



Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021

Curious Minds' Registered Office:

Colony
5 Piccadilly Place
Manchester
M1 3BR

Curious Minds is a Company Limited by Guarantee and is a Registered Charity

Registered Company Number: 06775402

Registered Charity Number: 1130988

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Company Information

Incorporation

The charitable company was incorporated on 17th December 2008 and commenced trading on 1st April 2009. Curious Minds became a registered Charity on 6th August 2009.

Trustees

Ms. Virginia Tandy OBE – Chair (retired 22/4/2020)

Mrs. Karen Crowshaw – Chair (from 22/4/2020)

Ms. Samira Al'Obaidi (appointed 22/7/2020)

Mr. Jaffer Hussain (appointed 22/7/2020)

Mrs. Ruth Raban

Mr. Jonathan Robinson

Mr. Ivan Wadeson

Mr. David Wearing

Executive Management Team

Chief Executive

Deputy CEO

Director of Finance and Operations

Directors of Programmes

Ms. Derri Burdon

Ms. Caz Brader (until 29 December 2020)

Ms. Sue Langfeld

Ms. Kelly Allen & Ms. Jude Bird

Statutory Auditors & Accountants

Mitchell Charlesworth LLP

3rd Floor

44 Peter Street

Manchester

M2 5GP

Bankers

CAF Bank Limited

25 Kings Hill Avenue

Kings Hill

West Malling

Kent MA19 4JQ

Solicitors

Counterculture Partnership LLP

Unit 115

Ducie House

Ducie Street

Manchester M1 2JW

Chair's Statement

In my first year as Curious Minds Chair of Trustees, I'm immensely inspired by the team's experience and learning over the last nine years, but especially over the past 12 months working through the Covid-19 pandemic.

Through lockdown, the board of trustees were able to connect more regularly with the management team and together we learned a great deal and discovered new ways to define what it means to be a Sector Support Organisation. As the reality of the Covid-19 pandemic set in, the team responded rapidly, repurposing and leveraging resources to meet the needs of the cultural education workforce in crisis.

Our response says a lot about how seriously Curious Minds takes its role as Sector Support Organisation. This has also been a period in which the value and vulnerability of the cultural education ecology has been brought into sharper focus, especially for freelance artists and grass-roots organisations. We plan to continue to support and develop this vital aspect of the cultural education ecology.

I was delighted that Derri and Caz were able to forge relationships with new funders in the Paul Hamlyn and Esmée Fairbairn Foundations, garnering support towards our response programmes. The team was equally grateful for the grant from Sharegift which helped us to implement much needed changes to our IT systems as they adapted to a home working environment.

Naturally, elements of our programmes had to be adapted. Kelly and Saul, as the Hope Streets programme leads were shining examples in responding to both restrictions and the needs of the young people involved, to continue to deliver a quality experience throughout. Meanwhile the excitement of being awarded European funding for a Global Curiosity partnership with Greece and Poland was dampened by travel restrictions, with Alice adapting activities in the hope that the planned in-person delivery can resume at a later date.

This year we renewed our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion. We have been working with sector experts and a specially convened anti-racism external task-group (ARG) to explore how we can play a greater role in promoting racial empowerment and anti-racism. We are energised by what we have achieved in a short space of time and have made a commitment to continue to work with the ARG over the next two years to embed its recommendations across all our work and programmes.

As departing Deputy Chief Executive, we have much to thank Caz Brader for, not least the wonderful Lockdown Awards ceremony held virtually in November 2020 – a real high point of celebration in such challenging times! We will miss your creative energy, compassion and wit, Caz, but wish you huge success and good times, both in your new role and home life.

Looking to the future, we have revised our strategic aims and objectives and updated our business plan for 2021-22 to directly address the Post-covid needs of our stakeholders. Our plans also pivot to support the ambition of Arts Council England's new ten year strategy, Let's Create.

All that said, our overarching aim remains the same as ever - to enable creative collaboration across the education and cultural sectors so that ALL children have the opportunity to be creative and experience brilliant arts and culture, in and out of school.

Final thanks go to Derri for steering the ship through such difficult waters, motivating and supporting the wellbeing of the team to deliver some amazing results, despite personal challenges. Having navigated the last year so well, I know you will be an unstoppable force in reaching the ambitious goals we have in our sights.

Karen Crowshaw

Chair of the Board of Trustees

Trustees' Annual Report

Our purpose and activities

The purposes of the charity are to advance for the public benefit the education of children and young people within England in order to enable them to participate in society as mature and responsible individuals, in particular by:

- supporting them to become successful learners and responsible citizens by working with others to extend the range, amount, quality and scope of formal and informal learning opportunities in the areas of creativity, arts, media, culture, heritage, humanities and science;
- supporting teachers, practitioners, carers, performers and artists in developing the necessary skills and knowledge to assist them in enabling children and young people both inside and outside formal education to develop and apply their skills and talents and to open up to them cultural and creative activity.
- developing programmes, where appropriate, in partnership with others to deliver positive learning outcomes and encourage the recognition, enjoyment and use of culture, media and heritage;
- empowering them to be involved in the promotion of cultural and learning activities and enhancing their skills, capacities and capabilities; and
- encouraging them to visit, experience, participate in, initiate and engage in cultural activities, places and performances.

Curious Minds aims to improve the lives of children and young people in the North West of England through facilitating access to arts and culture for all. It promotes cultural education and enables creative innovation and collaboration between the cultural, educational and youth sectors.

In shaping our objectives for the year and planning our activities, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, including the guidance 'public benefit: running a charity (PB2)'. Our main beneficiaries are schools, local authorities, cultural organisations and creative practitioners and we are mindful that they are all continue to work within a challenging social, financial and policy climate.

Charging Considerations

Our main beneficiaries/stakeholders are schools, local authorities, cultural organisations and creative practitioners, all of whom are working in a challenging financial and policy climate. Affordability and access to our programmes is important to us and remains a key consideration when we are planning our activity. Wherever possible, places on our events and training programmes are provided at low or no cost to participants using the grants we receive as subsidy. The decision whether or not to provide a service, place on training or at an event or conference is carefully balanced to ensure cost does not act as a barrier but also taking into account our experience of drop-off when offering places for free (e.g., people register but don't turn up). We cost all our traded offers on a full cost recovery basis.

Programme Delivery

Business plan priorities were originally agreed for the four year period 2018 – 2022, these are:

1. **Widening our influence** – so that Curious Minds is positively influencing policy and practice across the entire children's workforce
2. **Pioneering next practice** – recognising the factors impacting on children's lives and the vital role culture and creativity play in helping them navigate a rapidly changing society.
3. **Developing autonomy and resilience** – to ensure that Curious Minds is ready to tackle future financial and environmental challenges.
4. **Making a difference** – responding rapidly and innovatively to tackle issues affecting children's lives that we care deeply about.

In March 2020, it became apparent that we would not be able to deliver our usual programme of activities. Responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, we quickly repurposed our resources to respond to the crisis facing the cultural education workforce, fully incorporating these strategies in our action from the start of the year.

Review of our achievements and performance in 2020/21

Curious Minds continues to punch above its weight to achieve significant regional impact with limited resources. We choose to support the sector rather than directly working with young people and it is this strategic approach that enables us to have substantial regional reach and influence as honest brokers and advocates for cultural and creative education.

Our work targets children and young people living and learning in some of the most socio-economically disadvantaged areas of the country. We continue to support cultural and education sectors to collaborate so that these children and young people can enjoy rich art and cultural experiences.

As this year began, we were reacting to the Covid-19 pandemic. We repurposed our resources as quickly as we could to respond to the crisis facing the cultural education workforce. It was a time of learning and, despite the challenges, of discovering new ways to define what it means to be a Sector Support Organisation (SSO). It was also a period in which the value of the cultural education workforce has been brought into sharper focus, along with its vulnerabilities.

Curious Minds is grateful to all the funders whose generosity and understanding enabled us to respond to the developing circumstances with flexibility, creativity and curiosity.

