

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

England & Wales · Charity number 1135949

Details

Status Registered

Legal form Charitable company

Company number [06944317](#)

Registered 2010-05-13

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Blackburn Youth Zone
Jubilee Street
Blackburn
BB1 1EP

Phone 01254292000

Email enquiries@blackburnyz.org

Website www.blackburnyz.org

Activities

Objects: THE CHARITY'S OBJECTS ARE TO HELP AND EDUCATE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE RESIDENT IN THE NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND THROUGH THEIR LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES BY PROMOTING THEIR FULL PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL POTENTIAL IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY GROW TO FULL MATURITY AS INDIVIDUALS AND MEMBERS OF SOCIETY AND THAT THEIR CONDITIONS OF LIFE MAY IMPROVE

Activities: The Youth Zone's principle activity is the provision of a purpose built, world class 21st century facility for sport and recreation in Blackburn for young people aged 8-18 years old. The Youth Zone delivers a range of high quality universal youth work services, seven days a week, which will be accessed voluntarily by young people on a membership basis.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Disability, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Amateur Sport, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Children/young People, People With Disabilities

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** NORTH WEST OF ENGLAND
- Blackburn With Darwen

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£5,282,341	£2,846,372	£7,957,558	84
2024-03-31	£2,690,020	£2,383,485	£5,521,589	82
2023-03-31	£1,754,563	£1,886,239	£5,215,054	74
2022-03-31	£1,803,824	£1,766,560	£5,346,730	64
2021-03-31	£1,745,436	£1,339,504	£5,309,466	52

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Wayne Anthony Wild	Chair	2022-03-10
ANDREW HAROLD GRAHAM		
Adam Salim Sidat		2023-09-26
Emma Louise Swan		2022-03-10
Jack Harvey Lamb		2024-05-23
Julia Bates		2024-05-23
Kathryn Debra Robinson		2022-03-10
Martin Anthony Kelly		2025-05-15
Michelle Dixon		2025-09-25
Phillip Skupski		2023-11-29
Rt Hon John Whitaker Straw		2015-05-14

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

England & Wales - Charity number 1135949

Accounts

Company registration number 06944317 (England and Wales)

Charity registration number 1135949 (England and Wales)

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE
ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	W A Wild (Chairman) RT Hon J W Straw A H Graham K D Robinson E L Swan A S Sidat P Skupski J Bates J H Lamb M A Kelly M Dixon	(Appointed 23 May 2024) (Appointed 23 May 2024) (Appointed 15 May 2025) (Appointed 25 September 2025)
Senior management	Leon Crosby	Chief Executive Officer
Charity number (England and Wales)	1135949	
Company number	06944317	
Registered office	Jubilee Street Blackburn Lancashire BB1 1EP	
Auditor	DonnellyBentley Ltd Hazlemere 70 Chorley New Road Bolton Lancashire BL1 4BY	
Bankers	HSBC Bank plc 60 Church Street Blackburn Lancashire BB1 5AS	

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

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BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

CEO'S STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

This year marks a powerful milestone in our journey. For almost 13 years, Blackburn and Darwen Youth Zone has stood strong, a safe space and a second home for thousands of young people. Today, we're proud to be in the healthiest position since opening our doors and even prouder to have opened **The Fusebox**, the latest chapter in our story.

The Youth Zone has always been more than just a building. It's a movement. A movement rooted in the belief that every young person deserves opportunities, connection, and hope. And as we look to the future, we do so with the same conviction: to serve not just today's generation, but the next 50 years of young people too.

The Fusebox embodies that promise. Once a powerhouse that lit up Blackburn with electricity in the 1800s, the space has been reborn as a learning and enrichment centre that sparks possibilities for young people today. Open seven days a week, all year round, it offers a bespoke employability hub, a Maker Zone for digital creation, a textiles and arts room, training spaces featuring state-of-the-art digital technology, and a fully restored music and production studio. Since opening in April, young people have filled the building with energy, creativity, and ambition, giving us record-breaking attendance month after month. Proof that when we invest in their futures, they show up and challenge the status quo 'young people of today remain in their bedroom, victim to the phone'.

We're deeply grateful to the DCMS Youth Investment Fund and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, whose generosity of over £3m helped turn our dream into reality.

Beyond the building, our work is reaching further than ever before. The launch of our Youth Work Bus, a reimagined mobile youth club, with the primary aim of breaking down barriers for young people who can't always make it to the Youth Zone. Each week, over 100 young people step aboard, finding friendship, support, and opportunity right on their doorstep. In bright orange, the bus is more than transport, it's a beacon of community spirit and hope. Our heartfelt thanks go to the WM & BW Lloyd Charity Trust for making this possible.

None of this would happen without our incredible patrons. Despite the economic challenges businesses face, 78 local companies have stayed committed to our mission, with more joining us this year. In times when charitable giving could so easily be cut, their unwavering support shows the belief they have in what we do: changing lives, one young person at a time.

Working hand in hand with BwD Council, we've also strengthened our stewardship through the new Business Network scheme (formerly The HIVE). Together, we're connecting businesses, celebrating local success, and ensuring opportunities are shared across our community. We're proud to call BwD Council a true ally in this journey.

And we're not stopping here. While it would be easy to rest after such a year of growth, we know young people need us more than ever. That's why, in partnership with BwD Council, we're creating a new home in Darwen. Knott Street Youth Club is undergoing a £4m redevelopment to match the aspiration, energy, and world-class facilities of Blackburn Youth Zone. When it opens in January 2026, young people in Darwen will have a space built for them, with them, and about them.

Finally, on a personal note, I want to pay tribute to Hannah Allen, who led the Youth Zone with passion and determination for nearly a decade. Being a CEO in the third sector is no small task. You carry the weight of delivering business goals while staying true to a noble cause. Every day, you know that over 5,000 young people and more than 90 staff are relying on you. That responsibility is both humbling and relentless.

Hannah rose to that challenge time and again. She not only kept the organisation strong through some of its most testing times, she leaves it in the best place it has ever been. And that, ultimately, is the mark of a true leader: to leave behind an organisation stronger than you found it.

Finally and most importantly, I also want to extend my deepest thanks to the incredible team and trustees at Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone. Too often, they are the unsung heroes and the ones who pour in the late nights, the energy, the creativity, and yes, sometimes the sacrifices, to make sure young people have the opportunities they deserve. Their blood, sweat and tears are the heartbeat of this flagship charity, and I could not be prouder to stand alongside them as we continue building a brighter future for our young people.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

CEO'S STATEMENT (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025



Leon Crosby
Chief Executive Officer

Date: 13/11/25

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "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)".

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

W A Wild (Chairman)

RT Hon J W Straw

A H Graham

K D Robinson

E L Swan

A S Sidat

P Skupski

J Bates

(Appointed 23 May 2024)

J H Lamb

(Appointed 23 May 2024)

M J Saxton

(Resigned 1 April 2025)

P M Mellor

(Resigned 1 April 2025)

J Carson

(Resigned 24 May 2024)

M A Kelly

(Appointed 15 May 2025)

D Park

(Resigned 1 April 2025)

M Dixon

(Appointed 25 September 2025)

Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone Objectives

Blackburn Youth Zone's objectives are to help educate children and young people resident in the North West of England through their leisure time activities. Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone does this by promoting their physical, mental and spiritual potential so that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society.

The Trustees have given due consideration to the Charity Commission published guidance on the operation of the public benefit requirement and are satisfied that this requirement is met by carrying out the activities described in this report.

Strategic Parameters

In January 2023, we commenced a root and branch review of our organisation in preparation for the next decade. We consulted widely with young people, our people, parents, patrons, partners and members of our communities. Together, we agreed on the following strategic parameters:

Our Purpose: To provide a safe environment for all young people to thrive and reach their full potential.

Our Vision: For all young people to be safe, healthy and happy.

Our Priorities

One: Place young people at the heart of our delivery & decision-making

Two: Extending our reach and influence into the wider community

Three: Investing in the Workforce of the Future

Four: Strengthening Partnerships for Enhanced Services

Five: Sustainability and Long-Term Impact

Six: Revitalising Spaces and Services

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Our Values

Our Values, developed alongside our young people and team members in 2017, still guide how we support each other, our wider community, partners and other stakeholders. These we express as our H.E.A.R.T. Values.

Honesty is the best policy

Excellence is learned through experience

Accountability is doing whatever is right

Respect should be universal

Teamwork makes the dream work

These values encapsulate the ethos of Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone, reflecting not only the aspirations of our organisation but also the enduring legacy of those who have contributed to our journey.

Our Strategic Pillars

Our work is built on three strategic pillars, which have guided our hand over the last decade. They have enabled us to focus on the central aspects of our Movement that do not vary, irrespective of the programme, project or initiative. These are:

- Health & well-being
- Social integration
- Aspirations, skills and employability

Our Delivery Model

Our brand of youth work is predicated on personal development through informal education. Even in a play environment, we believe that every young person can learn from their experiences and aim to provide a surplus of opportunities for young people.

Over the past year we have developed the seven youth work strands which drive our service offer in line with our engagement model of Try, Train, Team, and Teach. The “Try, Train, Team, Teach” approach allows our young people to experience many new activities for the first time. For those activities that prove popular, we codesign a training programme alongside young peoples’ aspirations and help them develop hard (technical) and soft skills (life skills.)

If there is sufficient demand and ambition, we then progress to a formal Team approach through a club, team or initiative, which allows our young people to develop their social, emotional and technical life skills. A small proportion take the activity to the next level and seek a qualification in the discipline. This approach accelerates learning and provides opportunities for essential life skills to form part of a young person’s unconscious competence.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Our Year in Numbers

Below is a summary of our delivery outputs. These are contextualised in the section 'Delivering our Services'.

Data Type	Volume	Explanation
Members	5,614	This comprises 2,203 Minis & Juniors (5-7 & 8-12) and 3,411 Yc (13-18.) Out of the 5,614 members, 4,710 (83%) are considered Active (3 or more visits within 90 days) and 4,072 (72%) in meaningful engagements.
Young Leaders	24	Young people 13-18 who have completed the Young Leader programme across both our Blackburn and Darwen sites.
Total number of Young Leader hours	476	Volunteer hours in youth work and/or community based services.
All volunteer hours	4,196	Comprising of all Volunteering Streams (Corporate, Volunteer, Work Placement, and Young Leaders)
Qualifications AQA, DofE and Sport Level 1	146	These are made up from Arts Awards.
Average hours of service per week	102	Representing delivery hours across our two sites in the towns Blackburn (53) and Darwen (49).
Youth consultation	7,840	This represents the number of engagements by young people through questionnaires, consultations and focus groups. It also includes decision-making sessions delivered through our Youth Voice groups.
Young people trying something new	3,616	This includes activities from every youth work strand and includes 64% of our members.
Informal education sessions	3,624	These are engagements of young people in topic-based sessions across all provisions. These are planned on a needs/ask basis.
Young volunteers	88	The young people 11-18, who gave their time this year to community projects and Youth Zone events.
Average attendance per week	1,304	Lower due to building capacity during renovations at BYZ. This includes sessions in Blackburn and Darwen, onsite and detached outreach.
Young people attending ten or more sessions during the year	1,225	The number of young people who visited us on ten separate occasions or more.
Members who identify as Girl or Woman	1,720	31% of membership - lower due to report filter changing
Members who identify as Boy or Man	2,620	46% of membership
Members who self identify/other and prefer not to say	21	1% of membership
Members with a gender but no gender identity	1,253	22% of membership - Due to report filter change, these need to be changed manually or when members renew (this is currently being worked on and will catch up when renewals are made).
Ethnic minorities	2,984	53% - reflective of the borough demographic
Number of visits this year	66,146	Across both sites - lower due to building
New members 2024/25	1,494	Across both sites
Members with a disability or special educational need	924	Representing 19% of our membership
Members receiving free school meals	2,722	48% of membership
Members from top 10% of the most deprived wards in England	2,223	39% of membership
Members living in the top 5 deprived borough wards	2,863	51% of membership

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Delivering Our Services - Activities, Programmes & Initiatives

Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone (the brand identity used for the registered charity 1135949 Blackburn Youth Zone) now operates from two sites and across the borough in detached and outreach settings. The largest of these two venues is on Jubilee Street, Blackburn, which houses, across three floors, a wide range of youth facilities. The second, in the town of Darwen, is located in a temporary space which houses, across two floors, a range of youth programming spaces.

Irrespective of the location from which our services operate, we provide high-quality youth facilities across our 7 Youth Work Strands. These include:

- Sports and Physical Activity (Next Level, TaAF, 6 Golden Sports)
- The Arts (MakerZone, Performance, Making, Music)
- Diversity (Diversity Zone- SEND, Allsorts- LGBTQ+ supports)
- Aspirations, Skills and Employability (Youth Hub; World of Work)
- Emotional Health & Wellbeing (Wellness Zone and Targeted Twilight)
- Cyber & Tech (Cyber Zone-AI, Cyber, Tech Zone-ESports)
- Outreach (Street Zone, Community Zone, Enrichment Zone)

Access to our venues and services is provided free of charge. Every young person and member of our youth work teams is provided with a free, hot, nutritious meal at every visit. This includes detached and outreach, where nutritious snacks are distributed alongside healthy drink options (Hot drinks in winter).

Our three pillars of social integration, health and wellbeing and aspirations, skills and employability permeate our programmes and activities. We are heavily influenced by the national levelling up agenda and are committed to providing our young people with every opportunity afforded to their more affluent peers across the UK, proving that postcode doesn't determine success.

This year, we have seen even more young people accessing our services, projects and programmes and now have a record number of 5,614 members. We welcome an average of 1,304 young people per week, 52 weeks a year, across our two sites and detached and outreach provisions.

Youth Zones across the UK historically focus their youth services around a universal offer. We are similar in this regard, but we also provide targeted services for young people who require an elevated level of support, particularly around emotional health and wellbeing issues.

Our Seven Youth Work Strands are a useful reference to view both our universal, outreach and targeted offers over the last year. Below is a snapshot of the strands and activities offered within them.

Sports and Physical Activity

We are committed to delivering a vibrant sports and physical activity offer directed and supported by our young people. We are keen for young people to have the opportunity to try as many activities as possible, and this is central to our Try, Train, Team, Teach methodology. Our sports programme, titled "Next Level Sports", funded through the generosity of Gordon Taylor, enables young people to live healthier, more prosperous lives through the power of sports and physical activity and for them to strive for their "Next Level." The three primary aims have been core to our sports offer this year:

- Introducing more sports opportunities (climbing wall, dodgeball, etc.)
- Increase Train and Team offers amongst Next Level Sports
- Increase Darwen Sports Offering

Young people have told us that football, boxing, cricket, badminton, gym, climbing, and basketball are their chosen sports (We term these 'Golden sports'). We have plans to develop an academy approach around these as we go forward while increasing targeted programming, making Next Level Sports accessible to all. As we continue to progress towards an academy, below is a summary of the progress we've made around sports and physical activity in general over the last 12 months.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Sports and Physical Activity (continued)

Activities Offered 2024-2025				
Climbing Wall	Badminton	Ice skating	Boxing	Dance
Volleyball	Cycling	Football	Rugby	Cricket
Mixed Martial Arts club	Dance Fitness	Open Gym/1:1 PT	Inter-Youth Zone Basketball	Bootcamps/ Assault Courses
Netball	Self-Defence	Glow in the Dark Dodgeball	Hockey	Tennis

Darwen Football Sessions: Utilising DACAs football pitch, we introduced Junior and Youth Football try and train sessions

Basketball Team Sessions: Over the past year we have seen an increased interest in Basketball across our Blackburn location, ultimately leading to the creation of a team, which competed against different youth zones across the country, even securing a few victories along the way.

Manchester United Tournament: OnSide hosted a football tournament at Manchester United where our Junior and Youth Football teams competed with Youth Zones across the country, with both teams securing first place in the tournament.

Quick Quote:

"We are really proud of what we can achieve through the power of sports at Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone. Among its many success stories is Aaron, a young boxer who, through the support and motivation from Youth Zone staff and coaches, has risen from novice to national and international champion and recently earning a spot on Team GB"

-Shaun Literland, Technique ABC

Partnerships:

In 2024, we had the ability to work with multiple partnership agencies, trusts, and foundations. These included:

Sports Legends: A pilot programme, funded by Hargreaves Foundation, where young people aged 13-18 who are excluded or at risk of exclusion, took part in learning life skills through sports. This pilot has been deemed successful, with young people leaving the programme with qualifications and progressing to positive destinations.

Blackburn Rovers: This partnership has led to youth training sessions for both genders for young people aged 13-18. The female team played in community football tournaments against professional community trusts and we aim to only increase this participation on both teams.

Blackburn Rovers Women's Team: Our Junior Girls Football team had the opportunity to walk out with The Blackburn Rovers Women's Team alongside serving as ball girls for the game.

Tauheedul Boys and Empire Fighting Chance: Boxing is extremely popular with our young people, and Empire Fighting Chance is a non-contact form of the sport that achieves the same results of self-discipline and hard work. Tauheedul Boys is a high-performing school, and we have worked closely with them to enable their young men to explore their feelings. This includes how they see themselves developing towards adulthood and plan to contribute positively to society.

Female Only Boxing: Through our partnership with Technique Boxing, we led a weekly session exclusively for girls aged 8-12. These sessions were extremely popular, promoting female empowerment across our boxing programmes.

Blackburn Hawks: A connection was created with a 4-week pilot programme to introduce Hockey to the Youth Zone and successfully created a partnership moving forward; this has led to one member being asked to train with the youth team at Blackburn Hawks.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Sports and Physical Activity (continued)

Case Study - Ayana

Ayana's first experience at the Youth Zone, she wouldn't leave her mother's side and lacked confidence. When touring she struck an interest in Netball, asking to join in on the session. In her first session, she was timid and didn't move much during the game. Over the next few weeks, staff worked with her to build her confidence up, even pairing her with an experienced young person on the Netball team. Through the programme, she made new friends, improved her confidence, and her hand-eye coordination, passing, catching, and shooting.

After accessing our 6 week Netball programme, she signed up for another 6-week programme learning rock climbing. Taking what she learned from Netball, she engaged in conversations with her peers, while challenging herself to learn new skills and push herself to do more and be more in her climbing journey. Since completing both programmes, she has continued to sign up for more sessions. She has changed from shy and fearful walking into sessions to now confident in trying new things.

"Her change in confidence and how she presents herself have been noticeable. I am very grateful to everyone at Blackburn and Darwen Youth Zone for supporting her." -Ayana's Mum

Attendance: Number of young people who attended sports	Engagements: Number of overall interactions
2,826	36,627

Engagements: Try	26,817
Engagements: Train	8,380
Engagements: Team	1,430

The Arts

Our Arts offer is represented across three distinctly different programmes. These are Performing Arts, Creative Arts and Digital Arts. Our young people are passionate about all genres of 'The Arts', and we intend to develop our programmes over the next period further to give this youth work theme greater prominence in our offer. Our Maker Zone makes up a large portion of our Arts programming offering.

The main goal of the Arts strand this year has been to increase performing arts and digital arts offers. This included the integration of We Are Noise's music programme to Blackburn at the end of the fiscal year, videography and AI sessions focused on creativity.

Activities Offered 2024-2025				
Jewellery Making	Therapeutic Drawing	Sewing	Vinyl Printing	Up-Cycle workshop
Precious Plastics	Comic Book Creation	Laser cutting	Clay Modeling	Henna Art
Bubble paint	Baking Club	DJ Workshops	Scrapbooking	Digital Arts
Creative Writing	Drum Machines	Ear Training	Drama	Music Production
3D Diamond Art	Music Performance	Screen Printing	Slime Making	Garment Design

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Arts (continued)

Breakthrough Podcast: In collaboration with We Are Noise, our Darwen youth session hosted a podcast during Children's Mental Health Week to share their thoughts and experiences regarding mental health.

Local Heroes Project: Young people designed and 3D printed their own Funko Pop characters based on the theme, "Local Heroes". The Funko Pops were displayed in a gallery exhibition at Darwen Library and highlighted through the Festival of Making.

Quick Quote

"I like art because art is a universal way to communicate and being a part of that is so meaningful, especially as a young person. Also being homeschooled allowed me to pick up the skill and find enjoyment in it doing it at school"
Maryam - 18

Partnerships:

In 2024, we had the ability to work with multiple partnership agencies, trusts, and foundations. These included:

Festival Of Making: We again participated in the wonderful Festival of Making this year, inviting over 500 residents and young people to our space over the weekend of the Festival of Making. Working alongside a local artist, our young people decided to explore the art of fashion and how 'fast fashion' is such an issue in today's society. They also explored the effect of fashion on mental health, culture, sexuality and community togetherness. They planned and designed their art pieces for six weeks leading up to the festival. They made four distinctly different outfits and plan to use them in a showcase at a fashion show later in the year.

Burberry Project: As part of this year's Burberry Inspire Project, we delivered 3 exciting creative enterprise projects: Bright Sparks, Re Thread, and Waves. Bright Sparks focused on enterprise, giving young people the chance to explore making, budgeting, and selling. They developed their own products, learned how to manage costs, and gained hands-on experience, building valuable skills in both creativity and business. Re Thread centred around fashion and sustainability, encouraging participants to upcycle clothing using waste and donated materials. They reimagined items with a focus on environmental responsibility and personal expression through design, sewing, and styling. Waves was our music project, where young people explored music production, DJing, singing, and developed their skills on various instruments. Whether they were starting out or building on existing experience, they had the opportunity to discover their musical identity, collaborate with others, and grow in confidence.

This incredible work was brought together during our Fusebox launch event, where the young people proudly showcased their achievements. In the Maker Zone, one participant hosted a stall displaying and selling pieces they had created throughout the year, including 3D-printed keyrings and jewellery. Beside the stall, a jacket upcycled during the Re Thread project was on display, while original music produced by Waves participants played in the background. The event was a true celebration of creativity, enterprise, and talent, allowing our young people to share their journey and take pride in their accomplishments.

We Are Noise: 'We Are Noise', our delivery partner in Darwen, delivered various music programmes four hours a night from Monday to Friday every week of the year. Simple drop-in sessions are available, as well as targeted engagement, subject-specific delivery and group practice. This provision offers the young people the opportunities to take part in a multitude of art practices, which include music production, recording, mixing, performance, singing, rapping, MC'ing, songwriting, drumming, guitar, keyboards, DJing, PC gaming, video production, podcasting, radio skills and photography.

Young Voices Unite: Alongside 'We Are Noise', young people participated in a 6 week journey of discovery, exploring music genres, and lyricism sessions to create musical pieces based on young people-led concerns such as substance abuse, bullying and overcoming financial hurdles.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The Arts (continued)

Impact Story: Meet Vic

Vic, 17, has been a Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone member since 2016 and is a passionate singer with dreams of sharing her talent with the world. Initially shy and uncertain, Vic struggled with stage fright and self-doubt, finding it challenging to perform in front of others and often avoiding opportunities that pushed her out of her comfort zone. This lack of confidence also limited her ability to fully express herself in her singing. However, the supportive environment at the Youth Zone became a turning point in her journey. The music facilities provided a safe space to practice and refine her talent, while the dedicated and encouraging music staff helped her build vocal strength through attending the targeted Burberry sessions (Waves) that introduced her to vocal exercises, performance techniques, and opportunities to perform for small, supportive audiences. In 2023, Vic gained experience by singing two songs as background music for the entrance/welcoming drinks of the Patron's Dinner, which marked the start of her transformation. Over the following months, she performed at various local gigs, growing in confidence and developing her talent. In November 2024, her journey culminated in a standout performance as she closed the Patron's Dinner with a powerful rendition of Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You," captivating the audience and receiving high praise from the guests. The Youth Zone's state-of-the-art music facilities, coupled with the support of the staff, have played a critical role in Vic's growth.

Quote from Youth Worker - "It is amazing to see the difference just one year has made with Vic's confidence in herself and with her singing too."

Attendance: Number of young people who attended	Engagements: Number of overall interactions
2,050	21,920

Engagements: Try	19,475
Engagements: Train	1,851
Engagements: Team	594

Diversity

We support young people with various special educational needs and disabilities. Complex needs are adequately catered for across our local partnership network and within schools. Our Diversity strand aims to provide an inclusive space for all young people who enter our walls. Our primary programming within this strand falls into Allsorts (LGBTQ+) and Diversity Zone (SEND).

The goal of the Diversity strand over the past year has been to increase programming within the Rainbow Zone, build a more diverse SEND programming offer with the support of IMO, and increase partnerships to support growing needs of young people.

Activities Offered 2024-2025				
Dance Syndrome	Mask Painting	Gardening	Clay Moulding	Bracelet Making
Canvas Painting	Magic Tricks	Autism Awareness	Allsorts	Pride Events
Cooking Classes				

International Day of Signs: On September 23rd, our SEND group spent the day learning and practicing signs, including signing along to a few songs.

SEND Cooking: With support from Blackburn with Darwen Food Alliance, our SEND group engaged in hands-on cooking activities, learning crucial life skills in a fun way. The introduction of cooking classes amongst our SEND group have become a popular programme addition with the development of the training kitchen at Blackburn.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Diversity (continued)

Autumn Tea Party: Our SEND programme hosted a family tea party where young people enjoyed delicious treats, participated in Autumn themed crafts and gathered together providing a sense of community to the group.

Quick Quote

"The SEND programme has not only helped improve his confidence and how he approaches challenges but has also improved his health physically, working towards his stability in walking and communication skills. This programme has not only kept him busy and on track but has also made him a better person."
-SEND Member's Parent Feedback

Partnerships:

In 2024, we had the ability to work with multiple partnership agencies, trusts, and foundations. These included:

IMO: Through our partnership with IMO we have been able to support our SEND programme. Utilising their expertise, we have been able to provide a bespoke programme tailored to the additional needs of members. This programme provides weekend respite to families while also enabling our members with additional needs to reach their fullest potential.

Benefit Mankind: Through our partnership with Benefit Mankind, our SEND group packed and delivered hampers of food and essential resources to members of the community who are struggling through the cost of living crisis.

Burberry Project: Young people from Rainbow Zone designed a collaborative mural representing their voices and identities. Using spray paint and stencils, they created a banner that was displayed at the Burberry Head Offices in July 2024, symbolising their resilience and positive affirmations from their lived experiences.

Ignite Cricket: In partnership with IMO, our diversity club & ignite group attending a cricket competition camp, the first they've entered. Despite this, our team placed 3rd place in the tournament

SEND Family Fun Day: In partnership with IMO and Young People Services, our first family fun day was a success with 144 people in attendance. This event marked a significant step forward in our commitment to supporting SEND families, creating a joyful and inclusive environment for everyone involved.

Impact Story - Meet Corey

Corey began attending SEND sessions six months ago. Upon joining, Corey was very quiet and preferred to sit alone. He avoided interacting with both the other young people and the staff.

From the outset, Corey's lack of engagement was a concern for the staff. Despite his reserved nature, the staff remained proactive in attempting to engage him through gentle encouragement and tailored approaches.

Over time, Corey began to respond to the staff's efforts. Initially, he started talking in small increments, which marked a significant milestone given his earlier reluctance to communicate. As Corey grew more comfortable in the environment, he began showing a particular interest in the cricket training sessions. Initially, Corey would stand and watch the activities from the sidelines. However, with consistent encouragement from the staff, he gradually took part in the sessions.

Corey now actively participates in weekly cricket training sessions and has shown remarkable growth in confidence and social interaction. His enthusiasm for the sport has grown to the extent that he has joined the cricket team and is preparing to take part in an upcoming tournament.

Corey's journey highlights the importance of patience, encouragement, and creating a supportive environment. The staff's consistent efforts to include and motivate him have played a pivotal role in his transformation from a quiet and reserved individual to an engaged and confident participant in both sports and social activities.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Aspirations, Skills and Progression

Now in its fifth year, Youth Hub has undergone significant growth and evolution, cementing its role as a vital resource for the local youth community. The Youth Hub has diversified its offerings to address the needs and interests of local young people. This includes the introduction of new partnerships with local businesses, educational establishments, and non-profit organisations.

Over the past year, the Youth Hub has continued to diversify its offer, building on the voices of young people and introducing new pathways that reflect the realities of today's labour market. A key highlight this year has been the opening of our new Employability Hub, a purpose-built space designed to offer accessible, targeted support for young people navigating their route into employment, education, or training. Since its launch, we have fully mobilised the use of the space, running regular workshops, 1:1 coaching sessions, and drop-ins tailored to a wide range of needs and abilities.

Looking ahead, we are preparing to co-locate the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) within the building for four days each week. This will strengthen our offer by ensuring direct access to Jobcentre advisors, streamlining referrals, and reducing barriers for young people who may otherwise struggle to engage with statutory services.

Activities Offered 2024-2025				
CV workshops	Mock Interviews	World of Work Tours	School Engagements	Badminton
First Aid Courses	Career Fairs	Anxiety Workshops	Transferable Workshops	Skills Mentorship

STEM Week: In partnership with Mergon and Vital Energi, This week was packed with real-world applications of STEM as careers. Through presentations, industry day trips, and robotic demonstrations, young people's aspirations were raised. Though traditional Aspirations, Skills, and Progressions (ASP) programming is focused on supporting Youth members, this week supported youth and junior sessions from both Darwen and Blackburn.

JD Up Event: Young People participated in a World of Work tour of JD Group. Through hands-on practical activity, they explored everything from retail store design to visual merchandising, gaining an insight into how JD creates its signature shopping experience.

Quick Quote

Thank you for all of the amazing sessions we have had and all of the memories we have shared. It has been an amazing experience. Even though it is ending, I will never forget all the things you have done for me.

-Young Person, Aged 14

Partnerships:

In 2024, we had the ability to work with over 15 partnership agencies, trusts, and foundations. These included: Kings Trust, New Directions BwD Adult Learning, National Careers Service, Lancashire Mind, Department of Work and Pensions, Lancashire Skills Hub, Blackburn College, Aldridge Academy, North Lancs Training Group, Training 2000, UCLAN, BwD Leaving Care Team, BwD Virtual Schools, and Star Academies.

Our partnership approach to aspirations, skills, and progression has been highly impactful, creating synergy among organisations by merging resources, expertise, and networks. This collaborative effort has significantly enhanced our ability to deliver comprehensive support services and maximise positive impact across the borough. By working together, we have become more effective in identifying and addressing diverse educational, employment, and mental health needs, ensuring a holistic approach to progression and development.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Aspirations, Skills and Progression (continued)

UKSPF

With UKSPF funding, our Aspirations, Skills, and Progression service empowers young people facing barriers to employment by addressing specific challenges and bridging the gap to meaningful job opportunities.

Youth Hub Engagement: Our Youth Hub provides weekly one-on-one sessions for 14-18-year-olds, offering personalised support to tackle mental health stigma and life challenges, significantly enhancing their well-being and development.

Phase 1 - Engage: Young people participate in sessions linked to industry skills, focusing on active lifestyles, well-being, and community prosperity. The Skills Aspiration Hub aligns with local industry needs in areas like digital, energy, and healthcare.

Phase 2 - Train: Participants move to industry-specific workshops, earning accreditations and gaining work experience through our Industry Skills Incubator Hub. These sessions, supported by local businesses, address skill gaps and provide real-world exposure.

Impact and Benefits: These programmes help young people develop critical skills, improve well-being, and gain practical experience, making them more competitive in the job market while benefiting local industries with a skilled workforce and stronger community ties.

Henry Smith - Emotional Health & Wellbeing support:

The project enables us to work with young people who are furthest from the labour market due to multiple barriers such as emotional health or well-being issues. This year we renewed our funding and have worked with 69 young people, and the demand for support remains high. This cohort has had the opportunity to socialise with peers, overcome personal barriers, and visit our business patrons' workplaces to gain insight into the opportunities that await them. Through these experiences, they have developed greater confidence and a clearer vision of their potential career paths.

John Lewis Employability Programme:

Closing off our 2nd year of this partnership, we provided 405 young people from Darwen progression support toward positive destinations. This programme works closely with Herbert Parkinson, providing World of Work Tours, work experience, and employability skills workshops. This year, we were highlighted as an ideal partner for the Employability Fund and are featured on their website.

Impact Story- Meet Keinan

"Being a Young Leader at the Youth Zone has honestly been one of the best experiences I've had. From the beginning, I felt like I was part of something important. I've learned so much just by being around the team, watching how staff lead sessions, and seeing how they speak to everyone to make sure we all understand the plan and what's expected. It's shown me how important communication and teamwork really are. Every session is different, and there's always something new to learn. I've started to see how things work behind the scenes, from planning to delivering sessions, and I've realised how much effort goes into making the Youth Zone a great place for young people. It's helped me grow in confidence and given me the chance to reflect on how I can improve in every session. This role is giving me skills I know I'll use in the future, things like speaking clearly, listening properly, paying attention to detail, and working as part of a team. I've definitely become more confident, more responsible, and more aware of how my actions affect others, both in the Youth Zone and outside it with friends or at work. One of the biggest things I've taken from this experience is learning how to carry myself in a more professional and respectful way. I'm working on managing my emotions better, especially when situations are challenging. Being a good role model is important to me, and I'm learning what that really means. My favourite part has to be working with the young people, joining in with games and activities, being someone they can come to or just knowing I've made a positive impact in their day. It's such a good feeling to be part of something that's making a difference in the community. There have been challenges, like staying patient when things get tough or trying to improve how I present myself when leading activities, but all of that has helped me grow. I'm excited to keep learning, developing, and being part of something that matters. This isn't just a role, it's a journey, and I'm proud to be on it."

-Kienan, Age 18

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Aspirations, Skills and Progression (continued)

Attendance: Number of young people who attended	Engagements: Number of overall interactions
174	795

Key Membership Data:

- 2,452 hours of 1-1 support (increasing from 2300 the previous year)
- 18 careers and aspirations fairs attended
- 42 Young people moved into employment, education and training.

Emotional Health & Wellbeing

Emotional Health & Wellbeing Support is central to our professional practice and permeates every project, programme, and initiative. This is often delivered through our universal setting, but is also provided through targeted programming, running in smaller cohorts and in 1-1 settings.

The main goal of the Emotional Health & Wellbeing strand, both in targeted and universal provisions, over the past year has been the creation and implementation of the Wellness Zone and redevelopment of programmes to suit the needs of the young people we serve.

Activities Offered 2024-2025				
Targeted Twilight	Nurture Youth	Mentoring	Service Projects	Workshops
Wellbeing Champions	TeenZone	Self-care nights	Round Table Talks	

Targeted Twilight: These groups operate in smaller numbers and in quieter settings, allowing space for additional support by youth workers, trained in providing emotional health and wellbeing support. These sessions are provided at both site locations, multiple times a week.

Children's Mental Health Week: In February, our Wellbeing Leads planned a week full of programmes focused on improving the mental health of young people. Darwen TeenZone celebrated by spending Random Acts of Kindness Day by spreading joy at a Care Home, handing out roses, gifts, and heartwarming conversations.

Darwen TeenZone: Seeing an increased need for a transition group for 11-14 year olds in Darwen, TeenZone was created. TeenZone was designed to support the needs of young people as they transition from Juniors to Youth.

Think Neglect! Campaign: NSPCC, the nation's leading children's charity dedicated to preventing abuse and NK Theatre led young people through a workshop to create a performance that illuminated the many forms of neglect, fostering a deeper understanding of a critical issue.

Wellbeing Champions: Child Action North West hosted a Wellbeing Champion Programme with our members where 96 young people learned about their mental health and coping strategies.

Quick Quote

"I can't praise the organisation enough; my child would spend all day here if he could. He loves all the staff and every time I drop him off, everyone is happy and having fun. It's a safe place for kids to be kids."
-Parent regarding Summer HAF 2024

Partnerships:

In 2024, we had the ability to work with a multitude of partnership agencies, trusts, and foundations within Emotional Health & Wellbeing. These included:

It Takes A Community to Raise A Child: In partnership with Lancashire Mind and IMO funded by The National Lottery's Reaching Communities Fund, we hosted a conference where 20 partner organisations came together to collaborate on designing a theory of change for grassroots, community-based initiatives enhancing young people's mental health and wellbeing, initially reaching 108 young people with stubborn barriers to access.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Emotional Health & Welbeing (continued)

Stronger Communities: This project, funded by Islamic Relief, has already supported 15 young BAME women in its first year and is currently engaging another 15 in its second year. It provides a platform for these young women to share their stories and learning, inspiring others while promoting confidence and resilience. The project aims to create a lasting impact by embedding meaningful evaluation processes that can be shared with community stakeholders to drive systemic change in how BAME women are supported. It empowers young BAME women to actively participate in Youth Zone decision-making and programme development, ensuring their voices are heard and valued. By building on strong existing partnerships and forging new ones across educational, statutory, voluntary, faith-based, and community sectors, the project is reaching those often excluded from mainstream services. These sessions are a series of tailored workshops, activities, and cultural events. At the end of each year, each cohort plans a community event which is delivered by the participants themselves. In March, this was the Big Iftar.

Aldridge Project: 6 week programme delivered in small groups, aiming to increase confidence, self-esteem, and emotional health & well-being for young people attending DVHS, DACA, or DAES.

Healthy Young Minds: Through an initiative funded by Lancashire & South Cumbria Foundation Trust and led in partnership with Big Tank and the NHS, our members produced and released three short films that explore important mental health topics chosen by members. The topics covered were: social media and body image, balancing home and school life, and coping with intrusive thoughts.

Impact Story: Meet Elyse

Elyse joined the program while struggling with anxiety and stress. She found it difficult to settle and manage her emotions, which often left her feeling overwhelmed.

At the start, Elyse's heightened anxiety made it challenging for her to engage fully in activities or interact with others. She required additional support to navigate her emotions and build confidence in the sessions. To address Elyse's challenges, staff dedicated one-to-one time with her, providing a safe and supportive space for her to express her feelings and explore strategies for managing her emotions. Over time, Elyse began to open up about her struggles and gained a better understanding of how to handle them.

As she grew more comfortable, Elyse started participating actively in group activities. Her natural empathy and supportive nature soon became apparent, and she evolved into a valued team member. Elyse's participation extended across all activities, where her encouragement of peers fostered a positive and inclusive environment.

Elyse is currently in college, studying sports, which aligns with her passion and skills. She has become a significant contributor to the sports teams within the program, demonstrating leadership and enthusiasm. Moreover, Elyse has expressed a strong interest in volunteering once she turns 18. She has already begun helping out during sessions, providing support to others and taking on responsibilities that reflect her growing confidence and commitment.

