the year employed nine people (7.8 FTE). During the year covered by this report London Funders rented office space from Trust for London at 4 Chiswell Street, London EC1Y 4UP.

Background and structure

London Funders was incorporated as a company limited by guarantee in 2005. It is a charitable company structured as a membership association. Members are funders of the voluntary and community sector in London. Each pays a subscription and has a named representative (to vote at meetings such as the AGM). Most member organisations involve a range of staff and trustees in London Funders' activities, such as grantmaking, commissioning, policy and research staff. Associate membership allows civil society organisations in London which do some funding, but not as their primary remit, to belong to London Funders but with no voting rights.

OBJECTIVES

London Funders' mission is to bring funders together to build a better London by taking action on what matters to our city and our communities.

London is a complex city and its funding landscape is changing dramatically. This change is being driven by a combination of factors including the impact of the covid-19 pandemic, the ongoing impact of the cost of living crisis, the redefining of the role of the state (both national and local), the changing profile of poverty and the needs of the population within London, and the increasingly complex governance and public policy landscape that our members operate within. Other regions and countries in the UK have high levels of need and disadvantage but in London their scale and complexity are masked by areas of extreme affluence. Funders need to know about how policy affects the capital and how funding can be developed to meet the diverse needs of London's communities.

London Funders is unique in bringing together public-sector funders and commissioners with independent foundations, social and corporate investors, lottery funders and others. Our members invest in every aspect of Londoners' lives, from the arts to welfare, and they fund across all 32 boroughs and the City of London. These funds are invested in London through a number of channels including the voluntary and community sectors, social enterprises and the private sector, as well as directly to Londoners.

As funding and policy challenges continue, our priorities are to focus on funders working together better, with clearer priorities; new ways of working, challenging funders and providers; and modelling evidence- and intelligence-led solutions.

Our beliefs

We believe that Londoners should be at the heart of our work, and that of our members – with their needs, their strengths and their hopes driving developments in the funding community.

We believe that effective and resilient civil society organisations are essential to enabling London's people and communities to thrive. Equally, the systems that govern civil society are important determining factors in how effective and efficient it can be.

We believe that civil society organisations are best supported to meet the needs of Londoners when funding is based on a shared understanding of need, with good funding practices, and a collaborative approach to funding that ensures resources are channelled to the right places.

We believe that social systems - the policy framework within which civil society operates, and how funding is accessed by civil society organisations - can be altered to meet the needs of Londoners better. This outcome is underpinned by funders efficiently allocating resources, as well as collaborating with others to improve understanding of where funding is most needed and how best to channel support there. It is further driven by changes to policies and structures that affect civil society organisations, for which we believe funders can be active advocates.

Our aims and objectives

Our ambitions are to:

- Enable a movement of members to have strong and trusted connections, based on shared values and ambitions
- Facilitate and lead collaborative programmes where only working together can achieve the change that's needed
- Drive a learning culture, where shared data, intelligence and insight leads to better decision-making and action

To achieve this:

- We involve and inspire, convening with purpose so that people and organisations can embrace opportunities to grow together
- We inform and influence, seeking and sharing knowledge so that funding and policy environments meet Londoners' needs
- We innovate and incubate, exploring new ideas and approaches, and ensuring those with potential have the support to thrive

Whilst working towards our ambitions we will also maintain our agility – responding to events and developments as they arise in London, to ensure we are effective at addressing emerging needs.

Public benefit

We recognise that as a charity, London Funders has a duty to provide public benefit: this helps guide our plans and activities. Close attention is paid to outcomes from all the work we do.

As a second tier organisation, London Funders does not directly claim impact on communities. What we do, as honestly and accurately as we can, is identify the directly attributable results of our work and consult members about the contribution to their practice that our work has made, noting the improved visibility of funders in London, increased collaboration between them, and opportunities taken up for work in partnership with other organisations. The ways in which we seek to create public benefit are illustrated in an online theory of change, which shows how our activities result directly and indirectly in outcomes relating to funders' knowledge, collaboration and voice.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE IN 2022/23

Chair's report on behalf of the trustees

2022/23 was another year of big numbers for London Funders – we welcomed eight new members, taking our movement to 176 organisations; 1,777 people came along to the 118 events we ran; 11,158 people read our regular newsletters; and 11,311 engaged with us online. Big numbers were also the theme with our new funder collaboration, Propel, which has brought funders together for a ten-year programme investing over £100m in London's communities, building on our learning about how working together can enable systemic change on the issues that matter to our city and our communities.

