THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE (UK)

England & Wales · Charity number 1135828

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	06706212
Registered	2010-05-06
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	72 Singleton Road Salford Manchester M7 4LU
Phone	0161 792 1792
Email	office@friendship-circle.org.uk
Website	www.friendshipcircle.org.uk

Activities

Objects: (I) TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE INHABITANTS OF GREATER MANCHESTER AND THE SURROUNDING AREA THE PROVISION OF FACILITIES FOR RECREATION OR OTHER LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION OF INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE NEED OF SUCH FACILITIES BY REASON OF THEIR YOUTH, AGE, INFIRMITY OR DISABLEMENT, FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES OR FOR THE PUBLIC AT LARGE IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND WITH THE OBJECT OF IMPROVING THE CONDITION OF LIFE OF THE SAID INHABITANTS.(II) TO PROMOTE GENERAL CHARITABLE PURPOSES FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE COMMUNITY OF GREATER MANCHESTER AND THE SURROUNDING AREA, AND TO PROVIDE RELIEF FROM FINANCIAL HARDSHIP AND SOCIAL AND/OR ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE AND TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF ITS RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES; AND IN PARTICULAR TO PROVIDE -OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE AFOREMENTIONED RESIDENTS TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE LIFE OF THEIR COMMUNITY IN WAYS WHICH ADDRESS AND ALLEVIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DISADVANTAGE.

Activities: The Friendship Circle provides recreational programmes and activities for people who are isolated from the community due to their infirmity and disablement. Examples include events and outings, arts, crafts, cookery, trips etn. We have a buddy programme and our users to community volunteers who will visit them at their homes or take them out with a view to building friendships.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Services
- **What:** Disability, Religious Activities, Amateur Sport, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** GREATER MANCHESTER
- Bury
- Cheshire East
- Manchester City
- Trafford

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£620,945	£535,839	£337,273	10
2023-12-31	£444,827	£478,907	-	-
2022-12-31	£393,701	£421,855	-	-
2021-12-31	£492,940	£294,665	-	-
2020-12-31	£291,340	£230,972	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Jeremy Coleman		2023-09-01
PHILIP PINK		
RABBI A. J. JAFFE		
RABBI DAVID JAFFE		
TIMOTHY DEMPSEY		2020-02-01
Ziona Handler		2023-09-01

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THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE (UK)

England & Wales - Charity number 1135828

Accounts

Company registration number: 06706212

Charity registration number: 1135828

The Friendship Circle (UK)

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2024

The Friendship Circle (UK)

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The Friendship Circle (UK)

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Rabbi Anthony Joel Jaffe Rabbi David Jaffe Mr Philip Pink Mr Timothy Dempsey Mr Jeremy Coleman Mrs Ziona Handler
Principal Office	72 Singleton Road Salford M7 4LU
Registered Office	Suite 5, 4th Floor 3 Universal Square Devonshire Street North Manchester M12 6JH
Company Registration Number	06706212
Charity Registration Number	1135828
Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland ALTRINCHAM Bolton Customer Service Centre PO Box 2027 Parklands De Havilland Way Horwich BL6 4YU
Independent Examiner	Gordon Levy BA, FCA Chartered Accountant Gordon Levy Limited Suite 5, 4th Floor 3 Universal Square Devonshire Street North Manchester, M12 6JH

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors or company secretary for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Reference and administrative details

Reference and administrative details are shown in the schedule of members of the board and professional advisers on page 1 of the financial statements.

Trustees

The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Rabbi Anthony Joel Jaffe

Rabbi David Jaffe

Mr Philip Pink

Mr Timothy Dempsey

Mr Jeremy Coleman

Mrs Ziona Handler

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated 24 September 2008 as amended by special resolution registered at Companies House on 12 February 2012.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Appointment by Trustees

Organisational structure

Company limited by guarantee

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Trustees' Report

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Summary of the Objects of the Charity as set out in the governing document

Object I
To promote, for the benefit of the inhabitants of Greater Manchester and the surrounding area the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

Object 2
To promote general charitable purposes for the benefit of the community of Greater Manchester and the surrounding area, and to provide relief from financial hardship and social and/or economic disadvantage and to advance the education of its residents of all ages and in particular to provide opportunities for the aforementioned residents to participate fully in the life of the community in ways which address and alleviate social and economic disadvantage.

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Trustees' Report

Mission Statement
The Friendship Circle's mission is to:

Enhance the lives of Jewish People with Disabilities through empowering, encouraging and facilitating:
- Friendship
- Social inclusion, a sense of belonging & integration into the community
- Engagement with Jewish life and practice
- Maximising their contribution to society
- Access to opportunity

This is achieved through providing opportunities in:
- Sport, fitness, health and wellbeing
- Social & recreational
- Skills & hobbies
- Self- advocacy
- Teen provision
- Jewish life & observance
- Community integration
- One to one buddy programme
- Emotional and practical support
- Volunteering
- Disability education
- Employment

Demographics
The Friendship Circle provides support to children and adults with mild to moderate learning disabilities, including conditions such as Down Syndrome, Autism, and physical disabilities like cerebral palsy.

Currently, we have 183 members who benefit from our programmes. Geographically, 56% of our members reside in Prestwich, 8% in Whitefield/Bury, 28% in Salford/Crumpsall, with the remaining members living in other areas of Manchester.

Our members' ages range from 7 to 88 years, with the largest age group being between 26 and 50, representing 50% of our beneficiaries. The remaining members are evenly distributed across three age categories: children (0-18), post-teens (19-25), and individuals aged 51 and over.

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Trustees' Report

Chief Executive Officer Statement

This year the charity has concentrated on strengthening our core services, expanding our reach, and maintaining financial stability in a challenging economic environment.

Weekly activities, creative classes, fitness sessions, and inclusive outings have grown in variety and have seen increased participation and engagement. The launch of the Girls Teen Club, expansion of our Disability Education Programme, and the success of our first Open Mic Night have further empowered our members and raised community awareness.

We have taken deliberate steps to strengthen operations by recruiting new staff into the programme team as well as outsourcing our HR function. These changes allow the team to focus more fully on service delivery while ensuring we remain compliant and well managed.

Jewish life continues to be a key part of our programme, with consistent activities around Shabbat and Yom Tov, synagogue partnerships, and home-based support for members unable to attend in person. Our efforts to build community connections and reduce isolation remain a high priority.

On the financial side, we have maintained a stable position while managing rising costs. The success of our match-funded crowdfunding campaign was a major achievement, significantly increasing both income and donor engagement. We continue to plan carefully for the year ahead, especially in light of expected cost increases, coupled with a challenging fundraising climate.

Looking forward, we will relaunch our Employment Scheme with a more targeted approach, further expand our teen provision, and deliver a landmark Birthright volunteering trip to Israel, all reinforcing our ongoing commitment to providing meaningful, life affirming opportunities for our members.

I extend my deepest thanks to our staff, volunteers, donors, and trustees. Your collective support continues to make The Friendship Circle a truly transformative force.

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Trustees' Report

Programme Update
The focus of The Friendship Circle's programme team this year has been on fostering organic growth and ensuring the sustainability of our services. To strengthen our team and further support our operations, we welcomed two new staff members at the end of last year. These additions have already proven invaluable in enhancing our capacity to deliver our wide-ranging activities.

Programme Overview
Our weekly activities and classes are carefully designed to cater to diverse interests and tastes, ensuring broad appeal across our membership base. These activities span a variety of areas, from arts and creative writing to fitness-focused programmes, such as football, dance, and yoga. Among these, our arts-based classes (art, singing, and creative writing) have proven to be the most popular, with an average attendance of 16 members per session.

The team continuously faces the challenge of keeping members engaged, and we are committed to refreshing our offerings regularly to maintain interest. This year, we introduced exciting activities such as Beekeeping and Axe Throwing, which have been well received by participants. Parties and outings are well loved, attracting 50 members or more.

Approximately 40% of our members attend weekly, with a dedicated group of individuals attending at least three times a week. For many of these members, The Friendship Circle provides a much-needed sense of purpose and direction. Engagement has notably increased this year as we encourage our members to step out of their comfort zones, take on new challenges, and embrace personal growth, all of which foster greater self-confidence.

Key Achievements

Girls Teen Club: Building on the success of the Boys Teen Club, which began in 2018, we launched the Girls Teen Club in 2023. This initiative has successfully brought together young girls with disabilities and their peers, offering a platform for social interaction, personal development, and friendship. The weekly sessions, which currently cater to 12 girls, have been well-received by both the participants and their families, with parents reporting significant improvements in their daughters' confidence and well-being.

Disability Education in Schools Programme: This initiative continues to thrive within Manchester's Jewish Primary Schools. With five schools now participating-one of which joined this year-the programme encourages children to reflect on issues of disability and inclusion, challenging societal stereotypes. The active involvement of The Friendship Circle members in these sessions helps to create a lasting impact, benefiting both the students and the beneficiaries.

Engagement in Jewish Life: The Friendship Circle's commitment to Jewish life and learning remains at the heart of our mission. During every Yomtov, we offer a full programme of activities that allow members to connect with key Jewish traditions. Our steadfast dedication ensures that no one is alone during these important times. For example, during Chanukah, we hosted nightly activities and arranged for volunteers to visit 80 members at home to light the menorah together. We also facilitated shared Shabbat services with Heaton Park and The Shrubberies Synagogues and held a special Havdalah ceremony with South Manchester Synagogues, further strengthening our sense of community.

Yomtov Packs: In addition to in-person activities, we provide Yomtov Packs to all members, ensuring that even those unable to attend events in person feel the warmth and support of The Friendship Circle during these special times.

One to One Buddy Programme: Finding matches for our one-to-one buddy scheme remains an ongoing challenge due to the high level of commitment required from volunteers. However, impressively, the numbers grew by 23% in 2024.

Inclusive Travel Opportunities: A major highlight of this year was our 2-day overnight trip to London, where 15 members and volunteers visited landmarks such as Camden, Tower Bridge, and Buckingham Palace, as well as enjoying a personalized tour of the Houses of Parliament. These fully supported and inclusive trips provide lasting memories and experiences for our members.

Open Mic Night: We hosted our first-ever Open Mic Night in conjunction with our "Stories and Strides" creative writing workshop sessions. This event, attended by nearly 100 people, provided a powerful platform for self-expression through music, poetry, and storytelling, helping participants to boost their confidence and self-esteem.

Fitness and Wellbeing Programme: Our fitness and wellbeing programme has expanded this year to include activities that enhance members' physical, mental, and emotional health. These sessions covered a range of important topics, including sexual health, mental health, stress management, and mindfulness.

Support During the Cost-of-Living Crisis: With the support of a grant from Bury Council, we were able to run a series of Drop-In Surgeries, providing practical assistance to our members in navigating the challenges posed by the ongoing cost of living crisis.