Elyse's journey highlights the transformative power of individualised support and the development of coping strategies. Her progression from feeling overwhelmed to becoming a supportive and active team member underscores her resilience and growth. Elyse's aspirations to volunteer further reflect her dedication to giving back and contributing positively to the program and community.

Attendance: Number of young people who attended	Engagements: Number of overall interactions
1,457	6,809

Engagements: Try	6,146
Engagements: Train	559
Engagements: Teach	104

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Cyber & Tech

This year we have expanded our Maker Zone capabilities with the employment of a full time creative lead who has been responsible for increasing the access our members have to relevant Art & Design, Technology skills and experiences in an informal STEAM framework. We have been developing and implementing a curriculum as part of the Maker Zone Network with the two other prototype Maker Zones to reduce the barriers our members would traditionally face when trying to access key technologies and instil a DIY "punk" aesthetic of focussing on the core principles and concepts that can be tested and developed with whatever is to hand.

Activities Offered 2024-2025				
Animation Club	Coding	3D Printing	Soldering Skills	Design Engineering
Arcade Emulation	Ozobot Robotics	Sphero Racing	DIY Guitar Pedal	BT Speaker Design
Origami Circuits	Gaming	Gen AI		

STEM Week: In partnership with Mergon and Vital Energi, This week was packed with real-world applications of STEM as careers. Through presentations, industry day trips, and robotic demonstrations, young people's aspirations were raised.

Quick Quote

"I liked the Gen AI Photography project because I learnt a lot about cameras, and it was my first time playing with a camera. I was really pleased because I got a certificate for all of my hard work. I really like Bespoke and I am proud to bring my creations to school."

-Halima, age 8

Partnerships:

In 2024, we had the ability to work with a multitude of partnership agencies, trusts, and foundations within Cyber & Tech. These included:

Sairo Gamification Consultation: We ran a workshop with Sairo as part of the National Youth Work Week to gain insight into what facilities our young people wanted from our upcoming building work and development. The young people generated a list of desirable features from the workshop and Sairo used RUNWAY AI to turn these into visuals. These insights were then given to the architecture team to help shape the look of the new building works including focus on the gaming area and how to make the corridors and hallways more interactive.

Virtual Reality Club: A group of our young people have supported and developed a Virtual Reality Club. The sessions now run every Saturday evening with a range of VR challenges. The young people have created a leaderboard for each activity for a more competitive edge. This has encouraged people to play, compete, and learn new skills. We have also used these at community events, which has also proved popular with all ages and families trying to challenge one another.

Girl Guides: As part of our Maker Zone Network collaboration with The Making Rooms we hosted a troupe of 30 girl guides to learn about screen printing and laser cutting techniques. Each individual came away from the event having made a personalised bag and laser engraved room sign.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Cyber & Tech (continued)

Impact Story: Meet Anna

Anna is a 16-year-old member of the LGBTQIA+ community from Blackburn who has been a member of the Youth Zone since starting as a Junior in 2017. Anna has a diagnosis of ASC and has had previous concerns about their mental health and wellbeing following a series of bullying incidents from their last school. Anna wishes to expand their side business with their Dad, who makes and sells 3D prints of fidgets and characters at craft markets. As a keen artist, they are also interested in setting up a brand identity for their work to sell prints, stickers and other merchandise featuring their artwork. Anna has participated in our "Bright Spark" sessions during Monday night Youth sessions as part of the Maker Zone's "Make Monday" provision. These sessions have been small, closed sessions where the participants can share their ideas freely and focus on the project without outside disruptions. Each person has been given a folder and sketchbook to record their ideas and has received induction on the machines they wish to use for creating their merchandise and guidance on how to recreate their ideas digitally. The programs we have used are open-source equivalents of industry-standard software that are free to download and run so that the participants can continue their journey outside the sessions at their own pace. Anna has created a brand, "Dionysus Designs", and has designed logos and stickers using Inkscape (a vector design program similar to Adobe Illustrator), which they downloaded and installed on their laptop after learning to use through the Bright Sparks sessions. They have been able to use the designs created with knife plotter equipment to print and cut their stickers and make signage for the market stall they run with their dad. Anna has steadily become more confident in discussing their designs with other people and offering constructive advice regarding the work of other participants. They have been very excited about using the software that allows them to work offline as they have limited access to the Adobe Creative Suite through their school, which is limited by an internet connection. As Anna continues to develop her brand and range of products, we will be able to help them expand into the enterprise side of running a business with a crossover with our Youth Hub programmes. We will also help them create a portfolio of work that will help them pursue employment or further education in an Art and Design career.

Attendance: Number of young people who attended programming	Engagements: Number of overall interactions
1,710	10,365

Engagements: Try	7,101
Engagements: Train	3,122
Engagements: Teach	142

Other Universal Programmes & Events

Holiday Activity Fund: During 2024/25, we ran three Holiday Activity Fund programmes across both of our venues at Easter, Summer and Christmas. Through funding from the Department of Education, Spring North, and Blackburn and Darwen Council, we were able to provide free membership, free entrance and free hot meals to 1,199 young people. HAF activities provide a safe place for young people during the school holidays- engaging them through enriching activities and trips such as ice skating, World of Work tours, cooking and life skill sessions, slip and slides, residential and beach trips.

EID Family Fun Day: With partnership support from IMO, One Voice and local community vendors, we successfully celebrated Eid with over 700 young people and families participating in the fun which included face painting, bounce houses, crafts, food, and community. The day highlights Blackburn and Darwen Youth Zone's inclusive environment for young people empowering them to thrive.

Boxing Night: In partnership with Technique Boxing ABC, we hosted our first Boxing Night at King Georges Hall. 450 supporters watched young people exhibit their boxing skills, raising money to support Next Level Sport programmes.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Other Universal Programmes & Events (continued)

Festival of Making: We again participated in the wonderful Festival of Making this year. Highlighted as an official venue for the event, 492 young people and their families participated in a variety of activities including a junk golf course, ceramic course by FiredUp4Clay, Pixel Necklace creations, sword fighting coding game alongside Manchester Youth Zone's Making Zone, and more.

The Big Iftar: In collaboration with OneVoice Blackburn, our Stronger Communities programme hosted the 2nd annual Big Iftar, bringing together 235 members of the community to break fast through a community celebration of unity, reflection and togetherness.

Halloween Beastly Bash: Over 300 young people from Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone attended and participated in pumpkin carving, a critter workshop where young people held live snakes and other animals, laser tag, bouncy castles and a magic show.

School Uniform Exchange: Through drives at both Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone and donations from local businesses and community members, we were able to support 128 families by providing school uniforms for the upcoming school year.

Detached and Outreach

The detached and outreach programme is an essential support to young people across Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone. This programme aims to reduce barriers to inhouse programming by meeting young people where they're at.

As the programming offer continues to grow, we have provided outreach support to 2,071 members over the last 12 months, providing a rich and diverse level of support, including:

- Aspirations, Skills & Progression
- Positive Engagement & Mentorship
- Support Referrals

Darwen Street Zone Bus: In March, we launched our Street Zone Bus. Funded by WM & BW Lloyd Charity Trust, this bus will work in high need areas around Darwen working as a detached Youth Zone and providing programmes such as sports, arts, employability programmes, and emotional health and wellbeing support. This bus will allow us to support even more young people in the borough, especially those with barriers prohibiting them from attending the traditional Youth Zone locations.

StreetZone: Our Street Zone offer runs five nights a week, with our outreach bus out three nights and on-foot patrols taking place two nights a week. We engage young people directly where they are, offering a mix of enrichment activities, recreational play, and positive conversations. Alongside the usual focus on preventing anti-social behaviour, we also provide signposting and referrals to other organisations where needed, helping young people access the right support at the right time. We have continued to build partnerships with the local neighbourhood policing team and other agencies. To ensure we have a united offer across all areas.

Community Zone: Collaborations with local Islamic faith schools through the Madrassah project has allowed young people wider access to our diverse programmes. Our 'East Meets West' group participates in activities such as cake decorating, vision boards, female and male sports sessions, and community activity trips.

Quick Quote

"I love it when I see people from Street Zone when I'm playing outside with my mates. They have really helped me and my friends' families. They also run fun street games just for us and also give us free food parcels to take home for our families. Thank you Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone for always being there.

You are so caring.

- Ivy, Aged 10

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Volunteering

The volunteer programme across Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone has now been firmly embedded within both our offer and our culture. We have a large team of dedicated volunteers whose continuous support has become essential as our membership grows.

Our volunteers have donated an impressive 4,196 hours over the last 12 months, providing a rich and diverse level of support, including:

Corporate Volunteers: Our Corporate volunteers have come from 17 different businesses. Out of the 17 businesses, over 200 volunteers served over 1,437 hours supporting both the Blackburn & Darwen Sites. From supporting master classes such as birdhouse building and baking workshops, our volunteer network gives interactive workshops utilising their specialty skillset to provide opportunities directly to our young people. Corporate volunteers also support through a multitude of support services such as present wrapping, event support, and additional young people support during school holiday time.

Young Leaders: Our Young Leaders programme has served 24 young leaders who have spent 476 hours supporting full and part-time youth workers in the delivery of sessions across both of our centres. Our support for volunteers also includes facilitating 9 work placements totalling 610 hours.

Impact Story - Symclean Takes it to the Next Level

Tanya is more than just a successful business leader - she's a dedicated community champion who embodies the values of service, support, and long-term commitment. As Director of Symclean, Tanya and her husband Gary, initially joined the Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone Patron Network as a Patron in December 2022, offering vital financial backing to support young people in the area.

But Tanya's impact goes far beyond patronage.

Every Friday, she gives her time volunteering at the Darwen site, where she supports staff, builds relationships with young people and helps create a welcoming environment. Her consistent presence has made her a familiar and trusted face, affectionately embraced as part of the "Orange Family" - a growing movement of individuals dedicated to the Youth Zone's mission.

"I do the simple things like play lollipop lady and clean dishes so the YZ team can focus on supporting young people," Tanya says, highlighting her hands-on approach and willingness to do whatever's needed to make a difference.

Inspired by her example, her son began volunteering at the Youth Zone, too. His journey has mirrored the values of growth and opportunity that the Youth Zone stands for - what began as volunteering has since progressed into paid employment, showcasing the transformative power of real-world experience and mentorship. Her commitment reflects the very heart of what Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone strives to achieve: a community that works together to empower the next generation.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Fundraising & Income Streams

Our funding is derived from a combination of unrestricted financial support from our local business Patron network, grants, trusts and foundations support from local and national organisations and income generated from the hire of our facilities.

Our Business Development Team has been reconfigured within the reporting period to position the charity financially for the future. We have developed a funding strategy that has a range of funding areas and targets which are now more needs-led. Our funding strategy outlines derived income targets from the following sources:

- Business Patron support (unrestricted funding) **£852,691**
- Grants, trusts and foundations support (restricted funding) **£1,186,308**
- Local Authority Funding **£270,063**
- Other donations **£30,980**
- Facilities hire **£5,400**
- Campaigns and events **£146,127**

Patron Involvement

Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone continues to be supported by a network of business Patrons. Their giving is predicated on unrestricted funding, which equals £852,691 which represents 32.8% of our total income (Excluding YIF) (23/24: £758,083 (30.8%)). The following Patrons supported us in 2024/25:

Graham & Brown	PM+M	Senator	Brian Mercer Charitable Trust
Bowland Charitable Trust	Forbes Solicitors	Pets Choice	BAE Systems
Napthens Solicitors	Blackburn College	Totally Wicked	AMS Group
Star Academies Trust	Navigator Tissue UK	Barnfield Construction	Nybble
Herbert Parkinson	Fagan & Whalley	Issa Foundation	Businesswise Solutions
ESF	Blackburn Chemicals	Staci	JDS Trucks
Prometheus	Sales Geek	Northern Industrial Radwell	Kingswood Homes
Mergon	Peter Cummings	Multevo Ltd	FMGS
Brookhouse Aerospace Limited	WEC Group	Handelsbanken	Flavour Warehouse
Panaz	Kay Group	Watson Ramsbottom Limited	Suez Recycling & Recovery Ltd
Cardboard Box Co	Symclean	Trevor Dawson	Cummins Mellor
Dobson + Beaumont	Hadgraft Electrical	Perspex	Catchpoint
Rosslee Construction	Lee Banner Electrical	IN4	Darwen Terracotta
Promethean	Murray Building Services	Crown Paints	Elgra Furniture
ACG Renewables	J&A Kay	Wellocks	WEPA
Pendle Doors	Gordon Taylor OBE	Cube Funder	BBF
MK Illumination	AMRC	Blackburn Round Table	Workhouse Marketing
Prestige Beds	Coolkit	Precision Polymer Engineering	Red Rose Holdings
Vital Energi			

We are once again grateful for the continued support of our Patrons, without whom we would not be able to provide vital help and support to the young people of Blackburn with Darwen.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

In-Kind Support

During the year, we have received £30,980 in In-Kind Support. We are grateful to the below Patrons & supporters who have provided this:

- Flavour Warehouse - Football Boots
- Staci - Children's bedding
- Mergon - Lego
- Graham & Brown - Children's bedding
- Various Patrons - Christmas Toys
- Multiple Companies - Easter Eggs
- Crown Paints - paint
- Morrisons - food items
- Various Patrons - consumables for HAF workshops

Grant, Trust & Foundation Funding

A major source of income for the charity in 2024/25 was derived from Grants, Trusts or Foundations. This amounted to £1,456,371 during the reporting period representing 56% of our total income excluding YIF (23/24: £1,367,938 (55.5%)). A further £2,682,045 (23/24: £227,198) was received from the Youth Investment Fund (DCMS) for the Fusebox refurbishment project. The following Grants, Trusts or Foundations supported us in the 2024/25 financial year:

BAE Capital Support	Shepherd Street Trust	Burberry Foundation	Hargreaves Foundation
Spring North	John Lewis Employability Fund	Henry Smith Charitable Trust	RL Charitable Trust
UK Shared Prosperity	National Lottery: Reaching Communities	Cadent	Gen AI
Eric Wright Foundation	Holiday Activity Fund	OnSide Impact Fund	Prudence Trust
Barrat Foundation	BBC Children In Need	NCS	Masonic Trust
BwD Council	Islamic Relief: Stronger Communities	Sport England	Together an Active Future
The Big Give	The National Lottery: Heritage Fund	W M and B W Lloyd Charity	D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
DCMS (YIF)	Hays Travel Foundation	Skipton Charitable Trust Foundation	John Thaw Foundation
Joanie's Hertfordshire Community Association	Baily Thomas Charitable Fund	The Casey Trust	Duke of Edinburgh

Events, Gift Aid & Community Fundraising

Fundraising Events continue to be an important income stream for the charity with a total of £146,993 (23/24: £115,675) being raised. Our biggest fundraising event continues to be the very popular Blackburn Beer & Gin Festival which raised income of £62,011 whilst the Big Give raised an additional £30,051. Fundraising on behalf of the Youth Zone by third parties raised £32,222 and we are very grateful to the organisations involved.

Facility Hire

Due to the uncertainty of access to the building caused by the refurbishment project, we did not promote the use of our facilities to third parties. However, as a result of existing commitments we did raise £5,400 during the year.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Plans for the Future

Darwen YIF

Following the opening of The Fusebox this past year and the securement of £3.1 million from the Government's Youth Investment Fund (YIF), we've navigated a year of construction while continuing to deliver programmes—culminating in the grand opening of The Fusebox and the full return of activity at our Blackburn site in April 2025

Looking ahead, our focus turns to Darwen Youth Hub: a £4 million investment from YIF, owned by BwD Council, that will create a one-of-a-kind space for young people in Darwen—completely free of charge. Through Blackburn with Darwen Council's Youth Hub, we will operate Darwen Youth Zone which will serve as a central hub for youth engagement, developed in partnership with local businesses, organisations, and community members to ensure it reflects the needs and aspirations of the town.

We are deeply grateful to DCMS, the Youth Investment Fund, and Blackburn with Darwen Council for their substantial support—an investment that will continue to inspire and empower young people for many years to come.

Five Year Strategy

After an extensive consultation with stakeholders, we have created a 5 year strategy. This strategy will serve as a roadmap of vision and reflects our unwavering dedication to fostering a nurturing environment that utilises youth voice to create a holistic approach to programming. Our strategy serves as a guiding compass, steering us toward a transformative journey of positive impact and growth.

In pursuing our purpose to empower and uplift the youth of Blackburn and Darwen, we have identified six key priorities that will serve as the foundation for all our endeavours and aligned goals.

- **Priority 1:** To ensure young people are at the heart of our delivery and decision making.
- **Priority 2:** To extend our reach and influence into the wider community
- **Priority 3:** To be an organisation that builds and invests in the workforce of the future.
- **Priority 4:** To work in partnership to enhance services
- **Priority 5:** To be a sustainable organisation that has a long term positive impact on young people and the local community
- **Priority 6:** To refurbish the Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zones & relaunch services

Co-location of Crucial Services

We know how important it is for our centre to be a true community hub for young people across Blackburn and Darwen. In recent years, we've seen a growing need for signposting to specialist support, and we want to make that journey easier. To help remove barriers, we're working with partners including DWP, ICB, and Health & Wellbeing Services to bring their programmes directly into our building. By co-locating these services in a space where young people already feel safe and supported, we hope to reduce stigma and ensure that access to professional help feels like a natural extension of the trusted relationships they've already built here.

Increased 'Street Zone'

Over the past year, we have introduced our Street Zone provision throughout Darwen. Ensuring that we reach high-need areas on a recurring basis while creating positive impressions amongst young people has been the main goal. With 468 hours served across both Blackburn & Darwen, we aim to make strong connections with young people while steering them towards provisions. Through the conversion of the Street Zone bus, which was fully reconverted and brought to a series of locations in Darwen with an aim to reach more young people by meeting them where they are at and helping them towards where they want to be. With this addition, we aim to provide a 7 day provisional offer with designated staff focused on supporting the neighbourhoods of Darwen.

Enhancement of our Arts offer

The newly renovated Fusebox has become Blackburn's only dedicated digital arts space. This space gives us the opportunity to expand our offer while aligning closely with local creative initiatives including the Blackburn with Darwen Digital Arts Strategy. By working with local artists, partner organisations, and young people, we'll co-create a youth-led arts programme that raises cultural awareness, inspires creativity, and shows young people that Blackburn is a place where creative careers can thrive.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Plans for the Future (continued)

World Class Basics

Over the past year, we've grown significantly—expanding both our spaces and our team. As we look ahead, our priority is to return to the essentials and invest in getting the world-class basics right across the organisation. This means strengthening every part of our work: from internal operations and external communications to organisational structure and service delivery. By streamlining and refining these core areas, we will build a solid foundation that not only futureproofs the services we provide but also ensures we create the best possible workplace for our staff. With this foundation in place, we can embed a culture of continuous quality improvement, keeping excellence at the heart of everything we do.

Structure, Governance and Management

We operate as a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee without share capital. 'Blackburn Youth Zone' is registered under the Companies Act 1985, registration number 6944317. The company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, dated 25th June 2009. We are also a Charity registered in England and Wales, registration number 1135949. Management of the company's affairs is vested in the Trustees.

In the event of a winding-up, the present members and those who have ceased to be a member within one year of such event have guaranteed liabilities of the company to the sum not exceeding one pound each year.

Organisational Structure

The legal entity, Blackburn Youth Zone, is governed by its Board of Trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of Company Law, which retains overall responsibility for the strategic direction and the organisation's policies. The Trustees carry ultimate responsibility for the conduct of Blackburn Youth Zone and for ensuring that the charity satisfies its legal and contractual obligations.

The Board appoints a Chief Executive to manage the day-to-day operations. To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive has delegated authority as approved by the Board for all operational matters, including finance, human resources and operational delivery.

The board approves the strategic plan and annual business plan, scrutinising business performance, including financial performance, and provides advice to the Chief Executive on operational matters of performance.

The pay of the Chief Executive Officer is reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees, benchmarking their salaries against those of similar Youth Zones within the OnSide Network.

Blackburn Youth Zone is part of the network of Youth Zones established by OnSide Youth Zones (Charity Registered in England & Wales no:1125893). Many of the operational policies and procedures of the Youth Zone are influenced by being part of this wider network.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees comprises 12 Directors representing the public, private and third sector, along with two more members who provide additional expertise but do not have voting rights.

Trustees can be nominated for a fixed or indeterminate term. One-third of the Directors will retire by rotation at each AGM; retiring Directors can then be re-appointed.

The Trustees normally meet quarterly where finance and delivery performance are scrutinised and strategic plans reviewed.

New Trustees will be recruited according to the needs of the charity and the suitability of possible candidates. The unanimous approval of existing Trustees leads to their appointment.

The Board appointed four new Trustees during the reporting period with four Trustees resigning during the same period.

The Board wishes to record their thanks to the retiring Trustees - Michelle Mellor, Denise Park, Marcus Saxton and Jamie Carson - who resigned in good standing. Two other advisors to the Board also stood down in good standing - Jo Siddle and Zaffer Khan. The Board wishes to record their thanks to both the retiring Trustees and Advisors.

Financial Review

Total income for the year, excluding the YIF project, was £2,600,296 (2024: £2,462,822). Of this amount, £949,663 (2024: £936,551) was from donations, primarily from the local business community; £547,167 (2024: £608,284) was from grants; public grants of £909,205 (2024: £759,654) were also received; and the balance of £194,261 (2024: £158,733) was income from charitable activities, fundraising and investment income. A further £2,682,045 (2024: £227,198) was received from the DCMS via the Youth Investment Fund for the Fusebox project, of which £2,516,676 related to Capital. Total expenditure for the year was £2,846,372 (2024: £2,383,435), of which £269,384 (2024: £188,697) related to fundraising activities and £2,576,988 (2024: £2,194,788) related to charitable activities.

The resulting surplus for the year of £2,435,969 (2024: surplus £306,535) was after charging £132,512 (2024: £136,057) of depreciation on fixed assets. Excluding the YIF funding the deficit for the year was £80,707 after funding a major repair of £92,029.

The total unrestricted funds held on 31 March 2025 were £712,026 (2024: £810,874). This included a Designated Fund of £127,780 specifically for the work within the town of Darwen. The total net assets of the organisation as of 31 March 2025 were £7,957,558 (2024: £5,521,589)

Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees of Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone has established a reserves policy that appropriately reflects the risks to which the charity is exposed.

In reviewing the potential costs that could arise should a significant reduction in income be incurred, the Trustees have determined that it is appropriate for unrestricted, 'free', reserves to be maintained at a minimum of 3 months.

Due to the current uncertainty in the economic climate, shifting restrictions and an anticipated increase in demand for our services, the Trustees have agreed that the Charity will ideally hold more unrestricted funds than the minimum required in the reserves policy.

On 31st March 2025, the charity had accumulated unrestricted, 'free', reserves of £715,026; this provides cover equivalent to 4.2 months of operating costs, within the range that the Trustees are currently comfortable with. The reserves policy does not consider expenditure linked to restricted projects and therefore, covered by restricted funds.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Reserves Policy (continued)

The charity has plans in place to regularly review both the sum it wishes to hold in reserves in unrestricted funds and the basis for that figure, particularly considering the ongoing impact of the increase in the cost of living.

Total reserves at the end of the period were £7,957,558, of which £7,312,515 can only be realised by disposing of fixed assets. £2,686,682 of the Fixed Asset figure relates to the Fusebox project. Total reserves after deducting restricted funds, fixed asset funds and designated funds is £584,246.

Investment Policy

Any surplus funds that are not immediately required may, at the Board's discretion, be invested to ensure the charity's future sustainability. To ensure such investments are safeguarded;

- Any decision about investment will be made by the Board (potentially having professional advice) considering the suitability and diversification of investments, including investments in deposit accounts, to ensure that the failure of one investment or institution does not have a major impact on Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone
- Investments will be made in line with Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone Values
- Investment performance will be regularly reviewed
- Records will be maintained of all investments held (including details of all those sold or purchased) by the charity
- Accounting controls will be fully implemented to ensure that all dividends or interest payments due are received and accounted for.

During the year £510,194 was deposited with various accounts via Flagstone and terms ranging from 3 months to 12 months ensuring a reasonable spread of maturity should the funds be required. This amount is included in the Cash at bank and in hand total of £1,135,323.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure are sufficient, with the level of reserves, for the charity to continue as a going concern.

Risk Management

The Board fully accepts its responsibilities under the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP). The Trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are committed to ensuring these are effectively managed.

The Chief Executive and senior managers have undertaken a comprehensive risk assessment and established risk registers from an organisation and operational perspective and have established risk management and control procedures, which are reviewed regularly by the Board.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Risk Management (continued)

Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone's top risks are outlined below;

Risk	Mitigation
Health and Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- We review annually, our health and safety policy and procedures and ensure all team members are trained in line with the policy.- We have an annual external check of our health safety culture and compliance.- The BwD borough council manages all statutory compliance to ensure the highest standards.
Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Income- Expenditure- Cash	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- We have a finance committee that reviews monthly income, expenditure and cash.- We have a fully resourced finance team responsible for reporting management accounts and ensuring all financial controls are enforced.- We have a fully resourced Business Development team to ensure we maximise income, with governance around meeting targets.
Performance <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Poor quality service, which does not meet the needs of young people- Low attendance numbers, which results in low return on investment- Poor performance from facilities staff, which results in an unclean or unsafe building- Poor performance from catering staff resulting in unhealthy or unsafe food- Poor performance from Business Development team resulting in financial instability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Staff are fully trained with regular refreshers to ensure youth offer is up to date.- Staff values ensure the team is happy, committed and passionate.- Proactive membership and engagement, which maximises all routes to securing new members and retaining existing members.- Regular one-to-ones and appraisals, along with spot checks where necessary to ensure staff performance is of expected levels. Check-ins with all team members and their managers every six weeks
Reputation <ul style="list-style-type: none">Negative impacts on the reputation of Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone due to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Negative press coverage of incidents- Negative opinions of stakeholders due to unprofessional work ethics- Mismanagement of time, resources, service delivery	Maintain a professional, reliable and trustworthy appearance through: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Attendance at local and regional networking and multi-agency meetings- Fulfilling all obligations to funders including reporting and financial management- Sharing best practice and research as appropriate- Ensuring all policies and procedures are effectively followed and enforced
People <ul style="list-style-type: none">Staff issues due to:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Turnover- Sickness- Poor organisational culture/morale- Poor communication- Burnout	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- We have a clear plan to build the culture at Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone ensuring all team members feel valued and engaged in decision making.- A full review of HR functions was carried out during the year and as a result we have appointed a dedicated People & Culture Lead who will ensure that all of our policies are reviewed

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Fundraising Standards Information

Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone raises funds by approaching businesses and philanthropic individuals interested in supporting young people. We also apply for Grants from Trusts that have the same interest. During the year, we used a mix of our own employees plus the services of an external team of freelance fundraisers who assisted with funding bids up to £20,000.

The charity is not currently a member of any voluntary scheme for regulating fundraising.

Primarily, we work with prospective business Patrons who have been introduced to our cause on a one-to-one basis. The Chief Executive monitors all fundraising. During the period, the charity received no complaints regarding its fundraising activities.

The charity does not do street or door-to-door fundraising, so it does not come into contact with vulnerable or other people who may feel intruded upon, unreasonably persistently approached or have had undue pressure placed upon them.

Business Plan

A 2025/26 business plan has been developed. This will be the benchmark against which the organisation will be monitored. This monitoring will occur monthly by the Senior Leadership Team and bi-monthly by the Board of Trustees. Each programme of work has an associated operational plan, fed into the annual objectives of all team members across the organisation.

Trustees Responsibilities

The Charity's Trustees (who are also directors for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Annual Report (including the Strategic Report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the charity's Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company, for that period.

In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to;

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charity SORP 2019 (FRS 102)
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume the charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that 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. The Trustees 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.

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that DonnellyBentley Ltd be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

The trustees' report, including the strategic report, was approved by the Board of Trustees.



W A Wild (Chairman)
Trustee

13 November 2025

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

STATEMENT OF TRUSTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees, who are also the directors of Blackburn Youth Zone for the purpose of company law, are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that year.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;
- make 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 charity will continue in operation.

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

In so far as the trustees are aware:

- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Blackburn Youth Zone (the 'charity') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2025 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of our audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report and the strategic report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report included within the trustees' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED) TO THE MEMBERS OF BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report or the directors' report included within the trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of trustees' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charity for the purpose of company law, are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the company and the sector in which it operates and considered the risk of non-compliance with applicable laws or regulations.

We determined that the following laws and regulations were most significant: the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 (as amended by the Charities Act 2022), Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial and Reporting Standard applicable to the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), those that relate to safeguarding and child protection, those that relate to employment law and those that relate to data protection. We designed audit procedures to respond to the risk, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

We obtained an understanding of how the company is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making enquiries of the management. We corroborated our enquiries through our review of board minutes.

Our tests also included agreeing the financial statements disclosures to underlying supporting documentation. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. We did not identify any key audit matters relating to irregularities, including fraud.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED) TO THE MEMBERS OF BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

We also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including testing journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the management or trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at: <https://www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities>. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Catherine Cole (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of DonnellyBentley Ltd, Statutory Auditor

Chartered Accountants

Hazlemere

70 Chorley New Road

Bolton

Lancashire

BL1 4BY

13 November 2025

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

		Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
	Notes						
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	1,228,051	3,860,029	5,088,080	1,269,726	1,261,561	2,531,287
Charitable activities	4	19,406	-	19,406	27,063	-	27,063
Other trading activities	5	146,993	-	146,993	115,675	-	115,675
Investments	6	27,862	-	27,862	15,995	-	15,995
Total income		1,422,312	3,860,029	5,282,341	1,428,459	1,261,561	2,690,020
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	7	269,384	-	269,384	188,697	-	188,697
Charitable activities	8	1,251,776	1,325,212	2,576,988	990,929	1,203,859	2,194,788
Total expenditure		1,521,160	1,325,212	2,846,372	1,179,626	1,203,859	2,383,485
Net income/(expenditure) and movement in funds		(98,848)	2,534,817	2,435,969	248,833	57,702	306,535
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		810,874	4,710,715	5,521,589	562,041	4,653,013	5,215,054
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		712,026	7,245,532	7,957,558	810,874	4,710,715	5,521,589

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	14		7,312,515		4,756,442
Current assets					
Debtors	15	144,372		199,147	
Cash at bank and in hand		1,135,323		948,741	
		<u>1,279,695</u>		<u>1,147,888</u>	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	16	<u>(634,652)</u>		<u>(382,741)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>645,043</u>		<u>765,147</u>
Total assets less current liabilities			<u>7,957,558</u>		<u>5,521,589</u>
The funds of the charity					
Restricted income funds	19		7,245,532		4,710,715
Unrestricted funds	20		712,026		810,874
			<u>7,957,558</u>		<u>5,521,589</u>

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 13 November 2025



W A Wild (Chairman)
Trustee

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025		2024	
		£	£	£	£
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	24		2,847,305		366,495
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(2,688,585)		(187,528)	
Proceeds from disposal of tangible fixed assets		-		2,000	
Investment income received		27,862		15,995	
Net cash used in investing activities			(2,660,723)		(169,533)
Net cash generated from financing activities			-		-
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			186,582		196,962
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			948,741		751,779
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			<u>1,135,323</u>		<u>948,741</u>

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The company is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 1. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the company. The address of the registered office is Jubilee Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, 881 1EP. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are to improve the life chances of young people in the Blackburn with Darwen area, helping them to gain increased levels of confidence and self-esteem and raising their aspirations for the future.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "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)". The charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charity has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the note to the accounts.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.4 Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) once the company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charity has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charity has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the company where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the company has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the company of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably.

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

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

1.5 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities. Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the company and include project management carried out at Headquarters.

Costs of generating funds are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the company's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the company apportioned to charitable activities.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Leasehold land and buildings	2% straight line
Plant and equipment	25% reducing balance
Computers	33% straight line
Motor vehicles	20% straight line

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

1.7 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charity reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

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

1.9 Financial instruments

The company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charity's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

(Continued)

1.10 Taxation

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the test set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK Corporation Tax purposes.

1.11 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charity is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

1.12 Retirement benefits

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the company to the fund in respect of the year.

1.13 Leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account on a straight line basis over the lease term.

1.14 Grants

Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

1.15 Interest receivable

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

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charity's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Donations and gifts	949,663	-	949,663	936,151	-	936,151
Government grants	270,063	3,321,187	3,591,250	183,126	803,726	986,852
Grants	8,325	538,842	547,167	150,449	457,835	608,284
	<u>1,228,051</u>	<u>3,860,029</u>	<u>5,088,080</u>	<u>1,269,726</u>	<u>1,261,561</u>	<u>2,531,287</u>

Donations and gifts includes £30,980 (2024: £92,135) of In-Kind Support ranging from raffle prizes, toys, bedding and make-up.

During the year to 31 March 2025, volunteers provided 4,196 hours (2024:6,882) of support to the Youth Zone, which equates to an average of around 81 hours (2024:132) per week.

4 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Charitable activities		
Young People's activity sessions	14,006	16,222
Facility hire	5,400	10,841
	<u>19,406</u>	<u>27,063</u>

5 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Fundraising events	<u>146,993</u>	<u>115,675</u>

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

6 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Other income	27,862	15,995

7 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Fundraising and publicity		
Staging fundraising events	84,392	59,749
Fundraising agents	37,553	36,166
Staff costs	145,127	92,782
Support costs	2,312	-
	<u>269,384</u>	<u>188,697</u>

8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Charitable Activities 2025 £	Charitable Activities 2024 £
Direct costs		
Staff costs	929,576	839,466
Trips and minibus hire	22,859	15,514
Catering supplies	61,800	63,590
Partnerships & arrangements	241,263	132,954
Freelance staff	17,569	10,300
Youth activity consumables	152,536	164,572
	<u>1,425,603</u>	<u>1,226,396</u>
Share of support and governance costs (see note 9)		
Support	1,151,385	968,392
	<u>2,576,988</u>	<u>2,194,788</u>
Analysis by fund		
Unrestricted funds	1,251,776	990,929
Restricted funds	1,325,212	1,203,859
	<u>2,576,988</u>	<u>2,194,788</u>

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

9 Support costs allocated to activities

	Charitable Activities 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Staff costs	428,508	354,836
Depreciation	132,512	136,898
Insurance	29,673	18,601
Office costs	131,020	137,376
Other building running costs	298,195	212,331
Other staff costs	23,973	18,043
Other costs	81,151	70,313
Freelance staff	26,353	19,994
	<u>1,151,385</u>	<u>968,392</u>

Total governance costs included within support costs were £32,856 (2024: £24,447)

10 Net movement in funds

	2025 £	2024 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements	12,000	9,000
Depreciation of owned tangible fixed assets	132,512	136,056
Loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	841
	<u>144,512</u>	<u>145,907</u>

11 Trustees

During the year, no trustees received any remuneration (2024 - £NIL).

During the year, no trustees received any benefits in kind (2024 - £NIL).

During the year, 8 trustees received reimbursement of travel expenses totaling £323 (2024 - 6 trustees totaling £446).

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

12 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
Fundraising and administration	13	9
Delivery	71	73
Total	84	82

Average headcount expressed as a full time equivalent:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
Fundraising and administration	8	8
Delivery	40	36
Total	48	44

Employment costs

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	1,476,614	1,267,255
Other pension costs	26,597	19,829
Total	1,503,211	1,287,084

The number of employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000 is as follows:

	2025	2024
	Number	Number
£70,001 to £80,000	1	1

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Aggregate compensation	216,663	212,425

Key management personnel are considered to be the Chief Executive, Head of Operations and Director of Finance.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

13 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

14 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings	Assets under construction	Plant and equipment	Computers	Motor vehicles	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Cost						
At 1 April 2024	5,515,459	158,572	145,672	47,817	19,794	5,887,314
Additions	-	2,528,111	45,306	22,465	92,703	2,688,585
At 31 March 2025	5,515,459	2,686,683	190,978	70,282	112,497	8,575,899
Depreciation and impairment						
At 1 April 2024	983,590	-	91,452	36,036	19,794	1,130,872
Depreciation charged in the year	110,309	-	13,365	8,838	-	132,512
At 31 March 2025	1,093,899	-	104,817	44,874	19,794	1,263,384
Carrying amount						
At 31 March 2025	4,421,560	2,686,683	86,161	25,408	92,703	7,312,515
At 31 March 2024	4,531,869	158,572	54,220	11,780	-	4,756,442

On 17 April 2015 the property from which the company operates was legally transferred to the company from Onside Youth Zones.

Onside Youth Zones previously built and developed the property with the support of a £5 million grant provided by the Big Lottery Fund, acting as agent for the Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State holds a legal charge over the company secured on the property, for a period of 20 years from 26 February 2009. The charge has terms associated which if not met by the company could result in the grant becoming repayable.