But behind the big numbers are the important stories of the positive changes that result from our work – funders becoming more open and trusting in their approach, investments being made into communities tackling injustice, with a stronger culture of learning where shared data, intelligence and insight lead to better decision-making and action. When we review feedback from our members this impact is clear:

"I think the work you do both for the funding sector, but more importantly to support Londoners is exceptional. I have been very proud to champion London Funders"

"Congratulations on everything that London Funders is doing – having been in the corporate social responsibility space for many years it is fantastic to see something that is so truly collaborative and effective"

"The London Funders team are veritable wizards and all with amazing good grace, professionalism and phenomenal energy"

"London Funders is a trusted partner that pushes best practice and is looked up to by all"

Our work bringing funders together from across sectors, based on shared values and ambitions, has never been more important, as our communities face an unprecedented cost of living crisis hot on the heels of a devastating pandemic. But we know that the issues exposed by the pandemic and economic uncertainty were there before, and will be there forever, unless we work together to really tackle the systemic challenges that prevent every Londoner from achieving their potential.

That's why I'm proud to be introducing a report that showcases action we've taken this year – from enabling the pioneering Propel collaboration, growing and strengthening our work in place, sharing learning and insights from across funders and communities, and focusing attention and resources through discussions about what's needed now and for the future. I'm proud to be doing so on behalf of a passionate and committed team of staff and Trustees who are relentlessly focused on building a better London, and as part of this movement of incredible organisations who really care about our city and communities and believe in a better tomorrow.

David Farnsworth, Chair

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2022/23

Our membership continued to grow this year as we welcomed eight new organisations, taking total membership to 176 by the end of March 2023.

We were pleased to welcome these new members during the year. Like our wider membership they are diverse in their size, aims and geographic remit. Our new members are:

- Barclays
- Barking & Dagenham Giving
- Bennelong Foundation
- Integrate Agency
- John Laing Charitable Trust
- NHS London Procurement Partnership
- Prudence Trust
- Shaftesbury Young People Trust

We aim to equip funders with the knowledge and networks they need to fund a sustainable voluntary and community sector in London. At the heart of our work is a commitment to activity which will bring solid and tangible outcomes for our members.

For 2022/23 we set out five priority areas:

1. Launching a new long-term programme for funder collaboration in London, to tackle the systemic issues that prevent our communities from achieving their potential
2. Revitalising our work on place through embedding learning from other cities and regions, expanding our support of place-based forums, and strengthening the London's Giving movement
3. Sharing learning through our Festival of Learning, monthly insight meetings on the issues that matter to our communities, and evidence-based reports on the work of the funding community
4. Ensuring our members are up-to-date with policy developments, bringing together insights from the manifestos of the local elections in 2022, and data on the emerging cost of living crisis
5. Actively partnering with others to bring about positive change, from championing the open and trusting grantmakers movement, to sharing tools and resources to enable collaboration to happen

We delivered against these priorities whilst reaching across our membership and London's civil society to ensure engagement – with 1,777 people attending the 118 events we ran during the year, 11,158 people reading our regular newsletters, and an increase in online engagement with 51,887 people interacting with our website and 11,311 following us on twitter/X over the year.

We said we would launch a new long-term programme for funder collaboration in London, to tackle the systemic issues that prevent our communities from achieving their potential...

This year saw us launch Propel, our new, ten-year, £100m funding collaboration, that brings together funders from across sectors with equity-focused civil society groups to enable organisations to explore, develop and lead collaborative approaches to tackle some of London's biggest challenges. Propel builds on the learning from the London Community Response (our funding collaboration in response to covid-19) and the input of thousands of Londoners and civil society groups in setting the "missions" that London needs to address as we look to the future.

Propel is driven by a set of eight core principles:

- Systemic – engaging with the whole system around an issue, tackling root causes not just symptoms, building a shared understanding of how systems can change
- Bold – experimenting and taking risks together, influencing wider ways of working
- Flexible – recognising that the future is uncertain, that funders and grantees are on a learning journey together, trusting grantees to respond to changing challenges and opportunities
- Sharing power – recognising that everyone has something to contribute (money, knowledge, networks and reach), investing in people's capacity to co-design, embedding participation in decision-making from the start, building trust and confidence
- Equitable – unlearning old ways of working, biases, and lenses on the world, ensuring that design, process and decision-making are inclusive and take account of the diversity of the sector and of communities
- Non-partisan – recognising both civic and democratic leadership, combining the convening power of politicians with wider participation and voice
- Long term – investing beyond political and institutional cycles, providing stability for civil society partners and seeking to make transformational change
- Accountable - jointly accountable to each other and to the communities we serve

Uniting behind these principles are funders from across sectors (including the Greater London Authority, City Bridge Foundation, Bloomberg, National Lottery Community Fund, London Legal Support Trust, Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales, John Lyon's Charity, John Laing Charitable Trust, and the Mercers' Company), together with equity partners (Ubele, LGBT+ Consortium, HEAR, Inclusion London, and Women's Resource Centre), learning partners (IVAR), and tech partners (Outlandish), committed to working together on three key "mission" areas: a new deal for young people; a robust safety net; and building strong communities.

The first round of funding for Propel opened for applications in the autumn, and at the close of this year nearly £25m of grants had already been made – enabling groups to "explore" their ideas (through grants of up to £50,000 to develop collaborations, identify issues and solutions, and test their approaches), or to "deliver and develop" their work (through grants of up to £500,000 a year where people were ready to scale their activities) – with a strong focus on equity and justice evident in the 85%+ of grants awarded to groups led by and for our priority communities.