Membership Growth: Over the course of the year, 13 new members have joined The Friendship Circle, many of whom live independently in the community and receive little or no support from other services. Additionally, our teen provision has seen significant growth, reinforcing the importance of our services for this demographic.

Volunteering and Community Integration: Volunteering is a cornerstone of The Friendship Circle's operations. We welcomed 32 new volunteers in 2024, mostly through referrals and community networking, further strengthening our presence and credibility within the local community. The Friendship Circle's volunteer network encompasses all generations. We actively promote teenage volunteering and 24% of our volunteers are under 20. 24% are between the ages of 31 & 51 and 21% are over 60. This highlights the far-reaching impact the charity has in the community.

Goals for the Future

Employment Scheme Relaunch: In 2022, we launched an Employment Scheme, successfully placing 10 beneficiaries in employment. However, long-term job retention and support proved challenging. This year, we will relaunch the scheme, adopting a more person-centred approach that aligns job opportunities with each individual's strengths, aspirations, and needs. While the numbers will start small, we anticipate gradual growth as we refine our approach and increase the resources available for job coaching and support.

Safeguarding Review: We have initiated a comprehensive review of our safeguarding processes and procedures to ensure they remain robust, compliant, and fit for purpose. This process will continue throughout 2025.

Birthright Volunteering Trip: A landmark event for the organisation will be our fully accessible Birthright volunteering trip to Israel, aimed at members aged 21-45. This trip will allow our members to engage with the Jewish homeland and its people while making meaningful contributions to the community.

Teen Club Expansion: We plan to extend the reach of our Teen Club, with additional engagement initiatives for families and also hope to set up a new club for the 18-25-year-olds, as a bridge to our adult provision.

Shabbat Together: We aim to expand our Shabbat Together programme, engaging more synagogues and fostering greater community unity through shared Shabbat experiences.

We look forward to continuing our work and expanding the impact of The Friendship Circle as we strive to offer life-changing opportunities for individuals with disabilities in our community.

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Trustees' Report

Financial Review
The Friendship Circle has maintained strong financial stability throughout a challenging and unpredictable economic environment. Despite rising costs, particularly in staffing and resources, our disciplined financial management has ensured the charity's long-term financial security.

Financial Management and Strategic Planning
Our financial health has been upheld through tight budgetary control, regular reviews of cash flow forecasts, and careful financial planning. Trustees continuously evaluate the charity's short-, medium-, and long-term objectives in relation to financial planning, ensuring that all actions serve the best interests of the organisation and its beneficiaries while remaining aligned with our broader mission. In instances of exceptional spending outside regular operational costs, systems and checks are in place to manage funds appropriately, ensuring prudent financial stewardship and due diligence.

Expenditure Overview
In 2024, total expenditure was £535,839, compared to £478,907 in 2023. A significant portion of this increase is attributable to staff costs, as staff are central to delivering our services. To maintain the highest service provision, two new staff members were recruited in late 2023, bolstering our programme delivery. Additionally, a new fundraising team member was hired to help meet our growing fundraising targets. The charity also faced substantial rises in insurance and electricity costs. Furthermore, we outsourced our HR function to a professional provider to ensure compliance with policies and procedures while enabling the management team to focus on their core responsibilities.

Income Overview
The Friendship Circle generated a total income of £620,945 in 2024 (2023: £444,827). A highlight of this period was our highly successful online "match-funded" crowdfunding campaign in September, which raised almost £415,000. Nearly half of this income came from our top-tier donors, who generously agreed to match contributions during the campaign. On the day of the event alone, we raised £205,000. This campaign significantly expanded our fundraising reach across Manchester and beyond.

We received tremendous communal support, particularly from local Jewish schools and synagogues, who helped build a solid foundation for the campaign's success. Our loyal volunteers also played an instrumental role in driving the campaign and maximizing its impact in the community. An encouraging result of the campaign was that 35% of donations came from new donors, indicating a growing base of supporters for the charity.

In addition to the crowdfunding campaign, the charity raised funds through a variety of challenge events and donations from individuals, many of whom contributed in celebration of significant milestones such as "big birthdays." We also received smaller but valuable contributions from a small group of donors with standing orders. Grant funding in 2024 came from Bury Council and, most significantly, from the Lottery Fund, which supported our Skills for Life programme.

Reserves and Future Planning
The charity's reserves policy targets maintaining reserves equal to 4-6 months of operational expenditure. While we ended the year with reserves above this target, the approved budget for 2025 forecasts a deficit of £127,000. We expect that, as the fundraising cycle progresses, our reserves will return to their normal levels in line with our policy.

Trustees acknowledge the forecasted imbalance between income and expenditure in 2025. However, the charity's fundraising strategy is designed to address this gap, with a strong focus on increasing fundraising income. Given the unpredictable nature of voluntary donations, we have taken a cautious approach in forecasting the income for 2025, particularly following the success of our major crowdfunding campaign.

Revenue Diversification and Sustainability
Nearly one-third of The Friendship Circle's income is derived from our loyal patrons, and we are deeply grateful for their ongoing commitment to the cause. The remaining funds come from smaller donations within the community, generated through various fundraising events and sponsored challenges.

To ensure the continued sustainability of our services, we are dedicated to nurturing relationships with our high-level donors. We aim to demonstrate the ongoing impact of their contributions, fostering an extended commitment through our Patron Scheme. Furthermore, we will continue to engage with our corporate partners, offering them the opportunity to sponsor programmes and invest in the charity. We are also exploring new ways to engage corporate partners, expanding our reach and support base.

Additionally, we aim to strengthen our relationship with lower-level donors by growing our portfolio of standing orders. We also plan to introduce new fundraising avenues to support the charity's mission and ensure its financial health in the years to come.

Key Upcoming Fundraising Events
One of the key fundraising highlights of 2025 will be our flagship Inclusive Fashion Show. We are eager to build on the success of previous years, further developing the event to engage the community, attract new supporters, and raise significant funds for our programmes. We also plan to host a series of fundraising "Evenings with Friends" to generate further income alongside trialling a fundraising padel tournament. This events, along with planned challenges, will be crucial in bridging the gap between our projected income and expenditure for the upcoming year. "The Art of Nature" art exhibition, featuring artwork from our weekly art classes, will serve as an excellent opportunity to enhance our profile within the community.

Expenditure 2025
Costs are expected to rise further in 2025 with the proposed governmental increases in utilities and PAYE. Additional staff are also needed to support the 18-25 teen provision. However, despite these increases, The Friendship Circle remains committed to diversifying its income streams and enhancing its financial sustainability. By continuing to nurture relationships with our donors, exploring new fundraising avenues, and focusing on prudent financial management, we are confident that the charity will continue to fulfil its mission and provide essential services to those in need.

Reappointment of independent examiner

Gordon Levy, Chartered Accountant, has been re-appointed as independent examiner for the ensuing year.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 2 September 2025 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mr Philip Pink
Trustee

.....
Mr Timothy Dempsey
Trustee

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

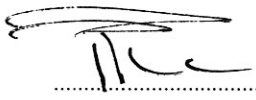
The trustees (who are also the directors of The Friendship Circle (UK) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

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

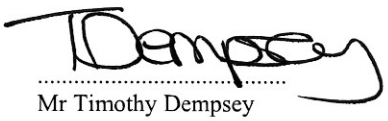
The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that are sufficient to show and explain the charitable company's transactions and disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements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

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 2 September 2025 and signed on its behalf by:



.....

Mr Philip Pink
Trustee



.....

Mr Timothy Dempsey
Trustee

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Friendship Circle (UK)

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2024 which are set out on pages 12 to 21.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ICAEW.

Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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 matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Gordon Levy

.....

Gordon Levy BA, FCA
Chartered Accountant
ICAEW
Gordon Levy Limited
Suite 5, 4th Floor
3 Universal Square
Devonshire Street North
Manchester, M12 6JH

2 September 2025

The Friendship Circle (UK)

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

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Income and Endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	3	599,675	599,675
Investment income	4	3,649	3,649
Other income	5	17,621	17,621
Total Income		620,945	620,945
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	6	(535,839)	(535,839)
Total Expenditure		(535,839)	(535,839)
Net income		85,106	85,106
Net movement in funds		85,106	85,106
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		252,167	252,167
Total funds carried forward	10	337,273	337,273

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	3	409,128	409,128
Investment income	4	2,440	2,440
Other income	5	33,259	33,259
Total Income		444,827	444,827
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	6	(478,907)	(478,907)
Total Expenditure		(478,907)	(478,907)
Net expenditure		(34,080)	(34,080)
Net movement in funds		(34,080)	(34,080)
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		286,247	286,247
Total funds carried forward	10	252,167	252,167

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

The funds breakdown is shown in note 10.

The Friendship Circle (UK)

(Registration number: 06706212)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Current assets			
Debtors	9	94	-
Cash at bank and in hand		337,179	252,167
		337,273	252,167
Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		337,273	252,167
Total funds	10	337,273	252,167

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

Directors' responsibilities:

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

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

The financial statements on pages 12 to 21 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 2 September 2025 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Mr Philip Pink
Trustee

.....
Mr Timothy Dempsey
Trustee

1 Charity status

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

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

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

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

The Friendship Circle (UK) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Income and endowments

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

Donations and legacies

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

Grants receivable

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

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure

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

Charitable activities

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

Support costs

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

Governance costs

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

Taxation

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

Trade debtors

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

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

Cash and cash equivalents

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

Borrowings
Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

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

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.
Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Debt instruments

Debt instruments which meet the following conditions are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method:

(a) The contractual return to the holder is (i) a fixed amount; (ii) a positive fixed rate or a positive variable rate; or (iii) a combination of a positive or a negative fixed rate and a positive variable rate.

(b) The contract may provide for repayments of the principal or the return to the holder (but not both) to be linked to a single relevant observable index of general price inflation of the currency in which the debt instrument is denominated, provided such links are not leveraged.

(c) The contract may provide for a determinable variation of the return to the holder during the life of the instrument, provided that (i) the new rate satisfies condition (a) and the variation is not contingent on future events other than (1) a change of a contractual variable rate; (2) to protect the holder against credit deterioration of the issuer; (3) changes in levies applied by a central bank or arising from changes in relevant taxation or law; or (ii) the new rate is a market rate of interest and satisfies condition (a).

(d) There is no contractual provision that could, by its terms, result in the holder losing the principal amount or any interest attributable to the current period or prior periods.

(e) Contractual provisions that permit the issuer to prepay a debt instrument or permit the holder to put it back to the issuer before maturity are not contingent on future events, other than to protect the holder against the credit deterioration of the issuer or a change in control of the issuer, or to protect the holder or issuer against changes in levies applied by a central bank or arising from changes in relevant taxation or law.