15 Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Amounts falling due within one year:		
Trade debtors	80,892	73,632
Other debtors	200	126
Prepayments and accrued income	63,280	125,389
	144,372	199,147

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

16 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Other taxation and social security		54,066	43,388
Deferred income	17	245,887	103,773
Trade creditors		61,520	52,990
Other creditors		45,617	25,958
Accruals		227,562	156,632
		<u>634,652</u>	<u>382,741</u>

17 Deferred income

	2025 £	2024 £
Arising from grants and trusts	226,647	103,023
Arising from fundraising events	19,240	750
	<u>245,887</u>	<u>103,773</u>

Deferred income is included in the financial statements as follows:

	2025 £	2024 £
Deferred income is included within:		
Current liabilities	<u>245,887</u>	<u>103,773</u>
Movements in the year:		
Deferred income at 1 April 2024	103,773	157,872
Released from previous periods	(927,955)	(679,912)
Resources deferred in the year	<u>1,070,069</u>	<u>625,813</u>
Deferred income at 31 March 2025	<u>245,887</u>	<u>103,773</u>

18 Retirement benefit schemes

	2025 £	2024 £
Defined contribution schemes		
Charge to profit or loss in respect of defined contribution schemes	<u>26,597</u>	<u>19,829</u>

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for all qualifying employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity in an independently administered fund.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

19 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds	20,276	1,177,984	(1,049,534)	148,726
Property Reserves	4,690,439	2,682,045	(275,678)	7,096,806
	<u>4,710,715</u>	<u>3,860,029</u>	<u>(1,325,212)</u>	<u>7,245,532</u>
Previous year:	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£
Restricted Funds	10,835	1,034,363	(1,024,922)	20,276
Property Reserves	4,642,178	227,198	(178,937)	4,690,439
	<u>4,653,013</u>	<u>1,261,561</u>	<u>(1,203,859)</u>	<u>4,710,715</u>

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

19 Restricted funds

(Continued)

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
Prudence Trust - Wellbeing Worker	-	3,741	(3,741)	-	-
Youth Hub - Henry Smith	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	-	125,000	(125,000)	-	-
Digital Futures - Maker Zone	3,000	-	(3,000)	-	-
BWD Mentoring	-	10,833	(10,833)	-	-
Eric Wright Foundation	-	40,000	(40,000)	-	-
OnSide Impact Fund - Maker Zone	11,894	57,362	(69,256)	-	-
BBC CIN - Darwen Targeted Support Worker	-	30,000	(30,000)	-	-
Casey Trust/Hays Travel	-	2,500	(2,500)	-	-
Burberry Foundation	-	22,066	(22,066)	-	-
NCS Community Experiences	-	21,650	(17,799)	-	3,851
Shepherd Street Trust	1,582	-	-	-	1,582
Tower Above Project - TaAF	-	72,747	(72,747)	-	-
Henry Smith	-	35,000	(35,000)	-	-
Doyle Carter	1,000	3,000	(4,000)	-	-
John Lewis Foundation Year 2	-	83,241	(83,241)	-	-
HAF Easter 24	-	22,860	(22,860)	-	-
Reaching Communities	-	100,000	(93,162)	-	6,838
Cadent	-	58,500	(58,500)	-	-
OF Impact Fund - Fundraising Sustainability	-	60,824	(60,824)	-	-
HAF Summer 24	-	101,032	(101,032)	-	-
Islamic Relief - Stronger Communities	-	6,819	(6,819)	-	-
John Thaw Foundation	-	1,000	(1,000)	-	-
Heritage Lottery Fund	-	91,694	(91,694)	-	-
Prudence Trust 2024	-	18,461	(18,461)	-	-
Sport England	-	13,572	(13,572)	-	-
Duke of Edinburgh	-	5,478	(5,478)	-	-
Joanies Fund	-	1,750	(1,750)	-	-
HAF Winter 24	-	24,950	(24,950)	-	-
Winter Warmer	-	4,203	(4,203)	-	-
HAF Easter 25	-	-	(854)	-	(854)
BAE Maker Zone Grant	-	22,397	(4,593)	-	17,804
Sport England (Wheelchairs)	1,235	-	(249)	-	986
Active Lancashire (Boxing and UV Equipment)	1,519	-	(304)	-	1,215
Police Commissioner - Knife Crime	46	-	(46)	-	-
Lloyds Trust - Youth Bus	-	60,000	-	-	60,000
Heritage Lottery Fund	-	54,804	-	-	54,804
	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Building Project	4,531,869	-	(110,309)	-	4,421,560

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

19 Restricted funds (Continued)

YIF	158,570	2,682,045	(165,369)	-	2,675,246
OnSide - Project Gen AI	-	2,500	-	-	2,500
Total	<u>4,710,715</u>	<u>3,860,029</u>	<u>(1,325,212)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,245,532</u>

HAF - Easter Providing positive activity and food through the Easter holidays to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds tackling holiday hunger.

Youth Hub Various projects to help young people, particularly those with special needs, get into employment or training.

Capital Building Project Monies received for the initial construction and fitting out of the building. The original expenditure relates to the annual depreciation charge.

HAF Summer & Winter 24 Providing positive activity and food through the summer & winter holidays to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds tackling holiday hunger.

UK Shared Prosperity Fund To engage young people, community, and the private sector in community activities, volunteering and business engagement.

John Lewis Foundation Supporting young people aged 16-24 who are currently unemployed, not in training or learning and who may have a range of vulnerabilities and need help to move into employment, training or learning opportunities.

Doyle Carter - The Arts To deliver weekly performing arts sessions.

Digital Futures - Maker Zone To develop a flexible curriculum which aids the quality and impact of Maker Zone.

Burberry Foundation Creative/Enterprise projects.

NCS Community Experiences Encourage young people to try different activities and to step out of their comfort zone.

Shepherd Street Trust New basketball kits.

BBC CIN - Darwen Targeted Support Worker Funding for a Targeted Support Worker at Darwen Youth Zone.

OnSide Impact Fund - Maker Zone Development of the Maker Zone, digital arts space.

NCS Delivery of NCS programme to 195 young people.

YIF Capital grant to refurbish the Fusebox

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

19 Restricted funds

(Continued)

Lloyds Trust - Youth Bus	Capital grant to purchase and kit out an Outreach Bus
Heritage Lottery Fund	Wonderful Electric project - rediscovering the history of the Fusebox

20 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2025 £
General funds	675,046	1,056,708	(1,147,508)	584,246
Designated fund	135,828	365,604	(373,652)	127,780
	<u>810,874</u>	<u>1,422,312</u>	<u>(1,521,160)</u>	<u>712,026</u>
Previous year:	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2024 £
General funds	456,180	1,127,333	(908,467)	675,046
Designated fund	105,861	301,126	(271,159)	135,828
	<u>562,041</u>	<u>1,428,459</u>	<u>(1,179,626)</u>	<u>810,874</u>

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £
At 31 March 2025:			
Tangible assets	78,880	7,233,635	7,312,515
Current assets/(liabilities)	633,146	11,897	645,043
	<u>712,026</u>	<u>7,245,532</u>	<u>7,957,558</u>

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

(Continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 March 2024:			
Tangible assets	66,002	4,690,440	4,756,442
Current assets/(liabilities)	744,872	20,275	765,147
	<u>810,874</u>	<u>4,710,715</u>	<u>5,521,589</u>

22 Financial commitments

At 31 March 2025 Blackburn Youth Zone had financial commitments of £223,378 (2024 - £57,967) not included in the balance sheet.

23 Related party transactions

AH Graham, who is a trustee, is a director of Graham & Brown Limited. During the year, this company made donations totaling £25,000 (2024 - £25,000) and sponsorship of events of £590 (2024 - £590).

E Swan, who is a trustee, is a partner of Forbes Solicitors. Wayne Wild, a trustee, is the husband of the Managing Partner of Forbes Solicitors. During the year, Forbes Solicitors made donations totaling £13,000 (2024 - £11,833) and sponsorship of events of £1,400 (2024 - £650). Blackburn Youth Zone paid £9,419 (2024 - £1,080) for legal services.

Wayne Wild is the sole director of Lumax Ltd, who are in turn the sole shareholders of 3g Pitch Hire Ltd. During the year the company paid 3G Pitch Hire Ltd £1,540 (2024 - £3,135) for the hire of the 3G pitch at AFC Darwen.

M Saxton, who is a trustee, is a director of Totally Wicked. During the year Totally Wicked made donations of £25,000 (2024 - £25,000) and sponsorship of events of £3,519 (2024 - £4,220).

P. Mellor, who is a trustee, is a director of Cummins Mellor Limited, Chef Jobs UK Ltd and Personnel Checks Limited. During the year Cummins Mellor made donations totalling £230 (2024 - £8,220). During the year Blackburn Youth Zone paid £8,243 (2024 - £nil) to Cummins Mellor Limited for recruitment services, £Nil (2024 - £3,848) to Chef Jobs UK Ltd for temporary staff and £2,442 (2024 - £2,390) to Personnel Checks Limited for DBS checking services.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

24 Cash generated from operations	2025 £	2024 £
Surplus for the year	2,435,969	306,535
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(27,862)	(15,995)
(Gain)/loss on disposal of tangible fixed assets	-	841
Depreciation and impairment of tangible fixed assets	132,512	136,056
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease/(increase) in debtors	54,775	(94,699)
Increase in creditors	109,797	87,856
Increase/(decrease) in deferred income	142,114	(54,099)
Cash generated from operations	<u>2,847,305</u>	<u>366,495</u>

25 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charity had no material debt during the year.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

England & Wales - Charity number 1135949

Accounts

REGISTERED NUMBER: 6944317
Charity number: 1135949

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

DonnellyBentley
Chartered Accountants
Hazlemere
70 Chorley New Road
Bolton
BL1 4BY

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BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Trustees

W A Wild (Chairman)
Rt Hon J W Straw
A H Graham
E A Sidat (Resigned 26 September 2023)
J Carson (Resigned 24 May 2024)
M Ibrahim (Resigned 8 February 2024)
K D Robinson
E L Swan
D Park
P M Mellor
M J Saxton
A S Sidat (Appointed 26 September 2023)
P Skupski (Appointed 29 November 2023)
J Bates (Appointed 23 May 2024)
J H Lamb (Appointed 23 May 2024)

Senior Management Team

Hannah Allen – Chief Executive

Company registered number

6944317

Charity registered number

1135949

Registered office

Jubilee Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 1EP

Independent auditors

DonnellyBentley, Hazlemere, 70 Chorley New Road, Bolton, BL1 4BY

Bankers

HSBC, 60 Church Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 5AS

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Contents of Trustees' Report

Trustees Report

- Message from our CEO - Hannah Allen
- Strategic Parameters
- Our Year in Numbers
- Delivering Our Services - Activities, Programmes & Initiatives
- Plans for the Future

Structure, Governance and Management

- Organisational Structure*
- Board of Trustees*
- Financial Review*
- Risk Management*
- Reserves Policy*
- Investment Policy*
- Going Concern*
- Fundraising Standards Information*
- Business Plan*
- Trustees Responsibilities**
- Statement as to disclosure to our auditors**

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Trustees (also directors of the charity under the Companies Act) present their report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2024. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102)" in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Strategic Report

A message from our CEO - Hannah Allen:

It's a privilege to be the guardian of such an impactful Youth Charity within Blackburn & Darwen, our team work tirelessly to open our doors 7 days per week over two sites and on the street. This year we have seen a significant increase of young people benefiting from our services with average attendance being 1,400 per week. Our core purpose is to give young people a space of their own where they feel safe and a sense of belonging. This year we undertook a consultation with young people who told us above all the Youth Zone is a safe place.

We know how important our services are to young people and want to ensure they are accessible in the context of economic uncertainty. That is why for the third year in a row the board has taken the decision to ensure access to our facilities and a warm meal is provided for free. This year we have provided 20,127 hot meals. In addition, we are grateful to our donors who have supported our Give and Take campaigns that aim to provide gifts to mark the holidays, coats, uniform and stationary to young people and families in need.

Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone is a place for every young person, we are proud that our membership reaches every ward across the borough and reflects the local population, this diversity is mirrored within our wider team. In a time where the world seems divided, it is vital we have a safe and inclusive space for young people to share commonality rather than differences.

Although Youth Zone is a safe space for young people to socialise and build friendships, our programmes have been curated to build aspirations, skills and roots to industry. This year we have clearly defined our seven programmes,

Young people, particularly those from challenging backgrounds, need a trusted advocate, and they need to look no further than their Youth Zone. For young people, we always provide somewhere to go, something to do and someone to talk to. While we fulfil this role for over 5,000 members who visit our venues throughout the year, it is clear from our consultation that our reach should be much broader. Young people and our partners, including community members, told us we should be more prominent across the borough and not just in our centres. This will be a key feature of our organisation as we plan for growth over the next five years.

We have recently been successful in a bid to the Youth Investment Fund and have received a grant of £3.1 million to completely revamp a large area of our building (The Fusebox.) As we launch our annual report this exciting development will become a new World of Work centre supporting young people's life journey. We have ambitious plans for this space, and like many of our other programmes, this will be delivered through the Power of Partnership.

This year, we have transitioned the Chair of the board from the Rt Hon Jack Straw to Wayne Wild MBE. Through Rt. Hon Jack Straw's leadership, we have been inspired to do more and be more for the young people of Blackburn and Darwen. We have been able to create impactful change and are forever grateful for the support has given and will continue to give as he continues to be an active member of the Board. We are extremely excited for the future of the Blackburn Youth Zone board under the leadership of Wayne Wild, MBE.

With the changes we will see over the next year, our aim is to remain consistent in quality of programming, while strengthening our internal systems to withstand and thrive amongst the change.

This year we undertook a significant consultation with our stakeholders to inform our new five year strategy aimed to develop and evolve as a service to reach even more local young people than ever before, meeting them where they are at and supporting them to where they want to be.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Blackburn Youth Zone Objectives

Blackburn Youth Zone's objectives are to help educate children and young people resident in the North West of England through their leisure time activities. Blackburn Youth Zone does this by promoting their physical, mental and spiritual potential so that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society.

The Trustees have given due consideration to the Charity Commission published guidance on the operation of the public benefit requirement and are satisfied that this requirement is met by carrying out the activities described in this report.

Strategic Parameters

In January 2023, we commenced a root and branch review of our organisation in preparation for the next decade. We consulted widely with young people, our people, parents, patrons, partners and members of our communities. Together, we agreed on the following strategic parameters:

Our Purpose: To enable all young people to reach their full potential.

Our Vision: For all young people to be safe, healthy and happy.

Our Priorities

- One:** Place young people at the heart of our delivery & decision-making
- Two:** Extending our reach and influence into the wider community
- Three:** Investing in the Workforce of the Future
- Four:** Strengthening Partnerships for Enhanced Services
- Five:** Sustainability and Long-Term Impact
- Six:** Revitalising Spaces and Services

Our Values

Our Values, developed alongside our young people and team members in 2017, still guide how we support each other, our wider community, partners and other stakeholders. These we express as our 'H.E.A.R.T. Values.

Honesty is the best policy
Excellence is learned through experience
Accountability is doing whatever is right
Respect should be universal
Teamwork makes the dream work!

Our Strategic Pillars

Our work is built on three strategic Pillars, which have guided our hand over the last decade. They have enabled us to focus on the central aspects of our Movement that do not vary, irrespective of the programme, project or initiative. These are:

- Health & well-being
- Social integration
- Aspirations, skills and employability

Our Delivery Model

Our brand of youth work is predicated on personal development through informal education. Even in a play environment, we believe that every young person can learn from their experiences and aim to provide a surplus of opportunities for young people.

Over the past year we have developed the seven youth work strands which drive our service offer in line with our engagement model of Try, Train, Team, and Teach. The "Try, Train, Team, Teach" approach allows our young people to experience many new activities for the first time. For those activities that prove popular, we co-design a training programme alongside young peoples' aspirations and help them develop hard (technical) and soft skills (life skills.)

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

If there is sufficient demand and ambition, we then progress to a formal Team approach through a club, team or initiative, which allows our young people to develop their social, emotional and technical life skills. A small proportion take the activity to the next level and seek a qualification in the discipline. This approach accelerates learning and provides opportunities for essential life skills to form part of a young person's unconscious competence.

Our Year in Numbers

Below is a summary of our delivery outputs. These are contextualised in the section 'Delivering our Services'.

Data Type	Volume	Explanation
Members	5,414	This is comprised of 2,219 Minis & Juniors (5-7 & 8-12) and 3,123 Youth (13-18.) Membership has increased by 24% compared to 4,091 members in 22/23
Young Leaders	47	Young people 13-18 who have completed the Young Leader programme across both our Blackburn and Darwen sites.
Total number of Young Leader hours	1,755	The Young Leaders initiative began in 2023 and has is continuing to gain momentum over the years
All volunteer hours	6,882	These include Corporate, Individual, Event Young People, and Young Leader hours.
Qualifications AQA, DofE and Sport Level 1	192	These are made up from Arts Awards, Health and Safety, Food Safety and First Aid
Average hours of service per week	90	Representing delivery hours across our two sites in the towns of Blackburn and Darwen
Youth consultation	5,501	This represents the number of young people engaged in polls, questionnaires, and focus groups. It also includes decision-making sessions delivered through our Youth Voice groups
Young people trying something new	1,893	This includes activities from every youth work strand and includes 35% of our members.
Informal education sessions	2,863	The focus here was based on need/ask and included substance misuse, sexual health, bullying, relationships and democracy
Young volunteers	107	The young people 11-18, who gave their time this year to community projects
Average attendance per week	1,491	This includes sessions in Blackburn and Darwen and also trips away and detached/outreach engagements
Young people attending ten or more sessions during the year	3,169	Nearly half our membership visited us on ten separate occasions or more.
Female members	40%	Reflective of the borough demographic
Male members	45%	Reflective of the borough demographic
Other members	15%	15% of young people preferred not to give their gender or gave identify as other
Ethnic minorities	46%	Reflective of the borough demographic
Number of visits this year	68,149	Individual visits across both our Blackburn and Darwen centre
New members 2022/23	1,323	Across both our Blackburn and Darwen centres
Members with a disability or special educational need	387	Representing 11% of our membership
Members receiving free school meals	2,827	This is one of the highest proportions of young people in Lancashire receiving free school meals
Members from top 10% of the most deprived wards in England	74%	This is the 2nd highest in Lancashire after Blackpool

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Members living in the top 5 deprived borough wards	52%	Just over half of our members reside in the poorest five borough wards
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Delivering Our Services - Activities, Programmes & Initiatives

Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone (the brand identity used for the registered charity 1135949 Blackburn Youth Zone) now operates from two sites and across the borough in detached and outreach settings. The largest of these two venues is on Jubilee Street, Blackburn, which houses, across three floors, a wide range of youth facilities. The second, in the town of Darwen, is located in a temporary space which houses, across two floors, a range of youth programming spaces.

Irrespective of the location from which our services operate, we provide high-quality youth facilities across our 7 Youth Work Strands. These include:

- Sports and Physical Activity (Next Level, TaAF, 6 Golden Sports)
- The Arts (Maker Zone, Performance, Making, Music)
- Diversity (Diversity Zone- SEND, Allsorts - LGBTQ+ supports)
- Aspirations, Skills and Employability (Youth Hub; World of Work)
- Emotional Health & Wellbeing (Wellness Zone and Targeted Twilight)
- Cyber & Tech (Cyber Zone-AI, Cyber, Tech Zone-ESports)
- Outreach (Street Zone, Community Zone, Enrichment Zone)

Access to our venues and services is provided free of charge. Every young person and member of our youth work teams is provided with a free, hot, nutritious meal at every visit. This includes detached and outreach, where nutritious snacks are distributed alongside healthy drink options. (Hot drinks in winter.)

Our three pillars of social integration, health and wellbeing and aspirations, skills and employability permeate our programmes and activities. We are heavily influenced by the national levelling up agenda and are committed to providing our young people with every opportunity afforded to their more affluent peers across the UK, proving that postcode doesn't determine success.

This year, we have seen even more young people accessing our services, projects and programmes and now have a record of 5,482 members. We welcome an average of 1,491 young people per week, 52 weeks a year, across our two sites and detached and outreach provisions.

Youth Zones across the UK historically focus their youth services on a universal offer. We are similar in this regard, but we also provide targeted services for young people who require an elevated level of support, particularly around emotional health and wellbeing issues.

Our Seven Youth Work Strands are a useful reference to view both our universal, outreach and targeted offers over the last year. Below is a snapshot of the strands and activities offered within them.

Sports and Physical Activity

We are committed to delivering a vibrant sports and physical activity offer directed and supported by our young people. We are keen for young people to have the opportunity to try as many activities as possible, and this is central to our Try, Train, Team, Teach methodology. Our sports programme, titled 'The Next Level', funded through the generosity of Gordon Taylor, enables young people to live healthier, more prosperous lives through the power of sports and physical activity and for them to strive for their "Next Level." The three primary aims have been core to our sports offer this year:

- Children and young people have the opportunity to realise developmental, character-building experiences through sport, competition and active pursuits.
- "Next Level" is designed around the principles of physical literacy, focuses on fun and enjoyment and aims to reach the least active and tackles health inequalities of those most affected. supporting the national agenda of, "every young person participating in 60 minutes of activity every day.")

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- Use our greatest biggest asset, our building, to act as a beacon for sporting excellence that drives change and provides a centre for "Next Level" building

Young people have told us that football, boxing, cricket, badminton, gym, climbing, and basketball are their chosen sports (We term these 'Golden sports'). We have plans to develop an academy approach around these as we go forward. As we build the academy, below is a summary of the progress we've made around sports and physical activity in general over the last 12 months.

Our aim is to increase the number of partnerships within the community. Building train sessions and aiming to provide provisions in the team portion across all Golden Sports.

Activities Offered 2022/23				
Climbing Wall	Badminton	Ice skating	Boxing	Dance
Volleyball	Cycling	Football	Rugby	Cricket
Martial Arts club	Dance Fitness	Open Gym/1:1 PT	Inter-Youth Zone Basketball	Bootcamps/ Assault Courses

Cycle to London Challenge: An ever-popular challenge for our young people who, every two months, take turns to cycle the 267 miles from Blackburn to London. This takes some commitment over two sessions and allows plenty of opportunity to do 'youth work in the wings'.

Rowing to Manchester Challenge: Following the success of the Cycle to London Challenge, young people used rowing machines to row the 26 miles from Blackburn to Manchester. Members loved the challenge, and it has become a staple in the gym sessions.

Female only Trainings: After assessing and much needed change, female-only football and netball youth sessions were put into place along with our current open gym female-only sessions. We aim to only increase the amount of Female only sessions to include all golden sports over the next year, including junior sessions.

Juniors Competitive Teams: The creation of junior competitive teams for the following sports: netball, football (female and male), basketball, and climbing wall. The goal is to duplicate across all golden sports across both the youth and juniors' sessions.

Basketball Senior Team: The interest has increased in Basketball and with that, an increased programming schedule followed suit. This includes increased training sessions leading to Team sessions. These included a match against Mahdlo Youth Zone.

Golf Introduction: Over the past year, we have seen an increased interest in golf. We have partnered with Clitheroe Golf Club and they have donated golf clubs and nets and have introduced try sessions. We have also started Train sessions including driving range practice and time on the course.

Quick Quote:

"It is so good to see my son play. It's good to know how he's doing, and the win made it extra special." - Parent

Partnerships:

In 2024, we had the ability to work with multiple partnership agencies, trusts, and foundations. These included:

Blackburn Rovers: Over the last year, we have created the EWood express programme which gives our young people an opportunity to watch live football matches. This partnership has also led to youth training sessions for

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

both genders. The female team played in community football tournaments against professional community trusts and we aim to only increase this participation on both teams.

Blackburn Rovers Ladies Team: We were given the opportunity to have the girls football team be mascots for the day. In aims to increase female participation in the sport, they had the opportunity to be ball girls for the match and meet and greet with all the players.

Tauheedul Boys and Empire Fighting Chance: Boxing is extremely popular with our young people, and Empire Fighting Chance is a non-contact form of the sport that achieves the same results of self-discipline and hard work. Tauheedul Boys is a high-performing school, and we have worked closely with them to enable their young men to explore their feelings. This includes how they see themselves developing towards adulthood and plan to contribute positively to society.

Female Only Boxing: Through our partnership with Technique Boxing, we led a weekly session exclusively for women. These were led by boxing champion, Brook Louise, at our Blackburn location free of charge to members.

Blackburn Hawks: A connection was created with 4-week pilot programme to introduce Hockey to the Youth Zone and successfully created a partnership moving forward; It ended with a day out at Blackburn Hawks where over 100 young people and family's members attended. We aim to increase this partnership to include Try and Train sessions for Hockey.

Case Study - Kickz

Poppy began her journey in sports by participating in "Try" sessions at Blackburn. While she enjoyed the sessions, feedback from the girls revealed that they felt uncomfortable training alongside boys. They expressed a desire for girls-only sessions, emphasising that they believed this would enhance their experience and development.

In response to the girls' feedback, the sports coach organised dedicated girls-only sessions, led by a female coach. This initiative not only addressed the concerns raised but also created a supportive environment where the girls could thrive. The sessions quickly evolved from "Try" to "Train," thanks to the high turnout and enthusiastic participation.

As Poppy engaged in these tailored sessions, she enjoyed numerous opportunities that enriched her experience. Some highlights of her journey include participating in trips like **Ewood Express**, which allowed her to experience football beyond the training ground, competing in a tournament at **Liverpool FC**, which exposed her to a higher level of play and competition, and watching women's football matches at Blackburn Rovers, where she had the unique opportunity to be a **mascot** and a **ball girl** during a match, providing her with valuable insights into the sport.

Over weeks and months of dedicated training, Poppy developed a genuine love for football. She excelled in her skills, demonstrating remarkable improvement and resilience. Poppy's hard work paid off, and she is now a player for a local football team, **Blackburn Eagles**. Despite her success with the Eagles, she continues to attend and train at the Youth Zone, eager to further enhance her skills and contribute to her team's success.

Poppy's journey highlights the importance of listening to participants' feedback and creating inclusive environments in sports. The transition from mixed sessions to girls-only sessions not only improved attendance and engagement but also allowed young athletes like Poppy to discover their passion for football. Her story exemplifies how targeted initiatives can lead to personal growth and opportunities for young people in sports.

Attendance: Number of young people who attended programming	Engagements: Number of overall interactions
1,999	18,147

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Engagements: Try	15,538
Engagements: Train	2,135
Engagements: Team	474

The Arts

Our Arts offer is represented across three distinctly different programmes. These are Performing Arts, Creative Arts and Digital Arts. Our young people are passionate about all genres of 'The Arts', and we intend to develop our programmes over the next period further to give this youth work theme greater prominence in our offer. Our Maker Zone makes up a large portion of our Arts programming offering.

The main goal of the Arts strand this year has been to increase SEND and targeted support while integrating more youth voice based programming into the schedule including more music provisions and upcycling.

Activities Offered 2023-2024				
Jewellery Making	Therapeutic Drawing	Sewing	Vinyl Printing	Up-Cycle workshop
Precious Plastics	Comic Book Creation	Laser cutting	Clay Modelling	Henna Art
Bubble paint	Baking Club	DJ Workshops	Scrapbooking	Digital Arts
Creative Writing	Drum Machines	Ear Training	Drama	Music Production
3D Diamond Art	Music Performance	Screen Printing	Slime Making	Garment Design

Festival Of Making: We again participated in the wonderful Festival of Making this year. Working alongside a local artist, our young people decided to explore the art of fashion and how 'fast fashion' is such an issue in today's society. They also explored the effect of fashion on mental health, culture, sexuality and community togetherness. They planned and designed their art pieces for six weeks leading up to the festival. They made four distinctly different outfits and plan to use them in a showcase at a fashion show later in the year.

Precious Plastics: Following interests in up-cycling recyclable materials, two members ventured into creating a business making coasters from recycled plastic bottle caps, titled Star Makers. Creating momentum and interest amongst other members, Precious Plastics was created to support Star Makers and now includes upcycling for other plastic materials.

Arts Mental Health Night: Our Youth Voice consultation group members designed and ran an Arts Mental Health Night. They planned and led sessions in relaxation, creative writing and drawing, self-care face masks, and art creations.

Quick Quote:

"You get the opportunities to record, make new friends, and possibly make your own music." - Young person

Partnerships:

In 2024, we had the ability to work with multiple partnership agencies, trusts, and foundations. These included:

Darwen Music: 'We Are Noise', our delivery partner in Darwen, delivered various music programmes four hours a night from Monday to Friday every week of the year. Simple drop-in sessions are available, as well as targeted engagement, subject-specific delivery and group practice. This provision offers the young people the opportunities to take part in a multitude of art practices, which include music production, recording, mixing, performance, singing, rapping, MC'ing, songwriting, drumming, guitar, keyboards, DJing, PC gaming, video production, podcasting, radio skills and photography.

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Young Voices Unite: Alongside 'We Are Noise' (our Darwen music partners), young people participated in a 6 week journey of discovery, exploring music genres, and lyricism session to create musical pieces based on young people-led concerns such as substance abuse, bullying and overcoming financial hurdles.

Case Study - The Creation of Star Makers

After many months of experimenting, making and recycling, the brother and sister partnership hit on a new business idea to make coasters from discarded plastic bottle tops. (or precious plastics, as we call it here at Youth Zone.) They noticed that during the recycling process for plastics, many cool shapes and designs popped out randomly. They experimented some more and found bottle tops made with the best materials and the funkier designs. They didn't have nearly enough to make any more than a few products so went on a mission to shout about recycling and set up six collection points across the borough. After a few weeks, these were full to overflowing, and the pair now had their raw materials to get things moving!

With the help of their Maker Zone youth workers and Crown Paints (one of their best customers), they launched a new business selling their beautifully recycled coasters. Each coaster is unique and produced to a high standard. They now grace the many dinner tables of Blackburn and Darwen, and demand so far still outstrips supply.

"I joined BYZ, not the most confident person, but my mum pushed me to do a coding workshop in the December which I enjoyed. I went a few times and then covid. Again, my mum pushed me to do some online quizzes, she had to sit next to me as I wouldn't do it on my own, they soon became the highlight of my week. After covid I became a lot more confident talking to other people. Here is a quote, I live by, "If you have an idea, don't let anyone stop you."

-Gareth

Attendance: Number of young people who attended programming	Engagements: Number of overall interactions
2,435	13,040

Engagements: Try	9,206
Engagements: Train	2,783
Engagements: Team	1,051

Diversity

We support young people with various special educational needs and disabilities. Complex needs are adequately catered for across our local partnership network and within schools. Our Diversity strand aims to provide an inclusive space for all young people who enter our walls. Our primary programming within this strand falls into the Allsorts (LGBTQ+) and Diversity Zone (SEND).

The goal of the Diversity strand over the past year has been to increase participation within the Rainbow Zone, build a more diverse SEND programming offer with the support of IMO, and support the progression of members to universal services.

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Activities Offered 2023-2024				
Dance Syndrome	Mask Painting	Gardening	Clay Moulding	Bracelet Making
Canvas Painting	Magic Tricks	Autism Awareness	Allsorts	Pride Events

Allsorts on the Go: Our Allsorts group had the opportunity to travel to Trans Family Fun Day, Blackburn Pride, and the Festival of Making. These opportunities have allowed young people to practise the inclusion, self-confidence, and identity skillset they have worked on throughout their programming sessions.

Autism Awareness Day: On National Autism Awareness Day, we took the opportunity to celebrate and recognise the challenges and achievements of those of our Diversity Club members who have Autism. Members shared their experiences with their peers and participated in inclusive programming activities.

Quick Quote:

"All people with autism need sometimes is a friend, or just someone to talk to. I come to Youth Zone so I can make friends with people who understand me and my autism.

-J, Diversity Member

Partnerships:

In 2024, we had the ability to work with multiple partnership agencies, trusts, and foundations. These included:

Burberry Project: Young people from Allsorts designed a collaborative mural representing their voices and identities. Using spray paint and stencils, they created a banner that will be displayed at the Burberry Head Offices in July 2024, symbolising their resilience and positive affirmations from their lived experiences.

Ignite Cricket: In partnership with IMO, our diversity club & ignite group attending a cricket competition camp, the first they've entered. Despite this, our team placed 3rd place in the tournament.

Case Study - Autism Awareness Week

A message from D (15):

"People think that because we have autism, we can't follow instructions. But I have been working on a Meccano car with Martin. Martin is always patient with me, and when I get things wrong, he doesn't shout. He talks to me about ways to fix and let me try".

A message from N (9):

"People think that just because we have autism, our life is boring because sometimes we like to do the same things. After all, it helps us feel safe. But we are all different and still the same."

A message from C (13):

"Usually, people don't let me help do baking because they think I'll burn myself or get it wrong. In diversity, I have learnt how to do things safely with staff who explain things to me so that I understand. Today, for autism awareness day, I made a cake nearly all by myself."

A message from J (8):

"Sometimes people don't understand what autism is and can end up leaving people out or bullying them. But all people with autism need sometimes is a friend or someone to talk to and go to. We come to Youth Zone and can talk to our friends and staff who understand us. This makes me happy".

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Attendance: Number of young people who attended programming	Engagements: Number of overall interactions
114	4,304

Engagements: Try	4,089
Engagements: Train	73
Engagements: Team	142

Aspirations, Skills and Employability

Now in its third year, Youth Hub has undergone significant growth and evolution, cementing its role as a vital resource for the local youth community. The Youth Hub has diversified its offerings to address the needs and interests of local young people. This includes the introduction of new partnerships with local businesses, educational establishments, and non-profit organisations.

This year, we have spent time working on solidifying the Youth Hub further. With a focus on the development of a 5 tier support system supporting those on the cusp of NEET while supporting those furthest away from the labour market we aim to put in tools for consistent support across the programme. In addition, we have introduced the co-location of other agencies to the youth zone, for the future development of the Fusebox while continuing to increase our presence amongst the Darwen Youth Hub.

Activities Offered 2023-2024				
CV workshops	Interview Skills	World of Work Tours	Careers Fairs	Life Skills
Galentine's Event	Badminton	Anxiety Workshops	Schools Fairs	Mentorship

Careers Fair

On February 29th, we hosted our first Careers Fair of the year at Blackburn Youth Zone in collaboration with the Department of Work and Pensions. The event was a resounding success, with 189 young people in attendance from across Blackburn and Darwen. Nine patrons from our network generously volunteered their time to highlight local employment prospects. Additionally, nine local education and training providers, alongside five emotional health and wellbeing providers, actively participated in the fair. Together, they presented a comprehensive range of opportunities, encompassing work placements, skills enhancement programmes, apprenticeships, specialised courses, and a holistic approach to emotional health and wellbeing.

Quick Quote:

'Dare to Dream has helped me build up my self-confidence and take a positive step towards entering the world of work. The voucher's incentives were a great help to me during my time on placement; there are not many incentivized work placement opportunities around.

-CM, Dare to Dream participant

Partnerships:

In 2024, we had the ability to work with over 13 partnership agencies, trusts, and foundations. These included: Princes Trust, New Directions BwD Adult Learning, National Careers Service, Lancashire Mind, Department of Working Pensions, Lancashire Skills Hub, Blackburn College, Aldridge Academy, North Lancs Training Group, Training 2000, UCLAN, and Star Academies.

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Our partnership approach to aspirations, skills, and progression has been highly impactful, creating synergy among organisations by merging resources, expertise, and networks. This collaborative effort has significantly enhanced our ability to deliver comprehensive support services and maximise positive impact across the borough. By working together, we have become more effective in identifying and addressing diverse educational, employment, and mental health needs, ensuring a holistic approach to progression and development.

UKSPF

With UKSPF funding, our Aspirations, Skills, and Progression service empowers young people facing barriers to employment by addressing specific challenges and bridging the gap to meaningful job opportunities. Youth Hub Engagement: Our Youth Hub provides weekly one-on-one sessions for 14-18-year-olds, offering personalised support to tackle mental health stigma and life challenges, significantly enhancing their well-being and development.

Phase 1 - Engage: Young people participate in sessions linked to industry skills, focusing on active lifestyles, well-being, and community prosperity. The Skills Aspiration Hub aligns with local industry needs in areas like digital, energy, and healthcare.

Phase 2 - Train: Participants move to industry-specific workshops, earning accreditations and gaining work experience through our Industry Skills Incubator Hub. These sessions, supported by local businesses, address skill gaps and provide real-world exposure.

Impact and Benefits: These programmes help young people develop critical skills, improve well-being, and gain practical experience, making them more competitive in the job market while benefiting local industries with a skilled workforce and stronger community ties.

Henry Smith - Emotional Health & Wellbeing support:

The project enables us to work with young people who are furthest from the labour market due to multiple barriers such as emotional health or well-being issues. This year, we have already worked with 145 young people, and the demand for support remains high. This cohort has had the opportunity to socialise with peers, overcome personal barriers, and visit our business patrons' workplaces to gain insight into the opportunities that await them. Through these experiences, they have developed greater confidence and a clearer vision of their potential career paths.

UK Youth- Hatch programme.

Hatch is an employability programme run in partnership between UK Youth and KFC. Throughout the programme, we successfully supported over 30 young people, with 29 of them progressing to a 4-week paid work placement programme. Work placements took place with KFCs across the Lancashire area and within our patron network, with Herbert Parkinson and Vampire Vape offering successful, meaningful work placement opportunities. Out of the 29 young people engaged in work placements, 11 young people went on to secure more permanent paid employment.

Dare to Dream- Care Leavers Initiative.

In partnership with Blackburn and Darwen Council, the Dare to Dream Initiative has been launched as a comprehensive 12-month program exclusively designed for 30 care-experienced young people. The programme aims to equip participants with essential employment skills, personalised mentorship, and practical work experience to help them transition smoothly into the workforce and achieve their career aspirations. Placements will be arranged across various local organisations from our patron network, carefully matched to each individual's unique interests and career aspirations. Cohort 1 of the programme has now started with 8 young people identified to participate. Initial 1-1s have now taken place with workshops due to start in the upcoming weeks.

Case Study

CM started his Youth Zone journey 3 months ago. He walked into the Youth Zone with little expectations, hoping to raise his self-confidence through our volunteer offer. During his interview, CM expressed a keen interest in working with young people. However, he had little experience and, therefore, didn't know where to start. CM openly shared that he didn't feel ready for a job and, therefore, wanted to try volunteering alongside working with our Progression Coach to raise aspirations and help prepare for the world of work.

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Due to his passion and enthusiasm, CM was offered some taster sessions on our Junior provision, working alongside our sessional team. Callum was quite shy at the start. However, after a few sessions, his confidence started to grow, which was noticed by the session lead.

CM had clear intentions of wanting to personally develop and progress within the Youth Zone. Our employability team (Youth Hub) at the Youth Zone was delivering the Dare to Dream programme, and a project focused on providing care leavers exposure to the world of work. CM took up the opportunity to take part in the programme. This programme offered a 4-week work placement to young carers, with the incentive of a £50 voucher of their choice at the end of every week. It included a series of pre-employability workshops that needed to be completed before any placements took place.

CM displayed commitment, enthusiasm, great punctuality, and reliability by completing all the workshops and in-house placement, working with our members on both the Junior and Youth provision. Not only has CM's confidence grown, but he also has the self-belief required to take that step into employment

Attendance: Number of young people who attended programming	Engagements: Number of overall interactions
159	1,132

Key Membership Data:

- 2300 hours of 1-1 support (increasing from 800 the previous year)
- 20 careers and aspirations fairs attended

Volunteering

The volunteer programme across Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone has now been firmly embedded within both our offer and our culture. We have a large team of dedicated volunteers whose continuous support has become essential as our membership grows.

Our volunteers have donated an impressive 6,882 hours over the last 12 months, providing a rich and diverse level of support, including:

Corporate Volunteers: Our Corporate volunteers have come from 17 different businesses. Out of the 17 businesses, over 200 volunteers served over 1,600 hours supporting both the Blackburn & Darwen Sites. From supporting master classes such as birdhouse building and baking workshops, our volunteer network gives interactive workshops utilising their specialty skillset to provide opportunities directly to our young people. Corporate volunteers also support through a multitude of support services such as present wrapping, event support, and additional young people support during school holiday time.

Young Leaders: Our Young Leaders programme has geared up this year and we already have 49 who have spent 1,755 hours supporting full and part-time youth workers in the delivery of sessions across both of our centres. Our support for volunteers also includes facilitating ten work placements totalling 2,035 hours.

