

ANNUAL REPORT

Year Ending 31st March 2024



challenging young lives . . . promising new futures

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The White Horse Project
Registered Charity no. 1131750

Registered in England & Wales No. 6941257

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Legal and Administrative Information

Name of Charity: The White Horse Project

Registered Number: 1131750

Company Number: Registered in England & Wales No. 6941257

Governing Document: Memorandum & Articles of Association incorporated 23rd June 2009

Official Address: St Anne's Vicarage, Ashworth Road, Rossendale, BB4 9JE

Charitable Objects

The charities objects, as laid out in the memorandum and articles of association, are:

TO ACT AS A RESOURCE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE LIVING IN THE AREA OF ROSSENDALE PRIMARILY WHITEWELL WARD AND INSPIRED BY CHRISTIAN FAITH BY PROVIDING ADVICE AND ASSISTANCE AND ORGANISING PROGRAMMES OF PHYSICAL, EDUCATIONAL AND OTHER ACTIVITIES AS A MEANS OF:

- A) ADVANCING IN LIFE AND HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE BY DEVELOPING THEIR SKILLS, CAPACITIES AND CAPABILITIES TO ENABLE THEM TO PARTICIPATE IN SOCIETY AS INDEPENDENT, MATURE AND RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS;
- B) ADVANCING EDUCATION;
- C) RELIEVING UNEMPLOYMENT;
- D) PROVIDING RECREATIONAL AND LEISURE TIME ACTIVITY IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR PEOPLE LIVING IN THE AREA OF BENEFIT WHO HAVE NEED BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE, INFIRMITY OR DISABILITY, POVERTY OR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES WITH A VIEW TO IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE OF SUCH PERSONS;
- E) PROMOTE A HEALTHY LIFESTYLE.
- F) PROMOTE CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL WELLBEING.

Names of Trustees

Rodney Bevan

Amanda Robertson

Christopher John Eacott (resigned 17 July 2023)

Jill Loraine Bevan

Andrew John Roberts (Chair from 17 July 2023)

Susan Elizabeth Hopkinson (appointed 5 February 2024)

Claire Louise Wise (appointed 5 February 2024)

Basis for appointing Trustees

New or replacement Trustees are appointed by the existing Trustees. There must be a minimum of three (3) Trustees but not subject to any maximum.

Reporting serious incidents (RSI)

The trustees confirm that during the period covered in this annual report the charity did not experience any serious incidents or other matters that should have been brought to the attention of the Charity Commission.

The trustees believe they have complied with their duty to ensure that the charity has worked for the public benefit. Unless reported in Related Party Transactions at the end of this report all officers and management team members give their time and services for free.

Jill Bevan and Andrew Roberts are responsible for maintaining the accounts, which are not audited.

Bankers

Our bankers are:
Barclays Bank
Leicester
LE87 2BB

Independent Examiner

Our Independent Examiner is Mr Peter Terry

Reserves Policy

The charity confirms that all funds are to be used for the on-going work. It is our policy to keep 6 months running costs, building improvement costs and funds towards a large event held every 3 years in reserves when possible.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on Public Benefit. The key public benefit delivered by The White Horse Project is the provision of high-quality activities and services for Young People which enable them to enjoy better life chances. Through the wide range of programs individuals develop new skills, improve their academic performance, take on additional responsibilities and therefore improve their whole individual wellbeing.



Policies of the Charity

Policies

The Charity works to policy statements that deal with: -

Arrival & Departure
Building security
Communication
Complaints
Computer use
Confidentiality
Conduct
Conflict of interest
Copyright
Disciplinary
Disclosure
Environment
Extremism
Equipment
Equal Opportunities
Equality
Finance
Fire safety
First Aid
Flood evacuation
Health & Safety
GDPR
Knives & Weapons
Lettings
Lone Worker
Reserves
Safeguarding
Security
Sexual health
Smoking & Alcohol
Staff & Volunteers
Training
Travel
Trustees
Visits
Vulnerable adults

Trustees Introduction

The year 2023-24 has been another year of change. In July 2023 one of our founding Trustees and long-time Chair Chris Eacott resigned. The charity would like to thank Chris for his many years of service to White Horse Project and the young people of Rossendale.

Our base has continued to be the former Newchurch Methodist Church where negotiations to take on a long-term lease for the building continues.

The development of a fresh long-term vision for the charity and strengthening our governorship has been a priority for the Trustees.

During the year we welcomed two new trustees Susan Hopkinson and Claire Wise

The Trustees would like to thank our staff and volunteers for all their hard work. Particularly we would like to thank Siana Farrow for her inspiring role as our Youth Worker who left the project during the year.