(f) Contractual provisions may permit the extension of the term of the debt instrument, provided that the return to the holder and any other contractual provisions applicable during the extended term satisfy the conditions of paragraphs (a) to (c).

Debt instruments that are classified as payable or receivable within one year on initial recognition and which meet the above conditions are measured at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received, net of impairment.

With the exception of some hedging instruments, other debt instruments not meeting these conditions are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Commitments to make and receive loans which meet the conditions mentioned above are measured at cost (which may be nil) less impairment.

Investments

Investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary or preference shares (where shares are publicly traded or their fair value is reliably measurable) are measured at fair value through profit or loss. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, investments are measured at cost less impairment.

Investments in subsidiaries and associates are measured at cost less impairment. For investments in subsidiaries acquired for consideration including the issue of shares qualifying for merger relief, cost is measured by reference to the nominal value of the shares issued plus fair value of other consideration. Any premium is ignored.

Derivative financial instruments

The charity uses derivative financial instruments to reduce exposure to foreign exchange risk and interest rate movements. The charity does not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes.

Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value at the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently remeasured to their fair value at each reporting date. The resulting gain or loss is recognised in statement of financial activities immediately unless the derivative is designated and effective as a hedging instrument, in which event the timing of the recognition in statement of financial activities depends on the nature of the hedge relationship.

Fair value measurement

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price for an identical asset in an active market. When quoted prices are unavailable, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value as long as there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or a significant lapse of time since the transaction took place. If the market is not active and recent transactions of an identical asset on their own are not a good estimate of fair value, the fair value is estimated by using a valuation technique.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds		
	General	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Donations and legacies;			
Donations	529,069	529,069	370,588
Gift aid reclaimed	45,948	45,948	28,242
Grants, including capital grants;			
Grants from other charities	24,658	24,658	10,298
	599,675	599,675	409,128

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds		
	General	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Interest receivable on bank deposits	3,649	3,649	2,440

5 Other income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Programme income	17,621	17,621	15,062
Recharges	-	-	18,197
	17,621	17,621	33,259

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Activities undertaken directly		517,123	517,123	446,329
Allocated support costs		18,716	18,716	32,578
		535,839	535,839	478,907

	Activity undertaken directly £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Wages & salaries	323,682	323,682	277,374
Staff training	3,484	3,484	3,829
Rent & rates	23,708	23,708	13,900
Utilities	3,791	3,791	6,209
Office expenses	8,244	8,244	8,838
Office relocation expenses	-	-	14,159
Computer & IT	963	963	500
Insurance	7,147	7,147	3,390
Printing, postage & delivery	3,428	3,428	2,872
Fundraising & marketing	31,756	31,756	34,001
Programme expenses	109,521	109,521	98,081
Loan interest	-	-	785
Professional fees & consultancy	19,621	19,621	14,490
Bank charges	494	494	479
	535,839	535,839	478,907

Included in Wages & salaries are wages and salaries relating to Programme expenses.

7 Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

Mrs Mireille Lyons
Mrs Mireille Lyons received remuneration of £46,000 (2023: £36,800) during the year.

Mrs Lyons received the above mentioned remuneration in her capacity as head of fund raising and operations of the charity.

Mrs Lyons resigned as a trustee on 31 December 2023.

The remuneration was paid under the power in the Charities Act 2011.

8 Staff costs

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2024 No	2023 No
Total employees	9	9

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

9 Debtors

	2024 £
Other debtors	94

10 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 December 2024 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	(252,167)	(620,945)	535,839	(337,273)

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	(286,247)	(444,827)	478,907	(252,167)

11 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Current assets	337,273	337,273

12 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 January 2024 £	Cash flow £	At 31 December 2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	252,167	85,012	337,179
Current asset investments	-	94	94
Net debt	252,167	85,106	337,273

THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE (UK)

England & Wales - Charity number 1135828

Accounts

Company registration number: 06706212
Charity registration number: 1135828

The Friendship Circle (UK)

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

Gordon Levy BA, FCA
Chartered Accountant
Gordon Levy Limited
Suite 5, 4th Floor
3 Universal Square
Devonshire Street North
Manchester, M12 6JH

The Friendship Circle (UK)

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The Friendship Circle (UK)

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Mrs Mireille Lyons (resigned 31 December 2023) Rabbi Anthony Joel Jaffe Rabbi David Jaffe Mr Philip Pink Mr Timothy Dempsey Mr Jeremy Coleman (appointed 1 September 2023) Mrs Ziona Handler (appointed 1 September 2023)
Secretary	
Principal Office	72 Singleton Road Salford M7 4LU
Registered Office	Suite 5, 4th Floor 3 Universal Square Devonshire Street North Manchester M12 6JH
Company Registration Number	06706212
Charity Registration Number	1135828
Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland ALTRINCHAM Bolton Customer Service Centre PO Box 2027 Parklands De Havilland Way Horwich BL6 4YU
Independent Examiner	Gordon Levy BA, FCA Chartered Accountant Gordon Levy Limited Suite 5, 4th Floor 3 Universal Square Devonshire Street North Manchester, M12 6JH

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors or company secretary for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Reference and administrative details
Reference and administrative details are shown in the schedule of members of the board and professional advisers on page 1 of the financial statements.

Trustees
The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Mrs Mireille Lyons (resigned 31 December 2023)

Rabbi Anthony Joel Jaffe

Rabbi David Jaffe

Mr Philip Pink

Mr Timothy Dempsey

Mr Jeremy Coleman (appointed 1 September 2023)

Mrs Ziona Handler (appointed 1 September 2023)

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated 24 September 2008 as amended by special resolution registered at Companies House on 12 February 2012.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Appointment by Trustees

Organisational structure

Company limited by guarantee

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Trustees' Report

Chief Executive Officer Statement

In 2023, we celebrated our 15th Anniversary with the theme "15 Years of Friendship" running through all activities, culminating in a successful Fundraising Dinner in November.

The organisation has maintained its growth trajectory, with membership rising to 174 and volunteers to 160. Engagement has also increased, reaching 5,443 individual member attendances and 12,000 volunteering hours in 2023. We continue to enhance the lives of our members, change perceptions, and create a more inclusive community.

Our successful Partnership with Synagogues program expanded to new communities, promoting integration and inclusivity by creating opportunities for our members to actively participate in synagogue life.

We expanded our provision for teenagers with a new teen club tailored to the needs of girls aged 13 to 18.

The organisation's governance was strengthened with the addition of two trustees, bringing valuable skills and experience to the board.

At the end of 2022, we faced operational challenges due to inadequate space. This was resolved in 2023 by moving to new premises better suited to our needs, offering on-site programming space and adequate office space, creating a better working environment and optimising service delivery.

To address ongoing expansion and growth, we also added two new members to our programme team, enhancing our ability to deliver programs sustainably. In 2024, we plan to continue this growth by expanding our operational and fundraising teams and considering outsourcing certain functions, with HR being a key area for potential external support.

Our goal for 2024 is to build on our success with steady, sustainable growth.

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Summary of the Objects of the Charity as set out in the governing document

Object I
To promote, for the benefit of the inhabitants of Greater Manchester and the surrounding area the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

Object 2
To promote general charitable purposes for the benefit of the community of Greater Manchester and the surrounding area, and to provide relief from financial hardship and social and/or economic disadvantage and to advance the education of its residents of all ages and in particular to provide opportunities for the aforementioned residents to participate fully in the life of the community in ways which address and alleviate social and economic disadvantage.

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Trustees' Report

Objectives, strategies and activities

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

'The Friendship Circle provides recreational and educational programmes and activities for people who are isolated from the community due to their infirmity and disablement.

We work closely with the residential care organisations in the Greater Manchester area to fill any gaps they may have from a social and cultural perspective, as well as supporting families in the community and individuals.

Our programmes can be categorised into:

Sport, Fitness and Wellbeing - a fully inclusive physical activity programme enabling our members to get active and improve their health and wellbeing.
Social and Recreational - Fun days and nights out for our members to look forward to.
Skills and Hobbies - a holistic programme to help our members to find meaning and purpose and allow them to express thoughts and feelings they find difficult to put into words.
Jewish Life and Observance - ensuring our members are able to fully participate in communal and religious life.
Disability Education - inspiring children to see beyond disability and become more accepting.
Teen Provision - A weekly boys and girls teen club which provides a social and safe space for teenage boys and girls with disabilities to try new activities, have fun and form friendships.
One to One Buddy Programme - pairs members who may be less confident in a group setting to community volunteers to develop a meaning friendship on a one-to-one level.
Employment - to help our members gain the necessary skills to enter the workplace and overcome any barriers they might face finding a job.
Volunteering Programme - to enhance the ongoing growth and development of our volunteers.
Advocacy - to encourage our members to advocate for themselves and have a "voice" in society
Emotional and Practical Support - helping our members to navigate their daily lives and mental health needs.

All our programmes are designed to help our members, find meaning and purpose, gain confidence, learn new skills as well as make new friends and have fun. We are continually diversifying our offering to suit different tastes and interests.

Volunteers are fundamental to the work we do, allowing our members to extend their social networks and integrate into the community.

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Trustees' Report

Summary of the main achievements of the charity

Programmes

2023 marked a significant turning point for The Friendship Circle. After an extensive search for suitable premises, the charity relocated its offices to the communal building owned by Bnei Akiva on Singleton Road. This building is ideally situated for our beneficiaries, providing ample office space and an on-site hall for programming. This move has greatly enhanced team efficiency by eliminating the need to shift between venues, saving time, energy, and reducing stress levels.

We continue to foster productive partnerships with residential organizations within the community, including Langdon, Brookvale, Outreach, and The Focus Foundation, supporting their residents from both social and integrational perspective. Many other members, who receive little or no help elsewhere, are now coming through our doors.

Our membership has seen steady growth, with nine new joiners in 2023. Attendance at activities and the frequency of participation have increased, particularly for our day trips and weekly daytime drop-ins. Of our 174 members, half attend activities twice a week, and one-third attend over four times a week, reinforcing their reliance on our services.

The demand for practical and emotional support has risen, especially among new members not associated with any other care organization. Our program team is committed to addressing the mental health needs of our members. We work closely with The Fed, Paperweight, Jewish Action for Mental Health, and local counsellors to provide appropriate support, whether it be advice on benefits and finances or one-on-one counselling.

Volunteers remain crucial to our service provision, with 160 volunteers, aged between 16 and 75, supporting our activities and programs. This year, 44 new volunteers joined The Friendship Circle Community, a record number, primarily through word of mouth, highlighting our strong local presence. Shifting our focus from teenage volunteers to a broader volunteer base has significantly improved retention. Many new volunteers are over 50, finding a renewed sense of meaning and purpose through their involvement.