BRIDGING THE GAP – RAPID RESPONSE BURSARIES

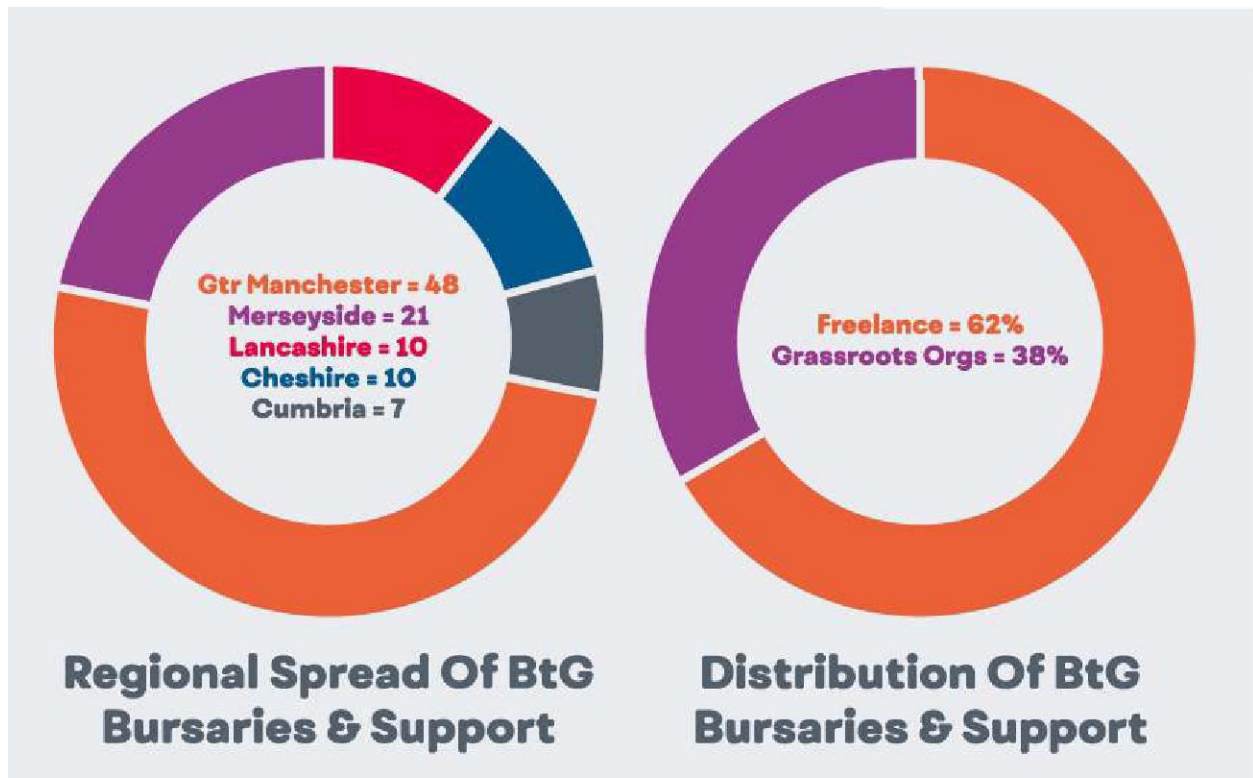
Our immediate priority, as the region's sector support organisation, was to ensure that the cultural education sector should be able to emerge from the Covid-19 crisis in as strong a position as possible. It was immediately apparent that some national-level initiatives would prove either inaccessible or arrive too late for many grassroots and freelance workers. 'Bridging the Gap' was our first response. We offered bursaries to freelancers and small or community-based arts organisations outside the Arts Council England National Portfolio and received over 170 applications on the first day. The money aimed to allow those in the cultural education community the space for their own development, and a small financial incentive that 'bridged the gap' between crisis point and the receipt of any emergency grants or funding.

We provided every successful applicant with a 'coach' to support them and curated an online catalogue of free continuing professional development and learning (CDPL) opportunities.

Thanks to the generous support of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, we were able to rapidly allocate 96 Bridging the Gap Bursaries to support the cultural education workforce.

"The bursary... allowed us to develop ourselves in discovering new ways of working which, in turn, meant the work we have done since the beginning of the pandemic has been of better quality and has reached more young people and families."

Clem, BtG Bursary Recipient



BRIDGING THE GAP Case study:

DIY Theatre, in Salford, is an established Learning Disability Theatre Company that delivers highly valued work with both young people and adults. Director, Sue Caudle, explained that DIY's funding is predominantly linked to project delivery.

So, when the Emergency Lockdown was announced, Sue needed to quickly pivot her operating model. She began renegotiating with funders to deliver sessions online and to send resource packs through the post. With earned income unavailable, covering the immediate cost of overheads was a big challenge. The Bridging the Gap bursary cash arrived quickly and relieved some anxiety whilst Sue was looking into other funding options.

She was clear that she wanted to use the time the bursary afforded to develop the skills she would need for this new form of online engagement, as well as to work out strategies for how to deliver in future. In particular, she was keen to talk to other drama or theatre providers to find out how they were adapting.

As a result of conversations with her Curious Minds CPDL coach Emma, the idea to convene art-form specific online discussion groups was developed. This led to the series of sessions 'Delivering the Arts in a Socially Distanced World'.

"The bursary afforded me a moment to take a breath. I've been able to invest in CPD that will stand me in good stead moving forwards and will impact and shape my future projects.

Thank you."

Lisa, BtG Bursary Recipient

ADVOCACY & INTELLIGENCE SHARING

Our active dialogue with freelance practitioners and grassroots organisations meant we were able to gather evidence of need, at speed, for submission to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) Parliamentary Committee's inquiry into the impact of Covid-19 on DCMS sectors. We were also able to share this intelligence with Arts Council England, which was at that time formulating its own emergency response. Curious Minds' CEO, Derri Burdon, also contributed to high-level roundtable discussions, making the case for 'root-to-tip' support to protect the arts education ecosystem.

In September 2020, Curious Minds collaborated with other organisations in the National Bridge Network to survey school leaders. This research provided a snapshot of the threats and opportunities that face the cultural education sector in the coming academic year.

We also hosted a series of art-form specific facilitated online sessions, at which both education and arts professionals discussed how meaningful learning and engagement can be delivered in a 'socially distanced' way.

"I have found the opportunity to discuss [these] issues rewarding.

As a small organisation/ individual worker, it can be difficult to find appropriate forums or networks, which offer support."

Discussion Event Attendee

CURIOUS IN A CRISIS CPD WEBINARS

Curious Minds listened to the cultural education workforce as they told us about the gaps in their skills and knowledge that threatened their survival in the new world of socially-distanced delivery.

We reached out to those on furlough from larger organisations. We also commissioned partners who we knew had particular expertise that many would find valuable.

Our volunteers brought expertise from their time working for employers across a wide and varied range of sectors, including:

• Bruntwood • Counterculture • Events Northern • Lowry Theatre • RSA • TiPP

With their help, we were able to deliver a range of online and free professional development webinars.

WE DELIVERED 8 WEBINARS ATTENDED BY 276 PROFESSIONALS in:

- Writing a Funding Bid
- A Beginner's Guide to Web Law
- A Beginner's Guide to Intellectual Property Law
- A Beginner's Guide to Marketing Strategies
- A Beginner's Guide to Creating your Online Events
- A Beginner's Guide to Safeguarding Online
- A Beginner's Guide to Understanding Your Impact
- A Beginner's Guide to Social Media Marketing

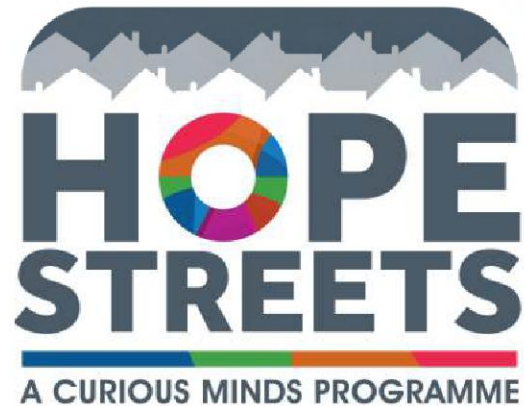
"I was able to learn about areas outside my usual sphere as a freelance practitioner, e.g. web law and intellectual property"
Viv, webinar participant

FESTIVAL OF HOPE

A youth-led and coordinated

Celebration of hope and heritage

across the North West



Festival of Hope 2020 was delivered through a network of five partner 'hub' museums. It is part of our Hope Streets programme funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund and delivered in partnership with Blaze Arts. Many Museums responded to the Emergency Lockdown by pausing community engagement activities. The Blaze Young Producers were not ready to shelve their plans; quickly suggesting ways to make their festival viable despite the restrictions in place. With resilience, tenacity and perseverance, they pivoted enthusiastically towards online, distanced delivery. Buoyed by their hopeful spirit, museum staff followed their lead.

Regular planning meetings moved online, as the Young Producers collaborated with Festival experts and museum leads to plan, commission and deliver 40 unique and imaginative 'events'.

The young people told us how this regular connection with others gave them a sense of purpose; rescuing their wellbeing in the context of school and college closures and work lost to zero-hours contracts.

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS:

- National Lottery Heritage Fund
- Youth Focus North West
- Blaze Arts
- Museums Development North West

MUSEUM HUBS:

- The Atkinson, Southport
- Bolton Museum
- Tullie House, Carlisle
- Chester West And Chester Museums
- Lancashire Museums (Clitheroe and Padiham)

LET'S CREATE & CREATIVE KITS

Digital inequality was a theme on many people's minds. We felt a call to action. Curious Minds began to identify partnerships that were addressing this area of need with the creation and distribution of creative packs or kits direct to the doorsteps of families in need.

Early on, Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), a Rochdale partnership and Odd Arts had led the way and begun to organise and bring together support in several local areas to target struggling families and provide creative resources (amongst other types of support) and Curious Minds was happy to contribute. This was also beginning to happen elsewhere in the country. At a national level, Arts Council England, members of the National Bridge Network and Craft Council also began to collaborate on an initiative that would see Let's Create 'art packs', filled with resources, sent out to children across the country.

In the North West, we opened the Let's Create initiative to Local Cultural Education Partnerships (LCEPs) across the wider region, who had not benefitted from the joined up approach in GMCA. More recently we have also entered into a co-investment relationship with YoungMcr to tackle digital inequality across the Greater Manchester youth sector.

LET'S CREATE KITS SENT OUT:

PHASE 1, IN GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY & ROCHDALE

28,000 OVERALL (WITH CO-INVESTMENT FROM CURIOUS MINDS)

PHASE 2, VIA LOCAL CULTURAL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

2,800 PACKS DISTRIBUTED ACROSS NINE AREAS

"THE MOST VULNERABLE PEOPLE GET LEFT BEHIND WHEN YOU'RE LOCKED DOWN" - GMCA.



BUBBLE UP – DOORSTEP DELIVERY PARTNERSHIPS

Bubble Up is an initiative that places cultural education as a driver of post-lockdown recovery and renewal. It was designed to nurture new forms of artistic partnership and collaboration at hyperlocal level, for the benefit of children transitioning to secondary school following 5 months of lockdown.