Andrew Roberts

On behalf of The Trustees of The White Horse Project



Highlight of the year

The highlight of the year had to be our Young People singing the national anthem live on ITV in front of the 80,000 fans at the Gallagher Premiership rugby final at Twickenham Stadium.



Activities, Achievements & Performance during current year 2023-24

Engagement With Young People

We have continued to engage positively with local young people, offering both a weekly workshop programme during school terms and a holiday programme which was extended to include Easter in addition to the long summer break. Each week in term-time we have continued to offer music, singing, band and art workshops free of charge to young people. This has been supplemented with a pilot Cookery Workshop, which was popular and is something for which we would like to secure funding to continue. During the holidays we also added dance and football sessions. Again, we were pleased to deliver sessions outside in Edgeside Park.

The highlight of our programme for the year was in May when members of the singing workshop together with members from Dansworks singers, led by Sean & Vicky Ruane, travelled by minibus to the Gallagher Premiership Rugby Final at Twickenham. Here they sang the National Anthem on the pitch – in front of a live audience of 80,000 and live on ITV! We are very grateful to Sean & Vicky, and to Siana who also led the 18-hour round trip, for providing such a wonderful opportunity for our young people. It was an invaluable experience and did so much to raise their confidence and self-esteem.

Our art workshop, led by Community Artist Ruth Evans, continues to be our most popular workshop and Ruth offers a variety of activities and a great wealth of resources. Very skilfully Ruth is able to challenge the young people to try new skills and many have achieved results that they didn't think they were capable of. Many young people recognise the contribution art makes to their wellbeing. Once again, we made lanterns and took part in the annual Lantern Parade organised by Stacksteads Countryside Park Group in October. We are grateful for the skill and musicianship of Dave Jackson, who gives tuition in a variety of instruments and in singing and leads our band. Our band has grown in numbers and in variety of instruments included. Together with our singers they took part in summer and Christmas concerts organised by St Anne's Community Choir and performed to an audience of 200 people and were very well received. Many young people fed back how nervous they had been and how this pushed them outside their comfort zone but left them feeling proud and with a sense of achievement.

We have been pleased to continue with our monthly workshop for those who have opted for home education, and we are particularly pleased to find that many members of this group now move on to engage with our weekly programme whereas in former years these two groups of young people have been quite separate.

Our young people's council have chosen the name Limitless and they have continued to meet regularly to input their ideas into the way we operate and the activities we provide. We will build on this in the year ahead so the young people can be part of the delivery of the changes they suggest.

We are very grateful to The Igen Trust and The Big Lottery Community Fund for continuing to fund our main workshop programme. We are also grateful to our staff for creating a positive, welcoming environment where the young people can thrive. When interviewed many young people highlighted the fact they could 'be themselves' and did not feel 'judged' at our activities.

Staffing

Recruitment of staff has remained a challenge for us during this year. Sadly, we said goodbye to Siana Farrow early in 2024. She had been with us for many years, first as a young person, then as Youth Worker and most recently as General Manager. We wish her well in the future and she will be sadly missed. We ended the year looking to recruit a new Project Manager. In November 2023 we appointed Lorraine Williams as Lead Youth Worker. Lorraine is well known within our community and brings with her many local contacts, and she has worked hard to maintain our programme whilst we seek to recruit more staff. She has brought great energy and enthusiasm and many new ideas which we look forward to seeing come to fruition in the year ahead.

Governance and Management

We have been delighted to meet our target and welcome two new trustees this year, Mrs Susan Hopkinson and Mrs Claire Wise. Both bring a wealth of skills and experience which will be invaluable in moving our work forward. For the first time we have also separated the work of trustees and the Project Management Committee. The trustees meet quarterly to work on vision and strategic planning and the Project Management Committee, chaired by our Project Manager, meets monthly to deal with operational matters, and to date involves members of staff and a representative from the trustees.

Schools Outreach

During the year we have continued to work in two local High Schools, The Valley Leadership Academy and All Saints High School. In both schools Siana provided workshops around well-being for those struggling with some aspect of school life. In the summer term we were pleased to engage Kelsea Bennett to work alongside Siana in eight local primary schools. Kelsea's drama skills were invaluable in engaging the Year 6 students and supporting them as they faced the transition to High School. This work did result in some Year 6 students joining our workshops in the summer term.

Of all our objectives this was the one which presented us with the greatest difficulty, due to the changes in staffing. We did not see the expansion in the number of schools reached and

the services we offered which we had hoped for, but this is high on our priorities to address in the coming year.