The quality and support provided by our volunteers have also improved, enhancing the excellence of our services. Many volunteers go above and beyond, working on their own initiative to offer the necessary support and care needed.

This year, our programme director visited three schools—King David Junior School, Broughton Jewish, and Bury and Whitefield—to deliver our Disability Education Programme. The programme challenges stereotypes about disability, promotes accessibility, and encourages inclusion. Feedback from students, parents, and teachers has been overwhelmingly positive, with all teachers believing the objectives were met.

A highlight of the year was our inaugural international trip to Lisbon, where our "all abilities" football team, The Maccabi Thunders, participated in the Special Champions League Football Tournament. This groundbreaking event promoted greater social inclusion within European football for people with disabilities.

We have also introduced a Hebrew reading course, which has been well received by its 15 regular attendees, many of whom wish to participate in Jewish communal life but don't know how.

A new staff member has been recruited to expand the "Girls' teen club," officially launched in the last quarter of the year. This club follows a similar model to the thriving Boys' teen club.

Our collaborative work with synagogues continued into 2023. The "Shabbat Together" initiative, rolled out at Heaton Park Synagogue, promotes a more inclusive culture within the synagogue setting. Plans are underway to coordinate similar initiatives with other local synagogues.

Our impact survey, completed by 50 members, provided overwhelmingly positive feedback on our services. 87% reported feeling significantly less lonely since joining the programme, and at least 98% noted significant improvements in their mental health and confidence.

Finance

Despite the challenging economic climate, the charity began the year in a secure financial position, bringing in nearly £445,000 of income, a considerable increase from the previous year, and holding cash reserves of £252,000.

A significant boost to our income came from the successful "Be Beautiful Be Yourself" inclusive fashion show, which raised over £75,000 in November.

The theme of "15 Years of Friendship" was central to all our fundraising initiatives. We engaged local schools, shuls, and businesses in various activities to support our efforts, culminating in a highly successful fundraising dinner attended by over 600 loyal donors, patrons, and volunteers. The dinner provided excellent exposure for the charity, receiving fantastic feedback from all attendees.

Throughout this 12-month financial period, we focused on strengthening relationships with long-standing donors. Trustees have been encouraged by their increasing allegiance and loyalty. Our patron scheme continues to provide long-term sustainability, with pledged regular income increasing year on year.

Expenditure on charitable activities rose by £57,000 to £479,000. Key factors included the relocation and fit-out of our new "fit-for-purpose" premises and investments in expanding our program staffing team to better support our services and alleviate pressure on existing staff. Reassuringly, we have managed to maintain and increase voluntary income in line with this expenditure growth.

Expenditure is expected to rise again in 2024. Nonetheless, the trustees remain vigilant given the unpredictable economic environment. They are persistently balancing the escalating costs and economic challenges with the expanding needs of the charity.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Use of volunteers

Volunteers continue to be key to service provision and as many as 150 volunteers, aged between 16 and 75, are supporting the activities and programmes. 31 new volunteers have joined The Friendship Circle Community with a steady increase of volunteers over the age of 50, giving them a new sense of purpose and meaning.

Policy on reserves

Historically our aim has always been to hold 3 months reserves in our general funds to cover at least three months expenditure, but we are now looking to build those reserves to 6 months due to the erratic economic climate. This will provide the level of confidence we need to ensure that we are able to continue with the provision of our regular weekly programmes and cover our staffing and volunteer expenses and office costs. It will also allow for the growth of the charity.

Reappointment of independent examiner

Gordon Levy, Chartered Accountant has been re-appointed as independent examiner for the ensuing year.

The Friendship Circle (UK)

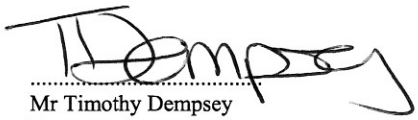
Trustees' Report

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 12 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



.....

Mr Philip Pink
Trustee



.....

Mr Timothy Dempsey
Trustee

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Friendship Circle (UK) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

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

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

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 12 September 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mr Philip Pink
Trustee

.....
Mr Timothy Dempsey
Trustee

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Friendship Circle (UK)

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023 which are set out on pages 10 to 19
.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ICAEW.
Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report
My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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 matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

.....

Gordon Levy BA, FCA
Chartered Accountant
ICAEW
Gordon Levy Limited
Suite 5, 4th Floor
3 Universal Square
Devonshire Street North
Manchester, M12 6JH

12 September 2024

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2023 £
Income and Endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	3	409,128	409,128
Investment income	4	2,440	2,440
Other income	5	33,259	33,259
Total Income		444,827	444,827
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	6	(478,907)	(478,907)
Total Expenditure		(478,907)	(478,907)
Net expenditure		(34,080)	(34,080)
Net movement in funds		(34,080)	(34,080)
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		286,247	286,247
Total funds carried forward	11	252,167	252,167

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	3	374,463	374,463
Investment income	4	641	641
Other income	5	18,597	18,597
Total Income		393,701	393,701
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	6	(421,855)	(421,855)
Total Expenditure		(421,855)	(421,855)
Net expenditure		(28,154)	(28,154)
Net movement in funds		(28,154)	(28,154)
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		314,401	314,401
Total funds carried forward	11	286,247	286,247

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

The funds breakdown is shown in note 11.

The Friendship Circle (UK)

(Registration number: 06706212)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		252,167	321,894
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	9	-	(9,869)
Total assets less current liabilities		252,167	312,025
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	10	-	(25,778)
Net assets		252,167	286,247
Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		252,167	286,247
Total funds	11	252,167	286,247

For the financial year ending 31 December 2023 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

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

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

The financial statements on pages 10 to 19 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 12 September 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Mr Philip Pink
Trustee

.....
Mr Timothy Dempsey
Trustee

1 Charity status

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

2 Accounting policies

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

Statement of compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation
The Friendship Circle (UK) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement
The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

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

Donations and legacies

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

Grants receivable

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

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure

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

Charitable activities

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

Support costs

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

Governance costs

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

Taxation

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

Cash and cash equivalents

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

Borrowings
Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

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

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.
Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Debt instruments

Debt instruments which meet the following conditions are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method:

(a) The contractual return to the holder is (i) a fixed amount; (ii) a positive fixed rate or a positive variable rate; or (iii) a combination of a positive or a negative fixed rate and a positive variable rate.

(b) The contract may provide for repayments of the principal or the return to the holder (but not both) to be linked to a single relevant observable index of general price inflation of the currency in which the debt instrument is denominated, provided such links are not leveraged.

(c) The contract may provide for a determinable variation of the return to the holder during the life of the instrument, provided that (i) the new rate satisfies condition (a) and the variation is not contingent on future events other than (1) a change of a contractual variable rate; (2) to protect the holder against credit deterioration of the issuer; (3) changes in levies applied by a central bank or arising from changes in relevant taxation or law; or (ii) the new rate is a market rate of interest and satisfies condition (a).

(d) There is no contractual provision that could, by its terms, result in the holder losing the principal amount or any interest attributable to the current period or prior periods.

(e) Contractual provisions that permit the issuer to prepay a debt instrument or permit the holder to put it back to the issuer before maturity are not contingent on future events, other than to protect the holder against the credit deterioration of the issuer or a change in control of the issuer, or to protect the holder or issuer against changes in levies applied by a central bank or arising from changes in relevant taxation or law.

(f) Contractual provisions may permit the extension of the term of the debt instrument, provided that the return to the holder and any other contractual provisions applicable during the extended term satisfy the conditions of paragraphs (a) to (c).

Debt instruments that are classified as payable or receivable within one year on initial recognition and which meet the above conditions are measured at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received, net of impairment.

With the exception of some hedging instruments, other debt instruments not meeting these conditions are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Commitments to make and receive loans which meet the conditions mentioned above are measured at cost (which may be nil) less impairment.

Investments

Investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary or preference shares (where shares are publicly traded or their fair value is reliably measurable) are measured at fair value through profit or loss. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, investments are measured at cost less impairment.

Investments in subsidiaries and associates are measured at cost less impairment. For investments in subsidiaries acquired for consideration including the issue of shares qualifying for merger relief, cost is measured by reference to the nominal value of the shares issued plus fair value of other consideration. Any premium is ignored.

Derivative financial instruments

The charity uses derivative financial instruments to reduce exposure to foreign exchange risk and interest rate movements. The charity does not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes.

Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value at the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently remeasured to their fair value at each reporting date. The resulting gain or loss is recognised in statement of financial activities immediately unless the derivative is designated and effective as a hedging instrument, in which event the timing of the recognition in statement of financial activities depends on the nature of the hedge relationship.

Fair value measurement

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price for an identical asset in an active market. When quoted prices are unavailable, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value as long as there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or a significant lapse of time since the transaction took place. If the market is not active and recent transactions of an identical asset on their own are not a good estimate of fair value, the fair value is estimated by using a valuation technique.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds		
	General	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£
Donations and legacies;			
Donations	370,588	370,588	286,908
Gift aid reclaimed	28,242	28,242	53,140
Grants, including capital grants;			
Grants from other charities	10,298	10,298	34,415
	409,128	409,128	374,463

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds		
	General	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Interest receivable on bank deposits	2,440	2,440	641

5 Other income

	Unrestricted funds		
	General	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£
Programme income	15,062	15,062	7,026
Recharges	18,197	18,197	11,571
	33,259	33,259	18,597

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds		
		General	Total 2023	Total 2022
		£	£	£
Activities undertaken directly		446,329	446,329	421,855
Allocated support costs		32,578	32,578	-
		478,907	478,907	421,855

	Activity undertaken directly	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£
Wages & salaries	277,374	277,374	274,648
Staff training	3,829	3,829	3,167
Rent & rates	13,900	13,900	11,600
Utilities	6,209	6,209	3,962
Office expenses	8,838	8,838	3,214
Office relocation expenses	14,159	14,159	-
Computer & IT	500	500	8,445
Insurance	3,390	3,390	1,544
Printing, postage & delivery	2,872	2,872	1,422
Fundraising & marketing	34,001	34,001	38,079
Bank charges	479	479	464
Programme expenses	98,081	98,081	66,068
Loan interest	785	785	1,016
Professional fees & consultancy	14,490	14,490	8,226
	478,907	478,907	421,855

Included in Wages & salaries are wages and salaries relating to Programme expenses.

7 Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

Mrs Mireille Lyons
Mrs Mireille Lyons received remuneration of £36,800 (2022: £39,694) during the year.

Mrs Lyons received the above mentioned remuneration in her capacity as head of fund raising and operations of the charity.

The remuneration was paid under the power in the Charities Act 2011.