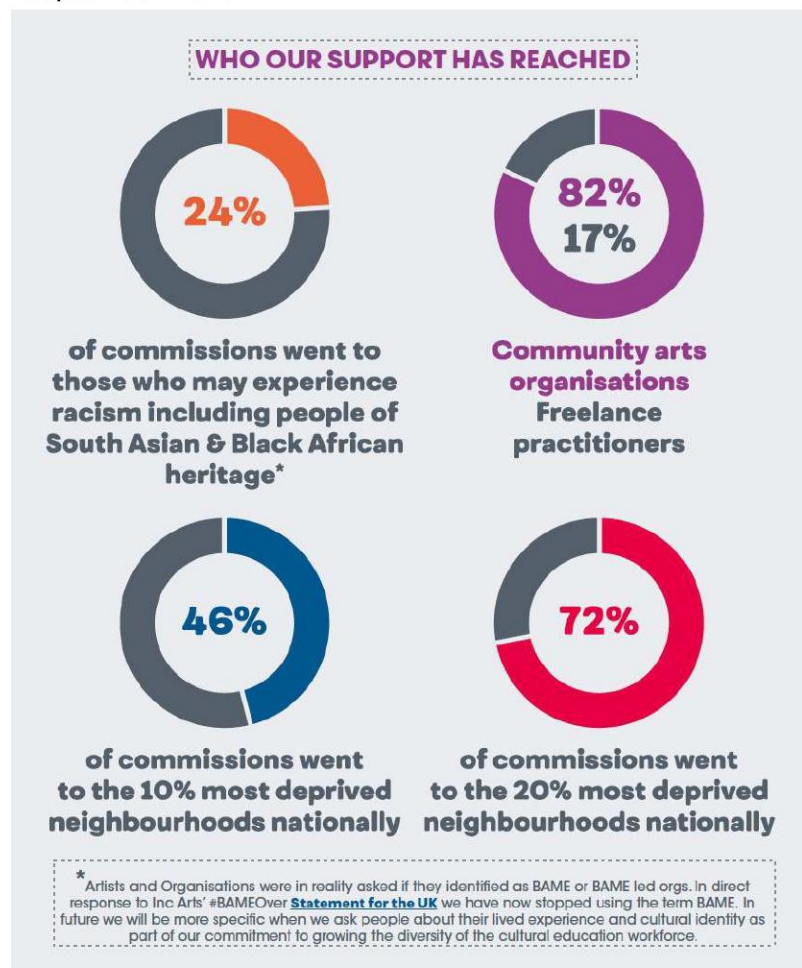
The purpose of the Bubble Up commissioning model is to put money directly in the hands of grass-roots artists, with the belief that they have the knowledge and experience to empower recovery in their local neighbourhoods.

COMMISSIONING THE PILOT

After a competitive application process, Curious Minds initially offered 17 commissions, worth £2,200 each, to community-facing organisations and freelance teaching artists. These successful applicants would work in partnerships, forming five neighbourhood-level 'Doorstep Delivery Bubbles' to deliver extra-curricular cultural learning clubs for children who were transitioning to secondary school in September 2020.

ROUNDS TWO & THREE

Thanks to generous support of The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, and following the success and popularity of the pilot phase, we were able to extend this programme to a second and third phase of commissioning. These phases would expand the geographical reach of the project into new neighbourhoods and would see activities running through the Autumn term.



CASE STUDY: BUBBLE UP GORTON

In Gorton, Manchester, three local arts practitioners applied to take part in the Bubble Up pilot phase, forming a single Doorstep Delivery Bubble – Boom Bap & Breaks, Breakdance Manchester and Creative City England CIC. Together, they developed a series of summer holiday cultural learning clubs, which were specifically designed to help Year 7s transition to secondary school after lockdown.

“The Bubble Up programme has impacted positively on me as a freelancer. I was able to plan and deliver a project very quickly, which meant I was able to start earning an income again.

The project has also helped connect me with other local organisations who have similar goals but use different methods. I’ve benefitted from the opportunity to collaborate and have immediately benefitted from widening my network.

It has been challenging to deliver with ‘bubbles’ under the new Covid-19 regulations, but I’ve realised these challenges can be overcome and that the work is still feasible. Bubble Up has helped me to develop new methods in my practice and workshop delivery that I can use in future activities. *I’ve developed my practice around risk assessment for example.*

Being commissioned to deliver Bubble Up has also enabled me to help other freelancers, by providing them with paid work as part of this project. I’ve been inspired to develop future project ideas in response to similar opportunities in the local area.”

Adil Khan – DJ KhanFu (Boom Bap & Breaks)

“It’s been interesting working with Beth from Creative Cities and KhanFu from Boom Bop and Breaks; having to pull our organisations together to then create a creative bubble that allows young people to explore many artistic disciplines. It’s the new way of thinking about organisational cohesion.”

Edenamiuki Aigubasimwin, Director of Breakdance Manchester

Covid-19 pandemic

At the start of the Covid pandemic in early 2020, we closed our Preston office and training room and asked the team to temporarily work from home. As our lease agreement drew to an end in September 2020, it became clear the site would not support post-pandemic working and we decided to leave. We donated some of our furniture to local arts organisations, putting into store what we need to retain and planning to consider accommodation options in autumn 2021. We regularly link as a team virtually and occasionally in small numbers physically and have placed a greater emphasis on staff health and wellbeing and colleague support.

While the pandemic has impacted delivery of some of our regular programmes, we have continued to be able to deliver our main sector support role for Arts Council England and our funding from them was not affected.

We weren’t able to deliver some of our training offers which would usually provide additional income, adapting training to meet needs via online free sessions. We did, however receive a grant awarded under the Government COVID-19 (coronavirus) relief scheme and funds through the Job Retention Scheme for a member of staff independently funded.

Inclusivity & Relevance

The very first words of our mission statement are 'Our vision is for an equal society'. Tackling unequal access to, and through, arts and culture are right at the heart of why Curious Minds exists. We recognise that our work is far from done, and acknowledge we have a long way to go with specific regards to ethnic and racial diversity. Until the day comes when the wonderfully diverse communities of the North West are representatively embedded in our workforce, our programmes and our sector, we will continue our effort to do more and better.

We know that our sector, and the sectors we work with and alongside are not representatively ethnically diverse. We acknowledge that, whilst our programmes reach far and wide, our own permanent staff team is not ethnically diverse. Whilst we have taken positive actions and reviewed procedures to address this, we know that we haven't done enough until our staff team reflects the ethnicity of the area we serve.

We also know that children and young people's access to arts and culture remains unequal. The urgent need to address systemic wrongs that cause inequality and lack of opportunity drives all our work, both as a charity and the NW Bridge organisation. We recognise that, whilst many opportunities are technically available to all, perception is a powerful barrier, which requires pro-activity to overcome.

We know we have a unique ability to lead and influence change across the arts and culture sector and take that responsibility seriously. Our aim is to achieve justice through creative practice.

Curious Minds' staff and Trustees recognise and accept a dual role:

Internally:

by creating, implementing and monitoring organisational policies and procedures that promote equality, diversity and inclusion, enabling us to engage deeply in anti-racist work, and

by doing more to be a visibly anti-racist organisation, ensuring those who work with us and for us are in no doubt about our values and expectations, and

by examining our organisational structure, our work environment and the ways we may be inadvertently perpetuating problems through who we represent, who we invite to the table, who we partner with and where our resources and energy is directed.

Externally:

by working in partnership with others to remove the barriers that prevent some CYP from experiencing the joy arts, culture and creativity bring, and

by championing diverse practice in cultural and creative education as integral to creating a better, richer and more dynamic arts and cultural offer for children and young people which, in turn, creates a more tolerant, accepting and understanding society, and

by harnessing the power of arts and culture as a vehicle to enable children and young people to create change in their lives, and in society.

In order to address ethnic and racial diversity specifically we have convened an External Anti-Racism Group with a remit to challenge us, hold us to account, and support us to continually strive towards becoming the representative organisation we strive to be.

Through our continued focus on being an Anti-Racist organisation, we're very aware of the current debate on appropriate language around race and ethnicity. In direct response to Inc Arts' #BAMEover [Statement for the UK](#) we have now stopped using the term BAME and will aim to be as specific as possible when we talk about cultural identity. We will always try to use terms that are respectful and we take responsibility for keeping ourselves up to date with what is considered acceptable language.

Curious Minds and Digital

Curious Minds expertise in the use of digital platforms has accelerated significantly over the past year as we have transitioned to remote working and moved our entire offer of events, training and support online, developing innovative approaches to maintaining our interactive and dialogic house style. We remain committed to improving our own use of 'Digital' and to also supporting other practitioners and organisations who are keen to explore how improved use of digital platforms and approaches can help them reach more children and young people.

The focus for development over the next two years will be to continue to develop our approach to using a range of online platforms and tools to deliver a compelling blended events and training offer that meets the needs of our partners and stakeholders. We will also launch our own Online Learning Platform to offer asynchronous learning and resources to complement our live programme.

We will continue to grow our online presence across the full range of social media platforms to raise the profile of our work and champion the work of the wider cultural education workforce.

Environmental Sustainability

Our Environmental Sustainability Policy commits to a redoubling of our efforts to be more environmentally responsible and to hold onto the gains made during the Covid 19 pandemic. The plan sets out our specific actions during the coming year that will reduce our impact and where possible, measure, understand and report on our progress in doing so. We intend to act as leaders within our communities and our plan prioritises communication of our environmental commitments to our stakeholders (including both partners and participants). It is our intention to step up and lead our sector by making innovative and responsive choices, and to influence, educate and advocate for Environmental Sustainability through our day-to-day work and programmes.

Our Focus

The action plan focusses on the main areas of Curious Minds activities which have an environmental impact:

- Where we go and how we get there. Travel and transport
- What we work with and where we buy from. Procurement – Energy, Partners & Suppliers
- What we make and what we use. Production – Energy, Recycling & Waste
- Where we work and when we host. Buildings, Utilities & Events
- Who we tell and how we influence. Communicating our practice, internally and externally.