Case Study - Young person turned Young Leader

Jo-Ann, (Jojo to her friends) has been with us since July 2022 and Youth Zone is her 2nd home. Jojo enjoys spending time with her friends and is very sporty, playing both football and rugby. She is also a shark when it comes to pool and likes nothing more than challenging all comers to a match!

In her early days with us, her behaviour could be somewhat challenging as she struggled to find her voice. In February, she took the bold step to apply to become a Young Leader and was accepted onto this very

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challenging course. She faced the challenge head on and this had an immediate effect on her behaviour within sessions.

Jojo completed the Young Leaders course with flying colours and has become a great asset to junior club sessions where she now volunteers her time. She is brilliant in managing challenging young people and leading by example. Jojo now wants to ace her GCSEs and continue her education at college, with the view to studying sport.

Quote from Jojo:

"Sometimes you just need to stand up to yourself and realise that you get out of things what you put in. I tell our juniors all of the time to be proud of who they are and most of all, believe in yourself. I do."

Emotional Health & Wellbeing

Emotional Health & Wellbeing Support is central to our professional practice and permeates every project, programme, and initiative. This is often delivered through our universal setting, but unlike other youth servicing services, we provide targeted through our Targeted programming, Targeted Twilight.

The main goal of the Emotional Health & Wellbeing strand, both in targeted and universal provisions, over the past year has been focused on increasing programming and attendance while streamlining the referral process and procedures.

Activities Offered 2023-2024

Activities Offered 2023-2024				
Targeted Twilight	Nurture Youth	Mentoring	Service Projects	Workshops

Targeted Twilight: This programme is now in its third year and continues to offer support for young people facing crisis or experiencing difficulties in their lives, which prohibits them from participating in universal settings. Specialist youth workers support our young people in regaining control of their lives, rebuilding their self-confidence and esteem while working on their resilience to cope with their challenges. Working as an essential partner in The Transforming Lives panel, operated by the borough council, we support the referral of young people presenting a myriad of issues. 41 young people have been nominated to support to our programme and an additional 12 referrals to partner organisations better suited to the needs of the young person.

Peshkar Project: This programme was led by a local artist named Alice Eaves who supported vulnerable young people in learning specialism monoprinting while discussing life problems and future prospects.

Targeted Twilight Nurture Youth: 6 week programme cohorts (5 over last fiscal year) for 8-12 year olds aimed at taking a small group approach aimed at increasing confidence, self-esteem and emotional health and wellbeing. This programme included sessions focused on resilience, risk-taking behaviour reduction, positive coping skills, civic voice and engagement, and identity.

Targeted Twilight Mentoring: intensive 6 week programmes designed for 8-16 year olds to progress towards nurture groups. A tailored focus on improving confidence and self-esteem while putting interventions in place to reduce risk-taking behaviour while instilling positive coping mechanisms.

Mental Health Week: From May 15-21st, our members participated in workshops focused on resilience, positive coping strategies, and promoting open conversations reflecting on their mental health journey.

Empowering Against Bullying: A 5 week cohort of 39 young people attended a series of thought-provoking activities and discussions to empower young people to become advocates for change, while creating a community focused on encouraging positive social interactions. The projects aimed to make a lasting impact on the lives of young people while developing strategies to eliminate bullying.

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Quick Quote:
"Because of Youth Zone, I want to become a social worker or youth worker."
 - Natasha Akhtar, young person

Partnerships:

In 2024, we had the ability to work with a multitude of partnership agencies, trusts, and foundations within Emotional Health & Wellbeing. These included:

Strong Sisters: This initiative empowers ethnic minority young women to have agency over their own lives. Part of an international movement, Strong Sisters is delivered over many weeks and months, incrementally building confidence and self-esteem. Trips away punctuate the programme, and our young women have already travelled to Rome to explore the culture, experience travelling, and, most importantly, adapt to living away from home and managing their finances. Travelling abroad in the BAME community hasn't always been encouraged amongst females due to the stigma that it's not safe for women to travel on their own. Our London residential challenged our young women to explore the city via the London underground and by visiting the main landmarks. The idea is to encourage and empower young females to explore their options when travelling and considering further studies or building their future careers.

Aldridge Project: 6 week programme delivered in small groups, aiming to increase confidence, self-esteem, and emotional health & well-being for young people attending DVHS, DACA, or DAES.

Healthy Young Minds: Through an initiative funded by Lancashire & South Cumbria Foundation Trust and lead in partnership with Big Tank and the NHS, our members produced and released three short films that explore important mental health topics chosen by members. The topics covered were: social media and body image, balancing home and school life, and coping with intrusive thoughts.

Case Study - Targeted Twilight

AC joined Blackburn and Darwen Youth Zone to access positive activities and create new positive relationships. During her initial days, AC preferred to converse with only her friends and was wary of interacting with staff and other young people. However, after a falling out with her usual friends, AC became upset and confided in a youth worker about her past experiences. Thus she was referred to the junior nurture programme. AC, although having recently started engaging with the programme, has been progressing well in recognising emotions and exploring stress and anxiety. AC opened up about bullying in her old school, social anxiety and things that cause her stress. Following these sessions, AC has enjoyed filling in her gratitude journal. We have also been exploring thinking errors, during which she opened up about her inner thoughts. She does seem to view herself negatively and has said that sometimes she thinks having ADHD stops her but is starting to realise that it is not necessarily a hindrance. We also discussed and explored the positives she has achieved and the importance of focusing on them. She also acknowledged that she has lower expectations of herself but that she can do it even though people around her don't let her concentrate. Within sessions, we have been using her experiences as foundational elements for the empowerment of resilience and behaviour change, by setting SMART targets. AC has been struggling not to get in trouble in school. We agreed that she would try to achieve 3 merits per week, choosing to focus on the positive rather than dwelling on the negative. This positive choice has been followed by her becoming a part of the anti-bullying monitoring team at school. She also recently enjoyed being able to make her own chocolate toastie, as she has never been able to do so before at home, and cooking isn't a subject open to her in school at the moment.

Attendance: Number of young people who attended programming	Engagements: Number of overall interactions
1,153	5,389

Engagements: Try	5,245
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Engagements: Train	100
Engagements: Teach	44

Cyber & Tech

This year we have expanded our Maker Zone capabilities with the employment of a full-time creative lead who has been responsible for increasing the access our members have to relevant Art & Design, Technology skills and experiences in an informal STEAM framework. We have been developing and implementing a curriculum as part of the Maker Zone Network with the two other prototype maker zones to reduce the barriers our members would traditionally face when trying to access key technologies and instil a DIY "punk" aesthetic of focussing on the core principles and concepts that can be tested and developed with whatever is to hand.

Activities Offered 2023-2024				
Animation Club	Coding	3D Printing	Soldering Skills	Design Engineering
Arcade Emulation	Ozobot Robotics	Sphero Racing	DIY Guitar Pedal	BT Speaker Design
Origami Circuits	Gaming	Gen AI		

Super Science Week: We hosted a Super Science weekend to celebrate the start of British Science Week. Over the weekend, members had the opportunity to trial a series of different science experiments, ranging from making slime to baking their own super science slime cakes, experimenting with salt paint and making their salt dough creations. Young people enjoyed getting hands-on and messy, learning as they played.

Bluetooth Speakers: During our Bespoke sessions in November we ran a design project where our juniors created and 3D printed Bluetooth room speakers. The group tested out a variety of individual ideas before creating the shells of their speakers in TinkerCAD. After the designs were 3D printed they assembled the electronic components and soldered everything in place. We had a variety of designs from a sleek, elegant enclosure to a slice of bread with a face on it.

Circuit Bending and Music Hardware: In March we ran a series of projects in the MakerZone during youth sessions based around our young people's interests that focussed around the crossover between music and electronics. These included adding a pickup to a ukulele so that it could be amplified and mixed through effects pedals, soldering and assembling a fuzz distortion pedal and taking a toy voice changing megaphone and converting that to an effects pedal too. The young people also got to experiment with connecting a variety of MIDI and recording hardware to an open source DAW (A repurposed imac running linux) so that they could get a feel for music production without a big budget.

Arcade Machine prototyping: The members on our youth sessions tested out and built several prototypes for arcade controls to work with the Raspberry Pi-powered arcade emulator built by one of our MZ staff. The young people looked at a variety of button arrangements to work out which fit best for their ergonomics and then built two controls using real arcade hardware that were housed in cardboard boxes. The controls proved to be very popular and a great talking point for showcasing what you can do with the tools around you.

Quick Quote:

"I loved the Sairo Gamification project, especially the ideas of making YouthZone look like my favourite video game, Minecraft!"

- E, Youth member

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Partnerships:

In the fiscal year, we successfully partnered with several agencies, foundations, and organisations. These included:

Sairo Gamification Consultation: We ran a workshop with Sairo as part of the National Youth Work Week to gain insight into what facilities our young people wanted from our upcoming building work and development. The young people generated a list of desirable features from the workshop and Sairo used RUNWAY AI to turn these into visuals. These insights were then given to the architecture team to help shape the look of the new building works including focus on the gaming area and how to make the corridors and hallways more interactive.

Virtual Reality Club: A group of our young people have supported and developed a Virtual Reality Club. The sessions now run every Saturday evening with a range of VR challenges. The young people have created a leaderboard for each activity for a more competitive edge. This has encouraged people to play, compete, and learn new skills. We have also used these at community events, which has also proved popular with all ages and families trying to challenge one another.

Girl Guides: As part of our Maker Zone Network collaboration with The Making rooms we hosted a troupe of 30 girl guides to learn about screen printing and laser cutting techniques. Each individual came away from the event having made a personalised bag and laser engraved room sign.

Case Study - Circuit Bending

C is a youth member who participated in the circuit bending and music hardware workshop. Typically you could find C sitting by themselves and tend to be guarded. As an individual who doesn't typically interact with peers due to social anxiety and public perceptions, they found a safe space to utilise tech and share their passion with their peers. They sampled songs and were able to learn how to make a music recording studio with things they have at home. Through trial and errors, we were able to design and 3D print small parts to ensure it was the right fit, volume, and style. Prior to this experience, they've only used acoustic equipment and played classical guitar. Through this programme, we were able to expand their tech skills and experience to a level they didn't know even existed.

"I felt safe exploring in the MakerZone and share my passions with the group who were a part of the programme. I never knew there was a way I could use tech to make my own electric guitar."

-C, Youth Member

Attendance: Number of young people who attended programming	Engagements: Number of overall interactions
804	6,473

Engagements: Try	4,939
Engagements: Train	1,136
Engagements: Teach	398

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Case Study - Technology and Making

TW (11) attends Junior Club weekly. He is an active participant in many of the sports activities on offer. TW has been a young person who can be very easily influenced by his peers, and on occasion, this has not always led to the most positive outcome.

TW would often follow his friends and participate in activities, even if he wanted to do something different. In recent months, TW has grown the confidence to participate in music and baking sessions. TW enjoys taking a leadership role in baking activities, helping set up resources and helping to clean down. TW supports his peers, ensuring that everyone takes turns and has the opportunity to participate.

Other Universal Programmes

Holiday Activity Fund: During 2023/24, we ran three Holiday Activity Fund programmes across both of our venues at Easter, Summer and Christmas. Spring HAF hosted activities such as gardening, Ramadan and Easter celebrations, sports, crafts and games. Summer HAF saw nearly 500 young people and included activities such as a cake decorating competition, arts, and sports while we also provided an increase in SEND support, increased StreetZone programming, and included our first Stay and Play session for remote workers and their children.

EID Family Fun Day: With partnership support from IMO and Once Voice, we successfully celebrated Eid with over 1,000 visitors participating in the fun which included face painting, bounce houses, crafts, food, and community.

President's Cup 2023: This annual event brings together Youth Zones from around the country to showcase their talents and achievements with over 400 young people in attendance from 14 different Onside Youth Zones.

King Charles III Coronation: On May 6th, over 200 enthusiastic young people attended the celebration of King Charles III's Coronation. The highlight of the festivities was a grand tea party, where our young people indulged in treats fit for a King.

Detached and Outreach

The detached and outreach programme is an essential support to young people across Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone. This programme aims to reduce barriers to inhouse programming by meeting young people where they're at.

As the programming offer continues to grow, we have provided outreach support to 2,071 members over the last 12 months, providing a rich and diverse level of support, including:

- Aspirations, Skills & Progression
- Positive Engagement & Mentorship
- Support Referrals

Street Zone: We continue to work in partnership with YPS, IMO and BRCT to provide a coordinated Detached/Outreach offer. We deliver four sessions a week across Blackburn and Darwen. All Dashboard performance reports are sent daily to the dedicated partner WhatsApp group to ensure that any issues that need addressing are picked up by the relevant partner. We have continued to build partnerships with the local neighbourhood policing team and other agencies. To ensure we have a united offer across all areas.

Community Zone: Collaborations with local Islamic faith schools through the Madrassah project has allowed young people wider access to our diverse programmes. Our 'East Meets West' group to participate in activities such as cake decorating, vision boards, female and male sports sessions, and community activity trips.

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Quick Quote:

"I love it when I see people from Street when I'm playing outside with my mates. They have really helped me and my friends' families. They also run fun street games just for us and also give us free food parcels to take home for our families. Thank you Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone for always being there. You are so caring."

- Ivy, Aged 10

Fundraising & Income Streams

For every £1 of commission funding received from Blackburn with Darwen council to support the delivery of universal youth services for the borough, we raise a further £14.49. This is derived from a combination of unrestricted financial support from our local business Patron network, grants, trusts and foundations support from local and national organisations and income generated from the hire of our facilities.

Our Business Development has been reconfigured within the reporting period to position the charity financially for the future. We have developed a funding strategy that has a range of funding areas and targets which are now more needs-led. Our funding strategy outlines derived income targets from the following sources:

- Business Patron support (unrestricted funding)
- Grants, trusts and foundations support (restricted funding)
- Other donations
- Facilities hire
- Campaigns and events

Patron Involvement

Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone continues to be supported by a network of business Patrons. Their giving is predicated on unrestricted funding, which equals £758,078 (30.7% of our total income (Excluding YIF)). The following Patrons supported us in 2023/24:

Graham & Brown	PM+M	Senator	Brian Mercer Charitable Trust
Bowland Charitable Trust	Forbes Solicitors	Pets Choice	BAE Systems
Napthens Solicitors	Blackburn College	Totally Wicked	AMS Accountancy Group
Star Academies Trust	Navigator Tissue UK	Barnfield Construction	Nybble
Herbert Parkinson	Fagan & Whalley	Emerson & Fenwick	Businesswise Solutions
ESF	Blackburn Chemicals	Staci	JDS Trucks
Prometheus	Sales Geek	Northern Industrial-Radwell	Kingswood Homes
Mergon	Peter Cummings	Multevo Ltd	FMGS
Brookhouse Aerospace Limited	WEC Group	S. T. Murphy Limited	Vampire Vape

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Panaz	Kay Group	Watson Ramsbottom Limited	Suez Recycling & Recovery Ltd
Cardboard Box Co	Symclean	Trevor Dawson	Cummins Mellor
Dobson + Beaumont	Hadgraft Electrical	Perspex	Catchpoint
Rosslee Construction	Lee Banner Electrical	IN4	Darwen Terracotta
Promethean	Murray Building Services	Crown Paints	Sales Geek
ACG Renewables	J&A Kay	Wellocks	Elgra Furniture
Pendle Doors	Gordon Taylor OBE	Cube Funder	Bright Blue Foods
MK Illumination	AMRC	Blackburn Round Table	

We are once again grateful for the continued support of our Patrons, without whom we would not be able to provide vital help and support to the young people of Blackburn with Darwen.

In-Kind Support

During the year, we have received £92,135 in In-Kind Support. We are grateful to the below Patrons & supporters who have provided this:

- Staci - Boxes of Lego, Children's bedding, Glasses
- Finch Bakery - Brownies and Blondies
- Cardboard Box Company - Cardboard Boxes
- Morrisons - Pumpkins
- Promethean - Office Equipment
- Forbes Solicitors - Christmas Trees and Lights, Vouchers
- Bright Blue Foods - Mince Pies
- Accrol - Toilet Rolls
- Collection Cosmetics - Various make-up items
- Rock FM - Christmas Toys
- Various Patrons - Christmas Toys
- Flavour Warehouse - Football Boots
- Multiple Companies - Easter Eggs

Grant, Trust & Foundation Funding

A major source of income for the charity in 2023/24 was derived from Grants, Trusts or Foundations. This amounted to £1,595,136 during the reporting period (59.3% of our total income) and included £227,198 from the Youth Investment Fund for the Fusebox project. The following Grants, Trusts or Foundations supported us in the 2023/24 financial year:

Clothworkers' Foundation	Shepherd Street Trust	Burberry Foundation	Tesco Community Grant
Leathersellers	UK Youth- HATCH	Henry Smith Charitable Trust	MPT Steps

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UK Shared Prosperity	John Lewis Foundation	UKH Foundation	Peter Harrison Foundation
Eric Wright Foundation	Holiday Activity Fund	OnSide Impact Fund	Prudence Trust
UK Youth Futureproof	BBC Children In Need	NCS	Masonic Trust
BwD Council	UCLAN	Million Hours Fund	Barclays Community Football Fund
The Big Give	The Casey Trust	W M and B W Lloyd Charity	D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
DCMS (YIF)	Amazon		

Events, Gift Aid & Community Fundraising

Fundraising Events continue to be an important income stream for the charity with a total of £130,705 being raised. Our biggest fundraising event continues to be the very popular Blackburn Beer & Gin Festival which raised income of £54,603 whilst the Big Give raised an additional £26,696. Fundraising on behalf of the Youth Zone by third parties raised £24,479 and we are very grateful to the organisations involved.

Facility Hire

Due to the uncertainty of access to the building caused by the refurbishment project, we did not promote the use of our facilities to third parties. However, as a result of existing commitments we did raise £8,918 during the year. Once the refurbishment is complete in early 2025 we will be promoting the use of the facilities more and hope to raise substantial funds in the future.

Plans for the Future

Fuse Box Development

Following last year's exciting news that we had secured £3.1 Million from the Government's Youth Investment Fund (YIF) we have spent the last year planning and designing the new facilities. The main contractor was appointed towards the end of the year and construction commenced in April 2024. The project will be completed in early 2025.

The funding will support the development of our iconic Fusebox, one of the first electricity generating centres in the United Kingdom, as an advanced world of work centre. This will house our Youth Employability Hub and provide essential facilities for young people to explore a range of skills in preparation for the future. We aim to retain the unique quality of our building whilst transforming it into an inspiring place for young people to dream the dreams they deserve to dream.

Alongside the Fusebox development, the funding will also enable us to upgrade our reception and outside area to make them more engaging and usable for young people. We are extremely grateful to the DCMS and the Youth Investment Fund for supporting our work with this substantial investment which will help and inspire young people for many years to come.

Five Year Strategy

After an extensive consultation with stakeholders, we have created a 5 year strategy. This strategy will serve as a roadmap of vision and reflects our unwavering dedication to fostering a nurturing environment that utilises youth voice to create a holistic approach to programming. Our strategy serves as a guiding compass, steering us toward a transformative journey of positive impact and growth.

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In pursuing our purpose to empower and uplift the youth of Blackburn and Darwen, we have identified six key priorities that will serve as the foundation for all our endeavours and aligned goals.

- **Priority 1:** To ensure young people are at the heart of our delivery and decision making.
- **Priority 2:** To extend our reach and influence into the wider community
- **Priority 3:** To be an organisation that builds and invests in the workforce of the future.
- **Priority 4:** To work in partnership to enhance services
- **Priority 5:** To be a sustainable organisation that has a long term positive impact on young people and the local community
- **Priority 6:** To refurbish the Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zones & relaunch services

Increased Presence in Darwen

Our Darwen presence has made an immediate impact on the 10,000 young people who live in those communities. Our work, in many ways, has only just begun. We are currently configuring a new consortium of youth sector providers, Together Darwen and have already received support for this initiative. We have secured significant 3 year funding for the provision of sports-based activities across the town and plan to appoint a sports and physical activities manager to oversee the development of this partnership programme through Blackburn with Darwen Council's Together an Active Future programme.

Increased 'Street Zone'

Over the past year, we have introduced our Street Zone provision throughout Darwen. Ensuring that we reach high-need areas on a recurring basis while creating positive impressions amongst young people has been the main goal. With 468 hours served across both Blackburn & Darwen, we aim to make strong connections with young people while steering them towards provisions. Through a Darwen based trust, we have been able to secure a bus which will be reconverted and brought to a series of locations in Darwen with an aim to reach more young people by meeting them where they are at and helping them towards where they want to be. With this addition, we aim to provide a 7-day provisional offer with designated staff focused on supporting the neighbourhoods of Darwen.

Enhance our Emotional Health and Wellbeing Offer

Our emotional health and wellbeing offer does not match the demand for this type of service. We plan to expand our existing offer incrementally over the coming years to ensure that all local young people's needs are met in this vital area of youth work. Our long-term aim is to have a fully integrated emotional health and well-being service which supports the NHS and local borough council in providing high-quality early intervention for young people showing the early signs of emotional distress. Our focus for the next period is to secure sufficient funding to support communities that have been historically underrepresented in accessing this type of care.

Internal Restructure for Growth

With a large amount of growth and change within the organisation, we have become increasingly aware of the need to restructure the internal operations. This has included reviewing internal HR systems, organisational structure, strategy development and the streamlining of service strands to futureproof the services we provide. With increased financial support, we plan on increasing the amount of full-time staff on our roster, diversify staff to represent the communities we serve, and analyse and improve our employee retention rate while introducing supports focused on supporting employees during their tenure with the organisation.

Structure, Governance and Management

We operate as a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee without share capital. 'Blackburn Youth Zone' is registered under the Companies Act 1985, registration number 6944317. The company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, dated 25th June 2009. Management of the company's affairs is vested in the Trustees.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

In the event of a winding-up, the present members and those who have ceased to be a member within one year of such event have guaranteed liabilities of the company to the sum not exceeding one pound each year.

Organisational Structure

The legal entity, Blackburn Youth Zone, is governed by its Board of Trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of Company Law, which retains overall responsibility for the strategic direction and the organisation's policies. The Trustees carry ultimate responsibility for the conduct of Blackburn Youth Zone and for ensuring that the charity satisfies its legal and contractual obligations.

The Board appoints a Chief Executive to manage the day-to-day operations. To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive has delegated authority as approved by the Board for all operational matters, including finance, human resources and operational delivery.

The board approves the strategic plan and annual business plan. scrutinising business performance, including financial performance, and provides advice to the Chief Executive on operational matters of performance. The pay of the Chief Executive Officer is reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees, benchmarking their salary against those of similar Youth Zones within the OnSide Network.

Blackburn Youth Zone is part of the network of Youth Zones established by OnSide Youth Zones (Charity Registered in England & Wales no: 1125893). Many of the operational policies and procedures of the Youth Zone are influenced by being part of this wider network.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees comprises 12 Directors representing the public, private and third sector, along with two more members who provide additional expertise but do not have voting rights.

Trustees can be nominated for a fixed or indeterminate term. One-third of the Directors will retire by rotation at each AGM; retiring Directors can then be re-appointed.

The Trustees normally meet bi-monthly, where finance and delivery performance are scrutinised and strategic plans reviewed.

New Trustees will be recruited according to the needs of the charity and the suitability of possible candidates. The unanimous approval of existing Trustees leads to their appointment.

Newly appointed trustees are provided with a comprehensive induction to Blackburn Youth Zone's provision, including key information about the organisation's development, governance and safeguarding.

The Board appointed four new Trustees during the reporting period with three Trustees resigning during the same period.

The Board wishes to record their thanks to the retiring Trustees - E A Sidat, J Carson and M Ibrahim - who resigned in good standing.

Financial review:

Total income for the year, excluding the YIF project, was £2,462,822 (2023: £1,754,563), with a further £227,198 relating to YIF. Of this amount, £936,151 (2023: £831,079) was from donations, primarily from the local business community; £608,284 (2023: £232,990) was from grants; public grants of £759,654 (2023: £538,520) were also received; and the balance of £158,733 (2023: £151,974) was income from charitable activities, fundraising and investment income. A further £227,198 from the Youth Investment Fund for the Fusebox project was received during the period, of which £158,571 related to Capital.

Total expenditure for the year was £2,383,485 (2023: £1,886,239), of which £188,697 (2023: £156,220) related to fundraising activities and £2,194,788 (2023: £1,730,019) related to charitable activities.

The resulting surplus for the year of £306,535 (2023: deficit £131,676) was after charging £136,057 (2023: £137,170) of depreciation on fixed assets. Excluding the YIF funding the surplus for the year was £148,344.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The total unrestricted funds held on 31 March 2024 were £810,873 (2023: £562,041). This included a Designated Fund of £135,828 specifically for the work within the town of Darwen. The total net assets of the organisation as of 31 March 2024 were £5,521,589 (2023: £5,215,054)

Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees of Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone has established a reserves policy that appropriately reflects the risks to which the charity is exposed.

In reviewing the potential costs that could arise should a significant reduction in income be incurred, the Trustees have determined that it is appropriate for unrestricted, 'free', reserves to be maintained at a minimum of 3 months. Due to the current uncertainty in the economic climate, shifting restrictions and an anticipated increase in demand for our services, the Trustees have agreed that the Charity will ideally hold more unrestricted funds than the minimum required in the reserves policy.

On 31st March 2024, the charity had accumulated unrestricted, 'free', reserves of £810,874, this provides cover equivalent to 5 months of operating costs, within the range that the Trustees are currently comfortable with. The reserves policy does not consider expenditure linked to restricted projects and therefore, covered by restricted funds.

The charity has plans in place to regularly review both the sum it wishes to hold in reserves in unrestricted funds and the basis for that figure, particularly considering the ongoing impact of the increase in the cost of living.

Total reserves at the end of the period were £5,521,589 of which £4,756,442 can only be realised by disposing of fixed assets. £158,571 of the Fixed Asset figure relates to the Fusebox project, all professional fees. Total reserves after deducting restricted funds, fixed asset funds and designated funds is £675,045.

Investment Policy

Any surplus funds that are not immediately required may, at the Board's discretion, be invested to ensure the charity's future sustainability. To ensure such investments are safeguarded;

- Any decision about investment will be made by the Board (potentially having professional advice) considering the suitability and diversification of investments, including investments in deposit accounts, to ensure that the failure of one investment or institution does not have a major impact on Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone
- Investments will be made in line with Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone Values
- Investment performance will be regularly reviewed
- Records will be maintained of all investments held (including details of all those sold or purchased) by the charity
- Accounting controls will be fully implemented to ensure that all dividends or interest payments due are received and accounted for.

During the year £341,871 was deposited with various accounts via Flagstone and terms ranging from 3 months to 12 months ensuring a reasonable spread of maturity should the funds be required. This amount is included in the Cash at bank and in hand total of £948,741.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure are sufficient, with the level of reserves, for the charity to continue as a going concern.

Risk Management

The Board fully accepts its responsibilities under the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP). The Trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are committed to ensuring these are effectively managed.

The Chief Executive and senior managers have undertaken a comprehensive risk assessment and established risk registers from an organisation and operational perspective and have established risk management and control procedures, which are reviewed regularly by the Board.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone's top risks are outlined below;

Risk	Mitigation
<p>Safeguarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Risk of abuse by Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone staff/volunteers - Non-reporting of serious safeguarding concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All staff, volunteers and board members have DBSs and full training on safeguarding. - Freelancers and partners must also produce their DBS to work at Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone and have a full induction. - We have a nominated safeguarding lead on the Board and an SLT member who acts as our health and safety lead, both are responsible for ensuring we review our annual safeguarding policy and procedures. - We have an annual review of our safeguarding policy and procedures, and these are now captured in a new policy review schedule which includes training if required.
<p>Health and Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We review annually, our health and safety policy and procedures and ensure all team members are trained in line with the policy. - We have an annual external check of our health safety culture and compliance. - The BwD borough council manages all statutory compliance to ensure the highest standards.
<p>Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Income - Expenditure - Cash 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have a finance committee that reviews monthly income, expenditure and cash. - We have a fully resourced finance team responsible for reporting management accounts and ensuring all financial controls are enforced. - We have a fully resourced Business Development team to ensure we maximise income, with governance around meeting targets.
<p>Performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor quality service, which does not meet the needs of young people - Low attendance numbers, which results in low return on investment - Poor performance from facilities staff, which results in an unclean or unsafe building - Poor performance from catering staff resulting in unhealthy or unsafe food - Poor performance from Business Development team resulting in financial instability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff are fully trained with regular refreshers to ensure youth offer is up to date. - Staff values ensure the team is happy, committed and passionate. - Proactive membership and engagement, which maximises all routes to securing new members and retaining existing members. - Regular one-to-ones and appraisals, along with spot checks where necessary to ensure staff performance is of expected levels. Check-ins with all team members and their managers every six weeks

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

<p>Reputation Negative impacts on the reputation of Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Negative press coverage of incidents• Negative opinions of stakeholders due to unprofessional work ethics• Mismanagement of time, resources, service delivery	<p>Maintain a professional, reliable and trustworthy appearance through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Attendance at local and regional networking and multi-agency meetings- Fulfilling all obligations to funders including reporting and financial management- Sharing best practice and research as appropriate- Ensuring all policies and procedures are effectively followed and enforced
<p>People Staff issues due to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Turnover- Sickness- Poor organisational culture/morale- Poor communication- Burnout	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- We have a clear plan to build the culture at Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone ensuring all team members feel valued and engaged in decision making.- A full review of HR functions was carried out during the year and as a result we have appointed a dedicated People & Culture Lead who will ensure that all of our processes are reviewed.

Fundraising Standards Information

Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone raises funds by approaching businesses and philanthropic individuals interested in supporting young people. We also apply for Grants from Trusts that have the same interest. During the year, we used a mix of our own employees plus the services of an external team of freelance fundraisers who assisted with funding bids up to £20,000.

The charity is not currently a member of any voluntary scheme for regulating fundraising.

Primarily, we work with prospective business Patrons who have been introduced to our cause on a one-to-one basis. The Chief Executive monitors all fundraising. During the period, the charity received no complaints regarding its fundraising activities.

The charity does not do street or door-to-door fundraising, so it does not come into contact with vulnerable or other people who may feel intruded upon, unreasonably persistently approached or have had undue pressure placed upon them.

Business Plan

A 2024/25 business plan has been developed. This will be the benchmark against which the organisation will be monitored. This monitoring will occur monthly by the Senior Leadership Team and bi-monthly by the Board of Trustees. Each programme of work has an associated operational plan, fed into the annual objectives of all team members across the organisation.

Trustees Responsibilities

The Charity's Trustees (who are also directors for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Annual Report (including the Strategic Report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the charity's Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company, for that period.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to;

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charity SORP 2019 (FRS 102)
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether UK accounting standards have been followed, and
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume the charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that 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. The Trustees 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.

Statement as to Disclosure to our Auditors

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

- There is no relevant audit information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing their report, of which the auditor is unaware, and
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of this information.

This report was approved by the Board of Directors on 28 November 2024 and on behalf of the board by:



Wayne Wild, MBE
Trustee

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Blackburn Youth Zone (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cashflows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2024, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

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

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

- the strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 28, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the company and the sector in which it operates and considered the risk of non-compliance with applicable laws or regulations.

We determined that the following laws and regulations were most significant: the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial and Reporting Standard applicable to the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), those that relate to safeguarding and child protection, those that relate to employment law and those that relate to data protection. We designed audit procedures to respond to the risk, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

We obtained an understanding of how the company is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making enquiries of the management. We corroborated our enquiries through our review of board minutes.

Our tests also included agreeing the financial statements disclosures to underlying supporting documentation. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. We did not identify any key audit matters relating to irregularities, including fraud.

We also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including testing journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the management or trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Catherine Cole FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of
Donnelly Bentley Limited
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Hazlemere
70 Chorley New Road
Bolton
BL1 4BY

28 November 2024

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE**(A company limited by guarantee)****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	2	1,269,726	1,261,561	2,531,287	1,602,589
Charitable activities	3	27,063	-	27,063	31,953
Other trading activities	4	115,675	-	115,675	117,567
Investments	5	15,995	-	15,995	2,454
TOTAL INCOME		1,428,459	1,261,561	2,690,020	1,754,563
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds		188,697	-	188,697	156,220
Charitable activities		990,929	1,203,859	2,194,788	1,730,019
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		1,179,626	1,203,859	2,383,485	1,886,239
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS		248,833	57,702	306,535	(131,676)
Transfers between Funds		-	-	-	-
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		248,833	57,702	306,535	(131,676)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		248,833	57,702	306,535	(131,676)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		562,041	4,653,013	5,215,054	5,346,730
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		810,874	4,710,715	5,521,589	5,215,054

The notes on pages 36 to 49 form part of these financial statements.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE**(A company limited by guarantee)****REGISTERED NUMBER: 6944317****BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024**

	Note	£	2024 £	£	2023 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	10		4,756,442		4,707,811
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	11	199,147		104,448	
Cash at bank and in hand		948,741		751,779	
		1,147,888		856,227	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	12	(382,741)		(348,984)	
NET CURRENT ASSETS / (LIABILITIES)			765,147		507,243
NET ASSETS			5,521,589		5,215,054
CHARITY FUNDS					
Restricted funds	14		4,710,715		4,653,013
Unrestricted funds	14		810,874		562,041
TOTAL FUNDS			5,521,589		5,215,054

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 28 November 2024 and signed on their behalf, by:



Wayne Wild, MBE
Trustee

The notes on pages 36 to 49 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE**(A company limited by guarantee)****STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	16	<u>366,495</u>	<u>67,680</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		15,995	2,454
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(187,528)	(7,141)
Receipt from sale of tangible fixed asset		<u>2,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(169,533)</u>	<u>(4,687)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		196,962	62,993
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		<u>751,779</u>	<u>688,786</u>
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	17	<u>948,741</u>	<u>751,779</u>

The notes on pages 36 to 49 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Blackburn Youth Zone 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.

1.2 Company status

The company is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 2. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the company. The address of the registered office is Jubilee Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 1EP. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are to improve the life chances of young people in the Blackburn with Darwen area, helping them to gain increased levels of confidence and self-esteem and raising their aspirations for the future.

1.3 Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) once the company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the company where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the company has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the company of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably.

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

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.4 Grants

Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

1.5 Interest receivable

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

1.6 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities. Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the company and include project management carried out at Headquarters.

Costs of generating funds are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the company's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the company apportioned to charitable activities.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Long-term leasehold property	-	2% straight line
Plant and machinery	-	25% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	-	20% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	-	25% reducing balance
Office equipment	-	33% straight line

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.8 Operating leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account on a straight line basis over the lease term.

1.9 Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

1.10 Cash at bank and in hand

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

1.11 Provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

1.12 Financial instruments

The company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.13 Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the company to the fund in respect of the year.

1.14 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the note to the accounts.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.15 Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the test set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK Corporation Tax purposes.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1.16 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of these financial statements require certain judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

1.17 Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Donations	936,151	-	936,151	831,079
Grants	150,449	457,835	608,284	232,990
Government grants	183,126	803,726	986,852	538,520
Total donations and legacies	<u>1,269,726</u>	<u>1,261,561</u>	<u>2,531,287</u>	<u>1,602,589</u>
Total 2023	<u>1,058,046</u>	<u>544,543</u>	<u>1,602,589</u>	

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Young People's activity sessions	16,222	-	16,222	15,853
Facility hire	10,841	-	10,841	16,100
	<u>27,063</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>27,063</u>	<u>31,953</u>
Total 2023	<u>31,953</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,953</u>	

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

4. FUNDRAISING INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Events income	<u>115,675</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>115,675</u>	<u>117,567</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>117,567</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>117,567</u>	

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Bank interest received	<u>15,995</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>15,995</u>	<u>2,454</u>
<i>Total 2023</i>	<u>2,454</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,454</u>	

Donations includes £92,135 (2023: £31,085) of In-Kind Support ranging from raffle prizes, toys, bedding and make-up.

During the year to 31st March 2024, volunteers provided 6882 hours (2023:4,646) of support to the Youth Zone, which equates to an average of around 132 hours (2023:89) per week.

6. DIRECT COSTS

	Fundraising expenses £	Charitable Activities costs £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Catering supplies	-	63,590	63,590	28,218
Commissioning artists	-	-	-	515
Partnership & arrangements	-	132,954	132,954	81,379
Trips and minibus hire	-	15,514	15,514	9,107
Youth activity consumables	-	164,572	164,572	55,384
Fundraising events costs	59,749	-	59,749	60,247
Wages and salaries	90,968	829,650	920,618	735,337
Pension cost	1,814	9,816	11,630	9,037
Professional fees	36,166	-	36,166	32,575
Freelance staff	-	10,300	10,300	-
	<u>188,697</u>	<u>1,226,396</u>	<u>1,415,093</u>	<u>1,011,799</u>
<i>At 31 March 2023</i>	<u>156,220</u>	<u>855,579</u>	<u>1,011,799</u>	

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

7. SUPPORT COSTS

	Fundraising expenses £	Charitable Activities costs £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Office costs	-	137,376	137,376	92,203
Other building running costs	-	212,331	212,331	254,175
Insurance	-	18,601	18,601	26,911
Other staff costs	-	18,043	18,043	14,008
Other costs	-	70,313	70,313	77,120
Wages and salaries	-	346,637	346,637	266,322
Pension cost	-	8,199	8,199	6,531
Depreciation	-	136,057	136,057	137,170
Freelance staff	-	19,994	19,994	-
(Profit)/Loss on sale of tangible assets	-	841	841	-
	-	<u>968,392</u>	<u>968,392</u>	<u>874,440</u>
At 31 March 2023	-	<u>874,440</u>	<u>874,440</u>	

£Nil (2023:£Nil) of fundraising costs were attributable to restricted funds and £188,697 (2023: £156,220) were attributable to unrestricted funds.

£1,203,859 (2023: £657,029) of charitable activities were attributable to restricted funds and £990,929 (2023: £1,072,990) were attributable to unrestricted funds.

Total governance costs included within support cash were £24,447 (2023: £20,854).

8. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

This is stated after charging:

	2024 £	2023 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets:		
- owned by the charity	136,057	137,170
Auditor's remuneration	<u>9,000</u>	<u>9,000</u>

During the year, no trustees received any remuneration (2023 - £NIL).

During the year, no trustees received any benefits in kind (2023 - £NIL).

During the year, 6 trustees received reimbursement of expenses totaling £446 (2023 – 2 trustees totaling £37).

9. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs were as follows:

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	1,184,339	936,045
Social security costs	82,916	65,614
Pension costs	19,829	15,568

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year was as follows:

	<u>1,287,084</u>	<u>1,017,227</u>
	2024 No.	2023 No.
Fundraising and administration	9	8
Delivery	<u>73</u>	<u>66</u>
	<u>82</u>	<u>74</u>
Average headcount expressed as a full time equivalent:		
	2024 No.	2023 No.
Fundraising and administration	8	7
Delivery	<u>36</u>	<u>29</u>
	<u>44</u>	<u>36</u>

There was one employee whose total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) fell within £70,000-£80,000 per annum (2023:1). No other employees earned more than £60,000 in 2024 or 2023.

Key management personnel are considered to be the Chief Executive, Head of Operations and Director of Finance. The total amount of employee benefits paid to the key management personnel for the year was £212,425 (2023 - £163,791).

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Long-term leasehold property £	Asset under construction £	Motor vehicles £	Plant and machinery, fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment and computers £	Total £
Cost						
At 1 April 2023	5,515,459		19,794	155,804	51,235	5,742,292
Additions		158,572		23,445	5,511	187,528
Disposals				(33,577)	(8,929)	(42,506)
At 31 March 2024	<u>5,515,459</u>	<u>158,572</u>	<u>19,794</u>	<u>145,672</u>	<u>47,817</u>	<u>5,887,314</u>
Depreciation						
At 1 April 2023	873,281		19,794	107,642	33,764	1,034,481
Charge for the year	110,309			14,546	11,201	136,056
Eliminated on disposal				(30,736)	(8,929)	(39,665)
At 31 March 2024	<u>983,590</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,794</u>	<u>91,452</u>	<u>36,036</u>	<u>1,130,872</u>
Net book value						
At 31 March 2024	<u>4,531,869</u>	<u>158,572</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>54,220</u>	<u>11,781</u>	<u>4,756,442</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>4,642,178</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>48,162</u>	<u>17,471</u>	<u>4,707,811</u>

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

On 17 April 2015 the property from which the company operates was legally transferred to the company from Onside Youth Zones.

Onside Youth Zones previously built and developed the property with the support of a £5 million grant provided by the Big Lottery Fund, acting as agent for the Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State holds a legal charge over the company secured on the property, for a period of 20 years from 26 February 2009. The charge has terms associated which if not met by the company could result in the grant becoming repayable.

11. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade debtors	73,632	15,219
Other debtors	126	102
Prepayments and accrued income	125,389	89,127
	<u>199,147</u>	<u>104,448</u>

12. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	52,990	31,767
Other taxation and social security	43,388	32,985
Other creditors	25,958	17,344
Accruals and deferred income	260,405	266,888
	<u>382,741</u>	<u>348,984</u>

13. DEFERRED INCOME

	2024	2023
	£	£
At 1 April 2023	157,872	33,743
Additions during the year	625,063	429,317
Amounts released to income	(679,912)	(305,188)
	<u>103,023</u>	<u>157,872</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>103,023</u>	<u>157,872</u>

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE**(A company limited by guarantee)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024****14. STATEMENT OF FUNDS****STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR**

	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers Between Funds £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Unrestricted Funds					
General Funds	456,180	1,127,333	(908,467)	-	675,046
Designated Fund	105,861	301,126	(271,159)	-	135,828
	<u>562,041</u>	<u>1,428,459</u>	<u>(1,179,626)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>810,874</u>
Restricted Funds					
Restricted Funds	10,835	1,034,363	(1,024,922)	-	20,276
Property Reserves	4,642,178	227,198	(178,937)	-	4,690,439
	<u>4,653,013</u>	<u>1,261,561</u>	<u>(1,203,859)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,710,715</u>
Total of Funds	<u>5,215,054</u>	<u>2,690,020</u>	<u>(2,383,485)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,521,589</u>

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer Between Funds	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted Funds					
General Funds	468,181	1,004,782	(1,016,783)	-	456,180
Designated Fund	113,050	205,238	(212,427)	-	105,861
	<u>581,231</u>	<u>1,210,020</u>	<u>(1,229,210)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>562,041</u>
Restricted Funds					
Restricted Funds	13,012	544,543	(546,720)	-	10,835
Property Reserves	4,752,487	-	(110,309)	-	4,642,178
	<u>4,765,499</u>	<u>544,543</u>	<u>(657,029)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,653,013</u>
Total of Funds	<u>5,346,730</u>	<u>1,754,563</u>	<u>(1,886,239)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,215,054</u>

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

Restricted Funds	Balance at 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Fund Transfers £	Balance at 31 March 2024 £
Prudence Trust – wellbeing worker	-	15,343	(15,343)	-	-
Youth Hub	-	94,503	(94,503)	-	-
Police Commissioner - Knife Crime	138	-	(92)	-	46
UK Youth – Futureproof	-	500	(500)	-	-
Time to Talk Plus – UKH Foundation	-	1,667	(1,667)	-	-
Peter Harrison – Triple T Sport	4,378	13,621	(17,999)	-	-
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	-	175,000	(175,000)	-	-
John Lewis Foundation	-	99,889	(99,889)	-	-
Digital Futures – Maker Zone	2,897	8,690	(8,587)	-	3,000
UK Youth Hatch	-	32,180	(32,180)	-	-
HAF Easter	-	22,881	(22,881)	-	-
BwD Mentoring	-	2,166	(2,166)	-	-
Masonic Charitable Trust	-	36,002	(36,002)	-	-
Eric Wright Foundation	-	35,000	(35,000)	-	-
OnSide Impact Fund Maker Zone	-	61,711	(49,817)	-	11,894
NHS ACMH	-	46,979	(46,979)	-	-
HAF Summer 23	-	110,725	(110,725)	-	-
BBC CIN – Darwen Targeted Support Worker	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
UCLAN Future U	-	7,570	(7,570)	-	-
Lottery Community Fund-Detached Clothworkers – refurb Intervention Room	-	9,980	(9,980)	-	-
Burberry Foundation	-	11,000	(11,000)	-	-
NCS Community Experience	-	10,554	(10,554)	-	-
HAF Winter	-	20,250	(20,250)	-	-
Shepherd Street Trust	-	27,542	(27,542)	-	-
Barclays Community Football	-	2,000	(418)	-	1,582
Doyly Carte	-	500	(500)	-	-
Sport England (Wheelchairs)	-	1,000	-	-	1,000
Active Lancashire (Boxing and UV equipment)	1,534	-	(299)	-	1,235
NCS – IMO	1,888	-	(369)	-	1,519
HAF Easter	-	71,145	(71,145)	-	-
	-	2,357	(2,357)	-	-
Capital Building Project YIF	4,642,179	-	(110,310)	-	4,531,869
National Lottery	-	227,198	(68,627)	-	158,571
Onside Winter Holiday Hunger	-	75,000	(75,000)	-	-
Onside Impact Fund Residential	-	12,964	(12,964)	-	-
	-	5,644	(5,644)	-	-
Total	4,653,014	1,261,561	(1,203,859)	-	4,710,716

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

HAF – Easter	Providing positive activity and food through the Easter holidays to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds tackling holiday hunger.
Youth Hub	Various projects to help young people, particularly those with special needs, get into employment or training.
Capital Building Project	Monies received for the initial construction and fitting out of the building. The original expenditure relates to the annual depreciation charge.
Eric Wright Foundation	To support young people and their families through the cost-of-living crisis.
Time to Talk Plus – UKH Foundation	1 to 1 and tailored activities for young people struggling with mental health issues.
Peter Harrison – Triple T Spots	To support the pilot year of the Try, Train, Teach Sports and physical activity programme.
BwD Targeted Community Physical Activities Fund	To deliver positive health and wellbeing through sport and physical activity.
HAF Summer 22 & Winter 22	Providing positive activity and food through the summer & winter holidays to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds tackling holiday hunger.
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	To engage young people, community, and the private sector in community activities, volunteering and business engagement.
John Lewis Foundation	Supporting young people aged 16-24 who are currently unemployed, not in training or learning and who may have a range of vulnerabilities and need help to move into employment, training or learning opportunities.
Prudence Trust Wellbeing Worker	Health and wellbeing evaluations in session and signposting for support where needed.
Doyle Carter – The Arts	To deliver weekly performing arts sessions.
Youth Justice Fund – Triple T Sports	Support vulnerable young people, aged 10-17, at risk of involvement in crime, anti – social behaviour and serious violence through involvement in local sporting activities.
Digital Futures – Maker Zone	To develop a flexible curriculum which aids the quality and impact of Maker Zone.
UK Youth Hatch	A work readiness programme for young people aged 16-25 who are not in employment, education, or training (NEET) or at risk of becoming NEET.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

UK Youth - Futureproof	The Futureproof programme aims to support youth workers with the tools and time to work with young people to build practical, essential life skills around challenging topics.
Onside Winter Hunger	To support the delivery of free visits with a free meal between November 2022 and March 2023.
Clothworkers – refurb intervention room	Capital refurbishment of the Intervention Room and outdoor space.
Burberry Foundation	Creative/Enterprise projects.
NCS Community Experiences	Encourage young people to try different activities and to step out of their comfort zone.
Shepherd Street Trust	New basketball kits.
Barclays Community Football	Increase participation in football activities.
BBC CIN – Darwen Targeted Support Worker	Funding for a Targeted Support Worker at Darwen Youth Zone.
UCLAN Future	Uni Connect programme.
Masonic Charitable Trust	Care Leavers Mentoring programme.
OnSide Impact Fund – Maker Zone	Development of the Maker Zone, digital arts, space
National Lottery	Contribution to increased costs relating to utilities, staffing and free meals.
NHS ACMH	Lancashire and Cumbria Mental Health Transformation project.
NCS	Delivery of NCS programme to 195 young people.

Designated Fund

The designated fund is a fund to support the work of Youth Zone Darwen.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE**(A company limited by guarantee)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024****15. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS****ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR**

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £
Tangible fixed assets	66,002	4,690,440	4,756,442
Current assets	1,127,612	20,276	1,147,888
Creditors due within one year	(382,741)	-	(382,741)
	<u>810,873</u>	<u>4,710,716</u>	<u>5,521,589</u>

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	<i>Unrestricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Restricted funds 2023 £</i>	<i>Total funds 2023 £</i>
Tangible fixed assets	65,633	4,642,178	4,707,811
Current assets	845,392	10,835	856,227
Creditors due within one year	(348,984)	-	(348,984)
	<u>562,041</u>	<u>4,653,013</u>	<u>5,215,054</u>

**16. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING
ACTIVITIES**

	2024 £	2023 £
Net income /(expenditure) for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	306,535	(131,676)
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation charges	136,057	137,170
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(15,995)	(2,454)
Loss on the sale of fixed assets	840	-
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(94,699)	(27,704)
(decrease)/increase in creditors	33,757	92,344
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>366,495</u>	<u>67,680</u>

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

17. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>948,741</u>	<u>751,779</u>
Total	<u>948,741</u>	<u>751,779</u>

18. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The company operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £19,829 (2023 - £15,568). Contributions totaling £4,335 (2023 - £5,947) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in other creditors.

19. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

AH Graham, who is a trustee, is a director of Graham & Brown Limited. During the year, this company made donations totaling £25,000 (2023 - £25,000) and sponsorship of events of £590 (2023 - £1,540).

E Swan, who is a trustee, is a partner of Forbes Solicitors. Wayne Wild, a trustee, is the husband of the Managing Partner of Forbes Solicitors. During the year, Forbes Solicitors made donations totaling £11,833 (2023 - £9,165) and sponsorship of events of £650 (2023 - £2,000). Blackburn Youth Zone paid £1,080 (2023 £Nil) for legal services.

Wayne Wild is the sole director of Lumax Ltd, who are in turn the sole shareholders of 3g Pitch Hire Ltd. During the year the company paid 3G Pitch Hire Ltd £3,135 (2023: £1,265) for the hire of the 3G pitch at AFC Darwen.

EA Sidat, who was a trustee until 26 September 2023, is a director of AMS Accountants Group Limited and Signature Tax Ltd. During the year the company made donations of £10,000 (2023 - £12,500) and sponsorship of events of £2,500 (2023 - £840)

M Saxton, who is a trustee, is a director of Totally Wicked. During the year Totally Wicked made donations of £25,000 (2023 - £25,000) and sponsorship of events of £4,220 (2023 - £2,230)

P. Mellor, who is a trustee, is a director of Cummins Mellor Limited, Chef Jobs UK Ltd and Personnel Checks Limited. During the year Cummins Mellor made donations totalling £8,220 (2023: £9,480). During the year Blackburn Youth Zone paid £nil (2023 £5,844) to Cummins Mellor Limited for recruitment services, £3,848 (2023: £1,017) to Chef Jobs UK Ltd for temporary staff and £2,390 (2023: £2,532) to Personnel Checks Limited for DBS checking services.

20. FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS

At 31 March 2024 Blackburn Youth Zone had financial commitments of £57,967 (2023: £nil) not included in the balance sheet.

21. CONTROLLING PARTY

There is no controlling party.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

England & Wales - Charity number 1135949

Accounts

REGISTERED NUMBER: 6944317
Charity number: 1135949

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

DonnellyBentley
Chartered Accountants
Hazlemere
70 Chorley New Road
Bolton
BL1 4BY

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Trustees

Rt Hon J W Straw (Chairman)
A H Graham
E A Sidat (Resigned 26 September 2023)
J Carson
M Ibrahim
K D Robinson
E L Swan
D Park
P M Mellor
M J Saxton
W A Wild
K B Kazi (Appointed 28 September 2022 and resigned 9 March 2023)
A S Sidat (Appointed 26 September 2023)
P Skupski (Appointed 29 November 2023)

Senior Management Team

Hannah Allen – Chief Executive

Company registered number

6944317

Charity registered number

1135949

Registered office

Jubilee Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 1EP

Independent auditors

DonnellyBentley, Hazlemere, 70 Chorley New Road, Bolton, BL1 4BY

Bankers

HSBC, 60 Church Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 5AS

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Contents of Trustees' Report

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- Statement as to disclosure to our auditors**

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Trustee Report

The Trustees (also directors of the charity under the Companies Act) present their report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2023. The Trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS 102)" in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Strategic Report

A message from our CEO - Hannah Allen:

I have been the Chief Executive of Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone for an amazing seven years and have been excited by our incremental growth and development over this period. We are a force for good and, over the past twelve years, have truly created a Movement.

Young people, particularly those from under-resourced backgrounds, need a trusted advocate, and they need to look no further than their Youth Zone. For local young people, we are and will always be somewhere to go, something to do and someone to talk to.

We have supported a stunning number of members this year, some 4,191 young people. This is an incredible 15% increase from the previous year. Our offer does much to support the needs and aspirations of local young people, and this annual report captures a little of how we have approached this between 1st April 2022 and 31st March 2023.

We celebrated our first ten years this year and now look forward with a sense of purpose to the next decade. Back in January, we commenced what was to become our largest consultation to date. We wanted to understand what the future should look like in supporting the next generation of young people to achieve their full potential. Their voices were loud and clear and will now be captured in a new strategy setting out our ambitions over the next five years.

Our commitment over this period will be to broaden our reach, expand our services and work through the Power of Partnership to provide the very best support for local young people, whoever they are and wherever they may be.

Blackburn Youth Zone Objectives

Blackburn Youth Zone's objectives are to help educate children and young people resident in the North West of England through their leisure time activities. Blackburn Youth Zone does this by promoting their physical, mental and spiritual potential so that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society.

The Trustees have given due consideration to the Charity Commission published guidance on the operation of the public benefit requirement and are satisfied that this requirement is met by carrying out the activities described in this report.

Strategic Parameters

In January 2023, we commenced a root and branch review of our organisation in preparation for the next decade. We consulted widely with young people, our people, parents, patrons, partners and members of our communities. Together, we agreed on the following strategic parameters:

Our Purpose: To enable all young people to reach their full potential.

Our Vision: For all young people to be safe, healthy and happy.

Our Priorities

One: Maintain a safe environment where young people can thrive

Two: Ensure young people are at the heart of our decision-making

Three: Extend our reach and influence into the wider community

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Four: Build a workforce for the future

Five: Work through the Power of Partnership

Six: Future proof our organisation

Our Values

Our Values, developed alongside our young people and team members in 2017, still guide how we support each other, our wider community, partners and other stakeholders. These we express as our 'H.E.A.R.T. Values.

Honesty is the best policy

Excellence Is learned through experience

Accountability Is doing whatever is right

Respect Should be universal

Teamwork Makes the dream work!

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Our Strategic Pillars

Our work is built on three strategic Pillars, which have guided our hand over the last decade. They have enabled us to focus on the central aspects of our Movement that do not vary, irrespective of the programme, project or initiative. These are:

- Health & well-being
- Social integration
- Aspirations, skills and employability

Our Delivery Model

Our brand of youth work is predicated on personal development through informal education. Even in a play environment, we believe that every young person can learn from their experiences (experiential learning, we call this), wherever they may be.

Our youth work offer incorporates many opportunities to enjoy time with friends, and every session has this option should a young person/s choose to step outside of a formal session to relax and take stock with their peers and youth workers. When our young people become involved in activities, we adopt a model that has served us well over the last ten years, rooted in good youth work practice.

This model, Try, Train, Team, Teach, allows our young people to experience many new activities for the first time. For those activities that prove popular, we codesign a training programme alongside young peoples' aspirations and help them develop hard (technical) and soft skills (life skills.)

If there is sufficient demand and ambition, we then progress to a formal Team approach through a club, team or initiative, which allows our young people to develop their social, emotional and technical life skills. A small proportion take the activity to the next level and seek a qualification in the discipline. This approach accelerates learning and provides opportunities for essential life skills to form part of a young person's unconscious competence.

Our Year in Numbers

Below is a summary of our delivery outputs. These are contextualised in the section 'Delivering our Services'.

Data Type	Volume	Explanation
Members	4,091	This is comprised of 1,868 Juniors (8-11) and 2,223 Youth (12-18.) Membership has increased by 15% compared to 2021/22
Young Leaders	21	Young people 13-18 who have completed an AQA level 2 in youth work and now support our session delivery. Nine support Darwen, and twelve support Blackburn
Total number of Young Leader hours	313	Note: The Young Leaders initiative commenced in the middle of the reporting period. We have plans to further develop this for the next period, 2023/24
All volunteer hours	4,646	Last year, just over 1,000 hours were delivered. This 4+ fold increase is as a result of employing a full-time Volunteer Coordinator
Qualifications AQA, DofE and Sport Level 1	274	This is a nine-fold increase from 2021/22
Average hours of service per week	89	Representing delivery hours across our two sites in the towns of Blackburn and Darwen

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Youth consultation	2,494	This represents the number of young people engaged in polls, questionnaires, and focus groups. It also includes decision-making sessions delivered through our Youth Voice groups
Young people trying something new	1,893	The top 5 new activities tried by young people (most popular) were 1. Climbing 2. Music/performance, 3. Maker Zone activities 4. Baking and 5. Boxing (Thirty new activities were tried under our Try, Train, Team, Teach model - See above delivery structures)
Young people support in Youth Hub	409	Youth Hub referrals received from a wide range of partners and agencies during the year
Young people into employment	38	Young people who secured a period of employment for 4 weeks or more
Young people completing an employment-related training or qualification	30	An average of 80 hours of training was provided for each young person
World of Work tours	3	Group visits to local businesses for a full day of career exploration
One to ones	800 hrs	Coaching and mentoring hours delivered by the Youth Hub team
Activity Based Engagement (ABE) sessions	100	ABE is learning through play, which is proven to be an effective method of gaining instant engagement and rapid results
Careers and Aspirations fairs	6	High volume careers and Aspirations fairs with upwards of 100 attending each event
Informal education sessions	1,612	The focus here was based on need/ask and included substance misuse, sexual health, bullying, relationships and democracy
Young volunteers	107	The young people 11-18, who gave their time this year to community projects
Average attendance per week	1,261	This includes sessions in Blackburn and Darwen and also trips away and detached/outreach engagements
Young people attending ten or more sessions during the year	2,011	Nearly half our membership visited us on ten separate occasions or more.
Female members	43.5%	Reflective of the borough demographic
Male members	55.3%	Reflective of the borough demographic
Other members	0.7%	0.07% of young people preferred not to give their gender.
Ethnic minorities	47%	Reflective of the borough demographic
Number of visits this year	62,753	Individual visits across both our Blackburn and Darwen centre
New members 2022/23	1,318	Across both our Blackburn and Darwen centres
Members with a disability or special educational need	434	Representing 11% of our membership
Members receiving free school meals	32%	This is one of the highest proportions of young people in Lancashire receiving free school meals
Members from top 10% of the most deprived wards in England	48%	This is the 2nd highest in Lancashire after Blackpool
Members living in the top 5 deprived borough wards	44%	Nearly half of our members reside in the poorest five borough wards

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Delivering Our Services - Activities, Programmes & Initiatives

Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone (the brand identity used for the registered charity 1135949 Blackburn Youth Zone) now operates from two sites and across the borough in detached and outreach settings. The largest of these two venues is on Jubilee Street, Blackburn, which houses, across three floors, a wide range of youth facilities. The second, in the town of Darwen, is located in a former nightclub (now a community centre called Meeting Places) on Croft Street.

Irrespective of the location from which our services operate, we provide high-quality youth facilities across a broad range of thematic areas. These include:

- Sports and Physical Activity
- The Arts (Performance, Creative and Digital)
- Special Educational Needs & Disability
- Aspirations, Skills and Employability (Our Youth Employability Hub)
- Detached and Outreach
- Emotional Health & Wellbeing
- Technology and Making

Access to our venues and services is provided free of charge. Every young person and member of our youth work teams is provided with a free, hot, nutritious meal at every visit. This includes detached and outreach, where nutritious snacks are distributed alongside healthy drink options. (Hot drinks in winter.)

Our three pillars of social integration, health and wellbeing and aspirations, skills and employability permeate our programmes and activities. We are heavily influenced by the national levelling up agenda and are committed to providing our young people with every opportunity afforded to their more affluent peers across the UK.

This year, we have seen even more young people accessing our services, projects and programmes and now have a record 4,191 members. We welcome an average of 1,261 young people per week, 52 weeks a year, across our two sites and engaged during detached and outreach.

Youth Zones across the UK historically focus their youth services around a universal offer. We are similar in this regard, but we also provide targeted services for young people who require an elevated level of support, particularly around emotional health and wellbeing issues.

Our seven thematic youth work areas are a useful reference to view both our universal and targeted offers over the last year. Below is a snapshot of activities in these areas:

Activities Offered 2022/23		
STEM science sessions	Fashion sessions	Cricket
Screen printing	3D printing sessions	Sewing sessions
Jewellery making	Assault courses	Neon sports activities
Martial Arts Club	Hair and makeup workshops	Sequencing
Arts	Football	Gaming
Life skills	Salon sessions	Boxing
TikTok Club	Digital Arts	Baking/Cooking
Badminton	Targeted Twilight sessions	Dance
Coding	Open gym/1:1 PT	Basketball
Slime and science sessions	Music Production	Digital creations

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Drama	Climbing	Bootcamp
Creative Writing	Singing/Rapping/Performing	Drum machines
Learn an Instrument (15 offered)	Inter-youth zone basketball	Litter picking - local community tidy-up
Garment design	3D diamond painting	Gardening
Meditation	Dance Fitness	Podcasting
Ear training	Virtual Reality	DJ Workshops
Clay modelling	Hairdressing	Rainbow Zone
Hair styling	Henna art	Therapeutic drawing
Museum visits	Skiing - Snow Camp	Trips to other Youth Zones
Police Cadets	Festival of Making	Comic book writing
Animation	Murder Mystery	Zentangle - mindfulness
Dance Fitness	Sewing sessions	Screen printing
Men's mental health sessions	Quiz and game show sessions	Challenge of the day
Pool League	Recycling classes	Cycling
Kahoot Quiz Nights	Enterprise milkshake bar	Electronics

Sports and Physical Activity

We are committed to delivering a vibrant sports and physical activity offer directed and supported by our young people. We are keen for young people to have the opportunity to try as many activities as possible, and this is central to our Try, Train, Team, Teach methodology.

Young people have told us that football, boxing, cricket, badminton, gym, climbing, and basketball are their chosen sports (We term these 'Golden sports'). We have plans to develop an academy approach around these as we go forward. As we build the academy, below is a summary of the progress we've made around sports and physical activity in general over the last 12 months.

Cycle to London Challenge: An ever-popular challenge for our young people who, every two months, take turns to cycle the 267 miles from Blackburn to London. This takes some commitment over two sessions and allows plenty of opportunity to do 'youth work in the wings'.

Boxing Partnered by Technique: B&DYZ provide a home for Technique ABC, a local boxing organisation that has signed up to the OnSide Excellence model of youth work. They deliver sessions three evenings per week and host a high-profile boxing show every 12 weeks, with up to 800 spectators attending the events. This engagement is particularly welcomed by our Traveller community and young people wishing to bring discipline and order (as well as fitness) to their lives.

Snow Camp: Every year, B&DYZ accompany between 4 and 12 young people to First Tracks, a project promoting snow sports. This offers young people the opportunity to attend a 2-day course at Chill Factor in Manchester to learn skills in skiing and snowboarding. From this, they can work towards a recognised qualification with the British Association of Snow Sports. Those successfully completing the qualification can travel to Italy as part of a northwest team of young people to compete in a European competition.

Slip N Slide: The most highly requested summer activity is Slip N Slide. We have a growing collection of sliding technology to keep our young people on their toes. Over the last 12 months, we have delivered this activity nine times, with over 600 young people getting wet and wild.

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AFC Darwen Football: We know our young people are potty about football. Our kick pitch is full most evenings, and our Kickz partnership with Blackburn Rovers is fully subscribed. A pleasing development this year is our new partnership with AFC Darwen, an amateur league football club with big ambitions. We now deliver a full-service football development session every Tuesday evening at the AFC Darwen ground, and this service is still in a phase of continual growth.

Wellbeing Walks: This mature partnership with the Four Seasons local charity has given access to guided walks to some of our young people who have never left the borough. This year, we have accompanied them to the Lake and Peak Districts. We are now collaborating on developing a network of walks closer to home and plan to make this activity a feature of our 'Movement in Youth Work' agenda.

Climbing Wall: This year, we relaunched our climbing wall and have worked closely with the borough council's Young Peoples' Service to bring this back into action. We have now trained 12 members of our various youth sector partners to ensure that we maximise the use of the facility at the western end of our sports hall. We plan to develop a climbing club in the next period, but for now, we are delighted to report that over 500 young people this year have had the opportunity to try climbing for the 1st time.

Ministry of Justice Project - Turnaround: We have worked closely during this period with the local Youth Offending Team to support young people at risk of offending. We have developed a physical activity project where over 160 participants have engaged in an exercise and fitness programme, enabling them to choose any sport we offer to achieve this. The project has been super successful and we plan to replicate this success by working with our Strategic Youth Alliance youth sector partnership to broaden the offer and expand the number of young people who may benefit.

Gardening Club: The gardening Club is the domain of our Juniors, and they take ownership of our community garden outside our main entrance. They have pledged to maintain the area's upkeep, taking responsibility for watering the plants and checking for weeds. They have also repainted the planters to freshen the area's look further. Their next project is to plant a living wall!

Basketball: Our Youth Zone has a great offer of Basketball and a dedicated team of young people who practice four nights a week. We now have an unbeaten team. Our young people plan to take their sport to the next level by establishing a regional league.

Quick Quote:

"It is so good to see my son play. It's good to know how he's doing, and the win made it extra special." - Parent

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Kicks Sessions: Our partners at Blackburn Rover Community Trust have supported us throughout the year on various initiatives, including the Kickz programme. They deliver this with our support at our Blackburn site. We now have what can only loosely be described as a 'Football Team.' Our team has started to spread its wings and participated in several local and regional fixtures. Still to win a match, the team makes up for in enthusiasm what it lacks in experience. We expect great things...

Case Study - Kickz

LG, 8 - LG has been a member of B&DYZ since 2020. In January, LG transitioned from being a mini-member to joining our junior club. Since joining the Junior Club, LG's confidence has grown session by session, and he has gone from strength to strength. LG particularly excels in football and has joined Kickz.

Despite being one of our youngest junior members, LG doesn't shy away from being present and using his voice. He is a great ambassador in his behaviour, setting an excellent example for his peers. LG was awarded member of the month for February for his seamless transition from minis club to junior club and his positive contributions to the sessions.

Tauheedul Boys and Empire Fighting Chance: Boxing is extremely popular with our young people, and Empire Fighting Chance is a non-contact form of the sport that achieves the same results of self-discipline and hard work. Tauheedul Boys is a high-performing school, and we have worked closely with them to enable their young men to explore their feelings. This includes how they see themselves developing towards adulthood and plan to contribute positively to society.

Gym Club: Discussing health goals is an important facet of our sports offer. Our Gym instructors provide 1-2-1s with all young people signing up for our gym offer and agreeing on a tailored plan to improve their health and fitness. Myth-busting around diet, hydration and perceived quick wins are also discussed in group sessions.

Quick Quote:

"It's great. Toby helps me to work out right and push myself to achieve safely. I needed to learn how to do this before coming here. I now work out daily even when Youth Zone sessions are not on." - Young male (15)

World Cup: World Cup fever came to Youth Zone this year, and our young people packed the stands. Never the ones to miss an opportunity, we talked about cultural differences and the difficult topics of race and relationships that surrounded people's rights and the effect this had on the World Cup. We also set up our fan zone and, during each match, would look at what country was playing and had mini quizzes/fact-finding activities about that part of the world.

The Arts

Our Arts offer is represented across three distinctly different programmes. These are Performing Arts, Creative Arts and Digital Arts. Our young people are potty about all genres of 'The Arts', and we intend to develop our programmes over the next period further to give this youth work theme greater prominence in our offer.

Festival Of Making: We again participated in the wonderful Festival of Making this year. Working alongside a local artist, our young people decided to explore the art of fashion and how 'fast fashion' is such an issue in today's society. They also explored the effect of fashion on mental health, culture, sexuality and community togetherness. They planned and designed their art pieces for six weeks leading up to the festival. They made four distinctly different outfits and plan to use them in a showcase at a fashion show later in the year.

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Dance Factory: Our partner, Dance Factory, has moved in and is a permanent resident of our dance studio. We now offer dance classes five days per week, and they are all packed with up to 20 dancers in every session!

Media Exposure: We encourage our young people to speak about their issues on public radio as this is an essential life skill. (Public speaking.) We have this year been involved in several broadcasts, including recovering from COVID-19, the cost of living crisis and casting for a programme on anti-bullying. BBC Radio Lancashire has been our partner in this initiative and has shown care and sensitivity throughout. Our young people have also starred in a series of four videos exploring mental health issues for the Lancashire and Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust.

Music Therapy: Weekly music therapy sessions have been part of our offer for the last six months of this year. These sessions have always been full, with an average of 15-18 young people in attendance. Young people under the care of social services are the most regular attendees, as the sessions are configured to provide emotional health and wellbeing support.

Dance Showcase: We showed off our young people's dancing prowess with a dance showcase event held at our Jubilee Street Centre. This was treated as a mere practice as our group then went on to perform at the Empire Theatre in Blackburn at their annual showcase event.

Case Study - Commitment to Dance

RA, 11 - Has been a member since 2017, Since September 2022, RA has shown a fascination for dance, joining the weekly dance class with Miss Joy from The Dance Factory. RA was selected as our January junior member of the month due to her weekly commitment to attending dance classes.

Each week RA has participated in the classes, she has gone from strength to strength in developing her dance skills and evident growth in her confidence. RA was awarded a £10 Amazon gift voucher to buy her first pair of ballet shoes. Since getting her Member of the Month award, RA has continued with her dance journey, and we look forward to seeing her make the most of her potential.

B&DYZ's Got Talent!: In March, we celebrated our members' hard work in all things performance and hosted a talent show at each of our centres to allow our members to showcase their talents. We were treated to singing, dancing, football skills, magic tricks and comedy. Young people have enjoyed celebrating achievement in this way, so much so they have decided to make it an annual event!

Arts & Crafts: We deliver a year-round programme of arts and crafts, which is offered at every age and ability. We have provided this year messy/sensory play, craft tasks, project/topic-based learning and young person-led sessions. We have made mental health the central focus of our artistic endeavours this year, and many issues are discussed, dissected and aired across the art tables.

Our young people have made stress balls, textured canvases, slime and calm-down boxes and experimented with clay. We delivered several standalone arts projects over the year, including an artistic interpretation of 'What Freedom Means to Us?', domestic politics, International Women's Day, Chinese New Year, St Patrick's Day, and exploring all significant Religious days. We also explored chalk art, needle stitching design, sewing of pillows and calligraphy. Young people chose to study the artist Jackson Pollock and his style.

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For twelve weeks of this year, we heavily focused on cultural and social arts, where young people were given the opportunity to present their views on 'What does it mean to be British?', the Monarchy, Mental Health Week, Ramadan and Eid.

Case Study - Managing Transition

A has only been a member for six months. A has a very close and sometimes stifling bond with her younger sister, and the two are almost inseparable. During her sister's absence for one session, A came alive and demonstrated real independence of thought and action. This was well reflected in her craft pieces and her thinking processes. She has been encouraged to maintain this independence.

Recently, A has been trying out some music sessions, where she has been given a chance to try woodwind instruments and a ukulele. She has also enjoyed participating in the rhythm and rhyme sessions and is a quick learner. As A increasingly attends, a clear definition of her character has been seen to develop.

Darwen Music: 'We Are Noise', our delivery partner in Darwen, delivered various music programmes four hours a night from Monday to Friday every week of the year. Simple drop-in sessions are available, as well as targeted engagement, subject-specific delivery and group practice. This provision offers the young people the opportunities to take part in a multitude of art practices, which include music production, recording, mixing, performance, singing, rapping, MC'ing, songwriting, drumming, guitar, keyboards, DJing, PC gaming, video production, podcasting, radio skills and photography.

Quick Quote

"You get the opportunities to record, make new friends, and possibly make your own music." -
Young person

Drumming Workshop: We were invited to engage in a project that encouraged people to use trains more as public transport and link this with making music. Young people attended a series of sessions that worked through the basics of percussion instruments, starting with their hands and then progressing to small music boxes. This explored the idea of emotions and the part they play in music production and listening to songs. Drumming is a 'go-to' activity at B&DYZ, and this is a great and creative example of how this activity can feature creatively.

Quick Quote

"Most young people who attend our Seeds music sessions have been through adverse childhood experiences. The sessions create the freedom to be a child, a place to be expressive and creative whilst having fun. It supported young people with their mental well-being, self-esteem and confidence, A sense of accomplishment and a feeling of purpose." - Key Worker

Special Educational Needs & Disability

We support young people with various special educational needs and disabilities. Complex needs are adequately catered for across our local partnership network and within local schools. We, therefore, focus on young people who fall in the middle ground between complex needs and special educational needs masked by poor behaviour. Over the reporting period, we have supported **111** young people within our Diversity Clubs and have merged the two clubs across our two sites, in both Blackburn and Darwen.

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At the time of writing, this arrangement is under review as the takeup of the service has dropped significantly. We have learnt from this and plan, over the next period, to partner with IMO Blackburn to deliver a more robust and relevant SEND offer.

Cricket Tournament: Diversity Club members competed in a cricket tournament at Birchwood Community High School in Warrington. The group participated in six weekly sessions with the Lancashire Cricket Association leading up to this event. We're proud to report that they came 3rd!

Dance Syndrome: This year, we partnered with Dance Syndrome, an inclusive company that allows people with disabilities to access dance and performance art. The team works with us every week to support our SEND young people in having the same access to creative expression as their peers.

Over 18's SEND Offer: Our over 18's SEND provision continues to grow as it is a place for our older members who need support transitioning to adulthood. Members have been able to access the centre and all the activities whilst being supported to prepare for life away from Youth Zone. This is delivered with our Youth Hub, which supports our members around education, employment and training opportunities.

Case Study - Autism Awareness Week

A message from D (15):

"People think that because we have autism, we can't follow instructions. But I have been working on a Meccano car with Martin. Martin is always patient with me, and when I get things wrong, he doesn't shout. He talks to me about ways to fix and let me try".

A message from N (9):

"People think that just because we have autism, our life is boring because sometimes we like to do the same things. After all, it helps us feel safe. But we are all different and still the same."

A message from C (13):

"Usually, people don't let me help do baking because they think I'll burn myself or get it wrong. In diversity, I have learnt how to do things safely with staff who explain things to me so that I understand. Today, for autism awareness day, I made a cake nearly all by myself."

A message from J (8):

"Sometimes people don't understand what autism is and can end up leaving people out or bullying them. But all people with autism need sometimes is a friend or someone to talk to and go to. We come to Youth Zone and can talk to our friends and staff who understand us. This makes me happy".

Aspirations, Skills and Employability

Now in its second year, Youth Hub has undergone significant growth and evolution, cementing its role as a vital resource for the local youth community. The Youth Hub has diversified its offerings to address the needs and interests of local young people. This includes the introduction of new partnerships with local businesses, educational establishments, and non-profit organisations.

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This year, we have focused on delivering high-quality workshops and mentoring programmes to support our young people in building their aspirations and developing their work-based skills. In addition, we have further developed our support programmes around life skills, which are critical to long-term success and sustainability.

Our Darwen Youth Hub offer has also been enhanced to ensure that young people in the town benefit from an appropriate level of support. below is a snapshot of some of our employability projects and workshops;

John Lewis: With the help of the John Lewis Partnership, we have worked with over 200 young people from the Darwen area in progressing towards the labour market. Seventy-five of these have moved on to a positive destination in either employment, education or training. The remainder are making steady progress despite experiencing significant barriers, such as poor mental or physical health and disabilities.

More Positive Together (MPT) Steps: This project, supported out of the last round of European funding, works to engage with 112 young people. Its focus is to address the underlying issues that lead to poor employability outcomes. We have been able to exceed the target having provided support for 131 young people with 49 of these progressing into employment.

Hatch: Our HATCH programme works with young people in a group setting and focuses on a high youth worker to young person ratio to enable quality support. We set out to support thirty young people across a range of four-week courses. Each course led to an additional four weeks in paid employment with either KFC or one of our business Patrons. To date, we have successfully moved 21 young people into employment as a direct result of this programme.

Multiply: Multiply is aimed at helping people aged 19+ to become more confident with numeracy. The courses focused on budgeting, real-world maths skills and maths required in the workplace (payroll, measurement making etc.) We set out to work with 50 young people this year but managed to extend this support to 58.