8 Staff costs

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2023 No	2022 No
Total employees	9	8

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

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other loans	-	9,869

10 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Other loans	-	25,778

11 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	(286,247)	(444,827)	478,907	(252,167)

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	(314,401)	(393,701)	421,855	(286,247)

12 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Current assets	252,167	252,167

13 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 January 2023 £	Cash flow £	At 31 December 2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	321,894	(69,727)	252,167
Net debt	321,894	(69,727)	252,167

THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE (UK)

England & Wales - Charity number 1135828

Accounts

Company registration number: 06706212
Charity registration number: 1135828

The Friendship Circle (UK)

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2022

Gordon Levy BA, FCA
Chartered Accountant
Gordon Levy Limited
Suite 5, 4th Floor
3 Universal Square
Devonshire Street North
Manchester, M12 6JH

The Friendship Circle (UK)

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The Friendship Circle (UK)

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Mrs Mireille Lyons Rabbi Anthony Joel Jaffe Rabbi David Jaffe Mr Philip Pink Mr Timothy Dempsey
Secretary	Mrs Mireille Lyons
Principal Office	72 Singleton Road Salford M7 4LU
Registered Office	Suite 5, 4th Floor 3 Universal Square Devonshire Street North Manchester M12 6JH
Company Registration Number	06706212
Charity Registration Number	1135828
Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland ALTRINCHAM Bolton Customer Service Centre PO Box 2027 Parklands De Havilland Way Horwich BL6 4YU
Independent Examiner	Gordon Levy BA, FCA Chartered Accountant Gordon Levy Limited Suite 5, 4th Floor 3 Universal Square Devonshire Street North Manchester, M12 6JH

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Reference and administrative details
Reference and administrative details are shown in the schedule of members of the board and professional advisers on page 1 of the financial statements.

Trustees
The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Mrs Mireille Lyons

Rabbi Anthony Joel Jaffe

Rabbi David Jaffe

Mr Philip Pink

Mr Timothy Dempsey

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated 24 September 2008 as amended by special resolution registered at Companies House on 12 February 2012.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Appointment by Trustees

Organisational structure

Company limited by guarantee

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Trustees' Report

Chief Executive Officer Statement

Early 2022 saw an internal restructuring. Rabbi Daniel Walker came on board as Chief Executive Officer to fulfil some of the role of Rabbi Dovid Jaffe who had stepped down from his position as chairman of trustees after 15 years of dedicated and very active service.

At that time, the charity was in a very positive position. The Friendship Circle community was more united than ever before, having received national and local recognition for an exceptional operational response during the pandemic. Having weathered the storm financially, it was in secure position after a hugely successful Charity Extra campaign in May 2021. Volunteer numbers were at an all-time high, with many new joiners following the Covid Pandemic. Member numbers had also significantly grown.

Throughout 2022 The Friendship Circle team have worked tirelessly to build on their earlier successes and to continue growing and building the organisation. A major area of growth was the expansion into the field of employment and training. A working partnership has been formed the Focus Foundation to support their residents on their journey into finding employment and this service has been extended to all Friendship Circle members.

In the area of communal engagement, a flourishing partnership with the Prestwich Hebrew Congregation (Shrubberies) is paving the way for greater inclusivity in the synagogue setting and is a blueprint that will be extended to other shuls in the Manchester area.

The team were thrilled to host the Chief Rabbi, an honorary Patron of the charity, for afternoon tea. His passion for the charity was very evident and his kind words of support and encouragement inspired staff, volunteers, and members alike and motivated them in the quest for ever increasing excellence.

A high point in the year was the charity's fully inclusive Fashion Show where demand for tickets was so great it had to be extended over two nights. Over 400 people watched the groundbreaking show, where members walked side by side with their volunteer buddies, challenging the stereotypes surrounding disability, raising the profile of the charity, and bringing in much needed funds.

Ongoing expansion and continued growth have led to some operational challenges. The talented and dedicated staff give their all to the Friendship Circle and regularly go above and beyond what could reasonably be expected from them. However, to sustain the current high level of service and to continue the current trajectory of growth the charity urgently needs to expand the team.

As the team grows the charity will also need to expand their workspace, together with a continued need for more adequate event and programme space.

It has been identified that the trustee board needs to grow to better reflect the size of our organisation and to deepen the pool of experience and skill at the charity's disposal.

The goal for the coming year is to maintain the current level of growth, without compromising the excellent quality of provision, by securing new premises that can better accommodate the service; to grow the staffing team particularly in the programme division and to expand the trustee board.

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Trustees' Report

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Summary of the Objects of the Charity as set out in the governing document

Object 1

To promote, for the benefit of the inhabitants of Greater Manchester and the surrounding area the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship, or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

Object 2

To promote general charitable purposes for the benefit of the community of Greater Manchester and the surrounding area, and to provide relief from financial hardship and social and/or economic disadvantage and to advance the education of its residents of all ages and to provide opportunities for the aforementioned residents to participate fully in the life of the community in ways which address and alleviate social and economic disadvantage.

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

The Friendship Circle provides recreational programmes and activities for people who are isolated from the community due to their infirmity or disablement. The organisation works closely with the residential care organisations in the Greater Manchester area to fill any gaps they may have from a social and cultural perspective, as well as supporting families in the community and individuals.

Programmes include community meals, parties, social days and nights out, trips to theme parks, bowling and so on. The service also includes a wide range of clubs and classes such as singing, dance, art, discussion groups where members gain confidence, learn new skills as well as make new friends and have fun. The portfolio of clubs is continually being diversified to suit different tastes and interests.

A one-to-one buddy programme matches users to community volunteers for users who may not be comfortable in a group setting. A growing "teen" provision supports children between the ages of 12 and 18.

The charity continues to be far reaching in its mission to better assimilate people with learning disabilities into the community and are striving to build a more accepting and inclusive community. The disability education in schools programme is key to this which aims to quash negative perceptions and fears surrounding disability among school children.

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Trustees' Report

Summary of the main achievements of the charity

Programmes
This period began with real optimism with face-to-face activities having finally fully resumed and participation levels at an all-time high.

There has seen a steady growth in new participants with 12 new joiners, many who receive little or no support from elsewhere.

The organisation continues to build productive partnerships with the residential organisations in the community including Langdon, Brookvale, Outreach and The Focus Foundation supporting their residents from a social and integrational perspective.

Demand for practical and emotional support grew dramatically over Covid and members are being provided with a more holistic offering with increased one to one support and signposting to other crucial services. Links have been forged with local therapists, mental health professionals and bereavement counsellors.

A partnership with The Focus Foundation to deliver employment services to people with disabilities in the community. This is a complete service with the aim of providing beneficiaries with the necessary vocational skills and training opportunities to enter the workplace. Currently 17 members are on or have completed a training course, 8 have been placed in a volunteer role and 4 are in paid employment. Members are also being helped to produce their CVs.

In addition to the wide range of daily social activities, there has been an increased focus on implementing skills-based programmes that enable members to advocate for themselves, such as the Speaking Out Forum, designed to give the members a "voice" through public speaking training and the Equal Voices Programme which connects members to people of influence and have their voices heard. Health & Wellbeing activities have also been introduced into the calendar encouraging members to stay fit and active.

The Boys Teen Club continues to thrive with over 20 boys regularly attending and a similar girl's provision will be launched in the coming year.

Promoting inclusivity and acceptance in all areas of the community is fundamental to the charity's mission. Several joint programmes and social events have been organised with The Shrubberies Synagogue in Prestwich with a view to promoting a more inclusive culture in the synagogue setting. Plans are in place to coordinate similar initiatives with other synagogues in the area.

Finance
Despite the economic climate, the charity began the year in a strong financial position, with significant cash reserves, due to the successful "I Am Me" crowd funding campaign in May 2021, which brought in a large proportion of the charities budget for the year.

As the charity is almost entirely reliant on voluntary income and receives no government funding the trustees are aware that the current economic climate poses a risk to its financial stability. The charity has focussed its efforts on strengthening the relationships with its long-standing donors and the Trustees have been encouraged by their increasing allegiance and loyalty. A growing patron scheme continues to give the charity long term sustainability with pledged income increasing by almost two thirds since the previous year.

An emphasis has also been placed on understanding external funding opportunities that may be available via grants and trusts. This has proven to be very challenging given the huge competition and the current economic climate.

Trustees' Report

The year culminated in the "Be Beautiful Be Yourself" fully inclusive Fashion Show which was complete sell-out over two nights, with over 400 people in attendance, significantly raising the profile of the charity in the community, as well as raising over £75,000.

The trustees remain cautious due to the uncertain economic climate and in the face of rising demand for our service and are continually balancing increasing costs and economic challenges with the growing needs of the charity.

Investments have been made to expand the charity's programme staffing team to enable them to widen their offering with the Employment Programme. A new member of staff has been recruited specifically to facilitate this programme and is already making an impact. The charity has also invested in a new Donor Management System specifically for the fundraising department.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Use of volunteers

Volunteers continue to be key to service provision and as many as 150 volunteers, aged between 16 and 75, are supporting the activities and programmes. 31 new volunteers have joined The Friendship Circle Community with a steady increase of volunteers over the age of 50, giving them a new sense of purpose and meaning.

Policy on reserves

Historically the charity aims to hold 3 months reserves in general funds to cover at least three months expenditure; but are now looking to build those reserves to 6 months due to the challenging economic climate. This will provide the level of confidence needed to ensure continuity with the provision of regular weekly programmes and to cover staffing, volunteer expenses and office costs. It will also allow for the growth of the charity.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Friendship Circle (UK) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

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

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Trustees' Report

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

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

Reappointment of independent examiner

Gordon Levy, Chartered Accountant has been re-appointed as independent examiner for the ensuing year.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 19 September 2023 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mrs Mireille Lyons
Company Secretary and Trustee

.....
Mr Timothy Dempsey
Trustee

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Friendship Circle (UK)

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022 which are set out on pages 9 to 19 .

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ICAEW.
Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report
My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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 matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Gordon Levy

Gordon Levy BA, FCA
Chartered Accountant
ICAEW
Gordon Levy Limited
Suite 5, 4th Floor
3 Universal Square
Devonshire Street North
Manchester, M12 6JH

19 September 2023

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2022 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	3	374,463	374,463
Investment income	4	641	641
Other income	5	18,597	18,597
Total Income		393,701	393,701
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	6	(421,855)	(421,855)
Total Expenditure		(421,855)	(421,855)
Net expenditure		(28,154)	(28,154)
Net movement in funds		(28,154)	(28,154)
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		314,401	314,401
Total funds carried forward	11	286,247	286,247

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Income and Endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	3	487,590	487,590
Investment income	4	105	105
Other income	5	5,245	5,245
Total Income		492,940	492,940
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	6	(294,665)	(294,665)
Total Expenditure		(294,665)	(294,665)
Net income		198,275	198,275
Net movement in funds		198,275	198,275
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		116,127	116,127
Total funds carried forward	11	314,402	314,402

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

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2022 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

The funds breakdown for 2021 is shown in note 11.