Work is already underway to capture the learning from the first steps of our ten year partnership, to further develop the technology that enables us to share power, and to grow the Propel partnership, and we will report on progress in the next annual report.

We said we would revitalise our work on place through embedding learning from other cities and regions, expanding our support of place-based forums, and strengthening the London's Giving movement...

We established our Advisory Group on Place, chaired by Kieron Boyle (Guy's and St Thomas' Foundation), bringing together funders from public, private and independent sectors with civil society colleagues, think tanks and community groups. The group commissioned reports from Renaisi to rethink what we mean by investing in place, and to scope the learning from international examples of place-based collaboration. The discussions of the group helped to inform our learning programme on place, with blog posts, think pieces and reports being shared with our wider membership and networks across the UK to strengthen funding approaches to place and place-based change.

We built on the connections and inspiration of the Advisory Group on Place to establish connections with regional networks of funders across the UK and beyond, presenting learning from our work and benefiting from the generosity of colleagues in sharing their own learning and ideas with us. This included learning exchanges with groups from the Yorkshire Funders network to the Community Foundations of Canada, speaking at events from advice in Manchester to emergency responses in Nottingham, and hosting visitors from Scotland and Northern Ireland. We hope to further strengthen these ties in the coming years to ensure we remain at the forefront of developments in funding and social action for the benefit of our communities in London.

In London itself, we have grown the network of place-based funder forums we support, with 27 meetings held over the year to bring funders together in boroughs, from Southwark to Camden, from Hounslow to Havering, and everywhere inbetween. These networks are proving invaluable at enabling funders who focus on a single borough (including our local authority colleagues) to connect with regional and national funders who have an interest in reaching communities in those areas, enabling them to build a common understanding of local need and make connections that will ensure funding flows effectively to the civil society groups best-placed to achieve positive change. This work builds on our mapping of funding in London, published each year, helping to engage funders in discussions about the "cold spots" of funding in the capital and begin to take action together to address these.

We continued to support and strengthen the London's Giving movement, thanks to funding from the City Bridge Foundation, working with place-based giving schemes across London to harness the power of cross-sector collaboration to enable communities to achieve their ambitions. We were pleased to publish our latest impact report on behalf of the giving movement, showing that over the last year the place-based giving schemes distributed £5m in grants to their local communities, in addition to over £0.5m of in-kind support and volunteer hours. In the past five years, this brings the total of grants distributed to over £26.1m, a huge achievement by the amazing people across the London's Giving network. We have been working alongside the movement this year to look at the longer-term development and growth potential for London's Giving, and have committed to securing the resources for a dedicated resource hub in the coming year to build on the last ten years of support to the network.

We said we would share learning through our Festival of Learning, monthly insight meetings on the issues that matter to our communities, and evidence-based reports on the work of the funding community...

Having piloted our Festival of Learning concept last year, we were delighted to make this a permanent fixture on the London Funders calendar, thanks to funding from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation. We were able to host an expanded programme of over 30 learning sessions across our core themes of community, collaboration, equity, place and process – sharing insights and ideas from over 60 speakers from across the funding, civil society and community sectors to the 500+ people who attended. We not only had the opportunity to gain local insights – from Barking to Hounslow – but we also heard from international contributors, with funders from New York and Montreal sharing their learning with our members (building on the networks established through our Place Advisory Group work). To ensure that everything that was talked about at the Festival was captured we commissioned writers to attend each session and provide summaries of presentations and learning points that we published in a learning report which has been downloaded by hundreds of people from our website – with positive feedback about how members have been able to take positive action building on this sharing of learning.

Building on the Festival, we relaunched our learning programme, initiating our series of monthly insight meetings (bringing funders together with the latest data, new insights and issues facing our communities, to focus on what's needed in London – over the year this included sessions on the climate crisis, digital and tech developments, and practical tips on smoothing funder processes, through to insights on the housing crisis and funding campaigning and advocacy work), hosted learning events reflecting on funder priorities two years on from the first lockdown, sharing events considering how positive changes to funder practice through the pandemic could be sustained longer-term, and embarking on our new approach of focusing on “learning questions”. The learning questions approach will see us identify an overarching question to act as a focal point for our learning events, blogs and reports – we'll be focusing on three questions a year, following the school/learning terms to allow for deeper reflection. Our first question, on what it really means for funders to share power, saw us commission blogs and reports on power, and host events bringing together decision-makers from across the public, private and independent funding sectors to explore different models of sharing power and what this means for our work and connections with communities. We will continue to explore this question into the next financial year, and identify future key learning questions from our programme of insights and outreach with members and communities.