The global pandemic which struck in 2020 led to a year in which Curious Minds, and the wider world, changed. Our Action Plan and supporting Policy have been developed as we emerge from the pandemic and seize the opportunity to build on these changes to develop our environmental practices for the better.

Our Values - The 7 Cs

Curious Minds is a values driven organisation and we hope this is writ large throughout this plan; in how we approach our work, the partnerships we broker and the programmes we deliver.

We refer to our values as 'The 7 C's': seven words beginning with C by which we hold ourselves to account for what, how and why we do things: we are **CURIOUS**; we **CARE**; we are **COURAGEOUS**; we are **CONSCIENTIOUS**; we **CONNECT**; we are **CREDIBLE**; we **CELEBRATE**.

2020-21 gave us a new C-word to contend with and with it came the opportunity to stress-test our values like never before.

Curious Minds stepped up to the challenge and we're proud of the difference we've made to individuals and organisations impacted by lockdown; the alliances we've forged; the partnerships we've brokered; and the creative activity we helped make happen.

As we move now from crisis into recovery and revival, we'll continue to use the 7 C's to navigate our journey through the choppy waters ahead; listening and responding to the needs of our sector to the best of our ability. Our aim remains the same as it was at the start of the pandemic: to support the North West's cultural education workforce so that together, we emerge at the other side of the Covid-19 pandemic stronger and better positioned to respond to The Cultural Education Challenge.

Working as part of the national Bridge network

Our work with the nine other Bridge organisations across England has developed significantly over the last few years, driven by our desire to provide ever-increasing value for children and young people and the communities in which we live and work. We have put in place structures and systems to enable peer learning, sharing expertise and ideas, and joining up on key projects and deliverables. Our shared commitment and responsibility to meet these challenges together is enabling us to work with more coordination, consistency and quality across the whole country. Our network development accelerated and became particularly crucial and effective over the last year as, together, we met some of the pressing challenges of the pandemic.

National collaboration across the Bridge network is underpinned by a set of agreed principles:

- being open and generous partners
- always seeking additional value for public money
- providing mutual aid to each other whenever we can
- recognising and respecting our differences
- pooling these differences to create strength.

Our framework for collaboration builds on the lessons of the *Let's Create Packs* project and other joint work carried out through the pandemic and makes the most of the opportunities created by the digital pivot we carried out as a network. We will focus on key priorities related to the pressing needs that children and young people face over the next year (e.g., wellbeing, employment and opportunity) and support the recovery of the sectors work with them.

Understanding and growing our impact

In November 2019 we commissioned Social Value Lab to conduct an independent evaluation of our impact.

The review has helped us uncover a distinct methodology alongside a comprehensive Theory of Change that will inform future evaluation and impact reporting.

Our Plans for the future

The Trustees, Executive Management Team and staff of Curious Minds remain ambitious for the charity's future and convinced that our work is needed more now than ever.

In light of the global pandemic funding for our role as the Arts Council England Bridge organisation for the North West has been extended a further year to 31st March 2023, with grant conditions being relaxed during the crisis period. This has enabled us to respond rapidly in our role as sector support organisation and gives us vital room to plan for a post pandemic future. We remain ambitious for our future and have refreshed our business plan to March 2023 with some insight of what the sectors we support need from us post Covid-19.

In early 2021 we refreshed our plans for the remaining term of our business plan and agreed the following:

Strategic Aims 2021-2023

Through our work we will:

1. IMPACT social justice outcomes
2. INFLUENCE children's services policy and practice
3. INVEST in the cultural education workforce
4. INNOVATE creative practice & pedagogy
5. INITIATE partnerships and strategic alliances

Strategic Plan 2021-2023

Our Strategic Plan for 2021-23 has been produced in partnership with our Board of Trustees, Advisory Groups and consultation with funders and key stakeholders. It is designed to manage a smooth transition as we move out of our current Arts Council England (ACE) Funded Bridge role which ends on 31 March 2023.

We hope to continue to play a key role in helping ACE to achieve the ambition for children and young people as expressed in the new Ten-Year Strategy, 'Let's Create'. To this end, we will apply to remain part of the National Portfolio beyond March 2023.

The tables on the following pages summarise our strategic approach and how it aligns with this plan.

Delivery Plan 2021 -2023


Over the next two years we will focus delivery and programme development across 4 key areas:

- Workforce Development
- Social Justice
- Careers & Employability
- Learning and Impact

Strategy Tree 2021-2023

VISION	Our vision is for a future where getting creative and experiencing brilliant arts and culture is a regular aspect of every child's learning and life.				
MISSION	<p>Fuelled by curiosity, we work to make high-quality creative and cultural learning opportunities available to all children and young people, in and out of school.</p> <p>We do this by connecting teachers and youth workers with artists and creative practitioners; giving them access to information, expertise, space and resources to facilitate collaboration and innovation in the field of creative and cultural education.</p>				
OUR COMMITMENT	<p>We're ferociously committed to creating greater access to arts and culture for children and young people experiencing social or racial injustice. We recognise this is more likely to be achieved by a more diverse, better connected and more visible cultural education workforce than currently exists.</p> <p>We commit to playing our part to bring about these changes.</p>				
STRATEGIC AIMS	1. IMPACT social justice outcomes for children and young people	INFLUENCE children's services policy and practice	INVEST in the cultural education workforce	INITIATE local partnerships & strategic alliances	INNOVATE creative practice and pedagogy
RATIONALE	<p>Despite decades of investment and good intention, access to arts and culture is still not equal.</p> <p>Too many CYP are still missing out on the social, economic and educational benefits that a rich cultural life brings.</p>	<p>As the country emerges from the Covid-19 pandemic, we are presented with unique opportunity to demonstrate the transformational power of cultural education to policy makers and school leaders.</p> <p>Our response to the pandemic has laid the groundwork for Curious Minds to take a lead role in making this happen.</p>	<p>The Covid-19 crisis exposed the fragility of the cultural education workforce, especially freelancers and grass-roots organisations that we know are crucial to achieving fair access to arts and culture.</p> <p>As a sector support organisation, we have a vital role to play in growing the capacity and championing the cultural education workforce as a force for good in the lives of CYP.</p>	<p>The Cultural Education Challenge asks art and cultural organisations, educational institutions and local authorities to come together to drive a joined-up art and cultural offer locally, to share resources and bring about a more coherent and visible delivery of cultural education.</p> <p>This call to action is more important now than ever!</p>	<p>Acting as a bridge between the education and culture sectors, it's essential that Curious Minds maintains and grows its reputation as school experts and innovators in the field of creative and cultural education.</p> <p>We anticipate a renaissance of extra-curricular learning and believe we have a role to play in leading developments in this key area for creative and cultural learning.</p>
Over the next 2 years we will . . .	increase and improve access to high-quality cultural learning and creative careers for CYP at risk of experiencing social injustice or discrimination.	grow Curious Minds' influence as experts in the field of cultural education, and as champions of the cultural education workforce	lever investment to build and grow the capacity of the cultural education workforce to respond to the post-pandemic needs of CYP.	support and galvanize cross-sector cultural education partnerships, thematic networks and strategic alliances.	work with big thinkers and influential leaders from the worlds of education and culture to explore key themes in teaching and learning, and school improvement.

STRATEGIC OUTCOMES TABLE: 2021 -2023

Strategic Aims 		1. IMPACT social justice outcomes	2. INFLUENCE children's services policy and practice	3. INVEST in the cultural education workforce	4. INITIATE local partnerships & strategic alliances	5. INNOVATE creative practice and pedagogy
Strategic Objectives	Over the next 2 years we will . . .	increase and improve access to high-quality cultural learning and creative careers for CYP at risk of experiencing social injustice or discrimination.	grow Curious Minds' influence as experts in the field of cultural education, and as champions of the cultural education workforce	lever investment to build and grow the capacity of the cultural education workforce to respond to the post-pandemic needs of CYP.	support and galvanize cross-sector cultural education partnerships, thematic networks and strategic alliances.	work with big thinkers from across education and culture to explore 'key themes' in teaching and learning, and school improvement.
	INTERNAL	a	Continue to work with the Anti-racism group to implement recommendations and embed racial empowerment principles and practice in everything we do.	Develop and implement more robust and relevant approaches to monitoring and evaluating our work and impact.	Shape a responsive place-based approach to Artsmark advocacy, delivery and support.	Embed 'curiosity' as a driver for learning and evaluation – internally and externally.
		b	Grow the diversity of our staff team, board of trustees and associate pool.	Continue to grow the Curious Minds' brand, media presence and political influence	Broker partnerships and establish strategic alliances with charities, HEIs and MATs, nationally and internationally.	Work with staff, trustees, external advisory groups and ACE to explore and shape Curious Minds application to the next round of NPO.
	EXTERNAL	c	Increase the number of CYP from underrepresented groups engaging in high-quality cultural learning, in and out of school.	Explore the potential for Curious Minds to take on a 'Sector Body' role for the cultural education workforce.	Support and champion 20+ LCEPs across the North of England.	Work with expert practitioners to shape and deliver new interventions to meet the post-pandemic needs of CYP.
		d	Increase the number of YP from underrepresented groups accessing quality careers advice and paid work-experience.	Develop the use of digital platforms, social media and apps to improve connection with and between our stakeholders.	Grow and diversify our Freelancer network and Associate Pool, working across the North of England.	Continue to carve a role for Curious Minds' in the development and delivery of 'extra-time' learning, in and around schools.
Organisational Objectives	I	Explore and agree future arrangements for blended working and an office/training base				
	II	Develop and implement improved systems for staff development and performance management				
	III	Develop, revise and implement existing and new organisational policies to ensure our working practices enable us to be an ambitious, dynamic, relevant, inclusive and environmentally sustainable organisation.				