The Friendship Circle (UK)

(Registration number: 06706212)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		321,894	359,681
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	9	(9,869)	-
Total assets less current liabilities		312,025	359,681
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	10	(25,778)	(45,279)
Net assets		286,247	314,402
Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		286,247	314,402
Total funds	11	286,247	314,402

For the financial year ending 31 December 2022 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

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

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

The financial statements on pages 9 to 19 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 19 September 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Mrs Mireille Lyons
Company Secretary and Trustee

.....
Mr Timothy Dempsey
Trustee

1 Charity status

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

2 Accounting policies

Summary of significant accounting policies and key accounting estimates

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

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation

The Friendship Circle (UK) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern

The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

Income and endowments

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

Donations and legacies

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

Grants receivable

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

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure

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

Charitable activities

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

Governance costs

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

Government grants

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Taxation

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

Cash and cash equivalents

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

Borrowings
Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

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

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.
Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Debt instruments

Debt instruments which meet the following conditions are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method:

(a) The contractual return to the holder is (i) a fixed amount; (ii) a positive fixed rate or a positive variable rate; or (iii) a combination of a positive or a negative fixed rate and a positive variable rate.

(b) The contract may provide for repayments of the principal or the return to the holder (but not both) to be linked to a single relevant observable index of general price inflation of the currency in which the debt instrument is denominated, provided such links are not leveraged.

(c) The contract may provide for a determinable variation of the return to the holder during the life of the instrument, provided that (i) the new rate satisfies condition (a) and the variation is not contingent on future events other than (1) a change of a contractual variable rate; (2) to protect the holder against credit deterioration of the issuer; (3) changes in levies applied by a central bank or arising from changes in relevant taxation or law; or (ii) the new rate is a market rate of interest and satisfies condition (a).

(d) There is no contractual provision that could, by its terms, result in the holder losing the principal amount or any interest attributable to the current period or prior periods.

(e) Contractual provisions that permit the issuer to prepay a debt instrument or permit the holder to put it back to the issuer before maturity are not contingent on future events, other than to protect the holder against the credit deterioration of the issuer or a change in control of the issuer, or to protect the holder or issuer against changes in levies applied by a central bank or arising from changes in relevant taxation or law.

(f) Contractual provisions may permit the extension of the term of the debt instrument, provided that the return to the holder and any other contractual provisions applicable during the extended term satisfy the conditions of paragraphs (a) to (c).

Debt instruments that are classified as payable or receivable within one year on initial recognition and which meet the above conditions are measured at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received, net of impairment.

With the exception of some hedging instruments, other debt instruments not meeting these conditions are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Commitments to make and receive loans which meet the conditions mentioned above are measured at cost (which may be nil) less impairment.

Investments

Investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary or preference shares (where shares are publicly traded or their fair value is reliably measurable) are measured at fair value through profit or loss. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, investments are measured at cost less impairment.

Investments in subsidiaries and associates are measured at cost less impairment. For investments in subsidiaries acquired for consideration including the issue of shares qualifying for merger relief, cost is measured by reference to the nominal value of the shares issued plus fair value of other consideration. Any premium is ignored.

Derivative financial instruments

The charity uses derivative financial instruments to reduce exposure to foreign exchange risk and interest rate movements. The charity does not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes.

Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value at the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently remeasured to their fair value at each reporting date. The resulting gain or loss is recognised in statement of financial activities immediately unless the derivative is designated and effective as a hedging instrument, in which event the timing of the recognition in statement of financial activities depends on the nature of the hedge relationship.

Fair value measurement

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price for an identical asset in an active market. When quoted prices are unavailable, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value as long as there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or a significant lapse of time since the transaction took place. If the market is not active and recent transactions of an identical asset on their own are not a good estimate of fair value, the fair value is estimated by using a valuation technique.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds		
	General	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£
Donations and legacies;			
Donations	286,908	286,908	393,240
Gift aid reclaimed	53,140	53,140	62,879
Grants, including capital grants;			
Government grants	-	-	7,651
Grants from other charities	34,415	34,415	23,820
	374,463	374,463	487,590

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds		
	General	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Interest receivable on bank deposits	641	641	105

5 Other income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Programme income	7,026	7,026	5,245
Recharges	11,571	11,571	-
	18,597	18,597	5,245

6 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Activities undertaken directly		421,855	421,855	294,665

	Activity undertaken directly £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Wages & salaries	274,648	274,648	168,482
Staff training	3,167	3,167	-
Rent & rates	11,600	11,600	7,800
Utilities	3,962	3,962	3,375
Office expenses	3,214	3,214	2,288
Computer & IT	8,445	8,445	-
Insurance	1,544	1,544	1,480
Printing, postage & delivery	1,422	1,422	2,718
Fundraising & marketing	38,079	38,079	37,107
Programme expenses	66,068	66,068	48,772
Loan interest	1,016	1,016	603
Professional fees & consultancy	8,226	8,226	20,607
Bank charges	464	464	1,433
	421,855	421,855	294,665

Included in Wages & salaries are wages and salaries relating to Programme expenses.

7 Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

Mrs Mireille Lyons
Mrs Mireille Lyons received remuneration of £39,694 (2021: £29,000) during the year.

Mrs Lyons received the above mentioned remuneration in her capacity as fund raising and operations director of the charity.

The remuneration was paid under the power in the Charities Act 2011.

8 Staff costs

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2022 No	2021 No
Total employees	8	7

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

9 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £
Other loans	9,869

10 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Other loans	25,778	45,279

11 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	(314,401)	(393,701)	421,855	(286,247)

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 December 2021 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	(116,127)	(492,940)	294,665	(314,402)

12 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Current assets	321,894	321,894
Creditors over 1 year	(25,778)	(25,778)
Total net assets	296,116	296,116

13 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 January 2022 £	Cash flow £	At 31 December 2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	359,681	(37,787)	321,894
Net debt	359,681	(37,787)	321,894

THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE (UK)

England & Wales - Charity number 1135828

Accounts

Company registration number: 06706212
Charity registration number: 1135828

The Friendship Circle (UK)

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2021

Gordon Levy BA, FCA
Chartered Accountant
Gordon Levy Limited
Suite 5, 4th Floor
3 Universal Square
Devonshire Street North
Manchester, M12 6JH

The Friendship Circle (UK)

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The Friendship Circle (UK)

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Mrs Mireille Lyons Rabbi Anthony Joel Jaffe Rabbi David Jaffe Mr Philip Pink Mr Timothy Dempsey
Secretary	Mrs Mireille Lyons
Principal Office	17 Bury New Road Prestwich Manchester M25 9JZ
Registered Office	Suite 5, 4th Floor 3 Universal Square Devonshire Street North Manchester M12 6JH
Company Registration Number	06706212
Charity Registration Number	1135828
Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland ALTRINCHAM Bolton Customer Service Centre PO Box 2027 Parklands De Havilland Way Horwich BL6 4YU
Independent Examiner	Gordon Levy BA, FCA Chartered Accountant Gordon Levy Limited Suite 5, 4th Floor 3 Universal Square Devonshire Street North Manchester, M12 6JH

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 December 2021.

Reference and administrative details
Reference and administrative details are shown in the schedule of members of the board and professional advisers on page 1 of the financial statements.

Trustees
The trustees who served the charity during the period were as follows:

Mrs Mireille Lyons

Rabbi Anthony Joel Jaffe

Rabbi David Jaffe

Mr Philip Pink

Mr Timothy Dempsey

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated 24 September 2008 as amended by special resolution registered at Companies House on 12 February 2012.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Appointment by Trustees

Organisational structure

Company limited by guarantee

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Trustees' Report

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Summary of the Objects of the Charity as set out in the governing document

Object 1
To promote, for the benefit of the inhabitants of Greater Manchester and the surrounding area the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

Object 2
To promote general charitable purposes for the benefit of the community of Greater Manchester and the surrounding area, and to provide relief from financial hardship and social and/or economic disadvantage and to advance the education of its residents of all ages and in particular to provide opportunities for the aforementioned residents to participate fully in the life of the their community in ways which address and alleviate social and economic disadvantage.

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Trustees' Report

Objectives, strategies and activities

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

The Friendship Circle provides recreational programmes and activities for people who are isolated from the community due to their infirmity and disablement. We work closely with the residential care organisations in the Greater Manchester area to fill any gaps they may have from a social and cultural perspective, as well as supporting families in the community.

Our portfolio of 10 programmes includes community meals, parties, social days and nights out, trips to theme parks, bowling and so on. We also have a wide of clubs such as singing, dance, art, discussion groups where members gain confidence, learn new skills as well as make new friends and have fun. We are continually diversifying these clubs to suit different tastes and interests.

Our buddy programme that matches our users to community volunteers is continuing to grow and for our users who may not be comfortable in a group setting this is a lifeline. The boy's teen club is thriving and we are set to introduce a similar club for girls.

As a charity, we continue to be far reaching in our mission and as well as seeking to better assimilate people with learning disabilities into the community we are also striving to build a more accepting and inclusive community. Our disability education in schools programme is key to this which aims to quash negative perceptions and fears surrounding disability among school children.

Next year we plan to launch our employment programme which will help facilitate training, volunteering and employment opportunities for our members, the majority of whom are not currently in employment.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity

The Covid Pandemic presented significant operational and financial challenges for the charity but despite spending a significant period of the year in lockdown we adapted quickly to make the most of the unprecedented time and continued to demonstrate relevance influence and value.

During this period the charity has seen a marked growth in new members and demand for our services has been greater than ever before. Participation levels at our activities are at an all-time high. Face to face activities have operated in conjunction with zoom activities and the charity has worked hard to encourage its members to re-engage with the outside world whilst ensuring the Covid risk is minimised.

Financially, it has been a balancing act in managing operational and programme costs with a reduction in donor income. In response to these challenges the charity launched a community wide crowd funding campaign. This was a huge success, having received overwhelming support from our loyal donors, volunteers and the wider community resulting in us building significant reserves for the year ahead.

A proportion of these reserves will be ring-fenced for a move in premises as our current premises are no longer fit for purpose due to the growing needs of the charity.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

Policy on reserves

Historically our aim has always been to hold 3 months reserves in our general funds to cover at least three months expenditure, but we are now looking to build those reserves to 6 months due to the erratic economic climate. This will provide the level of confidence we need to ensure that we are able to continue with the provision of our regular weekly programmes and cover our staffing and volunteer expenses and office costs. It will also allow for the growth of the charity.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Friendship Circle (UK) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

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

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

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Trustees' Report

Reappointment of independent examiner

Gordon Levy, Chartered Accountant has been re-appointed as independent examiner for the ensuing year.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 23/9/2022 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
Mrs Mireille Lyons
Company Secretary and Trustee

.....
Mr Philip Pink
Trustee

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Friendship Circle (UK)

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021 which are set out on pages 8 to 18 .