In addition to sharing intelligence and insights, we recognise the importance of data in driving learning across our membership, and so completed our audit of our membership – asking everyone for the details of who, what, where and how they were funding – so that we could provide an overview of changes in the funding sector and opportunities to learn together, based on the £700m+ of funding our members distribute each year. This included identifying geographic areas where funders were keen to work together to address “cold spots” in existing funding (for example in Havering, Hillingdon and Hounslow), and trends towards longer-term grants and funding being given for “core” work (or with less restrictions). These insights further strengthen our learning programme, as well as helping to bring people together to collaborate where there is shared interest or ambition.

One of the key themes emerging from the member audit was the increased interest in addressing issues of equity and justice in funding, leading us to undertake a deeper dive into the data and learning around funding for D/deaf and disabled people's organisations. This analysis was published alongside case studies of the programmes and approaches being developed by our members, and has led to us recruiting to a new post of Associate Director (Equity and Justice) in our team to continue to build on this work in the coming year – which will include a focus on bringing funders together to look at the capacity building needs of organisations led by and for discriminated-against communities, and launching a new network group exploring best practice in funding to champion issues of equity and justice.

We said we would ensure that our members were up-to-date with policy developments, bringing together insights from the manifestos of the local elections in 2022, and data on the emerging cost of living crisis...

Member feedback highlights how useful the reports we produce are to guiding the work of the funding community, so we invested more in this work through the creation of a new post of Associate Director (Research), enabling us to undertake more detailed research on topics of interest to our members and to London's communities – bringing together data with qualitative research techniques to strengthen our understanding of what's happening and why, and what funders can do about it.

Our first research project of the year was to map the manifestoes of the winning parties in each of the borough elections of 2022 – reviewing the commitments made, and the priorities likely to shape the focus and funding of each local authority for the next four years. The mapping highlighted some core issues that were central to many of the manifestoes – from the climate crisis, children and young people, to housing, domestic violence, and the cost of living crisis – as well as local issues that will be helpful to consider for place-based funders in each area. The manifesto mapping also helped us to identify further trends and developments that will shape the public funding sector in the coming years, for example the move to Integrated Care Systems (that promote a more joined-up approach between local authorities, healthcare systems and communities), providing a platform for further learning and insights we can share with members.

Recognising that the cost of living crisis was a central concern for many local authorities, and was also rising up the list of concerns from communities, civil society and our members, we dedicated a significant part of our research and insights time over the year to the cost of living crisis, the impact on communities, the actions funders were taking, and the opportunities for collaboration. We published a detailed report in October on the data and insights we had gathered from members – about the impact this was having on people in London, the rising cost of doing business for the civil society groups working with communities, and the pressures placed on the funding sector by the rapidly-changing situation – which was supported by detailed briefings in the months that followed on key topics, such as the level of uplifts funders were making to grants. We supported the research with a Cost of Living action week with our members (looking at long-term changes, immediate solutions, using data to target support communities, and collaborating through crisis) and supported our members to collaborate on key initiatives to strengthen support to London's communities – from supporting the advice sector through the London Legal Support Trust, to reaching grassroots groups through the London Community Foundation's "Together for London" campaign. Recognising that the issues behind the cost of living crisis, including poverty and exclusion, and the impact of the changes of the year, particularly the significant cost increases

across the sector, are not things with short-term fixes, we expect to continue to have a focus on longer-term changes resulting from this work in the coming year.

We said we would partner with others to bring about positive change, from championing the open and trusting grantmakers movement, to sharing tools and resources to enable collaboration to happen...

Members, and funders across the UK and Europe, joined with us at the start of covid-19 to sign our "We Stand With The Sector" pledges, and we were pleased to be able to co-fund IVAR to set up the "open and trusting grantmakers" movement to build on these commitments and look at longer-term positive changes with the funding sector. Over the year we have been part of the steering group for this work, promoted it to our members, and hosted learning events looking at how funders are putting the principles of being more open and trusting into their work. We remain committed to supporting IVAR's work in the years ahead, and are delighted to see that over 100 funders have already signed up to be part of this movement.

Movements for change have also emerged to look at increasing the diversity of people in the funding sector, and we were proud to take part in both the 2027 programme (recruiting and training people from working class communities to join the funding sector) and the 10,000 Black Interns programme (making placements available in organisations across sectors). We hosted a 2027 Associate during the year thanks to funding from the Greater London Authority – Alisha Pomells – who supported our work on funder collaboration, and moved on after her year with us to a position with our member the Cripplegate Foundation. We also hosted our first intern through the 10,000 Black Interns programme – Mya Caver – who was involved in our policy and communications work, and has returned to her studies with a strengthened interest in working in our sector after graduation. We have shared our learning on both programmes with our members to encourage others to join these initiatives, and were pleased to also be able to share Alisha and Mya's experiences and insights through learning blogs on our website to help us and others identify where there are barriers to engaging and involving people in our sector.