Partnership

Partnership working remains high on our agenda. We continued as members of Rossendale Borough Council's Rossendale Connected monthly online networking meeting and their Rawtenstall Community Partnership which brings together councillors and members of organisations from the private, public and voluntary sectors.

We were pleased to work with Rossendale Leisure Trust who administer the governments Healthy Activity and Food programme which enabled us to run workshops through the Easter holidays and the long summer holidays.

In March 2024 we were pleased to host a Community Day at Newchurch, which was headed

Objectives for the coming year 2024-25

The charities objectives for 2024-2025 are as follows:

Engagement with young people

We will aim to increase the number of young people we engage with. We will focus on our outreach to Year 6 students and aim to recruit at least five members of Year 6 to join our regular sessions. We will develop our Young People's Council. We will ensure that all our workshops are represented on the Council, and there is a clear route from the Council to the decision making of the trustees.

Staffing

We will focus on team development of staff, sessional staff and volunteers. We will start to measure satisfaction among staff and volunteers by developing and using an anonymous survey. We will conduct a skills audit of staff and volunteers to identify training needs. We will improve our IT provision so we work more smartly, and we will develop a central repository for documents for staff and volunteers.

Governance & Management

We will seek to embed the improvements we have made with our governance and management and hold a Team Building Day to share our vision. We will access training for trustees.

Schools Outreach

We will aim to maintain our regular contact with 2 High Schools; due to recent staffing changes growth in this is delayed. We will aim to deliver outreach sessions in 6 primary schools and work regularly in 2 of these.

Partnership

Partnership working remains a priority for us. We will evaluate our Community Day and build on this event.

Use of our building

Our building is a resource for our community, and we will promote its use. We will aim to increase the number of regular users from 3 to 6.

Well-being

Improving the wellbeing of young people remains central to all we do. We will ensure wellbeing is an element of all our projects. We will reintroduce our mentoring scheme.

The White Horse Project
Independent Examiners Report

I set out my report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st March 2024 which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees (who are also directors of the company for the purpose of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ("the 2006 Act").

The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that, in any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; or
- the accounts do not accord with such records; or
- the accounts do not comply with the relevant accounting requirements under section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair" view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or

- the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102);

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peter Terry'.

Peter Terry

Independent Examiner

25th November 2024

The White Horse Project
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31st March 2024
including Income and Expenditure Account

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
Incoming resources						
Income and endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	2	7,060	61,772	-	68,833	36,019
Charitable activities			-	-	-	-
Other trading activities		-	-	-	-	-
Investments		-	-	-	-	-
Separate material item of income		-	-	-	-	-
Other			-	-		5,000
Total		7,060	61,772	-	68,833	41,019
Resources expended						
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds				-	-	-
Charitable activities	3	6,674	57,025	-	63,699	58,675
Separate material item of expense						
Other		571	286	-	857	1,277
Total		7,245	57,311	-	64,556	59,952
Net income/(expenditure) before investment gains/(losses)						
		(184)	4,462	-	4,277	(18,933)
Net gains/(losses) on investments		-	-	-	-	-
Net income/(expenditure)		(184)	4,462	-	4,277	(18,933)
Extraordinary items		-	-	-	-	-
Transfers between funds	9			-	-	-
Other recognised gains/(losses):						
Gains and losses on revaluation of fixed assets for the charity's own use		-	-	-	-	-
Other gains/(losses)		-	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(184)	4,462	-	4,277	(18,933)
Reconciliation of funds:						
Total funds brought forward		51,251	21,179	-	72,430	91,363
Total funds carried forward		51,067	25,641	-	76,707	72,430

The White Horse Project
Balance sheet as at 31st March 2024
Company Number 6941257

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Endowment funds £	Total this year £	Total last year £
Fixed assets						
Tangible assets	5	2,687	565	-	3,252	2,555
Total fixed assets		2,687	565	-	3,252	2,555
Current assets						
Stocks		-	-	-	-	-
Debtors		1,552	-	-	1,552	3,903
Investments		-	-	-	-	-
Cash at bank and in hand		47,208	24,695	-	71,903	65,972
Total current assets		48,760	24,695	-	73,455	69,875
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		0	0	-	0	0
Net current assets		48,760	24,695	-	73,455	69,875
Total assets less current liabilities		51,447	25,260	-	76,707	72,430
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year		-	-	-	-	-
Provisions for liabilities	6	0	-	-	0	0
Total net assets		51,447	25,260	-	76,707	72,430
Funds of the Charity						
Endowment funds		-			-	-
Restricted income funds			25,260		25,261	21,179
Unrestricted funds		51,447		-	51,447	51,251
Revaluation reserve					-	-
Total funds		51,447	25,260	-	76,707	72,430

For the year ending 31st March 2024, the company was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its accounts for the year in question in accordance with section 476.