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ICAEW.
Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report
My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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 matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Gordon Levy
.....

Gordon Levy BA, FCA
Chartered Accountant
ICAEW
Gordon Levy Limited
Suite 5, 4th Floor
3 Universal Square
Devonshire Street North
Manchester, M12 6JH

Date: 23 September 2022

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2021 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2021 £
Income and Endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	3	487,590	487,590
Investment income	4	105	105
Other income		5,245	5,245
Total Income		492,940	492,940
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	5	(294,665)	(294,665)
Total Expenditure		(294,665)	(294,665)
Net income		198,275	198,275
Net movement in funds		198,275	198,275
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		116,127	116,127
Total funds carried forward	11	314,402	314,402

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2020 £
Income and Endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	3	291,044	291,044
Investment income	4	21	21
Other income		275	275
Total Income		291,340	291,340
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	5	(230,972)	(230,972)
Total Expenditure		(230,972)	(230,972)
Net income		60,368	60,368
Net movement in funds		60,368	60,368
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		55,759	55,759
Total funds carried forward	11	116,127	116,127

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

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2021 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

The funds breakdown for 2020 is shown in note 11.

The Friendship Circle (UK)

(Registration number: 06706212)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		359,681	172,716
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	-	(6,589)
Total assets less current liabilities		359,681	166,127
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	9	(45,279)	(50,000)
Net assets		314,402	116,127
Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		314,402	116,127
Total funds	11	314,402	116,127

For the financial year ending 31 December 2021 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

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

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

The financial statements on pages 8 to 18 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 23/9/2022 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Mrs Mireille Lyons
Company Secretary and Trustee

.....
Mr Philip Pink
Trustee

1 Charity status

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

2 Accounting policies

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

Statement of compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation
The Friendship Circle (UK) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement
The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

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

Donations and legacies

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

Grants receivable

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

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure

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

Charitable activities

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

Governance costs

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

Government grants

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Taxation

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

Cash and cash equivalents

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

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Fund structure

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

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.
Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Debt instruments

Debt instruments which meet the following conditions are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method:

(a) The contractual return to the holder is (i) a fixed amount; (ii) a positive fixed rate or a positive variable rate; or (iii) a combination of a positive or a negative fixed rate and a positive variable rate.

(b) The contract may provide for repayments of the principal or the return to the holder (but not both) to be linked to a single relevant observable index of general price inflation of the currency in which the debt instrument is denominated, provided such links are not leveraged.

(c) The contract may provide for a determinable variation of the return to the holder during the life of the instrument, provided that (i) the new rate satisfies condition (a) and the variation is not contingent on future events other than (1) a change of a contractual variable rate; (2) to protect the holder against credit deterioration of the issuer; (3) changes in levies applied by a central bank or arising from changes in relevant taxation or law; or (ii) the new rate is a market rate of interest and satisfies condition (a).

(d) There is no contractual provision that could, by its terms, result in the holder losing the principal amount or any interest attributable to the current period or prior periods.

(e) Contractual provisions that permit the issuer to prepay a debt instrument or permit the holder to put it back to the issuer before maturity are not contingent on future events, other than to protect the holder against the credit deterioration of the issuer or a change in control of the issuer, or to protect the holder or issuer against changes in levies applied by a central bank or arising from changes in relevant taxation or law.

(f) Contractual provisions may permit the extension of the term of the debt instrument, provided that the return to the holder and any other contractual provisions applicable during the extended term satisfy the conditions of paragraphs (a) to (c).

Debt instruments that are classified as payable or receivable within one year on initial recognition and which meet the above conditions are measured at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received, net of impairment.

With the exception of some hedging instruments, other debt instruments not meeting these conditions are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Commitments to make and receive loans which meet the conditions mentioned above are measured at cost (which may be nil) less impairment.

Investments

Investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary or preference shares (where shares are publicly traded or their fair value is reliably measurable) are measured at fair value through profit or loss. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, investments are measured at cost less impairment.

Investments in subsidiaries and associates are measured at cost less impairment. For investments in subsidiaries acquired for consideration including the issue of shares qualifying for merger relief, cost is measured by reference to the nominal value of the shares issued plus fair value of other consideration. Any premium is ignored.

Derivative financial instruments

The charity uses derivative financial instruments to reduce exposure to foreign exchange risk and interest rate movements. The charity does not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes.

Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value at the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently remeasured to their fair value at each reporting date. The resulting gain or loss is recognised in statement of financial activities immediately unless the derivative is designated and effective as a hedging instrument, in which event the timing of the recognition in statement of financial activities depends on the nature of the hedge relationship.

Fair value measurement

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price for an identical asset in an active market. When quoted prices are unavailable, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value as long as there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or a significant lapse of time since the transaction took place. If the market is not active and recent transactions of an identical asset on their own are not a good estimate of fair value, the fair value is estimated by using a valuation technique.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds		
	General	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£
Donations and legacies;			
Donations	393,240	393,240	203,375
Gift aid reclaimed	62,879	62,879	1,648
Grants, including capital grants;			
Government grants	7,651	7,651	32,718
Grants from other charities	23,820	23,820	53,303
	487,590	487,590	291,044

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds		
	General	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Interest receivable on bank deposits	105	105	21

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Note	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Activities undertaken directly		294,665	294,665	230,972

	Activity undertaken directly £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Wages & salaries	168,482	168,482	122,536
Rent & rates	7,800	7,800	7,693
Utilities	3,375	3,375	-
Office expenses	2,288	2,288	6,675
Insurance	1,480	1,480	1,470
Printing, postage & delivery	2,718	2,718	2,724
Dues & subscriptions	-	-	782
Fundraising & marketing	37,107	37,107	11,025
Programme expenses	48,772	48,772	36,752
Professional fees & consultancy	20,607	20,607	39,970
Bank charges	1,433	1,433	1,345
Loan interest	603	603	-
	294,665	294,665	230,972

Included in Wages & salaries are wages and salaries relating to Programme expenses.

6 Trustees remuneration and expenses

During the year the charity made the following transactions with trustees:

Mrs Mireille Lyons
Mrs Mireille Lyons received remuneration of £29,000 (2020: £24,860) during the year.

Mrs Lyons received the above mentioned remuneration in her capacity as fund raising and operations director of the charity.

The remuneration was paid under the power in the Charities Act 2011.

7 Staff costs

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2021 No	2020 No
Total employees	7	7

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

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Other creditors	-	6,487
Accruals	-	102
	-	6,589

9 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Other loans	45,279	50,000

10 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £1,393 (2020 - £6,398).

11 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2021 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 December 2021 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	(116,127)	(492,940)	294,665	(314,402)

	Balance at 1 January 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 December 2020 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	(55,759)	(291,340)	230,972	(116,127)

12 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Current assets	359,681	359,681
Creditors over 1 year	(45,279)	(45,279)
Total net assets	314,402	314,402

13 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 January 2021 £	Cash flow £	At 31 December 2021 £
Cash at bank and in hand	172,716	186,965	359,681
Net debt	172,716	186,965	359,681

THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE (UK)

England & Wales - Charity number 1135828

Accounts

Company registration number: 06706212

Charity registration number: 1135828

The Friendship Circle (UK)

(A company limited by guarantee)

Annual Report and Financial Statements

for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Gordon Levy BA, FCA
Chartered Accountant
Gordon Levy Limited
Arthur House
Chorlton Street
Manchester
M1 3FH

The Friendship Circle (UK)

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The Friendship Circle (UK)

Reference and Administrative Details

Trustees	Rabbi Anthony Joel Jaffe Rabbi David Jaffe Mr Philip Pink Mr Timothy Dempsey (appointed 15 June 2020)
Secretary	Mrs Mireille Lyons
Principal Office	49 Singleton Road Manchester M7 4NA
Company Registration Number	06706212
Charity Registration Number	1135828
Bankers	Royal Bank of Scotland ALTRINCHAM Bolton Customer Service Centre PO Box 2027 Parklands De Havilland Way Horwich BL6 4YU
Independent Examiner	Gordon Levy BA, FCA Chartered Accountant Gordon Levy Limited Arthur House Chorlton Street Manchester M1 3FH

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Trustees' Report

The trustees, who are directors for the purposes of company law, present the annual report together with the financial statements of the charitable company for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Trustees

Rabbi Anthony Joel Jaffe

Rabbi David Jaffe

Mr Philip Pink

Mr Timothy Dempsey (appointed 15 June 2020)

Structure, governance and management

Nature of governing document

Governing document: Memorandum and Articles of Association incorporated 24 September 2008 as amended by special resolution registered at Companies House on 12 February 2012.

Recruitment and appointment of trustees

Appointment by Trustees

Organisational structure

Company limited by guarantee

Objectives and activities

Objects and aims

Summary of the Objects of the Charity as set out in the governing document

Object I
To promote, for the benefit of the inhabitants of Greater Manchester and the surrounding area the provision of facilities for recreation or other leisure time occupation of individuals who have need of such facilities by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disablement, financial hardship or social and economic circumstances or for the public at large in the interests of social welfare and with the object of improving the condition of life of the said inhabitants.

Object 2
To promote general charitable purposes for the benefit of the community of Greater Manchester and the surrounding area, and to provide relief from financial hardship and social and/or economic disadvantage and to advance the education of its residents of all ages and in particular to provide opportunities for the aforementioned residents to participate fully in the life of the their community in ways which address and alleviate social and economic disadvantage.

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Trustees' Report

Objectives, strategies and activities

Summary of the main activities in relation to these objects

The Friendship Circle provides recreational programmes and activities for people who are isolated from the community due to their infirmity and disablement. We work closely with the residential care organisations in the Greater Manchester area to fill any gaps they may have from a social and cultural perspective, as well as supporting families in the community.
Our portfolio of 10 programmes include community meals, parties, social days and nights out, trips to theme parks, bowling and so on. We also have a wide of clubs such as singing, dance, art, discussion groups where members gain confidence, learn new skills as well as make new friends and have fun. We are continually diversifying these clubs to suit different tastes and interests.
Our buddy programme that matches our users to community volunteers is continuing to grow and for our users who may not be comfortable in a group setting this is a lifeline. We have also introduced a teen club which is growing in popularity.
As a charity, we continue to be far reaching in our mission and as well as seeking to better assimilate people with learning disabilities into the community we are also striving to build a more accepting and inclusive community. Our disability education in schools programme is key to this which aims to quash negative perceptions and fears surrounding disability among school children.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity

The Covid Pandemic presented significant operational and financial challenges for the charity but despite spending a significant period of the year in lockdown we adapted quickly to make the most of the unprecedented time and continued to demonstrate relevance influence and value.
Although the demand for our services was greater than ever before, reduced operational and programme costs and increased efficiencies helped us hold onto our cash reserves.
During this period, we also received overwhelming support from our loyal donors, our members and volunteers and this coupled with a number of successful grant applications for emergency funding meant we ended the year in a strong position
Operationally, having been forced to close our face-to-face programmes, we immediately launched our ground-breaking 'Stay-Connected Campaign' to maintain vital support for our members. Daily zoom activities gave structure to never ending days and our volunteer telephone buddy system ensured members were contacted on a regular basis and supported both physically and emotionally.