Recognising that our work on funder collaboration has led to the creation of many tools and resources that would benefit others, we have sought to share our work and consider how best to develop this further to strengthen approaches to funding for communities in London. Our work on sharing due diligence during the pandemic led to us starting work during the year to explore common approaches to due diligence across funders, which would save time and resources for both civil society groups and for funders in the assessment process – our exploration over the year has given us the basis for more work on this in the coming year, exploring piloting approaches to shared due diligence for the longer-term. Our experience of responding during the pandemic was also key to collaborative work with London Plus to establish the London Communities Emergency Partnership, which we look forward to supporting in the year ahead to build the connections and understanding that we need to be able to respond to future incidents in London. Beyond crisis, we also: brought funders together one year on from the publication of our immigration advice strategy to look at what's changed, and what could be done now to build on the work we started a year ago; joined our member the School for Social Entrepreneurs on their Enterprise Grants Taskforce; and funded our member Camden Giving to produce an updated participatory grantmaking toolkit. All these important areas of work are expected to continue to be key elements of our programme in 2023/24, and we look forward to reporting on further progress on practical tools, partnership and positive change in our next report.

PLANS FOR 2023/24

Through engagement with members, civil society groups and partners across sectors over the last year we have developed a strong and clear strategy for the period through to 2030, which we will continue to deliver against during 2023/24.

We've clarified our purpose as being to bring funders together to build a better London by taking action on what matters to our city and our communities.

We've outlined our ambitions for the years ahead, which are to:

- Enable a movement of members to have strong and trusted connections, based on shared values and ambitions
- Facilitate and lead collaborative programmes where only working together can achieve the change that's needed
- Drive a learning culture, where shared data, intelligence and insight leads to better decision-making and action

Whilst working towards our ambitions we will also maintain our agility – responding to events and developments as they arise in London, to ensure we are effective at addressing emerging needs.

The year 2023-24 will see us deliver a range of activities linked to our new strategy, including:

1. Establishing a vehicle for funder collaboration – enabling funders to pool funding, share power with community representatives, and distribute funding equitably across London
2. Revitalising our work on place-based giving – securing the resources to launch a new resource hub to strengthen the London's Giving movement and build links in new areas
3. Strengthening our learning programme – delivering our Festival of Learning and a new annual conference to bring members together to connect to each other and to new ideas
4. Boosting our membership programme – launching a new programme of member-led network groups that enable the sharing of insights and the strengthening of collaboration
5. Piloting new tools and techniques – bringing funders together to explore the development of shared approaches to due diligence as a platform for further collaboration

All of this can only be achieved with the support of our amazing members from across London's diverse funding community, and in partnership with the incredible civil society groups working with all our communities – the inspiration of these people will continue to drive our work, and enable us to ensure that our activities remain responsive and achieve the greatest impact we can for the city we love.

Risk management

The Board maintains awareness of areas which could represent risks for London Funders, assessing on grounds of likelihood and impact governance, market position, external factors, external credibility, operational and internal factors, and financial sustainability. The Board and staff aim to ensure that there are controls which minimise the likelihood of risks within these, if this is within London Funders' ability, and lessen their impact. Any areas still considered high risk are regularly reviewed by the Board at its quarterly meetings.

Reserves policy

In July 2023 the Board undertook a risk review and as a result of that agreed that the Reserves Policy should be to: ***"maintain free reserves in unrestricted funds equal to at least six months' expenditure on core costs (including staffing, office, supplier and project delivery costs)"***. As at 31 March 2023 free reserves totalled £299,167, equal to 5.17 months' core running costs. As this amount is below target, Trustees have reviewed the budget for 2023/24 with the aim of achieving a small operational surplus so that the free reserves move to be in line with our policy.

Donors and supporters in 2022-23

London Funders is grateful to City Bridge Foundation for continuing to fund some of our core costs, and for supporting the London's Giving Project.

City Bridge Foundation also provided a new grant during the year to support the costs of the Propel funder collaboration, which was also supported by grants from the Greater London Authority, Bloomberg, John Lyon's Charity and the National Lottery Community Fund, recognising the cross-sector nature of this important partnership project.

We were also grateful to Trust for London who provided a core grant to London Funders during the year, with a particular focus on supporting our work on equity and justice.

London Funders' core income comprised membership subscriptions, grants mentioned above, and small amounts of additional income from providing services and support to other organisations.

Overall, we are showing a surplus of £97,879 for the period covered by this report – of this £99,593 was a surplus on Unrestricted funding, and £1,714 is a deficit against Restricted funds (reducing the Restricted funds carried forward into the next financial year). As noted in the reserves policy, the surplus in the Unrestricted funds has helped move the charity to its target for reserves, but further work will be done in the coming financial year to ensure the policy is met.

Preparation of the report

This report of the Board has been prepared taking advantage of the small companies exemption of section 417 (1) of the Companies Act 2006.