Henry Smith - Emotional Health & Wellbeing support: This project enabled us to work with young people who were referred to us because of emotional health or well-being issues. We aimed to work with 125 young people in developing their aspirations for the future and the real world of work skills. This year we have already worked with 124 young people and the need is still great. This cohort has had the opportunity to meet new friends, overcome personal barriers and visit some of our business patrons' workplaces to gain insight into the opportunities that await them.

Case Study - From sofa-surfing to paid employment

CC was originally referred to the Youth Hub by her DWP work coach. CC had been homeless on and off for over a year and lived in a car with her partner. A relationship breakdown found CC sofa surfing between friends, not knowing where she would sleep from one night to the next.

While open to employment, It became clear that CC's biggest obstacles were her housing situation and debilitating anxiety. Rather than looking at her employment status straight away, her Youth Hub mentor focused on securing stable accommodation and an emergency referral for support was made.

CC received housing support from Nightsafe and eventually secured more long-term stable accommodation, enabling her to engage in the Hatch employment project. She completed this and secured a four-week paid placement with one Herbert Parkinson. At the end of her placement, Herbert Parkinson was so impressed with CC's ability and commitment that she was offered a full-time position with the company.

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Youth Hub on Tour: One of our unique training courses has been 'Youth Hub On Tour'. Young people who are Level 3 (nearest to the job market) are linked with business patrons who offer on-the-job training and information days. For example, Essential Furnishings gave our young people a tour of their factory, information on what each department does and a chance to do hands-on work experience in the company using their machinery under the guided supervision of staff. They then also gave the young people a presentation about the company's history, the benefits of working in that industry and how to get into careers in those jobs. There were six 'Youth Hub On Tour' programmes delivered this year.

Quick Quote

"The Youth Hub opened my eyes and made me realise my potential, utilising skills I believed I never had has motivated me to push myself further and try new things"

School Engagement: We offer a weekly school pickup service from Longshaw Junior School, Shadsworth Junior School and Feniscowles Primary School to BYZ. We have seen a growing interest in this service, with the numbers attending the pickup growing steadily each week. Our team also delivers assemblies across the borough to encourage participation in our offer. Our programme of school visits has received positive comments, which have also supported increasing membership renewals, welcoming young people who may not have visited in a while and welcoming several new faces into our junior clubs.

Future Proof Award: The innovative programme safeguards young people by equipping them with the critical thinking skills to stay safe. The programme has allowed youth workers to identify risks young people might experience, such as poor mental health, online safety concerns and grooming risks and offer relevant support. Young people commit to four hours of work towards receiving the award.

Quick Quote

"The training day was well worth attending. The Youth Hub team are supportive and welcoming. After enterprise day, I have become more proactive with my daily tasks and have gained confidence. This was a great way to learn!"

Volunteering

The volunteer programme across Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone has now been firmly embedded within both our offer and our culture. We have a large team of dedicated volunteers whose continuous support has become essential as our membership grows.

Our volunteers have donated an impressive 4,646 hours over the last 12 months, providing a rich and diverse level of support, including:

- Front line youth worker support
- Back office administration
- Facilities management and development
- Specialist support with Masterclasses from their area of expertise

Our Young Leaders programme is gathering pace and we already have 21 who hold an AQA level two in youth work and support full and part-time youth workers in the delivery of sessions across both of our centres. Our support for volunteers also includes facilitating ten work placements totalling 332 hours.

We currently have 107 young people who have volunteered their time over the last 12 months. They have worked on various community-based projects such as litter picking, graffiti removal and the tending of our community garden.

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Case Study - Young person with additional needs becomes a valued Volunteer

K. started her Youth Zone journey as a member of our Diversity group in the hope of making new friends and building her confidence. She attended weekly, which soon became a huge part of her life. When it was time for K. to leave the programme, she expressed a keen interest in finding a way to give back.

K. reached out and asked if there were any opportunities to get involved in volunteering. During her interview, she expressed concerns of low confidence and, therefore, was worried about her volunteering capabilities. It was obvious that K's motivations for volunteering were simply to give back to a place that helped her so much, so she was assured we'd do everything in our power to help her develop.

K. joined our Volunteer programme and attended training sessions covering safeguarding, boundaries, managing challenging behaviour and incident management. Once training was completed, Katy volunteered weekly during our summer HAF programme, which she thoroughly enjoyed.

After meeting up with the Volunteer Coordinator post HAF, K. was given the role of 'Volunteer engagement and activities youth worker' in our Friday evening junior club and our diversity club on Sundays. K. also discovered a passion for volunteering within our catering department, which she now does on a Monday alongside our Volunteer catering manager.

K. is an integral part of our team, and we are extremely thankful for the time she has given.

Quote from K.

"I didn't think I'd be able to volunteer, but with the team's support, I can! My confidence has grown so much thanks to everyone at Youth Zone!"

Detached and Outreach

Street Zone: We continue to work in partnership with YPS, IMO and BRCT to provide a coordinated Detached/Outreach offer. We deliver four sessions a week across Blackburn and Darwen. All Dashboard performance reports are sent daily to the dedicated partner WhatsApp group to ensure that any issues that need addressing are picked up by the relevant partner. We have continued to build partnerships with the local neighbourhood policing team and other agencies. To ensure we have a united offer across all areas.

Emotional Health & Wellbeing

Emotional health and wellbeing support is central to our professional practice and permeates every project, programme and initiative. This is often delivered in a universal setting, but we also can support young people in a more targeted setting should the need arise. Our Targeted Twilight programme is configured around emotional health and wellbeing support and has grown incrementally this year. We plan to evolve a formal emotional health and wellbeing service as part of our Blueprint plans for the future but continue to address need wherever it presents itself.

Targeted Twilight: Our Targeted Twilight service is now in its second year and continues to offer support for young people facing crisis or experiencing difficulties in their lives. The service operates as a club, and ownership and belonging are encouraged through the twice-weekly programme. Specialist youth workers support our young people in regaining control of their lives, rebuilding their self-confidence and esteem and working on their resilience to cope with their challenges.

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During 2022/23, the Targeted Twilight initiative supported 275 young people and their families across 104 sessions. Access to the initiative is mainly through referral, and 142 young people have been nominated for support from across our local youth sector partnership. We also referred 176 young people to other support organisations where their needs could be more effectively met. The Transforming Lives panel, operated by the borough council, relies on Targeted Twilight as a central service for local young people and their families, presenting a myriad of issues for which the service is well placed to support. 482 young people have been safeguarded via our youth safe provision ensuring they receive the right intervention at the right time

Informal Problem-Based Learning: Problem-Based Learning (PBL) activities focus on developing critical thinking skills and encouraging our members to have active minds and become problem solvers. Our sessions follow a young people-led approach where they identify the topic they wish to explore. They are then encouraged to implement practical solutions they have devised within the sessions at home and within their communities.

Strong Sisters: This initiative empowers ethnic minority young women to have agency over their own lives. Part of an international movement, Strong Sisters is delivered over many weeks and months, incrementally building confidence and self-esteem. Trips away punctuate the programme, and our young women have already travelled to Rome to explore the culture, experience travelling, and, most importantly, adapt to living away from home and managing their finances. Travelling abroad in the BAME community hasn't always been encouraged amongst females due to the stigma that it's not safe for women to travel on their own. Our London residential challenged our young women to explore the city via the London underground and by visiting the main landmarks. The idea is to encourage and empower young females to explore their options when travelling and considering further studies or building their future careers.

Wellbeing Projects: This year, we have focused on 'healthy body, healthy mind'. This has empowered young people's learning knowledge and skills to keep their bodies healthy whilst also learning strategies to keep their minds happy and healthy. This has included activities such as guided meditation, yoga and engaging in adapted boxing.

Case Study - Targeted Support - Mentoring

Our mentoring sessions are tailored to the young person's needs as identified in their referral. There were concerns about (LP) becoming potentially isolated, and access to activities with an element of mentoring was recommended to support him in developing his self-esteem and confidence so that he could access groups and clubs of his own accord.

During his initial sessions, LP displayed very closed body language, He has been progressing well in recognising emotions and exploring stress and anxiety. As the weeks progressed, he opened up about his anxiety and stress and about the bullying he was suffering in school. LP enjoyed making a pocket carry book of coping techniques. He now acknowledges that he has higher expectations of himself and can do things if he can concentrate. Progress is progress and we will continue to support LP as he finds his place.

Junior Oral Health: Our Junior members have been involved in a weekly workshop to promote brushing their teeth correctly as we wish to embed this positive habit and engage in fun activities to spread awareness of the effects of sugar on the teeth and gums. Our members are provided, on request, a new toothbrush and toothpaste as part of our cost of living campaign.

Knife Crime Workshop: Our local Neighbourhood Policing Team attends every eight weeks and delivers a workshop around the effects of knife crime and the legal consequences young people or adults would face. The PCSOs, in particular, have become part of our fixtures and fittings and drop in weekly to check on our safety.

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Halloween Party Event: During October, a team of young people became our very own event planners and canvassed our members on their plans for Halloween. They reviewed budgets, food, DJs, games and prizes. They also wanted to make freak shakes and include various Halloween-themed challenges and activities. The young people also chose to decorate the building, and with all the staff team getting in with dressing up, we had a great Halloween event complete with UV sports, food challenges and a DJ to keep the music flowing and the atmosphere spooky!

Lancashire Fire & Rescue Workshop: Our Darwen centre benefitted from an informal education session about fire and firework safety entitled Brightsparx. This was delivered in response to ongoing concerns with young people in Darwen being able to obtain fireworks easily and taking part in risky behaviours such as lighting fires and throwing fireworks. Immediately following the session, we saw a dramatic decrease in the risky behaviours playing with fire and fireworks.

Weekly Debate Club: Each week, young people have been involved in weekly debates fostering critical thinking skills in a fun social setting. The debates range from "Does pineapple belong on pizza?" to "How can we stop bullying?" The debates have provided young people with the opportunity to voice their opinions clearly and constructively whilst also gaining an understanding of the importance of listening to and respecting other people's opinions.

Case Study - Young People's Consultation

YM (11) is a regular attendee at our Junior club. In recent months, YM has started engaging in a wider variety of activities. She has been involved with activities that, in the past, she would have labelled as being "boring". YM has now been encouraging her peers to step outside of their comfort zone and try new things. YM has also been very vocal (in a positive way) in our in-session debates. She is not afraid to share her opinions, even when she is aware that these may be controversial. When participating in discussions, YM has demonstrated a remarkable ability to listen to others and respect their opinions, even if they differ from her own. Through debate participation, YM has spoken to several young people she wouldn't talk to previously and has made many new friends.

Playspace: We have constructed a designated play space within our Blackburn site linked to our library. The area is now designed as a place where junior members can participate in play activities with toys as an alternative to the busy recreational area on the ground floor. The team have identified many activities suitable for this space for structured games rather than child-led play. It has been recognised nationally that there has been a loss of play amongst the current generation of young people, which has negatively affected mental health and child development. The playroom allows young people to enhance their creativity, imagination, and social and emotional skills.

Kahoot Quiz Nights: We are officially Kahoot nerds now, we do this very popular quiz at both of our centres every week. Our young people have enjoyed forming their quiz teams and battling against each other for quiz champions. (What else would you do on a rainy Tuesday evening?)

School Nurse: Every first Tuesday of the month, our community nurse attends to allow young people to explore health-related questions and gain guidance in any health-related matters. These sessions are always popular. The Nurse has now developed the service by providing links to other health and wellbeing-related resources. Vaping was a particularly challenging discussion, with many of our teenagers being shocked by the uncomfortable potential consequences this session revealed.

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Mental Health Project: We have introduced a fortnightly mental health discussion group, which is growing in attendance. Topics covered this year include the war in Ukraine and its impact on families the economy, Ramadan and its meaning for our community, bullying, sexual offending, knife crime and many others. These focused discussions have helped us engage in some of the more difficult conversations and allow young people to explore their views in a safe environment.

Case Study - Emotional Health & Wellbeing

RH, 9 - RH joined B&DYZ in February. She attends junior club at our Blackburn Centre, and she enjoys participating in activities within our health and wellbeing room. In her first few sessions, RH appeared reserved and often watched other young people get their hair and nails done. In recent weeks RH has grown in confidence and has been a key member of the regular health and wellbeing group.

She has shown confidence to ask to get her hair done and loves to go home with a new head of curls on a Friday evening. She has developed friendships through attending salon sessions and has been discussing her interest in anime with her peers. RH has been coming out of her shell more and more each week. We're happy to report that her personality is now shining through!

New Year/New Start/New Me Project: At the start of the year, instead of trying to change everything at once and making promises to stop or change everything, we opened up discussions with young people about making one positive change at a time. We added activities and challenges each week and, for just one month, challenged young people to try something new that would improve their physical or mental health. Young people were offered mindfulness and relaxation sessions as part of the project. They encouraged young people to think holistically about their lives and what they can do to improve their mental well-being.

Darwen Aldridge Enterprise Studio: Our team visited Darwen Aldridge Enterprise Studio to support their Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Day. We presented to four different groups of students, We delivered sessions alongside PCSOs, Brook, YPS and BRCT. With the increasing concern of ASB in Darwen town centre, the focus was to deliver workshops on the "consequences to ASB". This was supported with information on becoming a young leader and accessing our centre in Darwen.

Doubles Inn Valentine's Party: We celebrated Valentine's Day by implementing a pairs rule in session, where every activity had to be engaged with as a duo. This was a positive way for young people to make new friends and build rapport with the staff team. Although this was only meant for the evening, young people continued throughout the week, encouraging each other to pair up and take part. We included eating and baking sessions, contributing to team-building skills and communication. We also supported some pair-ups with new young people.

Talking Points: Talking points have been a key activity in our programmes over the past few months of the reporting period.. For each session, staff would add a riddle or highlight what was in the news or social media to boost young people's engagement and encourage their critical thinking skills. This has helped our members think about their and others' viewpoints. We aimed to particularly focus on developing skills that would support this group of young people in their impending work placements, schools and colleges and learning how to challenge others around them positively.

Money Heroes: This year, we launched the Money Heroes project. This focuses on young people gaining an understanding of money management. We have integrated this project into our weekly programme focusing on learning through play. Young people have developed their understanding of the value of coins, paying digitally via card and budgeting.

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Safety Month: In session, several young people highlighted how easily they could become involved in crime, obtain fireworks or even drugs. We allocated November 2022 as Safety Month and focused on topics such as how to be seen in the dark, the dangers of substance misuse, and crime and criminality with their associated consequences. We continue to work in partnership with police and services to help young people understand that they have control over their choices.

Partnership Work in EH&WB

Brook: Support Youth Zone in all aspects of sexual health. Monthly sessions are delivered, and their worker accompanies us on some limited detached and outreach sessions.

LSCFT: On the first Tuesday of every month, we have a specialist Community Public Health Nurse who advises young people on their health needs.

Beacon Counselling Trust: The Trust delivers interactive workshops four times per year, primarily to our Nurture group. The most recent workshop, 'Hidden Gambling', was explored through games.

Darwen Wellbeing Salon: Our health and well-being salon officially launched in September and currently delivers sessions three times per week. The feedback from young people has been excellent, particularly from our young female members, who are excited about the salon's potential to teach them life skills through beauty treatments.

Technology and Making

Maker Zone: Our Maker Zone has now been replicated in two other Youth Zones and will feature in every new building that is erected by OnSide. A partnership with the Making Rooms in Blackburn, who provide the technical expertise for all projects, our Maker Zone is open three evenings per week. We offer electronics, cool chemistry, repair and recycling, eco-activities, coding, electronics, 3D printing and much more. Our Fuse Box development will house a much more ambitious Maker Zone, and we will report on its progress in the next period.

Super Science Week: We hosted a Super Science weekend to celebrate the start of British Science Week. Over the weekend, members had the opportunity to trial a series of different science experiments, ranging from making slime to baking their own super science slime cakes, experimenting with salt paint and making their salt dough creations. Young people enjoyed getting hands-on and messy, learning as they played.

Virtual Reality Club: A group of our young people have supported and developed a Virtual Reality Club. The sessions now run every Saturday evening with a range of VR challenges. The young people have created a leaderboard for each activity for a more competitive edge. This has encouraged people to play, compete, and learn new skills. We have also used these at community events, which has also proved popular with all ages and families trying to challenge one another.

Nutrition Workshops: Within our programme, we have been able to embed a level of informal education around nutrition and diet. This has been done in response to our team and young people becoming more aware of healthy food habits and how we can implement these. This is now a feature of every food session, supported by our catering team, who provide a hot, nutritious meal for every young person each day.

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Case Study - Technology and Making

TW (11) attends Junior Club weekly. He is an active participant in many of the sports activities on offer. TW has been a young person who can be very easily influenced by his peers, and on occasion, this has not always led to the most positive outcome.

TW would often follow his friends and participate in activities, even if he wanted to do something different. In recent months, TW has grown the confidence to participate in music and baking sessions. TW enjoys taking a leadership role in baking activities, helping set up resources and helping to clean down. TW supports his peers, ensuring that everyone takes turns and has the opportunity to participate.

Other Universal Programmes

Holiday Activity Fund: During 2022/23, we ran three Holiday Activity Fund programmes across both of our venues at Easter, Summer and Christmas.

HAF Easter: Throughout the Easter Holidays, we ran our Holiday Club for young people both at Blackburn Youth Zone and Youth Zone Darwen. The offer consisted of four days, for four hours a day. Young people got to enjoy various activities and a hot meal each day. Offering 525 spaces a day across both sites. The service is aimed at children and young people ages 8-16.

Throughout the week, we had themes, such as the "Super Science" across both sites. Themed activities across the days included slime making, creating lava lamps, designing rocket ships/ volcanoes, cress heads challenge and salt dough creations, to name a few. Young people also had the opportunity to engage in sporting activities such as football, badminton, fitness challenges and cricket.

HAF Summer: This summer, we adopted a summer festival theme. We hosted sixteen sessions throughout August, each with a festival vibe. Activities included festival makeovers, welly boot fling, inflatable llama assault courses, fancy dress tug of war and daily festival challenges for goody bags and festival treats.

Each week we hosted a different festival music session with a DJ playing all the other music genres, starting with cheesy pop and 80s power ballads, then rock and R&B, ending in the top chart and open mic live lounge sessions. Each Saturday, we also hosted UV party sports alongside the festival music nights, including dodgeball, tennis, frisbee games, glow-in-the-dark table tennis and UV football.

HAF Christmas: For the first week of the Christmas Holidays, young people were invited to Youth Zone for a total of sixteen hours of face-to-face activities and a free hot meal each session. Winter HAF followed the theme of 'Hollywood Week of Fame', seeing young people being involved with a variety of glitz and glam-themed activities, with celebrity treatment and a space to showcase their talents. The Junior club offer at BYZ focused on young people-led play activities, ensuring there were activities on offer to suit everyone's interests and abilities,

In true Hollywood glitz and glam style, it was only right to allow our members to walk the red carpet and hold a fashion show... with a twist, a *trashion* show! Young people were given free rein to create their iconic pieces of fashion couture using various materials from our arts and crafts area. Young people created their own dresses, tops and accessories using simple items such as bin liners, scrap paper, newspaper, pipe cleaners and other basic materials.

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Young people enjoyed a party on the final day of HAF; they had fun playing on bouncy castles and participating in classic party games. On this day, we invited families to join us for the final hour to gather for a family lunch. We also gave out food parcels to each family so they could make an additional meal over Christmas.

Ramadan Celebrations: During April, Ramadan was celebrated within sessions. The arts and crafts offered included activities such as 3D mosque making, Eid origami making flowers, making Eid decorations and making Eid cards. These activities sparked conversations around topics such as "What is Eid?" allowing the members to gain a deeper understanding of traditions within the Islamic religion.

Presidents Cup: Each year, the OnSide network helps to provide the funding to bring all Youth Zones together in a celebration of sports and creativity. Young people represent each Youth Zone in a competition format. Often, for many young people, it's their first experience of leaving their home town and venturing beyond its borders to try something new. Our team participated in a full day of sports, arts and enterprise tournaments. We are proud of our young people's efforts, dedication and commitment to this annual event. A further team of six young people formed our diversity team and gave their all at competing in gym challenges, boccia, dodgeball and making a canvas to describe our Youth Zone.

Quick Quote:

"I enjoyed helping the regular staff and talking to parents about the Youth Zone. I want to get involved in more events in the future" - Young Leader (15)

Jubilee Afternoon Tea / Family Fun Day: We celebrated the amazing achievements of our Queen during her 70 years on the throne. We invited our community to a family fun day across Blackburn and Darwen to mark the achievement. We hosted many activities, including inflatables, candy floss, jewellery, arts and crafts, singing, and dancing. Throughout the day, we encouraged people to play traditional games like dominoes, cards, marbles and jacks, which allowed the older members community older members what they did as children.

Queens Passing: To mark the sad passing of Her Majesty the Queen on the 8th of September, we put together a memorial programme for the UK's ten days of national mourning. We wished to celebrate the community pride and British values the Queen lived by every day of her long life.

International Women's Day: This year set out to communicate the importance of Equity during International Women's Day. We created an interactive positivity trail with which young people could engage around our Centres using QR codes. YPs would scan the codes and be redirected to an inspirational story about a woman who had excelled or specialised in an area.

Cost of Living Crisis: We have embedded a more established offer that responds to the needs of our members and their families and our staff members in light of the cost of living crisis. We have been running sessions around healthy eating, social and economic understanding, poverty and deprivation, and staying warm and safe over the winter months. Alongside this programme of activities, we have also seen a huge turnaround in our food and drink provisions, which are free to all members. Our youth work team has worked hard to establish a fully halal food menu that features home-cooked meals requested by our young people.

Young People's Consultation

Consultation with young people is the golden thread that runs through our organisation. We have recorded 2,494 separate interactions with our young people in supporting us to shape their service. This includes polls, questionnaires and focus groups to help us understand the day-to-day issues they face.

This year, we have also introduced a Young People's Committee, which is already helping us shape how we run the charity. They have been consulted on various issues such as internal governance, policies and procedures and behaviour management. This committee is directly linked to the Board to ensure we provide excellent services for young people.

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Pride Party: We hosted our very own Pride party following the Blackburn Pride event. This led to Youth Zones delivering Evening Pride'. We had makeup tutorials, nails and drag-inspired looks, which came to life during the event. Food tasting and team-building challenges were delivered throughout the evening with many conversations around gender, sexuality, healthy relationships and safe sex.

Quick Quote

"I'm so happy I was able to help plan and organise the Pride party. I feel more people my age shouldn't feel embarrassed about their identity".

SYA Forum: The Student Youth Alliance is a focus group that involves passionate young people across the borough. The young people who are active members at Blackburn and Darwen Youth Zone, Young People Services and Blackburn Rovers come together to discuss changes around their town that would benefit the young people. The Youth MP, Mohammed Bapu, leads this group and works with a range of young people from each organisation to improve services for young people around the borough.

BYZ 10th Birthday: Our young people celebrated our 10th birthday across all of our clubs. It was a great opportunity for the team, and members to reflect on their journey at Youth Zone, celebrate their achievements, share stories and memories within the club, and look forward to the future. The Youth members reflected on their time at Youth Zone, many recalling that they had been members from when we first opened our doors.

Police Cadets: The Police Cadets have regularly attended our Blackburn Centre to train their Young people in the Cadet's programme. It has allowed young members to observe what it is like to be a Police Cadet. Six monthly workshops and now a feature of our programme, and young people are encouraged to join.

Relaunch of In-betweeners Club: In June, we relaunched the In-betweeners Club during our Enrichment Sessions. The focus of the group is to target the members who are on the older end of the junior club membership to bridge the gap between the Junior Club and the Youth Club. In the past year, we noted that approximately 300 young people in their transition year had not renewed their membership. The recognition is that many parents worry about that next step, and so do the young people coming from structured play sessions to free-flow activities with an element of freedom to come and go from the Youth Zone.

The group size is small in comparison to the number of young people within a universal junior session, and we worked with a cohort of 12 members, allowing for good bonds between the young people to be facilitated and for staff to help support and answer any questions they have about attending.

Fundraising & Income Streams

For every £1 of commission funding received from Blackburn with Darwen council to support the delivery of universal youth services for the borough, we raise a further £9.32. This is derived from a combination of unrestricted financial support from our local business Patron network, grants, trusts and foundations support from local and national organisations and income generated from the hire of our facilities.

Our Business Development has been reconfigured within the reporting period to position the charity financially for the future. We have developed a funding strategy that has a range of funding areas and targets which are now more needs-led. Our funding strategy outlines derived income targets from the following sources:

- Grants, trusts and foundations support (Restricted funding)
- Business Patron support (unrestricted funding)
- Other donations
- Facility hire
- Campaigns and events

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Patron Involvement

Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone continues to be supported by a network of business Patrons. Their giving is predicated on unrestricted funding, which equals £687,717 (39.2% of our total income). The following Patrons supported us in 2022/23:

Graham & Brown	PM+M	Senator	Brian Mercer Charitable Trust
Bowland Charitable Trust	Forbes Solicitors	Pets Choice	BAE Systems
Napthens Solicitors	Blackburn College	Totally Wicked	AMS Accountancy Group
Star Academies Trust	Accrol Papers	GM Group (Dinner Lady Vape)	Nybble
Granby Marketing	Fagan & Whalley	Emerson & Fenwick	Businesswise Solutions
Blackburn Chemicals	Staci	JDS Trucks	Prometheus
Sales Geek	Northern Industrial	Kingswood Homes	Mergon
Affinity Packaging	Multevo Ltd	Darwen Bars & Leisure	Brookhouse Aerospace
WEC Group	S T Murphy Limited	Vampire Vape	Liberty Flights Ltd
Kay Group	Watson Ramsbottom	Suez Recycling & Recovery Ltd	Cardboard Box Co
Symclean			

We are once again grateful for the continued support of our Patrons, without whom we would not be able to provide vital help and support to the young people of Blackburn with Darwen.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

In-Kind Support

During the year, we have received £31,085 of In-Kind Support. We are grateful to the below Patrons & supporters who have provided this:

- Morrisons - Library books
- Time with RT Hon Jack Straw (Auction)
- Graham and Brown - Create your own wallpaper Auction (Auction)
- Classic Lodges - A luxury two night stay for two people at the Lakeside Hotel, includes Spa and Breakfast
- Porsche - Porsche Driving Experience at Silverstone
- Manchester Arena - Four tickets to see Celine Dion in the Daisy Suite (Private Box) includes a complimentary bar and food
- Ribby Hall - Luxury Cottage Break at Ribby Hall
- Burnley Stadium - Box experience at Burnley Football club
- Blackburn Rovers Stadium - Tickets
- Blackburn Rovers Stadium - Box
- Whalley Wine shop - Wine tasting evening
- Mytton Fold - Overnight stay
- Blackburn Rugby Club - Blackburn Rugby Club Table and Rugby Match
- Rock FM Charity - Circus starr tickets
- Nybble - Alicia Keyes tickets
- Reel Cinema - 3 children plus 1 adult cinema tickets
- GSK - 2 x Canon PowerShot S100 cameras
- Fagan and Whalley - Pallet of washing-up liquid
- Workhouse Marketing - 2 hours per week in kind to support
- Vape Dinner Lady - Children's christmas clothes
- Stafforce - Easter eggs
- Morrisons - Donation of vegetables
- Rock FM - Donations of toys
- Cardboard box company - Array of cardboard boxes in support of arts and crafts
- Staci - Shuffle boards
- Staci - Mini fridges

Grant, Trust & Foundation Funding

A major source of income for the charity in 2022/23 was derived from Grants, Trusts or Foundations. This amounted to £588,389 during the reporting period (33.5% of our total income).

Key projects that we received funding for included:

- £156,432 for Youth Hub (DWP, Henry Smith, MPT Steps, John Lewis Foundation)
- £139,819 for the Holiday Activity Fund Programme (HAF)
- £90,000 for Year 1 of a project to raise the aspirations of young people to gain full employment within the local economy (UK Shared Prosperity Fund)

Events, Gift Aid & Community Fundraising

Following on from two years of lockdown we were able to re-establish our face-to-face fundraising activities and between them these raised a total of £117,567 during the year (double the previous year). Our biggest fundraiser, the very popular Blackburn Beer Festival, raised £64k, our ten-year Anniversary Ball raised £24k, and we received a further £22k of new money from the Big Give Campaign. As we move into 23/24 many of our supporters are starting to do events for us again, and we hope that the amount raised will continue to increase.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Facility Hire

The hiring of our facilities is not yet where we would wish it to be. During the reporting period, we raised £16,100 from hiring our main venue at Jubilee Street, Blackburn. We have appointed a team member in a part-time capacity to grow the hiring of our facilities and will report on this in the next period.

Plans for the Future

Fuse Box Development

As the reporting period came to an end, we were delighted to learn that we had been successful in securing £3.1 Million from the Government's Youth Investment Fund (YIF.) The central focus for the next reporting period is to plan and commence implementation of the build phase, planned to start April 2024, at our Jubilee Street venue as well as continuing to provide services to young people.

The funding will support the development of our iconic Fuse Box, one of the first electricity generating centres in the United Kingdom, as an advanced world of work centre. This will house our Youth Employability Hub and provide essential facilities for young people to explore a range of skills in preparation for the future. We aim to retain the unique quality of our building whilst transforming it into an inspiring place for young people to dream the dreams they deserve to dream.

Alongside the Fuse Box development, the funding will also enable us to upgrade our reception and outside area to make them more engaging and usable for young people.

We are extremely grateful to the DCMS and the Youth Investment Fund for supporting our work with this substantial investment which will help and inspire young people for many years to come.

Youth Hub Evolution

Our Youth Hub continues to go from strength to strength. We aim for Youth Hub to extend its reach over the next five years to support all young people on their life journey. Specifically, we aim to expand the service around the Gatsby benchmarks set down by the Government, which are devised to enhance young people's employability prospects.

Five Year Strategy

In January of the reporting period, we commenced our most ambitious consultation yet in preparation for the next five years. We aim, over this reporting period, to complete this work and launch a new strategy. This will set out ambitious growth plans for the charity to extend our reach even further. We will place the needs of local young people at the heart of the strategy and work to future-proof the organisation so it can continue to deliver high-quality relevant services for the next decade and beyond.

Development of our SEND Provision

Our SEND provision does not yet match the identified need. During the next cycle, we aim to review and develop our SEND offer, partnering with another local youth sector organisation IMO. By joining the collective expertise of both organisations, we intend to provide the highest level of SEND provision around non-complex needs, which we have identified as a local area for development.

Increased Presence in Darwen

Our Darwen presence has made an immediate impact on the 10,000 young people who live in those communities. Our work, in many ways, has only just begun. We are currently configuring a new consortium of youth sector providers, Together Darwen and have already received support for this initiative. We are at the final stages of securing significant 3-year funding for the provision of sports-based activities across the town and plan to appoint a sports and physical activities manager to oversee the development of this partnership programme.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Develop 'Street Zone'

During this reporting period, we trailed a 6th-month programme of detached and outreach in Darwen using an innovative four-stage model, which is currently the subject of further research at the University of Central Lancashire. We aim to revise this model and work with partners to roll out the approach across the borough over the next 2-3 years.

Enhance our Emotional Health and Wellbeing Offer

Our emotional health and wellbeing offer does not match the demand for this type of service. We plan to expand our existing offer incrementally over the coming years to ensure that all local young people's needs are met in this vital area of youth work. Our long-term aim is to have a fully integrated emotional health and well-being service which supports the NHS and local borough council in providing high-quality early intervention for young people showing the early signs of emotional distress. Our focus for the next period is to secure sufficient funding to support communities that have been historically underrepresented in accessing this type of care.

Explore Deeper School Engagement

We work with many schools and colleges to support pupils on role. The government has recently recognised the value of youth work in schools, and this is to be applauded. As a leading local youth sector provider, we aim to offer support to schools, particularly around the raising of aspirations and the development of skills for life. Our new Fuze Boz development will be central to this work.

Structure, Governance and Management

We operate as a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee without share capital. 'Blackburn Youth Zone' is registered under the Companies Act 1985, registration number 6944317. The company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, dated 25th June 2009. Management of the company's affairs is vested in the Trustees.

In the event of a winding-up, the present members and those who have ceased to be a member within one year of such event have guaranteed liabilities of the company to the sum not exceeding one pound each year.

Organisational Structure

The legal entity, Blackburn Youth Zone, is governed by its Board of Trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of Company Law, which retains overall responsibility for the strategic direction and the organisation's policies. The Trustees carry ultimate responsibility for the conduct of Blackburn Youth Zone and for ensuring that the charity satisfies its legal and contractual obligations.

The Board appoints a Chief Executive to manage the day-to-day operations. To facilitate effective operations, the Chief Executive has delegated authority as approved by the Board for all operational matters, including finance, human resources and operational delivery.

The board approves the strategic plan and annual business plan. scrutinising business performance, including financial performance, and provides advice to the Chief Executive on operational matters of performance.

The pay of the Chief Executive Officer is reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees, benchmarking their salary against those of similar Youth Zones within the OnSide Network.

Blackburn Youth Zone is part of the network of Youth Zones established by OnSide Youth Zones (Charity Registered in England & Wales no: 1125893). Many of the operational policies and procedures of the Youth Zone are influenced by being part of this wider network.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees comprises 12 Directors representing the public, private and third sector, along with two more members who provide additional expertise but do not have voting rights.

Trustees can be nominated for a fixed or indeterminate term. One-third of the Directors will retire by rotation at each AGM; retiring Directors can then be re-appointed.

The Trustees normally meet bi-monthly, where finance and delivery performance are scrutinised and strategic plans reviewed.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

New Trustees will be recruited according to the needs of the charity and the suitability of possible candidates. The unanimous approval of existing Trustees leads to their appointment.

Newly appointed trustees are provided with a comprehensive induction to Blackburn Youth Zone's provision, including key information about the organisation's development, governance and safeguarding.

Financial review:

Total income for the year was £1,754,563 (2022: £1,803,824). Of this amount, £1,064,069 (2022: £896,203) was from donations and grants, primarily from the local business community; public grants of £538,520 (2022: £807,949) were received; and the balance of £151,974 (2022: £99,672) was income from charitable activities, fundraising and investment income.

Total expenditure for the year was £1,886,239 (2022: £1,766,560), of which £156,220 (2022: £165,080) related to fundraising activities and £1,730,019 (2022: £1,601,480) related to charitable activities.

The resulting deficit for the year of £131,676 (2022: surplus £37,264) was after charging £137,170 (2022: £126,807) of depreciation on fixed assets.

The total unrestricted funds held on 31 March 2023 were £562,041 (2022: £581,231). This included a Designated Fund of £105,861 specifically for the work within the town of Darwen. The total net assets of the organisation as of 31 March 2023 were £5,215,054 (2022: £5,346,730)

Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees of Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone has established a reserves policy that appropriately reflects the risks to which the charity is exposed.

In reviewing the potential costs that could arise should a significant reduction in income be incurred, the Trustees have determined that it is appropriate for unrestricted, 'free', reserves to be maintained at a minimum of 3 months.

Due to the current uncertainty in the economic climate, shifting restrictions and an anticipated increase in demand for our services, the Trustees have agreed that the Charity will ideally hold more unrestricted funds than the minimum required in the reserves policy.

On 31st March 2023, the charity had accumulated unrestricted, 'free', reserves of £562,041; this provides cover equivalent to 4.3 months of operating costs, within the range that the Trustees are currently comfortable with. The reserves policy does not consider expenditure linked to restricted projects and therefore, covered by restricted funds.

The charity has plans in place to regularly review both the sum it wishes to hold in reserves in unrestricted funds and the basis for that figure, particularly considering the ongoing impact of the increase in the cost of living.

Total reserves at the end of the period were £5,215,054 of which £4,707,811 can only be realised by disposing of fixed assets.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Investment Policy

Any surplus funds that are not immediately required may, at the Board's discretion, be invested to ensure the charity's future sustainability. To ensure such investments are safeguarded;

- Any decision about investment will be made by the Board (potentially having professional advice) considering the suitability and diversification of investments, including investments in deposit accounts, to ensure that the failure of one investment or institution does not have a major impact on Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone
- Investments will be made in line with Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone Values
- Investment performance will be regularly reviewed
- Records will be maintained of all investments held (including details of all those sold or purchased) by the charity
- Accounting controls will be fully implemented to ensure that all dividends or interest payments due are received and accounted for.

At present, none of the charity's funds have been invested.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure are sufficient, with the level of reserves, for the charity to continue as a going concern.

Risk Management

The Board fully accepts its responsibilities under the Charity Commission's Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP). The Trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are committed to ensuring these are effectively managed.

The Chief Executive and senior managers have undertaken a comprehensive risk assessment and established risk registers from an organisation and operational perspective and have established risk management and control procedures, which are reviewed regularly by the Board.

Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone's top risks are outlined below;

Risk	Mitigation
<p>Safeguarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Risk of abuse by Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone staff/volunteers- Non-reporting of serious safeguarding concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- All staff, volunteers and board members have DBSs and full training on safeguarding.- Freelancers and partners must also produce their DBS to work at Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone and have a full induction.- We have a nominated safeguarding lead on the Board and an SLT member who acts as our health and safety lead, both are responsible for ensuring we review our annual safeguarding policy and procedures.- We have an annual review of our safeguarding policy and procedures, and these are now captured in a new policy review schedule which includes training if required.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

<p>Health and Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We review annually, our health and safety policy and procedures and ensure all team members are trained in line with the policy. - We have an annual external check of our health safety culture and compliance. - The BwD borough council manages all statutory compliance to ensure the highest standards.
<p>Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Income - Expenditure - Cash 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have a finance committee that reviews monthly income, expenditure and cash. - We have a fully resourced finance team responsible for reporting management accounts and ensuring all financial controls are enforced. - We have a fully resourced Business Development team to ensure we maximise income, with governance around meeting targets.
<p>Performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poor quality service, which does not meet the needs of young people - Low attendance numbers, which results in low return on investment - Poor performance from facilities staff, which results in an unclean or unsafe building - Poor performance from catering staff resulting in unhealthy or unsafe food - Poor performance from Business Development team resulting in financial instability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff are fully trained with regular refreshers to ensure youth offer is up to date. - Staff values ensure the team is happy, committed and passionate. - Proactive membership and engagement, which maximises all routes to securing new members and retaining existing members. - Regular one-to-ones and appraisals, along with spot checks where necessary to ensure staff performance is of expected levels. Check-ins with all team members and their managers every six weeks
<p>Reputation</p> <p>Negative impacts on the reputation of Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Negative press coverage of incidents ● Negative opinions of stakeholders due to unprofessional work ethics ● Mismanagement of time, resources, service delivery 	<p>Maintain a professional, reliable and trustworthy appearance through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Attendance at local and regional networking and multi-agency meetings - Fulfilling all obligations to funders including reporting and financial management - Sharing best practice and research as appropriate - Ensuring all policies and procedures are effectively followed and enforced

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

<p>People Staff issues due to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Turnover- Sickness- Poor organisational culture/morale- Poor communication- Burnout	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- We have a clear plan to build the culture at Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone ensuring all team members feel valued and engaged in decision making.- A full review of HR functions is underway and will straddle to the reporting year and the 1st 8 months of the ensuing year. After this review, career path development and a new system for recruiting and retaining theme members will be implemented.
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Fundraising Standards Information

Blackburn & Darwen Youth Zone raises funds by approaching businesses and philanthropic individuals interested in supporting young people. We also apply for Grants from Trusts that have the same interest. During the year, we used a mix of our own employees plus the services of an external team of freelance fundraisers who assisted with funding bids up to £20,000.