Strategic Planning Matrix, 2021 -2023

Vision

Our vision is for a future where getting creative and experiencing brilliant arts and culture is a regular aspect of every child's learning and leisure time.

EXTERNAL ADVISORY GROUPS

Education → Early Years → LCEP Chairs → Anti-racism Group → Young Associates → Big Thinkers

Business Plan Pillars

Advocacy & Innovation
Creative & Cultural
Country

Place Based Offers
Cultural
Communities

Workforce
Development
& Professional
Networks
Creative People

Sector Development

- Thought Leadership & National Advocacy
- Cross-Bridge Planning & Collaboration
- Celebration Events

- LCEP Support & Resource
- Local Insight Advocacy & Funding Support
- Bubble Up
- Hyperlocal CEC Pop-Ups

- Artsmark Delivery
- Freelancer Network
- Thematic Training and Events
- Curious Kitbag
- Early Years

Learning & Impact

- Curious Pedagogy/ Teaching Artistry
- Curiosity Driven Evaluation, Consultation and Facilitation Services

- Study Support/ oSHL
- ULT SLICE/ Unlocked
- Dialogue Teaching & Learning Pilot

- Treat the teacher offer
- Bespoke Inset & CPD

Social Justice

- Global Curiosity
- RFK UK – Poetic Declaration

- Hope Streets
- Flightpaths (CASE)
- Sunflower Clubs (Isle)
- Bubble Up

- Anti-racism Group
- Artists Groups
- GMCA Social Prescribing
- LOR Generation Change
- Young Manchester

Careers & Employability

- Curious Kioskstart
- Alternative Saturday Jobs

- Careers support to LCEPs & City Region Partnerships

- Support for Careers Advisers SO
- Young Associates C&K
- Arts Award Targeted Advocacy
- Arts Award Advisor Training

- Bridge
- PI
- Art Reserve
- Grants
- Generated Income

Internal Task Teams

DELIVERY VEHICLES → SLICE → CASE → LCEPs → Artsmark → The Culture Hub → Learning Platform

Strategic
Aims

Impact
SOCIAL JUSTICE OUTCOMES

2
Influence
CHILDREN'S SERVICES POLICY AND PRACTICE

3
Invest
IN THE CULTURAL EDUCATION WORKFORCE

4
Innovate
CREATIVE PRACTICES AND PEDAGOGY

5
Initiate
PARTNERSHIPS AND STRATEGIC ALLIANCES

IC's Values

Curious

Courageous

Care

Collaborative

Credible

Conscientious

Celebrate

Mission

Fueled by curiosity, we work to make high-quality creative and cultural learning opportunities available to all children and young people, in and out of school.

Financial Review

Financial Results

The Trustees are pleased to report an increase in free reserves to £458,773 (2020: £443,528) placing the Charity in a stable financial position for meeting our plans for the future. Part of the increase for the year was as a result of savings through closing our base in Preston which was not considered suitable for post pandemic working. We have therefore set aside funds towards establishing a new base, but also plan to utilise £50,000 from our reserves in piloting new initiatives.

The principal funding sources during the year continued to derive from restricted grants, with a total of £404,387 (2020: £520,111) funds carried forward at the year end to meet future activity plans.

Core funding

From April 2012, Curious Minds has been in receipt of National Portfolio Funding and Department for Education funding from Arts Council England in respect of its status as a Bridge organisation, which runs until March 2023, extended a further year in response to Covid-19. We also received funding through government initiatives in response to the COVID pandemic during the year.

We were delighted to receive a small grant from ShareGift during the year, which significantly assisted our shift to home working and online delivery by contributing to IT and digital resources, which we continue to develop as funding permits.

Project funding

We are delighted to have received funds from a number of new sources to support our response to the COVID pandemic. The Paul Hamlyn Foundation were quick to support our crisis response and the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation contributed to our recovery programme. We also received funds via the Preston Cultural Collective and Arts Connect.

In late March 2020, we were awarded a European Commission Erasmus+ grant for a partnership project with Poland and Greece, however this has been impacted by the inability to travel. We have used some of the available funding to support online activities but have also extended the project and hope to be in a position to carry out some of the planned work within the extended timescale.

We continue to deliver the Hope Streets project through National Lottery Heritage funding which commenced in 2018 and will run until 2023. Total funding for the project has been increased to £1,127,000.

The Charity retains the objective to further diversify incoming resources in future periods.

Financial Risk Management

Within the wider risk management process, the Board of Trustees monitors and assesses financial risks to which Curious Minds may be exposed and assesses their potential impact on the Charity. We have in particular reviewed and reported to the Board on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on our income and are monitoring and considering potential future scenarios. Confirmation of the

continuation and extension of our core funding through ACE has been hugely supportive in allowing us to press ahead with some level of certainty.

The awarding of the Bridge Organisation status to Curious Minds by Arts Council England for an extended period April 2018 to March 2023 secured £6.7 million of funding.

The Bridge Organisation status gives us a solid platform from which to plan and develop the organisation. That said, we are committed to retaining our independence and the ability to pursue activities beyond our Bridge remit in order to ensure that the organisation is best placed to meet and deliver its strategic objectives.

Reserve policy

The level of unrestricted reserves has been set to meet the costs of retaining a skeleton staff for six months plus overheads. The target was reviewed during the year and the calculated unrestricted reserves needed to meet these costs was increased to £375,000 (2020: £325,000). During the current year, this target was met and at the year-end the free reserves stood at £458,773 (2020: £443,528). At the discretion of the Trustees, the surplus above target can be designated to development work. The reserves policy is reviewed by the Trustees annually.

Investment policy

Our cash assets, over and above those required for day-to-day working capital, are invested in appropriate fixed-term and notice cash deposit accounts that yield a greater return than our instant access current accounts. This investment policy is reviewed with reference to a detailed cash-flow analysis and assessment of future funding opportunities; however the scheduling of cash outgoings (including grant claims) remains difficult to predict with accuracy, as this is largely in the control of our partners and therefore timing is unknown.

Financial control and audit

The organisation's finances are overseen by the Finance and Operations Team. They transferred to Xero Accounts for financial processing during the year and adhere to finance systems which were developed in partnership with our Auditors and are reviewed annually. Relevant staff receive appropriate training for day-to-day financial systems and consistently process financial information in an accurate and timely manner.

To ensure effective financial management within the organisation, management accounts are produced on a quarterly basis for the Executive Management Team and the Board of Trustees. Performance against budgets is reviewed between the Director of Finance and Operations and individual budget holders to ensure that all transactions are posted accurately and according to the principles of accruals-based fund accounting.

The Board of Trustees have a comprehensive overview of audit requirements, financial policies and procedures, including accounting policies and compliance with statutory requirements, risk management and financial planning. The Board continues to appoint the external Auditors and approve their remuneration and terms of engagement and responds to any relevant matters relating to annual financial statements raised by the External Auditors as a result of their audit work.

Structure, governance & management

Governing Document

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association dated 17th December 2008, as amended by special resolution dated 3rd March 2009 and 25th June 2009. The Company is registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission.

Trustee recruitment

Transparent procedures are an important element of good governance. All new Trustees to the Board are appointed through a transparent open recruitment process when skills and knowledge gaps in the Board are identified. A thorough induction to Curious Minds is given to all newly appointed Trustees and they receive a governance pack which includes the organisation's business plan and current financial budget, the organisation's memorandum and articles of association, the Trustee role and description and sub-committee terms of reference, the Charity Commission document 'The Essential Trustee', and the publication 'Good Governance: A code for the voluntary and community sector'.

Curious Minds' Board of Trustees is fortunate to contain a mixture of skills ranging from arts, culture, heritage, public services and education through to human resources and accountancy. This enhances the placement of the organisation as a key player within the arts and cultural sector, regionally and nationally.

Trustees are encouraged to attend events and project activity throughout the year to gain first-hand knowledge and experience of the work of Curious Minds, and they are required to attend an annual Board away day with the management team to develop their skills within the Board environment and to discuss key strategic issues for Curious Minds, which in turn informs the business planning process for the organisation.

Related Parties and links with other organisations

None of our Trustees receive remuneration or other benefit from their work with the charity. Trustees and members of the Curious Minds paid staff team are required to declare any interest - when considering what interests to declare, the principal rule is that if members of the general public could reasonably conclude that the interests might have an influence on an approach taken by Curious Minds to an application or contract awarded, to funding received by Curious Minds, or general organisational decisions taken by Curious Minds, then they must declare them.

Due to Curious Minds recruitment of experienced sector leaders, it is inevitable that Trustees and Executive Management will have declared interests arising from either executive or non-executive appointments with Public, Cultural and Education Sector organisations. Where Curious Minds engages with a partner organisation in which a declaration has been made, the interested party must be excluded from the decision making processes. It is considered that these transactions do not represent 'related party transactions' for reporting purposes.

Decision making

The Board of Trustees have delegated the day-to-day management and decision making of Curious Minds to the Chief Executive. Significant decisions that impact on, for example, staff employment, business planning, financial stability and the sustainability of the organisation, are brought to the Board for approval prior to action taking place.

Risk management

The Trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which Curious Minds is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error. Curious Minds has a thorough risk management procedure wherein risks to which the organisation may be exposed are monitored and assessed as to their potential impact and likelihood. Appropriate controls are then identified and put in place to provide reasonable assurance against their occurrence.

The executive management team, led by the Chief Executive, monitor the risks associated with the organisation regularly and the updated risk register is presented to the Board of Trustees quarterly for discussion and approval.