It was approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 01/11/2023 and signed on its behalf by



David Farnsworth, Chair, London Funders

Statement of Trustees Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Charity law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year that give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for the year. In preparing those 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 judgments and accounting estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 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 accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charity's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made there under. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity 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 financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of the financial statements and other information included in annual reports may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Independent Examiners Report to the Executive Committee of London Funders for the year ended 31 March 2023

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

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

Since the Company's gross income exceeded £250,000, I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of the ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

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

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

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

Anthony Epton BA FCA CTA FCIE
Goldwins
Chartered accountants
75 Maygrove Road
West Hampstead
London NW6 2EG

London Funders

Statement of financial activities

(incorporating an income and expenditure account)

For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Income from:					
Donations/legacies & other income	2	3,780	-	3,780	3,600
Charitable activities:	3				
London's Giving		-	100,000	100,000	100,000
Propel		-	426,820	426,820	-
Membership services		234,103	117,402	351,505	304,451
Investment income	4	1,833	-	1,833	490
Total income		239,716	644,222	883,938	408,541
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	5	5,036	-	5,036	4,597
Charitable activities:	5				
London's Giving		-	106,647	106,647	106,939
Propel		-	421,872	421,872	-
Membership services		135,087	117,417	252,504	303,016
Total expenditure		140,123	645,936	786,059	414,552
Net income for the year	6	99,593	(1,714)	97,879	(6,011)
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		99,593	(1,714)	97,879	(6,011)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		199,574	15,135	214,709	220,720
Total funds carried forward		299,167	13,421	312,588	214,709

All of the above results are derived from continuing activities.

There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.

The attached notes form part of these financial statements.

London Funders
Balance sheet
As at 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Fixed assets:					
Tangible assets	9		-		-
Current assets:					
Debtors	10	2,677		3,709	
Cash at bank		<u>491,548</u>		<u>273,940</u>	
		494,225		277,649	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11	<u>(181,637)</u>		<u>(62,940)</u>	
Net current assets			312,588		214,709
Total net assets			312,588		214,709
Funds	13				
Restricted funds			13,421		15,135
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds		<u>299,167</u>		<u>199,574</u>	
Total unrestricted funds			299,167		199,574
Total funds			312,588		214,709


The company is entitled to the exemption from the audit requirement in section 477 of the Companies Act 2006, for the year ended 31 March 2023. No member of the company has deposited a notice, pursuant to section 476, requiring an audit of these accounts.


The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act; and preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company at 31 March 2023 and of its result for the year ended in accordance with section 394 and 395, and otherwise comply with the requirements of the Act relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Approved by the trustees on
and signed on their behalf by:

01/11/2023


David Farnsworth
Chair


Ugo Ikokwu
Treasurer

Company registration no. 5596299

The attached notes form part of the financial statements.

London Funders
Statement of cash flows
For the year ended 31 March 2023

	Note	2023 £	2023 £	2022 £	2022 £
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	14		215,775		25,333
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Interest/ rent/ dividends from investments		1,833		490	
Cash provided by / (used in) investing activities			1,833		490
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			217,608		25,823
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year			273,940		248,117
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	15		491,548		273,940

London Funders
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

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 2015) (Charities SORP FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

The charitable company 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 or note.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern. The trustees do not consider that there are any sources of uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

Income

Income is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the income have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and that the amount can be measured reliably.

Income from government and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred. Income received in advance for the provision of specified service is deferred until the criteria for income recognition are met.

Donations of gifts, services and facilities

Donated professional services and donated facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item or received the service, any conditions associated with the donation have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), volunteer time is not recognised so refer to the trustees' annual report for more information about their contribution.

On receipt, donated gifts, professional services and donated facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Interest receivable

Interest on funds held on deposit 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.

London Funders
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity. Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

Expenditure and Irrecoverable VAT

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make a payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds comprise of trading costs and the costs incurred by the charitable company in inducing third parties to make voluntary contributions to it, as well as the cost of any activities with a fundraising purpose.
- Expenditure on charitable activities includes the costs of delivering services, and other activities undertaken to further the purposes of the charity and their associated support costs.
- Other expenditure represents those items not falling into any other heading.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as a cost against the activity for which the expenditure was incurred.

Tangible fixed assets

Items of equipment are capitalised where the purchase price exceeds £500. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write down the cost of each asset to its estimated residual value over its expected useful life. The depreciation rates in use are as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	33%
Computer equipment	33%

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Cash at bank and in hand

Cash at bank and cash in hand includes cash and short term highly liquid investments with a short maturity of three months or less from the date of acquisition or opening of the deposit or similar account.