The charity is not currently a member of any voluntary scheme for regulating fundraising.

Primarily, we work with prospective business Patrons who have been introduced to our cause on a one-to-one basis. The Chief Executive monitors all fundraising. During the period, the charity received no complaints regarding its fundraising activities.

The charity does not do street or door-to-door fundraising, so it does not come into contact with vulnerable or other people who may feel intruded upon, unreasonably persistently approached or have had undue pressure placed upon them.

Business Plan

A 2023/24 business plan has been developed. This will be the benchmark against which the organisation will be monitored. This monitoring will occur monthly by the Senior Leadership Team and bi-monthly by the Board of Trustees. Each programme of work has an associated operational plan, fed into the annual objectives of all team members across the organisation.

Trustees Responsibilities

The Charity's Trustees (who are also directors for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Annual Report (including the Strategic Report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company Law requires the charity's Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under company law, the Trustees must not approve financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure of the charitable company, for that period.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

In preparing those financial statements, the trustees are required to;

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charity SORP 2019 (FRS 102)
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether UK accounting standards have been followed, and
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume the charity will continue in operation

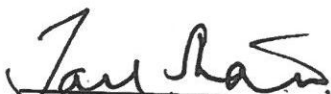
The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and, hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Statement as to Disclosure to our Auditors

In so far as the Trustees are aware at the time of approving this report;

- There is no relevant audit information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing their report, of which the auditor is unaware, and
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of this information.

This report was approved by the Board of Directors on 29th November 2023 and on behalf of the board by:



Rt Hon Jack Straw
Trustee

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Blackburn Youth Zone (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cashflows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 32, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the company and the sector in which it operates and considered the risk of non-compliance with applicable laws or regulations.

We determined that the following laws and regulations were most significant: the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial and Reporting Standard applicable to the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), those that relate to safeguarding and child protection, those that relate to employment law and those that relate to data protection. We designed audit procedures to respond to the risk, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

We obtained an understanding of how the company is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making enquiries of the management. We corroborated our enquiries through our review of board minutes.

Our tests also included agreeing the financial statements disclosures to underlying supporting documentation. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. We did not identify any key audit matters relating to irregularities, including fraud.

We also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including testing journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the management or trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Angela Donohoe FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of
Donnelly Bentley Limited
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Hazlemere
70 Chorley New Road
Bolton
BL1 4BY

29 November 2023

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE**(A company limited by guarantee)****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	2	1,058,046	544,543	1,602,589	1,704,152
Charitable activities	3	31,953	-	31,953	24,301
Other trading activities	4	117,567	-	117,567	75,316
Investments	5	2,454	-	2,454	55
TOTAL INCOME		1,210,020	544,543	1,754,563	1,803,824
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds		156,220	-	156,220	165,080
Charitable activities		1,072,990	657,029	1,730,019	1,601,480
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		1,229,210	657,029	1,886,239	1,766,560
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS		(19,190)	(112,486)	(131,676)	37,264
Transfers between Funds		-	-	-	-
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		(19,190)	(112,486)	(131,676)	37,264
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(19,190)	(112,486)	(131,676)	37,264
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		581,231	4,765,499	5,346,730	5,309,466
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		562,041	4,653,013	5,215,054	5,346,730

The notes on pages 40 to 54 form part of these financial statements.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.


BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 6944317

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023**

	Note	£	2023 £	£	2022 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	10		4,707,811		4,837,840
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	11	104,448		76,744	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>751,779</u>		<u>688,786</u>	
		856,227		765,530	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	12	<u>(348,984)</u>		<u>(256,640)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS / (LIABILITIES)			<u>507,243</u>		<u>508,890</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>5,215,054</u>		<u>5,346,730</u>
CHARITY FUNDS					
Restricted funds	14		4,653,013		4,765,499
Unrestricted funds	14		<u>562,041</u>		<u>581,231</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>5,215,054</u>		<u>5,346,730</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 29 November 2023 and signed on their behalf, by:


Rt Hon Jack Straw
Trustee

The notes on pages 40 to 54 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE**(A company limited by guarantee)****STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023**

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	16	<u>67,680</u>	<u>158,928</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		2,454	55
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(7,141)	(51,043)
Receipt from sale of tangible fixed asset		<u>-</u>	<u>2,000</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(4,687)</u>	<u>(48,988)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		62,993	109,940
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		<u>688,786</u>	<u>578,846</u>
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	17	<u>751,779</u>	<u>688,786</u>

The notes on pages 40 to 54 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Blackburn Youth Zone 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.

1.2 Company status

The company is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 2. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the company. The address of the registered office is Jubilee Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 1EP. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are to improve the life chances of young people in the Blackburn with Darwen area, helping them to gain increased levels of confidence and self-esteem and raising their aspirations for the future.

1.3 Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) once the company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the company where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the company has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the company of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably.

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

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.4 Grants

Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

1.5 Interest receivable

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

1.6 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities. Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the company and include project management carried out at Headquarters.

Costs of generating funds are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the company's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the company apportioned to charitable activities.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Long-term leasehold property	-	2% straight line
Plant and machinery	-	25% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	-	20% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	-	25% reducing balance
Office equipment	-	33% straight line

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.8 Operating leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account on a straight line basis over the lease term.

1.9 Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

1.10 Cash at bank and in hand

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

1.11 Provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

1.12 Financial instruments

The company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.13 Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the company to the fund in respect of the year.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.14 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the note to the accounts.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.15 Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the test set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK Corporation Tax purposes.

1.16 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of these financial statements require certain judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

1.17 Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Donations	831,079	-	831,079	439,252
Grants	43,841	189,149	232,990	456,951
Government grants	183,126	355,394	538,520	807,949
Total donations and legacies	<u>1,058,046</u>	<u>544,543</u>	<u>1,602,589</u>	<u>1,704,152</u>
Total 2022	<u>835,837</u>	<u>868,315</u>	<u>1704,152</u>	

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Young People's activity sessions	15,853	-	15,853	8,175
Facility hire	16,100	-	16,100	16,126
	<u>31,953</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>31,953</u>	<u>24,301</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>24,301</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,301</u>	

4. FUNDRAISING INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Events income	<u>117,567</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>117,567</u>	<u>75,316</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>75,316</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>75,316</u>	

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Bank interest received	<u>2,454</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,454</u>	<u>55</u>
<i>Total 2022</i>	<u>55</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>55</u>	

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Donations includes £31,085 (2022: £17,405) of In-Kind Support ranging from raffle prizes and Shuffle Boards to toys and Easter eggs.

During the year to 31st March 2023, volunteers provided 4,646 hours (2022:1,525) of support to the Youth Zone, which equates to an average of around 89 hours (2022:30) per week.

6. DIRECT COSTS

	Fundraising expenses	Charitable Activities costs	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Catering supplies	-	28,218	28,218	48,437
Commissioning artists	-	515	515	7,547
Partnership & arrangements	-	81,379	81,379	215,388
Trips and minibus hire	-	9,107	9,107	18,283
Youth activity consumables	-	55,384	55,384	98,381
Fundraising events costs	60,247	-	60,247	25,979
Wages and salaries	61,835	673,502	735,337	641,330
Pension cost	1,563	7,474	9,037	7,241
Professional fees	32,575	-	32,575	56,536
	<u>156,220</u>	<u>855,579</u>	<u>1,011,799</u>	<u>1,119,122</u>
<i>At 31 March 2022</i>	<u>165,080</u>	<u>954,042</u>	<u>1,119,122</u>	

7. SUPPORT COSTS

	Fundraising expenses	Charitable Activities costs	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Office costs	-	92,203	92,203	53,720
Other building running costs	-	254,175	254,175	140,157
Insurance	-	26,911	26,911	25,402
Other staff costs	-	14,008	14,008	18,435
Other costs	-	77,120	77,120	79,761
Wages and salaries	-	266,322	266,322	201,029
Pension cost	-	6,531	6,531	4,127
Depreciation	-	137,170	137,170	126,807
(Profit)/Loss on sale of tangible assets	-	-	-	(2,000)
	<u>-</u>	<u>874,440</u>	<u>874,440</u>	<u>647,438</u>
<i>At 31 March 2022</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>647,438</u>	<u>647,438</u>	

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

£ Nil (2022:£16,638) of fundraising costs were attributable to restricted funds and £156,220 (2022: £148,442) were attributable to unrestricted funds.

£657,029 (2022: £975,094) of charitable activities were attributable to restricted funds and £1,072,990 (2022: £626,386) were attributable to unrestricted funds.

8. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

This is stated after charging:

	2023 £	2022 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets:		
- owned by the charity	137,170	126,807
Auditor's remuneration	<u>9,000</u>	<u>8,870</u>

During the year, no trustees received any remuneration (2022 - £NIL).

During the year, no trustees received any benefits in kind (2022 - £NIL).

During the year, no trustees received any reimbursement of expenses (2022 - £NIL).

9. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	936,045	795,749
Social security costs	65,614	46,610
Pension costs	15,568	11,368
	<u>1,017,227</u>	<u>853,727</u>

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year was as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Fundraising and administration	8	6
Delivery	<u>66</u>	<u>58</u>
	<u>74</u>	<u>64</u>

Average headcount expressed as a full time equivalent:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Fundraising and administration	7	6
Delivery	<u>29</u>	<u>30</u>
	<u>36</u>	<u>36</u>

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

There was one employee whose total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) fell within £70,000-£80,000 per annum (2022: Nil). No other employees earned more than £60,000 in 2023 or 2022.

Key management personnel are considered to be the Chief Executive, Head of Operations and Director of Finance. The total amount of employee benefits paid to the key management personnel for the year was £163,791 (2022 - £130,142).

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Long-term leasehold property £	Motor vehicles £	Plant and machinery, fixtures and fittings £	Office equipment and computers £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 April 2022	5,515,459	19,794	151,820	92,201	5,779,274
Additions			3,984	3,157	7,141
Disposals				(44,123)	(44,123)
At 31 March 2023	5,515,459	19,794	155,804	51,235	5,742,292
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2022	762,972	17,155	93,885	67,423	941,434
Charge for the year	110,309	2,639	13,757	10,464	137,170
Eliminated on disposal				(44,123)	(44,123)
At 31 March 2023	873,281	19,794	107,642	33,764	1,034,481
Net book value					
At 31 March 2023	4,642,178	-	48,162	17,471	4,707,811
At 31 March 2022	4,752,488	2,639	57,935	24,778	4,837,840

On 17 April 2015 the property from which the company operates was legally transferred to the company from Onside Youth Zones.

Onside Youth Zones previously built and developed the property with the support of a £5 million grant provided by the Big Lottery Fund, acting as agent for the Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State holds a legal charge over the company secured on the property, for a period of 20 years from 26 February 2009. The charge has terms associated which if not met by the company could result in the grant becoming repayable.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

11. DEBTORS

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	15,219	30,971
Other debtors	102	-
Prepayments and accrued income	89,127	45,773
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	104,448	76,744

12. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	31,767	65,022
Other taxation and social security	32,985	29,451
Other creditors	17,344	13,861
Accruals and deferred income	266,888	148,296
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	348,984	256,640

13. DEFERRED INCOME

	2023 £	2022 £
At 1 April 2022	33,743	61,042
Additions during the year	429,317	372,253
Amounts released to income	(305,188)	(399,552)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
At 31 March 2023	157,872	33,743

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE**(A company limited by guarantee)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023****14. STATEMENT OF FUNDS****STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR**

	Balance at 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers Between Funds £	Balance at 31 March 2023 £
Unrestricted Funds					
General Funds	468,181	1,004,782	(1,016,783)	-	456,180
Designated Fund	113,050	205,238	(212,427)	-	105,861
	<u>581,231</u>	<u>1,210,020</u>	<u>(1,229,210)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>562,041</u>
Restricted Funds					
Restricted Funds	13,012	544,543	(546,720)	-	10,835
Property Reserves	4,752,487	-	(110,309)	-	4,642,178
	<u>4,765,499</u>	<u>544,543</u>	<u>(657,029)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,653,013</u>
Total of Funds	<u>5,346,730</u>	<u>1,754,563</u>	<u>(1,886,239)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,215,054</u>

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer Between Funds	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted Funds					
General Funds	420,550	822,459	(774,828)	-	468,181
Designated Fund	-	113,050	-	-	113,050
	<u>420,550</u>	<u>935,509</u>	<u>(774,828)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>581,231</u>
Restricted Funds					
Restricted Funds	26,120	868,315	(881,423)	-	13,012
Property Reserves	4,862,796	-	(110,309)	-	4,752,487
	<u>4,888,916</u>	<u>868,315</u>	<u>(991,732)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,765,499</u>
Total of Funds	<u>5,309,466</u>	<u>1,803,824</u>	<u>(1,766,560)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,346,730</u>

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Restricted Funds	Balance at 1 April 2022	Income	Expenditure	Fund Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2023
	£	£	£	£	£
Albert Gubay	2,000	-	(2,000)	-	-
Covid SEND	425	-	(425)	-	-
Zone to Home (Lans Lab)	2,499	-	(2,499)	-	-
Prudence Trust – wellbeing worker	-	13,385	(13,385)	-	-
Police Commissioner - Knife Crime	236	-	(98)	-	138
Youth Hub	-	139,783	(139,783)	-	-
Tracking Inequalities	-	7,869	(7,869)	-	-
Doyle Carte – The Arts	-	1,056	(1,056)	-	-
UK Youth – Futureproof	-	7,249	(7,249)	-	-
OnSide – Islamic Relief	-	10,698	(10,698)	-	-
HAF Easter	-	23,000	(23,000)	-	-
Queen Jubilee Celebration	-	9,850	(9,850)	-	-
Festival of Making – Arts Council	-	14,827	(14,827)	-	-
HAF Summer 22	-	88,000	(88,000)	-	-
Jubilee Sports Project – Sports England	-	8,100	(8,100)	-	-
Senior Holiday Hunger – OnSide	-	1,607	(1,607)	-	-
Capital Building Project	4,752,487	-	(110,308)	-	4,642,179
New Mini Bus	3,714	-	(3,714)	-	-
Sport England (Wheelchairs)	1,854	-	(320)	-	1,534
Active Lancashire (Boxing and UV equipment)	2,284	-	(396)	-	1,888
Time to Talk Plus – UKH Foundation	-	3,333	(3,333)	-	-
Peter Harrison – Triple T Sport	-	6,378	(2,000)	-	4,378
BwD Targeted Community Physical Activities Fund	-	8,043	(8,043)	-	-
HAF Winter 22	-	27,500	(27,500)	-	-
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	-	90,000	(90,000)	-	-
John Lewis Foundation	-	16,648	(16,648)	-	-
OnSide Winter Hunger	-	29,034	(29,034)	-	-
Eric Wright Foundation	-	7,167	(7,167)	-	-
Youth Justice Fund – Triple T Sports	-	19,800	(19,800)	-	-
Duchy of Lancaster c.o.l	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Digital Futures – Maker Zone	-	2,897	-	-	2,897
UK Youth Hatch	-	2,000	(2,000)	-	-
HAF Easter	-	1,319	(1,319)	-	-
Total	4,765,499	544,543	(657,029)	-	4,653,013

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Duchy of Lancaster c.o.l	Supporting the poorest young people and families in BwD areas through the cost-of-living crisis
Albert Gubay	To provide food parcels to families during Covid.
Covid SENd	To advise young people who have increased vulnerabilities on how to be safe around covid whilst providing access to provision.
HAF – Easter	Providing positive activity and food through the Easter holidays to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds tackling holiday hunger.
Active Lancashire (Boxing & UV Equipment)	To purchase equipment and run boxing and UV sports.
Youth Hub	Various projects to help young people, particularly those with special needs, get into employment or training.
Police Commissioner – Knife Crime	Detached work in communities with high ASB to provide positive activity.
Capital Building Project	Monies received for the initial construction and fitting out of the building. The original expenditure relates to the annual depreciation charge.
New Minibus	Purchase of a new minibus.
Sport England (Wheelchairs)	Weekly wheelchair sport activities at BYZ.
Tracking Inequalities 2	Paddles ports training or delivery of paddles sports.
Eric Wright Foundation	To support young people and their families through the cost-of-living crisis.
Queen's Jubilee Celebration	To deliver a multi-cultural, cross generational fun day to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
Festival of Making – Arts Council	Engaging Young People in the Festival of Making.
Jubilee Sports Project – Sports England	To provide disadvantaged young people with opportunities to try a new sport in an inclusive setting.
Senior Holiday Hunger - Onside	To support delivery of free visits with a free meal to those members in the lowest 3 deciles of deprivation Over the holiday period, available to those too old to attend Holiday Club.
Time to Talk Plus – UKH Foundation	1 to 1 and tailored activities for young people struggling with mental health issues.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Peter Harrison – Triple T Spots	To support the pilot year of the Try, Train, Teach Sports and physical activity programme.
BwD Targeted Community Physical Activities Fund	To deliver positive health and wellbeing through sport and physical activity.
HAF Summer 22 & Winter 22	Providing positive activity and food through the summer & winter holidays to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds tackling holiday hunger.
HAF Easter	Providing positive activity and food through the Easter holidays to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds tackling holiday hunger.
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	To engage young people, community, and the private sector in community activities, volunteering and business engagement.
John Lewis Foundation	Supporting young people aged 16-24 who are currently unemployed, not in training or learning and who may have a range of vulnerabilities and need help to move into employment, training or learning opportunities.
Prudence Trust Wellbeing Worker	Health and wellbeing evaluations in session and signposting for support where needed.
Doyle Carter – The Arts	To deliver weekly performing arts sessions.
Youth Justice Fund – Triple T Sports	Support vulnerable young people, aged 10-17, at risk of involvement in crime, anti – social behaviour and serious violence through involvement in local sporting activities.
Onside – Islamic Relief, Strong Sisters	Weekly female empowerment/cohesion sessions.
Digital Futures – Maker Zone	To develop a flexible curriculum which aids the quality and impact of Maker Zone.
UK Youth Hatch	A work readiness programme for young people aged 16-25 who are not in employment, education, or training (NEET) or at risk of becoming NEET.
UK Youth - Futureproof	The Futureproof programme aims to support youth workers with the tools and time to work with young people to build practical, essential life skills around challenging topics.
Onside Winter Hunger	To support the delivery of free visits with a free meal between November 2022 and March 2023.
Zone to Home (Lancs Lab)	Digital activities and food parcels delivered to disadvantaged families.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

Designated Fund

The designated fund is a fund to support the work of Youth Zone Darwen.

15. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £
Tangible fixed assets	65,633	4,642,178	4,707,811
Current assets	845,392	10,835	856,227
Creditors due within one year	(348,984)	-	(348,984)
	<u>562,041</u>	<u>4,653,013</u>	<u>5,215,054</u>

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	85,352	4,752,488	4,837,840
Current assets	752,519	13,011	765,530
Creditors due within one year	(256,640)	-	(256,640)
	<u>581,231</u>	<u>4,765,499</u>	<u>5,346,730</u>

16. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income /(expenditure) for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	(131,676)	37,264
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation charges	137,170	126,807
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(2,454)	(55)
Profit on the sale of fixed assets	-	(2,000)
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	-	1,630
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(27,704)	(771)
(decrease)/increase in creditors	92,344	(3,947)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>67,680</u>	<u>158,928</u>

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

17. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>751,779</u>	<u>688,786</u>
Total	<u><u>751,779</u></u>	<u><u>688,786</u></u>

18. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The company operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £15,568 (2022 - £11,368). Contributions totaling £5,947 (2022 - £2,323) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in other creditors.

19. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

AH Graham, who is a trustee, is a director of Graham & Brown Limited. During the year, this company made donations totaling £25,000 (2022 - £25,000) and sponsorship of events of £1,540 (2022 - £100).

E Swan, who is a trustee is a partner of Forbes Solicitors. During the year, Forbes Solicitors made donations totaling £9,165 (2022 - £10,000) and sponsorship of events of £2,000 (2022 - £100).

EA Sidat, who was a trustee until 26 September 2023, is a director of AMS Accountants Group Limited and Signature Tax Ltd. During the year the company made donations of £12,500 (2022 - £10,500) and sponsorship of events of £840 (2022 - £nil)

M Saxton, who is a trustee, is a director of Totally Wicked. During the year Totally Wicked made donations of £25,000 (2022 - £25,000) and sponsorship of events of £2,230 (2022 - £160)

P. Mellor, who is a trustee, is a director of Cummins Mellor Limited.
During the year Blackburn Youth Zone paid £5,844 to Cummins Mellor Limited for recruitment services.

20. CONTROLLING PARTY

There is no controlling party.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

England & Wales - Charity number 1135949

Accounts

REGISTERED NUMBER: 6944317
Charity number: 1135949

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

DonnellyBentley
Chartered Accountants
Hazlemere
70 Chorley New Road
Bolton
BL1 4BY

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

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BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

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REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Trustees

Rt Hon J W Straw (Chairman)
A H Graham
A Bromley (resigned 31 January 2022)
D J Gorton (resigned 31 October 2021)
A Durkin (resigned 31 October 2021)
H E Taylor (resigned 1 June 2021)
E I Sidat
J Carson (appointed 28 September 2021)
M Ibrahim (appointed 10 March 2022)
K D Robinson (appointed 10 March 2022)
E L Swan (appointed 10 March 2022)
D Park (appointed 10 March 2022)
P Mellor (appointed 10 March 2022)
J Saxton (appointed 10 March 2022)
A Wild (appointed 10 March 2022)
K B Kazi (appointed 28 September 2022)

Senior Management Team

Hannah Allen – Chief Executive
Zaffer Khan - Interim Chief Executive (December 2020 – June 2021)

Company registered number

6944317

Charity registered number

1135949

Registered office

Jubilee Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 1EP

Independent auditors

DonnellyBentley, Hazlemere, 70 Chorley New Road, Bolton, BL1 4BY

Bankers

HSBC, 60 Church Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 5AS

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The Trustees (who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act) present their report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2022. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Strategic Report

A message from our CEO - Hannah Allen

A decade ago, Blackburn Youth Zone embarked on a journey to change the prospects offered to all young people within Blackburn with Darwen. In 2022, Blackburn Youth Zone celebrates ten years of making an impact and changing the lives of thousands of young people. On the land where, 100 years ago, Blackburn's first electricity generating station once stood, the Youth Zone is now powering the community through the energy and creativity of young people. In total, over the last ten years, we have supported over 18,000 young people, had 387,625 visits through our doors and had a staggering 107,543 volunteering hours to support our mission.

It couldn't be more urgent to invest in young people. With approximately half of all young people in Blackburn with Darwen living in poverty, we must act now. To ensure we are meeting the needs of all young people in the borough this year, with the support of our new Darwen patrons and Blackburn with Darwen Council, we have been able to expand our offer in Darwen- Now running seven days a week. Giving the young people of Darwen the same opportunities as those in Blackburn.

This year also saw the exciting launch of our Youth Hub - the first of its kind in the UK! Removing barriers, providing skills and supporting young people in education, employment and training. Since launching in September, the Youth Hub has supported a young person to move into employment or training every day!

I couldn't be more proud of the Youth Zone team and our accomplishments. This year we were delighted to have won the Red Rose Award for non for profit organisation and the Queens Award for Volunteering, now more than ever, young people and our community have needed us, and the work we have accomplished has been recognised within these awards.

It is reasonable to ask, what have we accomplished this far? What impact have we made with our fantastic donors, partners and supporters? And what will the next ten years bring as we continue to inspire a generation?

This report summarises the impact made in our tenth year celebrating successes, based on Blackburn Youth Zones Theory of Change.

Blackburn Youth Zone Objectives

Blackburn Youth Zone's objectives are to help educate children and young people resident in the North West of England through their leisure time activities. Blackburn Youth Zone does this by promoting their full physical, mental and spiritual potential in order that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society and that their quality of life may improve.

Vision - where we want to be

Blackburn Youth Zone to be at the heart of the community, collaborating to create a more cohesive and prosperous Blackburn and Darwen.

Mission - our purpose

To inspire all, to have fun, meet different people, try new things and challenge themselves to be the best they can be.

The Trustees have given due consideration to the Charity Commission published guidance on the operation of the public benefit requirement and are satisfied that this requirement is met by carrying out the activities as described in this report.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

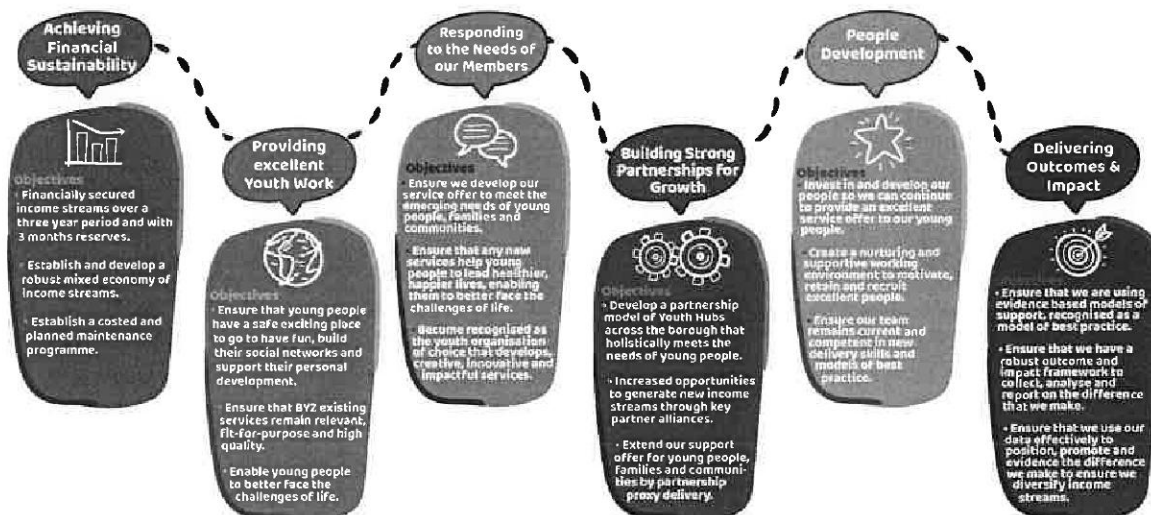
Overview of the year

Coming out of the first year of the Covid-19 pandemic we recognised that our services were more needed than ever as young people began to live their normal lives again. And this included those young people of Youth Zone Darwen who we had reached out to for the first time during the previous 12 months. As a result, we had our busiest year ever with 62,004 visits from 4,436 young people throughout the year across our two sites. We continued our policy of making the activities totally free to all and this resulted in 1,941 new members joining, and therefore benefitting from our services.

On top of this, we launched the first Youth Employment Hub in the UK, with funding from the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and other grants. The purpose of the Youth Hub is to support a young people to move into employment or training, and despite the many difficulties that they face we managed to place, on average, one young person a day. the Youth Hub has been a huge success.

Our core strategic goals were always at the forefront of what we did, to ensure that any new developments and activities are contributing towards the growth and sustainability of the organisation, its people and its members.

Our six strategic goals are:



The Trustees have given due consideration to the Charity Commission published guidance on the operation of the public benefit requirement and are satisfied that this requirement is met by carrying out the activities as described in this report.

Blackburn Youth Zone

Blackburn Youth Zones state-of-the-art facilities enable all young people to come together, meet new people and participate in developmental activities, supporting young people with their skills and aspirations, health and wellbeing and social integration, levelling up by providing them with the same choices, quality of life opportunities and aspirations.

This year the team in Blackburn has provided youth work support to a staggering 4,348 young people. With an average of 1,064 young people a week walking through our doors.

Universal Offer

Giving young people a physical space in their community outside of school is crucial to developing relationships and resilience, which are vital to avoiding negative experiences in childhood. Our Blackburn universal offer supports over 1,000 young people a week through arts, sports, STEM, Music and much more.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Targeted Services

As we emerged from the pandemic, the impact on young people's emotional and physical health was of paramount importance.

To respond to the increased need, Youth Zone launched our Targeted Twilight service. This service offers young people support via programmes and projects with a range of short to longer-term interventions. Helping young people to build self-esteem, self-confidence and resilience and offer support to their families. Young people are referred to us by other agencies as an intermediate step into our more comprehensive services. Since its inception, 'targeted twilight' has engaged over 1,652 young people. Working with a range of local partners, the youth zone has built a strong offer.

This year our Youth Safe provision has safeguarded 518 young people and referred 286 young people to specialist organisations to provide professional support.

Diversity Club

As an addition to our targeted services, our long-standing Diversity provision has moved underneath our targeted umbrella, allowing for growth and change as well as access to targeted support for the young people who attend. Like the Twilight provision, Diversity is a targeted provision for young people within the local area and beyond with additional needs to access fun, engaging activities whilst supporting their needs, families and wider community. In the last year, Diversity has had 800 attendances.

Holiday Hunger

Over the year, we provided 21 days of holiday club provision, providing 1,501 young people from disadvantaged backgrounds with a range of positive activities and a nutritional meal during the school holidays. Helping reduce social isolation, inactivity and holiday hunger. In addition to the holiday club, we have run Zone to Home campaigns. Providing food and activity to young people in the comfort of their own homes. In total 3267 zone-to-home packages were delivered over the year.

Mentoring

Our mentoring programme supports young people with developing the ability to understand and manage their emotions and build resilience. 439 young people have benefited from having a 1:1 mentor.

Case Study

L is a young man with plenty of charisma who, despite this, really struggled socially. L began attending Blackburn Youth Zone in 2021, after being referred through Young Peoples Services as they were ready to step him down into a smaller provision. L had a history of struggling to control his anger and having outbursts at home and school.

L arrived full of energy and jokes however gravitated toward staff and adults rather than peers his age, seeming to struggle to take the first step to build a relationship. staff quickly noticed L's struggle and worked on getting him to try other activities to help him to open up and find others with similar interests.

L is a very big music fan and especially enjoys rap, using it as an outlet to channel his emotions. As a result, L received some 1:1 targeted time in music, creating a track, writing lyrics and then recording a rap into the song 'Lost Boy'.

Alongside his music project, L also engaged in 1:1 mentoring sessions allowing staff to work on social skills and giving him an outlet for any worries he may have. L's friendships soon blossomed with other people bonding over music, games and their common love of pranking staff and telling jokes. L became the life and soul of the Youth Zone.

L's journey highlights how 1:1 support and a listening ear can do wonders for a young person who feels a little lost, help to repair relationships and help to form new ones.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Partnerships

We have moved from being a centre-based organisation to thinking more broadly about evolving within communities. We now have a whole range of different partners operating from Blackburn Youth Zone, which enriches our offer and becomes more attractive to different sections of the community and different young people's interests.

There is no better time to champion the needs and support the aspirations of young people. BwD is proud to work in partnership with BYZ and others, and I don't think there has ever been a greater need to put our collective arms around young people. - Cllr Julie Gunn

In the Community

The Youth Zones detached, and outreach youth work offers support, advice and guidance to local at-risk young people who use the street as their main socialising space.

Our service aims to deliver activities encouraging street-engaged young people to access universal centre-based activities where more detailed issue-based interventions can be made.

We have had 2,789 street-based engagements with 203 hours of service.

Case Study

Our youth workers have been attending a local area and attempting to engage with young people. Initially, the young people in the area were not interested in engaging but over a few weeks we managed to build up a rapport with them. They mentioned that they were concerned about the local play area and how it was constantly littered with rubbish and was unsafe and unclean for young people to use. We spoke to the young people and advised them that they could voice their concerns to the local council to see if they could arrange for the area to be cleaned at least once. The young people stated that there was often fly tipping going on in the area and it was hard to keep it clean.

It was suggested by the young people that they could start a litter picking/tidy up event, which they were keen to do. We said that if they spoke with their friends about a litter picking group, we could help organise it with them and take part in our visit to this area during our detached sessions.

A couple of weeks later, we again visited the play area on our detached route and met a number of the young people that we had previously engaged with. The play area was visibly cleaner and had less litter around, making it safer to play in this area. After speaking with the young people, they stated that they had organised a small litter pick and tidy up of the area between their social group. We praised them on this environmental work and they seemed very proud of themselves and what they had organised to be done.

We will be continuing the dialogue with these young people now that we have established this relationship and hope to work with them to keep that play area free from litter moving forward

Youth Zone Darwen

Youth Zone Darwen is a safe and exciting space for Darwen's young people to spend their spare time seven nights a week. The hub is a social space in the town centre, with sports and arts activities delivered from key locations across Darwen, ensuring there is something for everyone.

Youth Zone Darwen originally opened temporarily during the Coronavirus pandemic. After realising how high the need is for this service, we set it our mission to secure the funding to keep the service alive. Blackburn with Darwen Council and a number of local Darwen businesses came together to invest in the young people of the town. A grand total of £279,000 has already been raised - enough to run the Youth Zone for 12 months.

However this is just the start of our journey!

"We've been absolutely blown away by the amount of support for Youth Zone Darwen. Local businesses can see what a difference Youth Zone Darwen is already making and the opportunity that exists to do even more. We're now proud to have 10 patrons who've pledged their support, with a few others close to confirming."

Wayne Wild, Youth Zone trustee and chair of Darwen Town Deal

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Our Offer

Providing the same life-changing opportunities to the young people of Darwen as those on offer to the young people in Blackburn. Now running 7 days a week, Youth Zone Darwen has supported a total of 615 young people who have accessed our provision over 12,000 times. Young people have access to a safe and inspiring environment designed to raise aspirations, reduce ASB and support the most vulnerable young people in the community.

The facilities at Youth Zone Darwen are not as extensive as those at Blackburn Youth Zone so we work with a number of local partners to enrich the offering:

- We are Noise - music and recording facilities
- Junction 4 - skatepark
- AFC Darwen - football and sports
- Knott Street
- Leisure Centre

We are pleased to work with these organisations for the benefit of our members.

HAF in Darwen

Through the Holiday Activity Fund we have been able to provide a safe and enriching space as well as a healthy nutritious meal to 450 young people throughout the school holidays. We have delivered 200 hours of holiday club in Darwen, tackling holiday hunger and raising aspirations.

Case Study

MW is a shy new member of Youth Zone Darwen. MW's mum was originally hesitant for him to attend due to his diagnosis of Autism and worrying he would struggle to navigate socially. She however allowed staff time to introduce themselves before taking MW on a tour around the building.

Mum disclosed that the cost of living has hit the family hard and she had been struggling to afford the new school year which is fast approaching. Using our community links the Youth Zone has helped the family to access the food larder and have reached out to support with uniforms for the new school year, with MW donating his old uniform to help others in need.

MW, despite his mum's fears, has thrived at the Youth Zone. The summer has made way for new friendship groups, experiences and has allowed the family access support which they have really needed.

MW's Mum - 'We look forward to his sessions and to see him come out so happy (but tired!) and excited to tell us all about his afternoon and what he's done, has been the best feeling ever. Kids feel safe and happy at YZD and the staff are a credit to you.'

Youth Hub

In 2021 Blackburn Youth Zone secured grant funding from the Department of Works and Pension in September 2021 to set up the first Youth Employment Hub in the UK, and what a year it has been!

Since launching in September, the Youth Hub has supported a young person to move into employment or training every day!

Headline stats:

Total number of young people supported by the youth hub- 487

Numbers of young people into employment- 131

Number of young people achieving/completing a training course/qual - 237

Number of Career Days held - 25

Number of Employer Masterclasses - 15

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Youth Hub on Tour

One of our unique training courses has been 'Youth Hub On Tour' during this training, we have selected a group of young people who are Level 3 (nearest to the job market). We then link up with a Patron organisation that will offer an on-the-job training and information day. For example, Essential Furnishings LTD gave our young people a tour of their factory, information on what each department does and a chance to do hands-on work experience in the company using their machinery under the guided supervision of staff. They then also gave the young people a presentation about the company's history, the benefits of working in that industry and how to get into careers in those jobs.

Case Study

F was referred to the Youth Hub by her DWP work coach; she is a young parent with aspirations of joining the police force. Before lockdown, F applied to become a police officer with Greater Manchester police. She was invited for an interview and progressed to the fitness test stage. However, this is when Covid restrictions began, and the recruitment process halted. F has been waiting for her fitness test to be rescheduled ever since.

Through regular 1-1s, it became apparent that F still wanted to pursue her dream of joining the police force, as this is something she still feels passionate about. However, F felt she needed to work in the meantime, and for now, this would have to fit in around school timings due to childcare commitments. She was supported to develop her CV further and given techniques to help her conduct successful job interviews and job searching.

F has recently sat a very impressive interview with a Patron of the Youth Zone for a part-time receptionist role at their physiotherapy company. The position will fit her childcare needs and will see her at work until her recruitment process with the police is finalised.

F has been successful and is awaiting a start date.

Our membership

Young people are at the heart of our organisation, ensuring that all young people have fun, meet different people, try new things and challenge themselves to reach their full potential in life, regardless of their circumstances or background. Our membership is rich in diversity and offers a true representation of the young people in Blackburn with Darwen.

- 47% of our membership comes from the BAME community. Having mixed social networks consisting of people from different ethnic and material backgrounds helps aid social mobility reducing the risk of entrenched poverty later in life.
- 266 of the Youth Zones members have a disability or additional need
- 48% of our active members come from the top 10% of the most deprived wards in the country.
- 44% of Youth Zone members come from the top five areas within Blackburn with Darwen with the highest current reported antisocial behaviour (ASB).
- 32% of our members receive free school meals

Our continued policy of providing free access to all of our services ensures that no-one is disadvantaged and this is now being reflected in the rich diversity of our membership.

Volunteering

At the Youth Zone, we are extremely proud of our award-winning volunteering offer. In 2021 we were presented with The Queen's Award for voluntary service. The award recognises outstanding work by volunteer groups that benefit their local communities.