Internal policies

Curious Minds have a range of internal policies that have been written in consultation with appropriate professionals and that are reviewed annually and amended more frequently according to new legislation as appropriate. These include (but are not limited to) the following areas:

- Employment (including wellbeing)
- Inclusion
- Pay policy (see note 5)
- Fund Management and Financial Controls (including procurement)
- Health & Safety (including COVID)
- Safeguarding
- Environmental sustainability.

Statement of Trustees' responsibilities

The Trustees (who are also the Directors of Curious Minds for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Report of the Trustees and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which 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 the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period.

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 Charity Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP)
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements.
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in business.

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to 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 in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Statement as to disclosure of information to Auditors

In so far as the Trustees are aware at the time of approving the Trustees' annual report:

- there is no relevant information, being information needed by the Auditor in connection with preparing their report, of which the charitable company's Auditors are unaware, and
- the Trustees, having made enquiries of fellow Directors that they ought to have individually taken, have each taken all the steps that they are obliged to have taken as a Director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the charitable company's Auditors are aware of that information.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees:

Karen Crowshaw
Chair of Trustees


Karen Crowshaw (Dec 21, 2021 16:38 GMT)

Date: Dec 21, 2021

Independent Auditor's Report to the Trustees of Curious Minds

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Curious Minds (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31st March 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and related notes. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31st March 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees' annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to

read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

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

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

Responsibilities of trustees

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

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with regulations made under section 154 of that Act.

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

Details of the extent to which the audit was considered capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations are set out below.

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and then design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks,

including obtaining audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

In identifying and assessing risks of material misstatement in respect of irregularities, including fraud and non-compliance with laws and regulations, we considered the following:

- the nature of the sector, control environment and charitable company's performance;
- results of our enquiries of management about their own identification and assessment of the risks of irregularities;
- any matters we identified having obtained and reviewed the charitable company's documentation of their policies and procedures relating to:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of noncompliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud;
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations;
- the matters discussed among the audit engagement team regarding how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud.

As a result of these procedures, we considered the opportunities and incentives that may exist within the organisation for fraud and identified the greatest potential for fraud in relation to the timing of the recognition of income, and the recognition of grants payable. In common with all audits under ISAs (UK), we are also required to perform specific procedures to respond to the risk of management override and we identified risk in relation to the posting of unusual journals and the manipulation of accounting estimates.

We also obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the charitable company operates in, focusing on provisions of those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the determination of material amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context included the reporting requirements of the funding bodies and the charity commission regulations.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

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

Use of our report

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



21 December 2021

Mitchell Charlesworth LLP
Chartered Accountants & Statutory Auditor
3rd Floor
44 Peter Street
Manchester
M2 5GP

Mitchell Charlesworth LLP is eligible to act as an auditor in terms of section 1212 of the Companies Act 2006.

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st March 2021 (including income & expenditure account)

		2020/21		2019/20		2020/21	2019/20
		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	Note	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME							
Incoming resources from charitable activities	2	67,623	1,824,303	66,068	1,731,321	1,891,926	1,797,389
Investment income	2	6,824	-	7,694	-	6,824	7,694
TOTAL INCOME		74,447	1,824,303	73,762	1,731,321	1,898,750	1,805,083
EXPENDITURE							
Expenditure on charitable activities	3	385,331	1,538,195	449,602	1,207,542	1,923,526	1,657,144
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		385,331	1,538,195	449,602	1,207,542	1,923,526	1,657,144
NET INCOMING / (OUTGOING) RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR BEFORE TRANSFERS							
	6	(310,884)	286,108	(375,840)	523,779	(24,776)	147,939
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	11	401,832	(401,832)	388,591	(388,591)	-	-
NET INCOMING / (OUTGOING) RESOURCES FOR THE YEAR AFTER TRANSFERS							
		90,948	(115,724)	12,751	135,188	(24,776)	147,939
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS	11						
BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD		519,122	520,111	506,371	384,923	1,039,233	891,294
BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD		610,070	404,387	519,122	520,111	1,014,457	1,039,233

The notes on pages 34 to 46 form part of these accounts.

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2021

	Note	2021 £	2021 £	2020 £	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible Assets	7		-		-
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	99,126		113,042	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,101,276		1,083,416	
		<u>1,200,402</u>		<u>1,196,458</u>	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due in one year	9	185,945		157,225	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			1,014,457		1,039,233
TOTAL NET ASSETS			<u>1,014,457</u>		<u>1,039,233</u>
FUNDS					
Unrestricted	11		610,070		519,122
Restricted	11		404,387		520,111
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>1,014,457</u>		<u>1,039,233</u>

For the year ending 31 March 2021 the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies but as this company is a charity, it is subject to audit under the Charities Act 2011.

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

The directors acknowledge their responsibility for complying with the requirements of the Act with respect to accounting records and for the preparation of accounts.

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

The notes on pages 34 to 46 form part of these accounts.

Approved by the Board of Trustees and authorised for issue on 21st December 2021

And signed on their behalf by

Karen Crowshaw

Karen Crowshaw (Dec 21, 2021 16:38 GMT)

Karen Crowshaw – Chair of the Board of Trustees

Company registration number 06775402

Statement of Cash Flow for the year ending 31st March 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Cash used in operating activities			
Net movement in funds		(24,776)	147,939
Add depreciation charge	6	-	2,473
Deduct interest income shown in investing activities	2	(6,824)	(7,694)
Decrease / (increase) in debtors	8	13,916	31,736
Increase / (decrease) in creditors	9	28,720	(77,344)
Net cash flow from / (to) operating activities		11,036	97,110
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest income	2	6,824	7,694
Cash provided by (used in) investing activities		6,824	7,694
Increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents in the year		17,860	104,804
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,083,416	978,612
Total cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		1,101,276	1,083,416

Analysis of changes in net debt

The charity did not hold any overdraft or loan facilities nor finance lease obligations at the start or during the period covered by these accounts or in the previous accounting period.

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2021

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 March 2018), Charities SORP (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2016.

Curious Minds 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 note(s). The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

Going concern

These accounts are prepared on the going concern basis. At the time of approving the financial statements and having due regard to the impact of COVID-19 as referred to in the Trustees Report, the directors have a reasonable expectation that the company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus, the directors continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements. The Charity has confirmed Bridge grant funding to 31st March 2023 and sufficient cashflow to meet its liabilities as they fall due.

Incoming resources

Income is recognised in the accounting period in which it is receivable, except in the following circumstances, when the income is deferred and included in creditors:

- The income is unrestricted core funding for a specified future period.
- A sales invoice has been raised ahead of work being carried out and there is no contractual entitlement to the income until the work has been done.
- Not all the terms and conditions for the receipt of the grant instalment have been met.
- The project has been completed and the grant conditions are such that unspent grant must be refunded.

Income includes grants in respect of revenue and capital items.

Resources expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all cost related to the category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings, they have been allocated to activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Grants offered subject to conditions which have not been met at the year-end date are noted as a commitment but not accrued as expenditure.

Allocation and apportionment of costs

Support costs have been allocated between the cost centres: salaries; travel, subsistence, entertaining; learning, development and recruitment; marketing and publicity; premises related costs; office, sundry costs and depreciation.

Central costs are charged to unrestricted funds with contributions to overheads levied to individual programmes as appropriate. Contributions to overheads are charged to programme funds, as agreed with funders and where funds are restricted, these are shown within fund transfers along with relevant permissible recharges for specific programme work.

Grants payable and grant making policy

Curious Minds issues grants in accordance with the requirements and objectives laid out within the various funding agreements we receive. The Charity does not have its own funds for grant making purposes.

In meeting our strategic objectives (and requirements of our funders where applicable), the nature of the investments committed determines grant making as the legal form to achieving this, as they do not constitute contracts for services.

Grant commitments are recognised when the legal agreements are signed and control of the grant funds is passed to the recipient or lead partner in a partnership.

Direct grant costs are allocated directly to the grant funds. Where agreed with the funder, a management charge is levied for central overheads, administration and contribution to reserves (this is credited to unrestricted funds, where associated costs are charged).

Where agreed with the recipient, grant commitments reduced or cancelled during the year are shown as a reduction in grants payable.

Tangible fixed assets

Single asset purchases, not forming part of a related series of transactions, costing less than £2,000 are not capitalised, but are written off as a revenue expense in the year of acquisition.

Depreciation is provided at the following annual rates in order to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its estimated useful life.

Office Equipment	25% on cost
Furniture & Fixtures	25% on cost

Taxation

The Charity is exempt from corporation tax on its charitable activities.

The Charity is not registered for VAT and therefore all its input VAT is irrecoverable.

Expenditure is analysed inclusive of VAT where this has been incurred.

Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits

The charitable company operates a defined contribution pension scheme which pays 6% of gross salary. Contributions payable to the employee's personal pension schemes are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate. The Charity's staging date for auto enrolment was 1/4/2017 and the scheme is compliant.

Operating leases

Payments under operating leases are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period to which they relate.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds can be used in accordance with the charitable objectives at the discretion of the Trustees. Restricted funds can only be used for particular restricted purposes within the objects of the Charity. Restrictions arise when specified by the donor or when funds are raised for particular restricted purposes. Further explanation of the nature and purpose of each fund is included in this note to the financial statements.

Designated Funds

- **Curious Stories:**
Funds generated from sale of the Curious Stories book, sponsorship as well as fundraising so as to enable disadvantaged children to better experience high quality arts and culture.
- **Curious Space:**
Following closure of our Preston base in 2020, we have designated costs saved as set up funds towards a new base as we emerge from COVID restrictions and home working.
- **Development Fund:**
Funds set aside to support development of income generation activities and international opportunities.
- **Hope Streets Fund:**
Additional funds to cover the required match contribution to the NHLF programme.
- **Dialogic Teaching & Learning:**
A trial project to explore the impact of dialogic teaching and pedagogy.
- **Impact Evaluation:**
Funds allocated to a comprehensive assessment of our impact over the last ten years.