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

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to small companies subject to the small companies' regime and in accordance with FRS 102 SORP.

Approved by the Board on 25th November 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



J Bevan - Director



A J Roberts - Director

The White Horse Project
Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 31st March 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	7	7,486	(23,963)
Cash flows from investing activities	7	(1,554)	(0)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Change in cash in reporting period		5,932	(23,964)
Cash at 1st April 2023		65,972	89,935
Cash at 31st March 2024		71,903	65,972

The White Horse Project
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

1. Statement of Accounting Policies

1.1 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements of the company, which is a public benefit entity under FRS 102, have been prepared under the historical cost convention the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), with the Charities Act 2011 and the Companies Act 2006. A summary of the principal accounting policies, which have been applied consistently, except where noted, is set out below.

The White Horse Project meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

1.2 Income

Recognition of income	These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when: <ul style="list-style-type: none">· the charity becomes entitled to the resources;· it is more likely than not that the trustees will receive the resources; and· the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
Grants and donations	Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met.
Contractual income and performance related grants	This is only included in the SoFA once the charity has provided the related goods or services or met the performance related conditions.
Tax reclaims on donations and gifts	Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid amount recovered on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or the terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.
Support costs	The charity has incurred expenditure on support costs.
Volunteer help	The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.
Income from interest, royalties and dividends	This is included in the accounts when receipt is probable and the amount receivable can be measured reliably.

1.3 Expenditure and Liabilities

Liability recognition	Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.
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1.4 Assets

Tangible fixed assets for use by charity	These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year.				
	They are valued at cost.				
	Depreciation is provided on tangible fixed assets so as to write off the cost or valuation, less any estimated residual value, over their expected useful economic lives as follows :				
	<table><tr><td>Fixtures and fittings</td><td>33.3% reducing balance basis</td></tr><tr><td>Office Equipment</td><td>33.3% reducing balance basis</td></tr></table>	Fixtures and fittings	33.3% reducing balance basis	Office Equipment	33.3% reducing balance basis
Fixtures and fittings	33.3% reducing balance basis				
Office Equipment	33.3% reducing balance basis				

The White Horse Project
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

2. Income

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and Legacies					
Donations and gifts	5,368	-	-	5,368	9,863
Gift Aid	1,693	-	-	1,693	1,309
General grants provided by government/other charities	-	61,772	-	61,772	24,847
Total	7,060	61,772		68,833	36,019

3 Expenditure

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted income funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Charitable Activities					
Youth Activities	6,674	57,025	-	63,699	35,801
Youth Mentoring CIN	-	-	-	-	22,874
Youth Counselling CCG	-	-	-	-	-
Youth Music	-	-	-	-	-
Total	6,674	57,025	-	63,699	58,675

4 Staff Costs

	This year	Last year
	£	£
Salaries and wages	24,661	17,573
Social security costs	-	-
Pension costs	2,049	1,932
Other employee benefits	-	-
Total staff costs	26,710	19,504

During the year the charity employed 3 part time staff equivalent to less than 1 fulltime member

The White Horse Project
Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 31st March 2024

5 Fixed Assets

	Fixtures & Fittings	Equipment	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1st April 2023	1,700	35,316	37,016
Additions		1,554	1,554
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31st March 2024	1,700	36,870	38,570

Depreciation

At 1st April 2023	1,691	32,770	34,461
Charge in year	9	849	857
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31st March 2024	1,700	33,618	35,318

Net book values

At 31st March 2024	-	0	3,252	3,252
At 31st March 2023		9	2,546	2,555

6 Provision for liabilities

	This year	Last year
	£	£
Provision for dilapidations	0	0

7 Cash flows

	This year	Last year
	£	£
Net Income/(expenditure) for the year	4,277	(23,933)
Decrease/(Increase) in debtors	2,351	(1,308)
(Decrease)/Increase in creditors	0	0
Depreciation	857	1,277
Net cash provided by operating activities	7,486	(23,963)
Interest received	0	0
Purchase of fixed assets	1,554	0
Net cash in investing activities	1,554	0

8 Related Party Transactions

During the accounting period the charity purchased telecommunications services to the value of £1,001 (2023 £1,152) from Avoira Ltd where Andrew Roberts is a Director. There was no outstanding balance at the year end. The directors are happy that the services provided were at a price much lower than comparable services and therefore good value for money.

The charity also paid Lindsay Bevan £417 (2023 £1,114) for programmes she delivered.