Despite the challenges of Covid The Friendship Circle community is stronger than ever before and we have received local and national recognition for our response.

Public benefit

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales.

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Trustees' Report

Policy on reserves

We aim ideally to hold in reserve our general funds to cover six months expenditure. The reason for this is that in the current economic climate fundraising success can be erratic and by having this level of funds in the bank we can ensure that we are able to continue with the provision of our regular weekly programmes and cover our staffing and volunteer expenses and office costs.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees (who are also the directors of The Friendship Circle (UK) for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations.

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

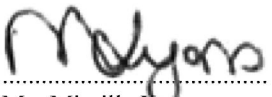
- select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed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

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

Reappointment of independent examiner

Gordon Levy, Chartered Accountant has been re-appointed as independent examiner for the ensuing year.

The annual report was approved by the trustees of the charity on 31 October 2021 and signed on its behalf by:



.....

Mrs Mireille Lyons
Company Secretary

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of The Friendship Circle (UK)

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2020 which are set out on pages 6 to 15 .

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner
The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of ICAEW.
Having satisfied myself that the charity is not subject to audit under company law and is eligible for independent examination, it is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report
My examination was carried out in accordance with the 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 you as 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.

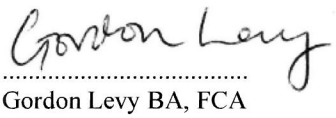
Independent examiner's statement
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 386 of the Companies Act 2006; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records, comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the Companies Act 2006 and with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



.....
Gordon Levy BA, FCA
Chartered Accountant
ICAEW
Gordon Levy Limited
Arthur House
Chorlton Street
Manchester
M1 3FH

31 October 2021

The Friendship Circle (UK)

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2020 (Including Income and Expenditure Account and Statement of Total Recognised Gains and Losses)

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2020 £
Income and Endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	3	291,044	291,044
Investment income	4	21	21
Other income		275	275
Total Income		291,340	291,340
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	5	(230,972)	(230,972)
Total Expenditure		(230,972)	(230,972)
Net income		60,368	60,368
Net movement in funds		60,368	60,368
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		55,759	55,759
Total funds carried forward	11	116,127	116,127

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Total 2019 £
Income and Endowments from:			
Donations and legacies	3	232,579	232,579
Investment income	4	15	15
Total Income		232,594	232,594
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	5	(229,551)	(229,551)
Total Expenditure		(229,551)	(229,551)
Net income		3,043	3,043
Net movement in funds		3,043	3,043
Reconciliation of funds			
Total funds brought forward		52,716	52,716
Total funds carried forward	11	55,759	55,759

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

The funds breakdown for 2019 is shown in note 11.

The Friendship Circle (UK)

(Registration number: 06706212)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2020

	Note	2020 £	2019 £
Current assets			
Cash at bank and in hand		172,716	55,759
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	8	(6,589)	-
Total assets less current liabilities		166,127	55,759
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	9	(50,000)	-
Net assets		116,127	55,759
Funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		116,127	55,759
Total funds	11	116,127	55,759

For the financial year ending 31 December 2020 the charity was entitled to exemption from audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Directors' responsibilities:

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

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

The financial statements on pages 6 to 15 were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on 31 October 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

.....
Rabbi David Jaffe
Trustee

1 Charity status

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

2 Accounting policies

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

Statement of compliance
The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2015) - (Charities SORP (FRS 102)), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act 2006.

Basis of preparation
The Friendship Circle (UK) meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Going concern
The trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern nor any significant areas of uncertainty that affect the carrying value of assets held by the charity.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement
The charity opted to early adopt Bulletin 1 published on 2 February 2016 and have therefore not included a cash flow statement in these financial statements.

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

Donations and legacies

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

Grants receivable

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

Investment income

Dividends are recognised once the dividend has been declared and notification has been received of the dividend due.

Expenditure

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

Charitable activities

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

Government grants

Government grants are recognised based on the accrual model and are measured at the fair value of the asset received or receivable. Grants are classified as relating either to revenue or to assets. Grants relating to revenue are recognised in income over the period in which the related costs are recognised. Grants relating to assets are recognised over the expected useful life of the asset. Where part of a grant relating to an asset is deferred, it is recognised as deferred income.

Taxation

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

Cash and cash equivalents

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

Borrowings
Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the Statement of Financial Activities over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the charity has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

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

Financial instruments

Classification

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the charity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.
Financial liabilities and equity instruments are classified according to the substance of the contractual arrangements entered into. An equity instrument is any contract that evidences a residual interest in the assets of the charity after deducting all of its liabilities.

Recognition and measurement

All financial assets and liabilities are initially measured at transaction price (including transaction costs), except for those financial assets classified as at fair value through profit or loss, which are initially measured at fair value (which is normally the transaction price excluding transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. If an arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the financial asset or financial liability is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are only offset in the statement of financial position when, and only when there exists a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and the charity intends either to settle on a net basis, or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Financial assets are derecognised when and only when a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are settled, b) the charity transfers to another party substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset, or c) the charity, despite having retained some, but not all, significant risks and rewards of ownership, has transferred control of the asset to another party.

Financial liabilities are derecognised only when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires.

Debt instruments

Debt instruments which meet the following conditions are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method:

(a) The contractual return to the holder is (i) a fixed amount; (ii) a positive fixed rate or a positive variable rate; or (iii) a combination of a positive or a negative fixed rate and a positive variable rate.

(b) The contract may provide for repayments of the principal or the return to the holder (but not both) to be linked to a single relevant observable index of general price inflation of the currency in which the debt instrument is denominated, provided such links are not leveraged.

(c) The contract may provide for a determinable variation of the return to the holder during the life of the instrument, provided that (i) the new rate satisfies condition (a) and the variation is not contingent on future events other than (1) a change of a contractual variable rate; (2) to protect the holder against credit deterioration of the issuer; (3) changes in levies applied by a central bank or arising from changes in relevant taxation or law; or (ii) the new rate is a market rate of interest and satisfies condition (a).

(d) There is no contractual provision that could, by its terms, result in the holder losing the principal amount or any interest attributable to the current period or prior periods.

(e) Contractual provisions that permit the issuer to prepay a debt instrument or permit the holder to put it back to the issuer before maturity are not contingent on future events, other than to protect the holder against the credit deterioration of the issuer or a change in control of the issuer, or to protect the holder or issuer against changes in levies applied by a central bank or arising from changes in relevant taxation or law.

(f) Contractual provisions may permit the extension of the term of the debt instrument, provided that the return to the holder and any other contractual provisions applicable during the extended term satisfy the conditions of paragraphs (a) to (c).

Debt instruments that are classified as payable or receivable within one year on initial recognition and which meet the above conditions are measured at the undiscounted amount of the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received, net of impairment.

With the exception of some hedging instruments, other debt instruments not meeting these conditions are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Commitments to make and receive loans which meet the conditions mentioned above are measured at cost (which may be nil) less impairment.

Investments

Investments in non-convertible preference shares and non-puttable ordinary or preference shares (where shares are publicly traded or their fair value is reliably measurable) are measured at fair value through profit or loss. Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, investments are measured at cost less impairment.

Investments in subsidiaries and associates are measured at cost less impairment. For investments in subsidiaries acquired for consideration including the issue of shares qualifying for merger relief, cost is measured by reference to the nominal value of the shares issued plus fair value of other consideration. Any premium is ignored.

Derivative financial instruments

The charity uses derivative financial instruments to reduce exposure to foreign exchange risk and interest rate movements. The charity does not hold or issue derivative financial instruments for speculative purposes.

Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value at the date a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently remeasured to their fair value at each reporting date. The resulting gain or loss is recognised in statement of financial activities immediately unless the derivative is designated and effective as a hedging instrument, in which event the timing of the recognition in statement of financial activities depends on the nature of the hedge relationship.

Fair value measurement

The best evidence of fair value is a quoted price for an identical asset in an active market. When quoted prices are unavailable, the price of a recent transaction for an identical asset provides evidence of fair value as long as there has not been a significant change in economic circumstances or a significant lapse of time since the transaction took place. If the market is not active and recent transactions of an identical asset on their own are not a good estimate of fair value, the fair value is estimated by using a valuation technique.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds		
	General	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£
Donations and legacies;			
Donations	203,375	203,375	232,579
Gift aid reclaimed	1,648	1,648	-
Grants, including capital grants;			
Government grants	32,718	32,718	-
Grants from other charities	53,303	53,303	-
	291,044	291,044	232,579

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds		
	General	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£
Interest receivable and similar income;			
Interest receivable on bank deposits	21	21	15

5 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Activity undertaken directly £	Total 2020 £	Total 2019 £
Wages & salaries	122,536	122,536	154,234
Rent & rates	7,693	7,693	7,083
Office expenses	6,675	6,675	2,654
Insurance	1,470	1,470	1,809
Printing, postage & delivery	2,724	2,724	3,370
Dues & subscriptions	782	782	1,604
Fundraising & administration	8,735	8,735	10,062
Advertising & marketing	2,290	2,290	2,604
Programme expenses	36,752	36,752	41,921
Professional fees & consultancy	39,970	39,970	3,260
Bank charges	1,345	1,345	950
	230,972	230,972	229,551

6 Trustees remuneration and expenses

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

7 Staff costs

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year expressed as full time equivalents was as follows:

	2020 No	2019 No
Total employees	7	7

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

8 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2020 £
Other creditors	6,487
Accruals	102
	6,589

9 Creditors: amounts falling due after one year

	2020 £
Other loans	50,000

10 Pension and other schemes

Defined contribution pension scheme

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The pension cost charge for the year represents contributions payable by the charity to the scheme and amounted to £Nil (2019 - £Nil).

11 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2020 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 December 2020 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	(55,759)	(291,340)	230,972	(116,127)

	Balance at 1 January 2019 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Balance at 31 December 2019 £
Unrestricted funds				
General	(52,716)	(232,594)	229,551	(55,759)

12 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £
Current assets	172,716	172,716
Current liabilities	(6,589)	(6,589)
Creditors over 1 year	(50,000)	(50,000)
Total net assets	116,127	116,127

13 Analysis of net funds

	At 1 January 2020 £	Cash flow £	At 31 December 2020 £
Cash at bank and in hand	55,759	116,957	172,716
Net debt	55,759	116,957	172,716