Restricted Funds

- **ACE Bridge Organisation:**
Grant from Arts Council England for the delivery of the Bridge role for the North West of England (Cumbria, Lancashire, Merseyside, Greater Manchester & Cheshire)
- **ACE DfE Extension:**
Grant from Department for Education, paid by Arts Council England, for Bridge network expansion activity.
- **ACE Let's Create:**
Grant from Arts Council England for the delivery of creative resources to children during school closures due to COVID.
- **Arts Connect Let's Craft:**
Grants from the Artfund and the Crafts Council via Arts Connect for the delivery of creative resources to children during school closures due to COVID.
- **Erasmus+:**
Grant from the European Commission for a partnership project to explore arts-based youth work.

- **Esmee Fairbairn:**
Grant from the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation towards the Bubble Up programme of activities for children transitioning from primary to secondary schools during the COVID pandemic.
- **NLHF Kick the Dust Hope Street:**
Grant received from National Lottery Heritage Fund for delivery of the 'Kick the Dust' Programme.
- **Liverpool Learning Partnership:**
A grant to support setting up a Local Cultural Education Partnership in the Liverpool City Region.
- **Manchester Metropolitan University:**
Funding to support BAME students through Trailblaze placements.
- **Manchester Museum Development:**
Funding to support Trailblaze placements.
- **Paul Hamlyn:**
Grant from the Paul Hamlyn Foundation towards Bridging the Gap bursaries for freelance artists and grassroots arts organisations directly affected in the early stages of the COVID pandemic.
- **Preston Cultural Collective:**
Grants from Preston City Council, University of Central Lancaster and the Brewtime Collective for micro commissions for Preston artists directly affected in the early stages of the COVID pandemic.

2 INCOME

Incoming Resources from Charitable Activities:		2021	2020
Restricted Grants		£	£
Funding body	Purpose		
Arts Connect	Let's Craft	4,324	-
Arts Council England	Bridge Organisation	1,359,893	1,335,323
Arts Council England	Let's Create	15,000	-
British Council as National Agency for the European Commission	Erasmus+	9,184	-
Department for Education	Bridge Extension	82,612	82,612
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	Bubble Up	50,000	-
Liverpool Learning Partnership	LCEP Start-up	-	12,240
Manchester Metropolitan University	Creative Internship	-	7,384
MDNW	Trailblaze	-	460
National Lottery Heritage Fund	Kick the Dust - Hope Streets	279,290	293,302
Paul Hamlyn Foundation	Bridging the Gap	20,000	-
Preston Cultural Collective	Somethings Brewing commissions	4,000	-
		1,824,303	1,731,321
Unrestricted Income			
Bank Interest		6,824	7,694
Donations		5,000	10,790
Fees received		22,540	55,184
Government Job Retention Scheme Grant		15,083	-
Government Relief Scheme Grant		25,000	-
Sale of publications		-	94
		74,447	73,762
Total		1,898,750	1,805,083

3 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

a. Analysis of expenditure on charitable activities

	2021		2020		2021	2020
	Direct costs	Support costs	Direct costs	Support costs	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grants payable	474,192	-	326,608	-	474,192	326,608
Project delivery	1,079,535	361,157	892,741	429,142	1,440,692	1,321,883
Governance costs	-	8,642	-	8,653	8,642	8,653
	1,553,727	369,799	1,219,349	437,795	1,923,526	1,657,144
% of total expenditure	80.8%	19.2%	73.6%	26.4%	100.0%	100.0%

Charitable expenditure is allocated between unrestricted and restricted funds as follows:

	2021		2020		2021	2020
	Unrestricted	Restricted	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Grants payable	-	474,192	5,000	321,608	474,192	326,608
Project delivery	376,689	1,064,003	435,949	885,934	1,440,692	1,321,883
Governance costs	8,642	-	8,653	-	8,642	8,653
	385,331	1,538,195	449,602	1,207,542	1,923,526	1,657,144
% of total expenditure	20.0%	80.0%	27.1%	72.9%	100.0%	100.0%

b. Grants payable by programme

	Number of grants to institutions		2021	2020
	2021	2020	£	£
Programme				
Arts Council England - Bridge	33	38	335,442	161,608
Arts Council England Department for Education	4	8	22,500	40,000
NLHF Kick the Dust - Hope Streets	5	5	116,250	120,000
Curious Minds	-	1	-	5,000
	42	52	474,192	326,608

3 EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

c. Analysis of institutional grants

Grantee	Purpose	2021 £	2020 £
ACE - Bridge grants			
A New Direction	Bridge Peer Support	-	5,000
Accrington Academy	The Uncertainty Principle PI	-	15,000
Albion Academy	LCEP Development	-	3,000
ArtReach Trust	Creative Sanctuary	2,000	-
Bank View School, Liverpool	SLiCE Programme	-	2,500
Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery	Let's Create & Let's Craft	4,690	-
Blackpool Teaching School Alliance	Illuminating Futures PI	29,000	67,000
Blaze Arts, Preston	Staying Curious in a Crisis PI	23,000	-
Bolton Museum	Artsmark Town	-	1,000
Burnley Leisure Trust	Artsmark Town	-	1,000
Cartwheel Arts	Let's Create boxes	3,500	-
Centre for Youth Impact	Outcomes Framework PI	5,000	10,000
Cheshire Dance	CASE Leadership Programme	-	1,000
Children And The Arts	START Programme PI	-	(8,003)
Collective Encounters	CASE Leadership Programme	-	870
Comics Youth	Let's Create & Let's Craft	4,400	-
Contact Theatre	CASE Leadership Programme	-	701
Creativity Works	LCEP Development	-	2,000
Cumbria Music Service	FRAME Project PI	4,500	-
Cumbria Music Service	Let's Create & Let's Craft	4,480	-
Derby High School	STEAM Project PI	-	(30,000)
East Prescott Road Nursery School	SLiCE Programme	2,000	3,000
Formby High School	LCEP Development	500	2,500
Fred Longworth School, Manchester	SLiCE Programme	-	3,250
GMCA	Autism Aware Culture	5,000	-
GMCA	Culture & Transport in GM PI	55,000	-
Heath School	LCEP Development	-	(4,000)
Hyndburn Academy	Creative Culture of School Improvement PI	-	(18,000)
Kelsall Primary School, Tarporley	Artsmark Town	-	1,000
Kelsall Primary School, Tarporley	SLiCE Programme	-	5,000
Knowsley Borough Council	Let's Create	2,000	-
Lancashire County Council	We Are Reading PI	-	31,364
Lancashire Youth Challenge	Our Place in the World PI	22,000	-
Lancashire Youth Challenge	Let's Craft	690	-
Lowry	Thriving Child Conference	-	1,000
Lowry	Who Cares PI	-	4,000
Manchester Camerata	CASE Leadership Programme	-	850
Manchester International Festival	CASE Leadership Programme	-	600
Martenscroft Nursery School	SLiCE Programme	1,000	4,200
More Music	LCEP Development	-	3,000
Museum Development North West	Re-engaging Audiences PI	7,500	-
New Bridge School	SLiCE Programme	-	(1,250)
Newtown Nursery School	SLiCE Programme	2,000	3,000
Norfolk & Norwich Festival	Metal Support Programme	2,382	-
Odd Arts	CASE Leadership Programme	-	670
Odd Arts	Lets Create boxes	2,000	-
Oldham Enterprise Trust	LCEP Development	2,000	-
Open Eye Gallery, Liverpool	CASE Leadership Programme	-	750

c. Analysis of institutional grants continued

Grantee	Purpose	2021	2020
		£	£
ACE - Bridge grants			
Park Community Academy	SLiCE Programme	-	5,000
Rainhill High School, Prescott	SLiCE Programme	-	5,000
Ribblesdale Nursery School	SLiCE Programme	2,000	3,000
Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester	CASE Leadership Programme	-	750
Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester	LCEP Development	-	1,000
Royal Opera House	Youth Voice Initiative	2,000	-
Rugby League Cares	Rugby League Arts & Culture PI	-	(17,860)
Sandfield Park School, Liverpool	SLiCE Programme	-	2,500
St Helens Council	Let's Create	2,000	-
Stoneyholme Nursery School	SLiCE Programme	2,000	3,000
The Old Courts, Wigan	CASE Leadership Programme	-	688
Venture Arts, Manchester	CASE Leadership Programme	-	750
Warrington Borough Council	Let's Create & Let's Craft	4,400	-
Whole Education	School Ready Digital PI	12,000	-
Wigan STEAM	CASE Leadership Programme	-	778
Wirral Hospital Schools	LCEP Development	4,000	-
Ykids	Let's Create & Let's Craft	2,400	-
Young Manchester	Digital Inclusion PI	10,000	-
Young Manchester	Youth & Play Cultural Partnerships PI	90,000	45,000
Z Arts	Creative Curriculum PI	20,000	-
Sub total		335,442	161,608
Sub total number of grants		33	38
ACE DfE Extension grants			
		£	£
Bolton School	SLiCE Programme	5,000	5,000
East Prescot Road Nursery	SLiCE Programme	-	5,000
Egremont Primary School	SLiCE Programme	5,000	5,000
Evelyn Community Primary School	SLiCE Programme	2,500	7,500
Hollins	SLiCE Programme	10,000	-
Martenscroft Nursery School	SLiCE Programme	-	5,000
Newtown Nursery School	SLiCE Programme	-	5,000
Ribblesdale Nursery School	SLiCE Programme	-	2,500
Stoneyholme Nursery School	SLiCE Programme	-	5,000
Sub total		22,500	40,000
Sub total number of grants		4	8
NLHF Kick the Dust - Hope Streets			
		£	£
Bolton Museum		18,750	22,500
Lancashire Museums		41,250	7,500
The Atkinson		22,500	30,000
Tullie House		15,000	30,000
West Cheshire Museums		18,750	30,000
Sub total		116,250	120,000
Sub total number of grants		5	5
Curious Minds			
		£	£
Lowry	Youth Performance Hub	-	5,000
Sub total		-	5,000
Sub total number of grants		-	1
Total Grants Payable		474,192	326,608
Total number grants		42	52