Creditors and provisions

Creditors and provisions are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors and provisions are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

London Funders
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

2 Income from donations/legacies & other income

Current Year	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Other income	3,780	-	3,780	3,600
	<u>3,780</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,780</u>	<u>3,600</u>
Prior year	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
Other income	3,600	-	3,600	15,180
	<u>3,600</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,600</u>	<u>15,180</u>

3 Income from Charitable Activities

Current Year	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
London's Giving				
City Bridge Trust	-	100,000	100,000	100,000
Total for London's Giving	-	100,000	100,000	100,000
Propel				
City Bridge Trust	-	255,000	255,000	-
Greater London Authority	-	65,000	65,000	-
Bloomberg	-	50,000	50,000	-
John Lyon's Charity	-	10,000	10,000	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	46,820	46,820	-
Total for Propel	-	426,820	426,820	-
Membership Services				
City Bridge Trust	-	65,902	65,902	12,500
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	-	-	-	6,000
Trust for London	-	20,000	20,000	-
Greater London Authority	-	19,000	19,000	19,000
National Lottery Community Fund	-	12,500	12,500	37,500
Membership fees	234,103	-	234,103	229,451
Total for Membership Services	234,103	117,402	351,505	304,451
Total income from charitable activities	<u>234,103</u>	<u>644,222</u>	<u>878,325</u>	<u>404,451</u>
Prior year	Unrestricted	Restricted	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
London's Giving				
City Bridge Trust	-	100,000	100,000	100,000
Total for Londons Giving	-	100,000	100,000	100,000
Covid-19 response funding				
City Bridge Trust	-	-	-	80,101
Greater London Authority	-	-	-	50,000
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	-	-	-	18,000
United St Saviour's Charity	-	-	-	8,000
London Community Foundation	-	-	-	7,500
MHCLG	-	-	-	5,000
Total for COVID 19 funding	-	-	-	168,601
Membership Services				
City Bridge Trust	-	12,500	12,500	62,500
Paul Hamlyn	6,000	-	6,000	12,000
Greater London Authority	-	19,000	19,000	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	37,500	37,500	-
Membership fees	229,451	-	229,451	209,966
Total for Membership Services	235,451	69,000	304,451	284,466
	<u>235,451</u>	<u>169,000</u>	<u>404,451</u>	<u>553,067</u>

4 Income from investments

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Bank interest	1,833	-	1,833	490
	<u>1,833</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,833</u>	<u>490</u>

London Funders
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

5 Analysis of expenditure (this financial year)

	Cost of raising funds £	CBT Projects London's Giving £	Propel £	Membership subs/events £	Governance costs £	2023 Total £	2022 Total £
Staff remuneration	5,036	50,721	107,781	170,192	-	333,730	277,553
Other staff costs	-	547	-	11,226	-	11,773	7,724
Project/development costs	-	47,020	261,501	1,047	-	309,568	62,280
Meetings and events	-	620	3,039	8,923	-	12,582	10,429
Rent & related services	-	-	3,750	14,335	-	18,085	14,850
Postage & stationery	-	-	-	425	-	425	1,006
Telephone	-	94	225	1,030	-	1,349	1,136
Professional fees	-	-	7,115	4,067	-	11,182	-
Photocopying & printing	-	3,384	1,350	6,615	-	11,349	6,893
Insurance	-	-	-	867	-	867	890
ICT & website	-	4,261	37,111	29,053	-	70,425	26,881
Sundry expenses	-	-	-	314	-	314	271
Committee members' expenses	-	-	-	-	409	409	561
Bookkeeping and finance	-	-	-	-	2,266	2,266	2,343
Audit fees	-	-	-	-	1,735	1,735	1,735
Governance Costs	-	-	-	4,410.00	(4,410.00)	-	-
Total expenditure 2023	5,036	106,647	421,872	252,504	-	786,059	414,552
Total expenditure 2022	4,597	106,939	-	303,016	-	414,552	

Of the total expenditure, £140,123 was unrestricted (2022: £238,028) and £645,936 was restricted (2022: £172,942).

London Funders
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

5	Analysis of expenditure	(previous financial year)									
		Cost of raising funds		CBT Projects		Membership subs/events		Governance costs		2022 Total	2021 Total
		£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Staff remuneration		4,597	45,220		227,736		-		-	277,553	263,057
Other staff costs		-	10		7,714		-		-	7,724	2,467
Project/development costs		-	50,793		11,487		-		-	62,280	174,655
Meetings and events		-	1,785		8,644		-		-	10,429	4,353
Rent & related services		-	-		14,850		-		-	14,850	14,593
Postage & stationery		-	558		448		-		-	1,006	533
Telephone		-	115		1,021		-		-	1,136	1,443
Depreciation		-	-		-		-		-	-	2
Photocopying & printing		-	1,038		5,855		-		-	6,893	6,292
Insurance		-	-		890		-		-	890	860
ICT & website		-	7,420		19,461		-		-	26,881	11,007
Sundry expenses		-	-		271		-		-	271	393
Committee meeting expenses		-	-		-		-		561	561	59
Bookkeeping and finance		-	-		-		-		2,343	2,343	2,271
Audit fees		-	-		-		-		1,735	1,735	1,220
Governance Costs		-	-		4,639.00		(4,639)		-	-	-
Total expenditure 2022		4,597	106,939		303,016		-		-	414,552	483,205
Total expenditure 2021		4,591	140,441		334,623		3,550		3,550	483,205	

Of the total expenditure, £238,628 was unrestricted (2021: £342,764) and £175,924 was restricted (2021: £140,441).