4 Analysis of governance and support costs

	2021	2020
	£	£
Governance Costs		
Audit fee	8,392	7,980
Support costs	250	673
Total Governance costs	8,642	8,653

	2021		2020		2021	2020
	Project Delivery	Gover-nance	Project Delivery	Gover-nance	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Support Costs						
Salaries	270,217	-	337,858	-	270,217	337,858
Travel & Subsistence	498	-	4,193	93	498	4,286
Learning & Development and recruitment	6,948	250	11,225	486	7,198	11,711
Legal & Professional Services	10,781	-	11,589	-	10,781	11,589
Premises related costs	6,307	-	21,084	-	6,307	21,084
Office, sundry costs & Depreciation	74,798	-	51,173	94	74,798	51,267
Total Support costs	369,549	250	437,122	673	369,799	437,795

5 Staff Costs

The payroll costs of the charity were as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Wages & salaries	803,827	824,023
Social Security costs	75,021	77,771
Pension costs	47,987	48,923
Total Staff costs	926,835	950,717

One employee had earnings (excluding employer pension costs) over £60,000 during the year:

Number of employees	Band
One (2020: One)	£60,000 to £70,000

The remuneration costs during the year of the Executive Management Team as outlined on page 2 (inclusive of pension costs) was £251,546 (2020: £235,854).

The average monthly head count was 24 staff (2020: 26 staff) and the average monthly number of full time equivalent employees (including casual and part time employees) during the year was:

	2021	2020
Average FTE	22.1	23.3

6 Net incoming resources before transfer

This is stated after charging:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Auditors remuneration - Audit fees	8,392	7,980
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets	-	2,473
Operating lease payments	-	7,500
Director's (Trustees) expenses	-	673
	8,392	18,626
Number of trustees claiming expenses:	-	1

7 Tangible fixed assets

Cost

As at 1 April 2020

Disposals

As at 31 March 2021

Depreciation

As at 1 April 2020

Depreciation eliminated on disposals

Net book value

As at 31 March 2021

As at 31 March 2020

Office Equipment	Furniture & Fittings	Total
£	£	£
32,093	32,813	64,906
(15,619)	(28,926)	(44,545)
16,474	3,887	20,361
32,093	32,813	64,906
(15,619)	(28,926)	(44,545)
16,474	3,887	20,361
-	-	-
-	-	-

8 Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade debtors	2,531	14,653
Prepayments	28,651	10,334
Grant and other income receivable	67,516	88,055
Other debtors	428	-
	<u>99,126</u>	<u>113,042</u>

9 Creditors falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Trade creditors	7,782	21,598
Contract commitments due and accrued	82,483	76,844
Accruals	46,976	25,200
Grants and income in advance	23,760	5,979
PAYE & Payroll deductions payable	19,418	21,425
Pension contributions payable	5,526	6,179
	<u>185,945</u>	<u>157,225</u>

Curious Minds pays all suppliers within 30 days of receipt of invoices due for payment.

Accruals include £38,300 (2020:£15,928), being the cost of staff annual leave due but not taken and carried forward at year end.

10 Deferred income

	2021	2020
	£	£
Cultural Citizens	3,983	3,983
Erasmus+	17,781	-
Trailblaze Funding in advance	1,996	1,996
	<u>23,760</u>	<u>5,979</u>

Movement in deferred income

Balance as at 1 April	5,979	6,308
Amount released to income	-	329
Amount deferred in year	17,781	-
Balance as at 31 March	<u>23,760</u>	<u>5,979</u>

11 Statement of funds

	Balance 01/04/2019	Income	Expenditure	Fund Transfers	Balance 31/3/2020 & 1/4/2020	Income	Expenditure	Fund Transfers	Balance 31/03/2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted Funds									
General Fund	432,894	73,415	(430,555)	367,774	443,528	74,447	(380,374)	321,172	458,773
Designated funds:									
Curious Stories	5,850	347	(4)	-	6,193	-	-	-	6,193
CSNW	23,677	-	-	(23,677)	-	-	-	-	-
Curious Space	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,000	30,000
Development Fund	33,950	-	(3,000)	12,677	43,627	-	-	660	44,287
Dialogic Teaching & Learning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50,000	50,000
Hope Streets	-	-	-	20,817	20,817	-	-	-	20,817
Impact Evaluation	10,000	-	(16,043)	11,000	4,957	-	(4,957)	-	-
	506,371	73,762	(449,602)	388,591	519,122	74,447	(385,331)	401,832	610,070
Restricted Funds									
ACE Bridge Organisation	376,723	1,335,323	(842,342)	(349,593)	520,111	1,359,893	(1,162,238)	(363,379)	354,387
ACE DfE Extension	8,200	82,612	(70,159)	(20,653)	-	82,612	(61,960)	(20,652)	-
ACE Let's Create	-	-	-	-	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Arts Connect	-	-	-	-	-	4,324	(4,324)	-	-
Erasmus+	-	-	-	-	-	9,184	(4,531)	(4,653)	-
Esmee Fairbairn	-	-	-	-	-	50,000	-	-	50,000
NLHF Kick The Dust Hope Street	-	293,302	(276,844)	(16,458)	-	279,290	(266,142)	(13,148)	-
Liverpool Learning Partnership	-	12,240	(12,240)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manchester Metropolitan University	-	7,384	(5,768)	(1,616)	-	-	-	-	-
Manchester Museum Development	-	460	(189)	(271)	-	-	-	-	-
Paul Hamlyn	-	-	-	-	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
Preston Cultural Collective	-	-	-	-	-	4,000	(4,000)	-	-
	384,923	1,731,321	(1,207,542)	(388,591)	520,111	1,824,303	(1,538,195)	(401,832)	404,387
Total Funds	891,294	1,805,083	(1,657,144)	-	1,039,233	1,898,750	(1,923,526)	-	1,014,457

Fund Transfers include contributions to overheads charged to programmes within individual funds, as agreed with funders, along with relevant permissible recharges for specific programme work in accordance with the use of those funds.

The net transfer of £401,832 (2020: £388,591) between restricted and unrestricted funds during the year is made up of £401,172 (2020: £404,353) agreed contribution to overheads and £660 (2020: £NIL) permissible programme costs, less £23,405 (2020: £15,762) contribution to the NLHF Kick the Dust programme.

The balance of restricted funds represents expenditure not due at the Balance Sheet date from grant funding received. Bridge funds carried forward within the grant period have been profiled in our agreed 2021/22 Activity Plan. Esmee Fairbairn funds carried forward are for planned activities that have been delayed due to COVID restrictions and will go ahead over the spring and summer of 2021.

12 Analysis of net assets between funds

	2021		2020		2021	2020
	General Funds	Restricted Funds	General Funds	Restricted Funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net current assets	610,070	404,387	519,122	520,111	1,014,457	1,039,233
	610,070	404,387	519,122	520,111	1,014,457	1,039,233

13 Operating lease commitments

The charity has no commitments under operation leases for premises (2020: NIL).

14 Corporation tax

The company is a registered charity and is entitled to claim annual exemption from UK corporation tax.

15 Related Party Transactions

David Wearing, a Director and Trustee, is Head Teacher at Kelsall Primary School and has participated in the SLiCE programme, for which his school received grant funding of £5,000 in 2018/19 and 2019/20 and an additional £1,000 Artmark Town funds also in 2019/20.

Samira Al-Obaidi, a Director and Trustee, is an employee of Bolton Council. The council runs Bolton Museum which is a partner in the National Lottery Heritage Funded Hope Streets project, awarded a grant of £80,000 and contract of £23,500 from 2018 until March 2023. In 2020/21, the museum used £354 from its Hope Streets grant to reimburse costs of secondment of two young people, employed by Curious Minds for Alternative Saturday Job placements as Community Engagement Assistants at the museum, from January to July 2021.

The museum also received an Artsmark Town grant of £1,000 in 2019 and an LCEP Development grant of £5,000 in 2017.

These transactions are not connected to Samira's role at the council and the majority took place before her appointment as a trustee with Curious Minds in July 2020.

Derri Burdon, Chief Executive, was appointed Chair of Trustees of Blaze Arts which was registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation in July 2018.

Blaze Arts received Partnership Investment grant funding of £60,000 in a prior period and £23,000 during the year.

Curious Minds have a service agreement to provide Blaze Arts with back office support, for which fees paid during the year were £6,000.

Blaze Arts also reimbursed Curious Minds for salary costs of seconded staff members of £45,537 (2020: £40,505).

Curious Minds commissions Blaze Arts as Programme Producers for elements of the Hope Streets programme, funded by NHLF.

Derri's daughter, Amy Burdon, runs WigLe Dance CIC, who took part in our Bubble Up initiative in 2020, contracted to deliver out of school learning clubs in two rounds and paid £4,400 in total.

Derri is listed as a debtor for £428 at year end relating to personal expenditure on a company card and leaving gifts paid for by the company for which Derri had collected contributions. She was also a creditor for £258 for expenses due. The net balance was paid to the company on 8th April 2021.






FINAL Accounts 2020 21 for signature

Final Audit Report

2021-12-21

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