London Funders
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

6 Net Income / (expenditure) for the year

This is stated after charging / (crediting):

	2023	2022
	£	£
Independent Examiner remuneration:		
Independent Examiner fees	1,735	1,735
	<u>1,735</u>	<u>1,735</u>

7 Analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses, and the cost of key management personnel

Staff costs were as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Salaries and wages	286,711	240,532
Social security costs	27,268	21,171
Employer's contribution to defined contribution pension schemes	19,751	15,850
	<u>333,730</u>	<u>277,553</u>

The number of employees who received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 were as follows:

	2023	2022
£70,001 - £80,001	-	1
£80,001 - £90,001	1	-

The total employee benefits including pension contributions and national insurance contributions of the key management personnel were £100,721 (2022: £91,946).

The charity trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity or its subsidiary in the year (2022: £nil) neither were they reimbursed expenses during the year (2022: £nil). No charity trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2022: £nil).

Staff numbers

The average number of employees (head count based on number of staff employed) during the year was as follows:

	2023	2022
	No.	No.
Raising funds	0.05	0.05
Charitable activities	5.85	4.15
Support	0.2	0.2
Governance	0.1	0.1
	<u>6.20</u>	<u>4.50</u>

8 Taxation

The charitable company is exempt from corporation tax as all its income is charitable and is applied for charitable purposes.

London Funders
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

9 Tangible fixed assets

Cost

At the start of the year
At the end of the year

Fixtures and equipment £	Computer equipment £	Total £
1,940	2,996	4,936
1,940	2,996	4,936

Depreciation

At the start of the year
Charge for the year
At the end of the year

1,940	2,996	4,936
-	-	-
1,940	2,996	4,936

Net book value

At the end of the year

-	-	-
---	---	---

At the start of the year

-	-	-
---	---	---

All of the above assets are used for charitable purposes.

10 Debtors

Trade debtors
Other debtors
Prepayments

2023 £	2022 £
2,020	1,880
440	-
217	1,829
2,677	3,709

11 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

Trade creditors
Taxation and social security
Other creditors
Accruals
Deferred income

2023 £	2022 £
31,218	26,465
-	-
2,569	2,175
2,850	2,800
145,000	31,500
181,637	62,940

Deferred income

Balance at the beginning of the year
Amount released to income in the year
Amount deferred in the year
Balance at the end of the year

2023 £	2022 £
31,500	-
(31,500)	-
145,000	31,500
145,000	31,500

Deferred income comprises Grant/memberships paid in advance

London Funders
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

12 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-
Net current assets	299,167	13,421	312,588
Net assets at the end of the year	299,167	13,421	312,588

13 Movements in funds
Current year

	At the start of the year £	Incoming resources & gains £	Outgoing resources & losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
City Bridge Trust Fund - Membership core	-	65,902	65,902	-	-
City Bridge Trust Fund - Londons Giving	15,120	100,000	106,647	-	8,473
Trust for London	-	20,000	20,000	-	-
National Lottery Community Fund	-	12,500	12,500	-	-
Greater London Authority	15	19,000	19,015	-	-
Propel	-	426,820	421,872	-	4,948
Total restricted funds	15,135	644,222	645,936	-	13,421
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	199,574	239,716	140,123	-	299,167
Total unrestricted funds	199,574	239,716	140,123	-	299,167
Total funds	214,709	883,938	786,059	-	312,588

13 Movements in funds
Prior year

	At the start of the year £	Incoming resources & gains £	Outgoing resources & losses £	Transfers £	At the end of the year £
Restricted funds:					
City Bridge Trust Fund - Membership core	-	12,500	12,500	-	-
City Bridge Trust Fund - Londons Giving	22,059	100,000	106,939	-	15,120
National Lottery Community Fund	-	37,500	37,500	-	-
Greater London Authority	-	19,000	18,985	-	15
Total restricted funds	22,059	169,000	175,924	-	15,135
Unrestricted funds:					
General funds	198,661	239,541	238,628	-	199,574
Total unrestricted funds	198,661	239,541	238,628	-	199,574
Total funds	220,720	408,541	414,552	-	214,709

Purposes of restricted funds

The income of the charity includes grants received for specific restricted projects. The trustees' report includes a description of the activities of each project.

London Funders
Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 31 March 2023

14 Reconciliation of net income / (expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023	2022
	£	£
Net Income / (expenditure) for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities)	97,879	(6,011)
Depreciation	-	-
Interest, rent and dividends from investments	(1,833)	(490)
(Increase)/ decrease in debtors	1,032	35,091
Increase/ (decrease) in creditors	118,697	(3,257)
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities	215,775	25,333

15 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 April 2022	Cash flows	Other changes	At 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	273,940	217,608	-	491,548
Total cash and cash equivalents	273,940	217,608	-	491,548

16 Legal status of the charity

The charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. Each member is liable to contribute a sum not exceeding £1 in the event of the charity being wound up.

17 Related party transactions

There are no related party transactions to disclose for 2023 (2022: none).