The restrictions caused by Covid meant that we had less Volunteers during 2021/22 than previous but our amazing team still managed to clock up 1,525 hours during the year, which equates to an average of around 30 hours per week. The value of these volunteers for the year amounts to around £14,500.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

We have invested in this area and so far in 22/23 we have seen a 73% increase in active volunteers who have donated their time to support the young people of Blackburn with Darwen.

Without the support of our incredible volunteers, we would not have been able to provide the level of support we have. Our Volunteers are amazing— so selfless, encouraging, and positive; even after all the difficult Covid setbacks, they rose above it all.

Our Supporters

The impact that the Youth Zone has would not be possible without our supporters and funders. We are incredibly thankful to everyone who has helped us continuously be there for young people. Since launching 10 years ago, over 150 local businesses have backed our cause.

For every £1 of funding we receive from the local authority, the Youth Zone raises £5.61 to match this and we could not deliver our life changing services without the support of these generous individuals and organisations.

Fundraising and Income Streams

For every £1 of funding which we receive from Blackburn with Darwen council, Blackburn Youth Zone raises **£5.61**, with this coming from a combination of support from local businesses and individuals as well as grants from Trusts and Foundations.

Blackburn Youth Zone's Business Development Team's objective is to generate income to ensure we are able to achieve our vision to be at the heart of the community, collaborating to create a more cohesive and prosperous Blackburn and Darwen.

Patron involvement

Blackburn Youth Zone is supported financially by our generous network of Patrons, who donate unrestricted funding, equating to £396,547 (22% of our total income). We are thankful to the following Patrons who supported us in 2021/22:

Bowland Trust	Brian Mercer Trust	Hemple Foundation	Graham & Brown
Senator	Totally Wicked	Sovereign Beverage	Accrol Papers
Forbes Solicitors	Peter Cummings	PM+M Accountants	Napthens Solicitors
Blackburn Chemicals	Pets Choice	Blackburn College	Cardboard Box Co.
Eric Wright	AMS Accountants	Emerson & Renwick	Silicone Engineering
Peter & Linda Street	Star Academies	Vision Support	Canopies UK
Businesswise Solutions	Fagan & Whalley	MDS Healthcare	Multevo
Sagar Insurance	Vital Life	Nybble IT	Granby Marketing
Dinner Lady Vape	Fogarty's Insurance	Darwen Bars	WEC Group

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

In-Kind Support

During the year, we have received £17,405 of In-Kind Support. We are grateful to our Patrons & Supporters who provided support in kind:

- Bright Blue Foods - Queens Award Mini Rolls
- Cardboard Box Company - Photo frames and food parcel boxes
- Boohoo - Vital warm essential clothing
- Rock FM - Christmas Toys
- Sovereign Beverage - Football Table
- Tesco - Christmas food campaign
- Lazar Family - Christmas food campaign
- Khanjra International Foods - food for Big Iftar
- Morrisons - Easter Eggs and Event supplies
- Totally Wicked - Easter Eggs
- Nybble IT - Easter Eggs
- Fagan & Whalley - Truck Advertising and use of vehicle to deliver Zone to Home packs
- Symclean - Easter Eggs

Grant Funding

Grant funding continued to be a major source of income for Blackburn Youth Zone during 21/22 with £956,624 (53% of total income) from a variety of funders being raised during the year. Key projects that we received funding for included:

- £130,744 for Youth Hub (DWP, Henry Smith, MPT Steps)
- £251,301 for the Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF)
- £165,765 Zone to Home - providing activity packs for young people who were unable to access the Youth Zones due to lockdown
- £100,000 from BwD for Youth Ambassadors Integration funding

Events, Gift Aid & Community Fundraising

Whilst we were still prevented from holding our usual large fundraising events due to uncertainty around restrictions, we were fortunate to have many supporters who still fundraised for Blackburn Youth Zone and in total, our community fundraising target was exceeded significantly raising a total of £75,316. This total included the Big Give Christmas Campaign which raised £30,000 for Blackburn Youth Zone's mentoring project. Donations made to this project during the week-long campaign were match funded by pledges from the Cardboard Box Company.

We are planning to once again hold our very popular Beer Festival at the beginning of May 22 and other corporate events and so we are hoping that the amount raised in future will return to pre-covid levels.

Facility Hire

As restrictions eased, we were able to start hiring out our facilities to schools and other organisations and this brought in £16,127 of income. Again we are hoping that in future years this will return to pre-covid levels.

Structure, Governance and Management

Blackburn Youth Zone is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee without share capital. Blackburn Youth Zone is registered under the Companies Act 1985, registration number 6944317. The company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, dated 25th June 2009. Management of the company's affairs is vested in the trustees. In the event of a winding-up, the present members and those who have ceased to be a member within one year of such event have guaranteed liabilities of the company to the sum not exceeding one pound each year.

Organisational Structure

Blackburn Youth Zone is governed by its Board of Trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of Company Law, which retains overall responsibility for the strategic direction and the policy of the organisation.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The Trustees carry ultimate responsibility for the conduct of Blackburn Youth Zone and for ensuring that the charity satisfies its legal and contractual obligations.

A Chief Executive is appointed by the Board to manage the day to day operations. To facilitate effective operations the Chief Executive has delegated authority as approved by the Board for all operational matters including finance, human resources and operational delivery. During the period from December 2020 - June 2021 BYZ was managed by an interim CEO whilst our permanent CEO was on maternity leave. The board approves the strategic plan and annual Business plan and scrutinises business performance including financial performance as well as providing advice to the Chief Executive on operational matters of performance.

The pay of the Chief Executive Officer is reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees, benchmarking their salaries against those of similar Youth Zones within the OnSide Network. Blackburn Youth Zone is part of the network of Youth Zones established by OnSide Youth Zones (Charity Registered in England & Wales no: 1125893). Many of the operational policies and procedures of the Youth Zone are influenced by being part of this wider network.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is composed of 12 Directors representing the public, private and third sector, along with two more members that provide additional expertise but do not have voting rights.

Trustees can be nominated for a fixed or indeterminate term. One third of the Directors will retire by rotation at each AGM, retiring Directors can then be re-appointed.

The Trustees normally meet on a bi-monthly basis, where finance and delivery performance are scrutinised and strategic plans reviewed.

New trustees will be recruited according to the needs of the charity and the suitability of possible candidates. The unanimous approval of existing Trustees leads to their appointment.

Following a review of the Board, and in light of the resignations of three long serving members, the remaining Trustees identified a number of people who could strengthen the Board and as a result 7 new trustees were appointed on 10 March 22. A further trustee, to take on the Treasurer role, has since been appointed. These new trustees bring a wealth of experience in fundraising, HR, legal and finance. and the charity now believes that it has a very strong board of trustees to guide it through the challenges ahead.

The Board wishes to place on record their thanks to the retiring trustees - David Gorton, Adam Bromley and Alison Durkin - for their many years of service to the Youth Zone.

Financial Review

Total income for the year was £1,803,824 (2021: £1,745,436). Of this amount £896,203 (2021: £801,838) was from donations and grants, primarily from the local business community; public grants of £807,949 (2021: £886,385) were received; and the balance of £99,672 (2021: £57,213) was income from charitable activities, fundraising and investment income.

Total expenditure for the year was £1,766,560 (2021: £1,339,504) of which £165,080 (2021: £86,467) related to Fundraising activities and £1,601,480 (2021: £1,253,037) related to Charitable Activities.

The resulting surplus for the year of £37,264 (2021: surplus £405,932) was after charging £126,807 (2021: £130,243) of depreciation on fixed assets.

The total unrestricted funds held at 31 March 2022 were £581,231 (2021: £420,550). This included a Designated Fund of £113,050 specifically for the work at Youth Zone Darwen. Total Net Assets of the organisation as at 31 March 2022 were £5,346,730 (2021: £5,309,466)

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The charity is extremely grateful to the many funders who again provided additional funding during the year with specific focus on Covid-19 recovery and support. Without this financial support many young people would have suffered even more during another extremely difficult year for everyone.

Risk Management

The board fully accepts its responsibilities under the Charity Commission's statement of Recommended Practice (SORP). The Trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are committed to ensuring these are effectively managed.

The Chief Executive and senior managers have undertaken a comprehensive risk assessment and established risk registers from an organisation and operational perspective and have established risk management and control procedures which are reviewed regularly by the board.

Blackburn Youth Zone's top risks are outlined below;

Risk	Mitigation
<p>Safeguarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Risk of abuse by Blackburn Youth Zone staff/volunteers• Non reporting of serious safeguarding concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All staff, volunteers and board members have DBS's and full training on safeguarding.• Freelancers and partners also need to produce their DBS to work at Blackburn Youth Zone and have a full induction.• We have a nominated safeguarding lead on the board and an SLT members who act as our health and safety lead, both are responsible in ensuring we review our annual safeguarding policy and procedures.• We have an annual review of our safeguarding policy and procedures.
<p>Health and Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We annually review our health and safety policy and procedures, ensure all team members are trained.• We have an annual external check of our health safety culture and compliance.• All statutory compliance is managed by BwD council, to ensure the highest standards.• SLT regularly review the COVID-19 risk following government guidelines. All recommendations are approved at board level.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

<p>Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Income ● Expenditure ● Cash 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We have a highly qualified accountant acting as treasurer on Blackburn Youth Zone board, in addition we have a finance committee who review monthly income, expenditure and cash. ● We have a fully resourced finance team responsible for reporting management accounts and ensuring all financial controls are in place and enforced. ● We have fully resourced business development team to ensure we maximise income, with governance around meeting targets.
<p>Performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Poor quality service which does not meet the needs of young people ● Low attendance numbers which results in low return on investment ● Poor performance from facilities staff which results in an unclean or unsafe building ● Poor performance from catering staff resulting in unhealthy or unsafe food ● Poor performance from business development team resulting in financial instability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Staff are fully trained with regular refreshers to ensure youth offer is up to date ● Staff values ensure team is happy, committed and passionate ● Proactive membership and engagement which maximises all routes to securing new members and retaining existing members ● Regular one to ones and appraisals, along with spot checks where necessary to ensure staff performance is of expected levels.
<p>Reputation</p> <p>Negative impacts on reputation of Blackburn Youth Zone due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Negative press coverage of incidents ● Negative opinions of stakeholders due to unprofessional work ethics ● Mismanagement of time, resources, service delivery 	<p>Maintain a professional, reliable and trustworthy appearance through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Attendance at local and regional networking and multi-agency meetings ● Fulfilling all obligations to funders including reporting and financial management ● Sharing best practice and research as appropriate ● Ensuring all policies and procedures are effectively followed and enforced
<p>People</p> <p>Staff issues due to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Turnover ● Sickness ● Poor organisational culture/moral ● Poor communication ● Burnout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● We have a clear plan to build the culture at Blackburn Youth Zone ensuring all team members feel valued and engaged in decision making. ● A full review of HR will take place and the team will be trained on supporting team members to perform.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees of Blackburn Youth Zone has established a reserves policy that appropriately reflects the risks to which the Charity is exposed.

In reviewing the potential costs that could arise should a significant reduction in income be incurred, the Trustees have determined that it is appropriate for unrestricted, 'free', reserves to be maintained at a minimum of 3 months. Due to the current uncertainty in the economic climate, shifting restrictions and an anticipated increase in demand for our services, the Trustees have agreed that the Charity will ideally hold more unrestricted funds than the minimum required in the reserves policy.

At 31st March 2022 the Charity had accumulated unrestricted, 'free', reserves of £581,231; this provides cover equivalent to 5.1 months of operating costs, within the range that the Trustees are currently comfortable with. The reserves policy does not consider expenditure that is linked to restricted projects and therefore covered by restricted funds.

The Charity will review regularly both the sum it wishes to hold in reserves in unrestricted funds and the basis for that figure, particularly considering the ongoing impact of the increase in the cost of living.

Total reserves at the end of the period were £5,346,730, of which £4,837,840 can only be realised by disposing of fixed assets. Total reserves after deducting restricted funds, fixed asset funds and designated funds is £468,181.

Investment Policy

Any surplus funds that are not immediately required may, at the Board's discretion, be invested in order to ensure the Charity's future sustainability. To ensure such investments are safeguarded;

- Any decision about investment will be made by the board (potentially having professional advice) considering the suitable and diversification of investments, including investments in deposit accounts, to ensure that the failure of one investment or institution does not have a major impact on Blackburn Youth Zone
- Investments will be made in line with Blackburn Youth Zone values and ethos
- Investment performance will be regularly reviewed
- Records will be maintained of all investments held (including details of all those sold or purchased) by the charity
- Accounting controls will be fully implemented to ensure that all dividends or interest payments due are received and accounted for.

At present, none of the charity's funds have been invested.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient, with the level of reserves, for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

Fundraising Standards Information

Blackburn Youth Zone raises funds by approaching businesses and philanthropic individuals who have an interest in supporting young people. We also apply for grants from Trusts that have the same interest. During the year we used a mix of our own employees plus the services of an external fundraiser who assisted with the major donor fundraising. This external fundraiser had previously worked for the organisation prior to setting up her own business.

The charity is not currently a member of any voluntary scheme for regulating fundraising.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Primarily we work with people who have been introduced to our cause on a one-to-one basis and all fundraising activities are monitored by the Chief Executive. During the period the charity received no complaints regarding its fundraising activities.

The charity does not do street or door-to-door fundraising so does not come into contact with vulnerable or other people who may feel intruded upon, unreasonably persistently approached or have had undue pressure placed upon them.

Plans for future periods

Over the past two years, Blackburn Youth Zone has strengthened its foundations which will allow us to move into our next phase of sustainability and growth. Our key priorities for 2022/23 are:

Blackburn Youth Zone - as we continue to move out of the pandemic we will seek to strengthen our offer to the young people of Blackburn. As well as delivering outstanding youth work through our own dedicated, highly trained, staff members we will also seek to work with local partners who can support the service in ways that we cannot. We believe that partnerships within the local community are vital to our understanding of the needs of the diverse population of the town and we will continue to build on these relationships.

Youth Hub - our new employability service supports local young people to overcome barriers to employment, by raising their aspirations, increasing their work-related skills, linking them to training opportunities and ultimately supporting them into employment. This supports the wider development of our targeted service offer and during 2022/23 we will continue to provide our service which has been recognised as the top performer in the country. It will further raise the profile for Blackburn Youth Zone and reach an extended audience of local young people, additional statutory and non-statutory partners and the local business community.

Youth Zone Darwen - whilst the Blackburn Youth Zone facility is open for all young people within Blackburn with Darwen it was recognised that very few young people from Darwen actually attended. During 2021/22, utilising a local charity's building, we started providing limited services within Darwen itself and it soon became apparent that there was a huge need for us to be there seven days a week and so Youth Zone Darwen was launched. With the help of one of our new trustees, Wayne Wild, we have managed to secure 10 new patrons to specifically support the work in Darwen and during 2022/23 we will be providing '*somewhere to go, something to do and someone to talk*' to seven days a week from Youth Zone Darwen. Because of the limitations of the premises we will again be using other local partners and facilities in order to increase the number of activities that we can offer. We are really excited about the impact that Youth Zone Darwen has already made with a noticeable reduction in anti-social behaviour already being seen in the area.

Trustee Board - following the appointment of the new trustees we will continue to train and develop them, working with OnSide, to ensure that they are fully aware of their new responsibilities.

Business Plan

A 2022/23 business plan has been developed and will be the benchmark against which the Blackburn Youth Zone will be monitored by the Senior Leadership Team monthly and the board bi-monthly. Each programme of work has an associated operational plan, which is fed into the annual objectives of all team members across the organisation.

Trustees Responsibilities

The Charity's Trustees (who are also directors for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Annual Report (including the Strategic Report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charity SORP 2019 (FRS 102)
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume the charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that 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. The Trustees 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.

Statement as to disclosure to our auditors

In so far as the Trustees are aware at the time of approving this report;

- There is no relevant audit information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing their report, of which the auditor is unaware, and
- The trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of this information.

This report was approved by the Board of Directors on 7 December 2022 and on behalf of the board by:



Rt Hon Jack Straw
Trustee

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Blackburn Youth Zone (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cashflows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 March 2022, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

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

Conclusions relating to going concern

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

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

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

Other information

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

Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 13, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the company and the sector in which it operates and considered the risk of non-compliance with applicable laws or regulations.

We determined that the following laws and regulations were most significant: the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011, Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial and Reporting Standard applicable to the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS102), those that relate to safeguarding and child protection, those that relate to employment law and those that relate to data protection. We designed audit procedures to respond to the risk, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

We obtained an understanding of how the company is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making enquiries of the management. We corroborated our enquiries through our review of board minutes.

Our tests also included agreeing the financial statements disclosures to underlying supporting documentation. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. We did not identify any key audit matters relating to irregularities, including fraud.

We also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including testing journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the management or trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Angela Donohoe FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of
Donnelly Bentley Limited
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Hazlemere
70 Chorley New Road
Bolton
BL1 4BY

7 December 2022

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE**(A company limited by guarantee)****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	2	835,837	868,315	1,704,152	1,688,223
Charitable activities	3	24,301	-	24,301	4,969
Other trading activities	4	75,316	-	75,316	52,220
Investments	5	55	-	55	24
TOTAL INCOME		935,509	868,315	1,803,824	1,745,436
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds		148,442	16,638	165,080	86,467
Charitable activities		626,386	975,094	1,601,480	1,253,037
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		774,828	991,732	1,766,560	1,339,504
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS		160,681	(123,417)	37,264	405,932
Transfers between Funds		-	-	-	-
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		160,681	(123,417)	37,264	405,932
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		160,681	(123,417)	37,264	405,932
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		420,550	4,888,916	5,309,466	4,903,534
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		581,231	4,765,499	5,346,730	5,309,466

The notes on pages 23 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

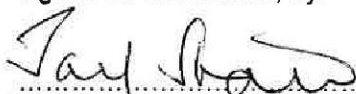
All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE**(A company limited by guarantee)****REGISTERED NUMBER: 6944317****BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2022**

	Note	£	2022 £	£	2021 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	10		4,837,840		4,913,604
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	11	-		1,630	
Debtors	12	76,744		75,973	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>688,786</u>		<u>578,846</u>	
		765,530		656,449	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(256,640)</u>		<u>(260,587)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS / (LIABILITIES)			<u>508,890</u>		<u>395,862</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>5,346,730</u>		<u>5,309,466</u>
CHARITY FUNDS					
Restricted funds	15		4,765,499		4,888,916
Unrestricted funds	15		<u>581,231</u>		<u>420,550</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>5,346,730</u>		<u>5,309,466</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 7 December 2022 and signed on their behalf, by:



Rt Hon Jack Straw
Trustee

The notes on pages 23 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE**(A company limited by guarantee)****STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022**

	Note	2021 £	2021 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	17	<u>158,928</u>	<u>503,615</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		55	24
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(51,043)	(19,110)
Receipt from sale of tangible fixed asset		<u>2,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(48,988)</u>	<u>(19,086)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		109,940	484,529
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		<u>578,846</u>	<u>94,317</u>
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	18	<u>688,786</u>	<u>578,846</u>

The notes on pages 23 to 37 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Blackburn Youth Zone 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.

1.2 Company status

The company is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 2. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the company. The address of the registered office is Jubilee Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 1EP. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are to improve the life chances of young people in the Blackburn with Darwen area, helping them to gain increased levels of confidence and self-esteem and raising their aspirations for the future.

1.3 Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) once the company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the company where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the company has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the company of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably.

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

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.4 Grants

Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

1.5 Interest receivable

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

1.6 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities. Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the company and include project management carried out at Headquarters.

Costs of generating funds are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the company's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the company apportioned to charitable activities.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Long-term leasehold property	-	2% straight line
Plant and machinery	-	25% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	-	20% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	-	25% reducing balance
Office equipment	-	33% straight line

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.8 Operating leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account on a straight line basis over the lease term.

1.9 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

1.10 Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

1.11 Cash at bank and in hand

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

1.12 Provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

1.13 Financial instruments

The company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.14 Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the company to the fund in respect of the year.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.15 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the note to the accounts.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.16 Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the test set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK Corporation Tax purposes.

1.17 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of these financial statements require certain judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

1.18 Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Donations	439,252	-	439,252	474,785
Grants	39,088	417,863	456,951	327,053
Government grants	357,497	450,452	807,949	886,385
Total donations and legacies	<u>835,837</u>	<u>868,315</u>	<u>1,704,152</u>	<u>1,688,223</u>
Total 2021	<u>1,214,229</u>	<u>473,994</u>	<u>1,688,223</u>	

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Young People's activity sessions	8,175	-	8,175	1,107
Facility hire	16,126	-	16,126	3,862
	<u>24,301</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24,301</u>	<u>4,969</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>4,969</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,969</u>	

4. FUNDRAISING INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Events income	<u>75,316</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>75,316</u>	<u>52,220</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>52,220</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52,220</u>	

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Bank interest received	<u>55</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>55</u>	<u>24</u>
<i>Total 2021</i>	<u>24</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24</u>	

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Donations includes £17,405 (2021:£20,435) of In-Kind Support ranging from food parcels and Easter eggs to truck advertising.

During the year to 31st March 2022, volunteers provided 1,525 hours of support to the Youth Zone, which equates to an average of around 30 hours per week.

6. DIRECT COSTS

	Fundraising expenses £	Charitable Activities costs £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Catering supplies	-	48,437	48,437	20,070
Commissioning artists	-	7,547	7,547	21,531
Partnership & arrangements	-	215,388	215,388	164,247
Trips and minibus hire	-	18,283	18,283	2,349
Youth activity consumables	-	98,381	98,381	104,107
Fundraising events costs	25,979	-	25,979	7,660
Wages and salaries	81,120	560,210	641,330	458,727
Pension cost	1,445	5,796	7,241	7,808
Professional fees	56,536	-	56,536	27,650
	<u>165,080</u>	<u>954,042</u>	<u>1,119,122</u>	<u>814,149</u>
<i>At 31 March 2021</i>	<u>86,467</u>	<u>727,682</u>	<u>814,149</u>	

7. SUPPORT COSTS

	Fundraising expenses £	Charitable Activities costs £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Office costs	-	53,720	53,720	49,500
Other building running costs	-	140,157	140,157	119,841
Insurance	-	25,402	25,402	23,790
Other staff costs	-	18,435	18,435	11,283
Other costs	-	79,761	79,761	59,081
Wages and salaries	-	201,029	201,029	128,165
Pension cost	-	4,127	4,127	3,077
Depreciation	-	126,807	126,807	130,242
(Profit)/Loss on sale of tangible assets	-	(2,000)	(2,000)	376
	<u>-</u>	<u>647,438</u>	<u>647,438</u>	<u>525,355</u>
<i>At 31 March 2021</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>525,355</u>	<u>525,355</u>	

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

£16,638 (2021:£6,901) of fundraising costs were attributable to restricted funds and £148,442 (2021: £79,566) were attributable to unrestricted funds.

£975,094 (2021: £571,013) of charitable activities were attributable to restricted funds and £626,386 (2021: £682,024) were attributable to unrestricted funds.

8. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

This is stated after charging:

	2022 £	2021 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets:		
- owned by the charity	126,807	130,243
Auditor's remuneration	<u>8,870</u>	<u>7,930</u>

During the year, no trustees received any remuneration (2021 - £NIL).

During the year, no trustees received any benefits in kind (2021 - £NIL).

During the year, no trustees received any reimbursement of expenses (2021 - £NIL).

9. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs were as follows:

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	795,749	555,343
Social security costs	46,610	31,548
Pension costs	11,368	10,885
	<u>853,727</u>	<u>597,776</u>

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year was as follows:

	2022 No.	2021 No.
Fundraising and administration	6	7
Delivery	<u>58</u>	<u>45</u>
	<u>64</u>	<u>52</u>

Average headcount expressed as a full time equivalent:

	2022 No.	2021 No.
Fundraising and administration	6	6
Delivery	<u>30</u>	<u>19</u>
	<u>36</u>	<u>25</u>

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

Key management personnel are considered to be the Chief Executive, Interim Chief Executive, Head of Operations and Head of Business Management. The total amount of employee benefits paid to the key management personnel for the year was £130,142 (2021 - £138,654).

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Long-term leasehold property	Motor vehicles	Plant and machinery, fixtures and fittings	Office equipment and computers	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 April 2021	5,515,459	36,594	120,261	72,717	5,745,031
Additions		-	31,559	19,484	51,043
Disposals		(16,800)			(16,800)
At 31 March 2022	5,515,459	19,794	151,820	92,201	5,779,274
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2021	652,662	29,996	86,264	62,505	831,427
Charge for the year	110,309	3,959	7,621	4,918	126,807
Eliminated on disposal		(16,800)			(16,800)
At 31 March 2022	762,971	17,155	93,885	67,423	941,434
Net book value					
At 31 March 2022	4,752,488	2,639	57,935	24,778	4,837,840
At 31 March 2021	<i>4,862,797</i>	<i>6,598</i>	<i>33,997</i>	<i>10,212</i>	<i>4,913,604</i>

On 17 April 2015 the property from which the company operates was legally transferred to the company from Onside Youth Zones.

Onside Youth Zones previously built and developed the property with the support of a £5 million grant provided by the Big Lottery Fund, acting as agent for the Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State holds a legal charge over the company secured on the property, for a period of 20 years from 26 February 2009. The charge has terms associated which if not met by the company could result in the grant becoming repayable.

11. STOCKS

	2022 £	2021 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	-	1,630

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE**(A company limited by guarantee)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022****12. DEBTORS**

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade debtors	30,971	33,156
Other debtors	-	3,405
Prepayments and accrued income	45,773	39,412
	<u>76,744</u>	<u>75,973</u>

13. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Trade creditors	65,022	96,521
Other taxation and social security	29,461	19,571
Other creditors	13,861	10,719
Accruals and deferred income	148,296	133,776
	<u>256,640</u>	<u>260,587</u>

14. DEFERRED INCOME

	2022	2021
	£	£
At 1 April 2021	61,042	35,412
Additions during the year	372,253	282,246
Amounts released to income	(399,552)	(256,616)
	<u>33,743</u>	<u>61,042</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>33,743</u>	<u>61,042</u>

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE**(A company limited by guarantee)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022****15. STATEMENT OF FUNDS****STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR**

	Balance at 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers Between Funds £	Balance at 31 March 2022 £
Unrestricted Funds					
General Funds	420,550	822,459	(774,828)	-	468,181
Designated Fund	-	113,050	-	-	113,050
	<u>420,550</u>	<u>935,509</u>	<u>(774,828)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>581,231</u>
Restricted Funds					
Restricted Funds	26,120	868,315	(881,423)	-	13,012
Property Reserves	4,862,796	-	(110,309)	-	4,752,487
	<u>4,888,916</u>	<u>868,315</u>	<u>(991,732)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,765,499</u>
Total of Funds	<u>5,309,466</u>	<u>1,803,824</u>	<u>(1,766,560)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,346,730</u>

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer Between Funds	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Unrestricted Funds					
General Funds	(89,302)	1,271,442	(761,590)	-	420,550
Restricted Funds					
Restricted Funds	19,730	473,994	(467,604)	-	26,120
Property Reserves	4,973,106	-	(110,310)	-	4,862,796
	<u>4,992,836</u>	<u>212,273</u>	<u>(577,914)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,888,916</u>
Total of Funds	<u>4,903,534</u>	<u>1,745,436</u>	<u>(1,339,504)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,309,466</u>

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Restricted Funds	Balance at 1 April 2021	Income	Expenditure	Fund Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2022
	£	£	£	£	£
Eric Wright	-	25,000	(25,000)	-	-
Children in Need	4,057	7,462	(11,519)	-	-
Active Lancaster - Boxing	-	890	(890)	-	-
Digital Future - Lazars	6,669	8,062	(14,731)	-	-
Albert Gubay	2,000	-	-	-	2,000
Oglesby Trust	-	8,358	(8,358)	-	-
Pause 4 Thought –Spring North	-	5,400	(5,400)	-	-
Get Stuck in - HAF - Easter	-	12,561	(12,561)	-	-
Queen’s Commonwealth Trust	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Four Acre Trust – Youth Voice	-	20,000	(20,000)	-	-
Canal & River Trust – Level Up	-	6,797	(6,797)	-	-
Population Health Management	-	6,442	(6,442)	-	-
BwD Covid Outreach Grant	-	5,485	(5,485)	-	-
Youth Ambassadors					
Intergration	-	100,000	(100,000)	-	-
Youth Recovery Fund Darwen	-	60,168	(60,168)	-	-
HAF Summer	-	154,800	(154,800)	-	-
HAF Coordinator	-	4,500	(4,500)	-	-
Summer School	-	17,992	(17,992)	-	-
Police Commissioner - Knife Crime	395	-	(159)	-	236
Sports England – Target Sports	-	9,712	(9,712)	-	-
New Ground - HAF	-	7,523	(7,523)	-	-
Onside – Active Youth	-	23,256	(23,256)	-	-
Prudence Trust Wellbeing Worker	-	12,531	(12,531)	-	-
Doyly Carte – The Arts	-	2,944	(2,944)	-	-
Employability	-	130,743	(130,743)	-	-
Tackling Inequalities 2	-	7,006	(7,006)	-	-
Covid SENd	-	1,050	(625)	-	425
HAF Christmas	-	54,000	(54,000)	-	-
UK Youth – Futureproof	-	1,221	(1,221)	-	-
Zone to Home	-	165,764	(163,265)	-	2,499
Onside – Islamic Relief	-	3,648	(3,648)	-	-
Capital Building Project	4,862,796	-	(110,309)	-	4,752,487
New Mini Bus	7,672	-	(3,958)	-	3,714
Sport England (Wheelchairs)	2,387	-	(533)	-	1,854
Active Lancashire (Boxing and UV equipment)	2,940	-	(656)	-	2,284
Total	4,888,916	868,315	(991,732)	-	4,765,499

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Children in Need	Funding to support our members with additional needs/disabilities in living healthier lifestyles.
Duchy of Lancaster	Funding to support our dance provision
Albert Gubay	To provide food parcels to families during Covid.
Oglesby Trust	To create a culture of health at BYZ.
Get Stuck In – HAF – Easter	Providing positive activity and food through the Easter holidays to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds tackling holiday hunger.
Active Lancashire (Boxing & UV Equipment)	To purchase equipment and run boxing and UV sports.
Sport England	To run weekly boxing, handball, cricket and rugby sessions at BYZ.
Police Commissioner – Knife Crime	Detached work in communities with high ASB to provide positive activity.
Capital Building Project	Monies received for the initial construction and fitting out of the building. The original expenditure relates to the annual depreciation charge.
New Minibus	Purchase of a new minibus.
Sport England (Wheelchairs)	Weekly wheelchair sport activities at BYZ.
Digital Future-Lazars	To set up and run a digital provision at BYZ.
Eric Wright	Funding for the emotional health and wellbeing work done by BYZ.
Pause for Thought – Springnorth	Emotional health and wellbeing – Covid-19 response
Queen’s Commonwealth Trust	Supporting young people to set up a social enterprise using digital technology.
Four Acre Trust – Youth Voice	Weekly youth voice sessions.
Canal and River Trust	Paddlesports training and development of staff and weekly paddlesports sessions.
Population Health Management	Covid response – supporting young people with their emotional health and wellbeing.
BwD Covid Outreach Grant	Outreach to support young people through the pandemic with signposting and advice.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

<p>Youth Ambassadors Integration Funding</p> <p>Youth Recovery Fund Darwen</p> <p>HAF Summer</p> <p>HAF Co-ordinator</p> <p>Summer School</p> <p>New Ground HAF</p> <p>Prudence Trust Wellbeing Worker</p> <p>Doyle Carter – The Arts</p> <p>Tackling Inequalities</p> <p>Covid SEND</p> <p>HAF Christmas</p> <p>UK Youth – Future Proof</p> <p>Zone to Home (Lancs Lab)</p> <p>Onside – Islamic Relief, Strong Sisters</p> <p>Active Lancashire</p> <p>Onside Active Youth</p> <p>Employability</p>	<p>Partnership approach across the borough to increase social integration and social inclusion with young people.</p> <p>To run 3x a weekly youth work session in Darwen.</p> <p>Providing positive activity and food through the summer holidays to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds tackling holiday hunger.</p> <p>Funding for the co-ordinator of the summer HAF programme.</p> <p>Two weeks of provision of positive activity as we emerged from covid</p> <p>Four weeks of positive activity and food provision through the summer holidays.</p> <p>Health and wellbeing evaluations in session and signposting for support where needed.</p> <p>To deliver weekly performing arts sessions.</p> <p>Paddlesports training/delivery of paddlesports</p> <p>To advise young people who have increased vulnerabilities on how to be safe around covid whilst providing access to provision.</p> <p>Providing positive activity and food through the Christmas holidays to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds tackling holiday hunger.</p> <p>Programme to support youth workers with the tools and time to work with young people to build practical, essential life skills around challenging topics.</p> <p>Digital activity and food parcels delivered to disadvantaged families</p> <p>Weekly female empowerment/cohesion sessions.</p> <p>Boxing equipment to support our boxing provision. Weekly boxing sessions at BYZ.</p> <p>The project aims to increase young people's levels of physical activity, specifically for those who are currently inactive.</p> <p>Various projects to help young people, particularly those with special needs, get into employment or training.</p>
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BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

Designated Fund

The designated fund is a fund to support the work of Youth Zone Darwen.

16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £
Tangible fixed assets	85,352	4,752,488	4,837,840
Current assets	752,519	13,011	765,530
Creditors due within one year	(256,640)	-	(256,640)
	<u>581,231</u>	<u>4,765,499</u>	<u>5,346,730</u>

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	50,807	4,862,797	4,913,604
Current assets	630,330	26,119	656,449
Creditors due within one year	(260,587)	-	(260,587)
	<u>420,550</u>	<u>4,888,916</u>	<u>5,309,466</u>

17. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

	2022 £	2021 £
Net income /(expenditure) for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	37,264	405,932
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation charges	126,807	130,243
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(55)	(24)
Profit on the sale of fixed assets	(2,000)	376
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	1,630	403
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(771)	(32,529)
(decrease)/increase in creditors	(3,947)	(787)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>158,928</u>	<u>503,614</u>

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

18. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2022	2021
	£	£
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>688,786</u>	<u>578,846</u>
Total	<u>688,786</u>	<u>578,846</u>

19. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The company operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £11,368 (2021 - £10,885). Contributions totaling £2,323 (2021 - £2,050) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in other creditors.

20. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

AH Graham, who is a trustee, is a director of Graham & Brown Limited. During the year, this company made donations totaling £25,000 (2021 - £25,000) and sponsorship of events of £100 (2021-£nil).

DJ Gorton, who was a trustee until 31 October 2021, is a partner in PM+M Solutions for Business LLP. During the period that he was a trustee, the LLP made donations totaling £6,000 (2021 - £10,000) and sponsorship of events of £100 (2021 - £nil) and provided services of £2,142 (2021 - £2,728).

A Bromley who was a trustee until 31 January 2022 and E Swan who has been a trustee from 10 March 2022, are partners of Forbes Solicitors. During the year, Forbes Solicitors made donations totalling £10,000 (2021 - £10,000) and sponsorship of events of £100 (2021 - £nil) and provided services of £nil (2021 - £1,200). Included within trade creditors is £nil (2021 - £nil) due to Forbes Solicitors.

EA Sidat, who is a trustee, is a director of AMS Accountants Group Limited. During the year the company made donations of £10,500 (2021:£3,333).

21. CONTROLLING PARTY

There is no controlling party.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

England & Wales - Charity number 1135949

Accounts

REGISTERED NUMBER: 6944317

Charity number: 1135949

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

**TRUSTEES' REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

**DonnellyBentley
Chartered Accountants
Hazlemere
70 Chorley New Road
Bolton
BL1 4BY**

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

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BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS OF THE COMPANY, ITS TRUSTEES AND ADVISERS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Trustees

Rt Hon J W Straw (Chairman)
A H Graham
A Bromley
D J Gorton (resigned 31 October 2021)
A Durkin (appointed 18 February 2021 and resigned 31 October 2021)
H E Taylor (resigned 1 June 2021)
E I Sidat (appointed 18 February 2021)
J Carson (appointed 28 September 2021)

Senior Management Team

Hannah Allen – Chief Executive
Zaffer Khan - Interim Chief Executive (December 2020 – June 2021)

Company registered number

6944317

Charity registered number

1135949

Registered office

Jubilee Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 1EP

Independent auditors

DonnellyBentley, Hazlemere, 70 Chorley New Road, Bolton, BL1 4BY

Bankers

HSBC, 60 Church Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 5AS

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Trustees (who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act) present their report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 March 2021. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities (FRS102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

Strategic Report

A message from our CEO - Hannah Allen

Reflecting on this year, it has been amongst the most challenging that Blackburn Youth Zone has faced in its 10-year history. However as an organisation the impact BYZ has made on our members has probably been the most rewarding. The COVID-19 pandemic brought disruption and uncertainty to our organisation and to all our members, team members and stakeholders across our community. Despite the challenges of 2020, we have so many reasons to be proud. Although we had to adapt and deliver in different ways, BYZ remained there for young people; through online activities, welfare calls and outreach activities, launching projects to support some of our most vulnerable families. #WhateverItTakes

Our team, volunteers and Patron & Business networks have remained committed to supporting young people. We are so grateful to all our existing donors for supporting us through the pandemic raising more funds this year than ever, and creating new and exciting ways to raise funds. We have also diversified our fundraising efforts and increased our grants from trusts and government departments by 160%. As well as this our amazing volunteers have donated over 13,000 hours of their time to support their community through BYZ.

In responding to all the challenges we faced this year, we were guided by our HEART values as individuals and an organisation. We always stayed true to our purpose of raising aspirations and changing the lives of thousands of young people who call Blackburn with Darwen their home.

Overview of the year

In order to deliver services face to face, digitally and welfare calls across the year, 7 days per week at no cost to the young people this year, we relied on fundraising. In 20/21 the Local Authority funding accounted for 9.9% of our annual turnover. We are grateful for the generous support of Blackburn with Darwen Council, and to our Patrons who continue to renew and help us build our network.

Investment from Patrons accounts for 24.1% of our annual income. Our fundraising efforts to keep the community and supporters engaged accounted for 3% of BYZ income, a great achievement in such difficult times. We benefited from the OnSide network this year receiving £551,844 in vital funds accounting for 31.6% of income in 20/21. This year we have seen substantial growth with Grants, Trusts and foundations success increasing income from 19/20 £263,823 to £637,170 2020/21, accounting for 36.5% of our income, an increase of 141% from 19/20.

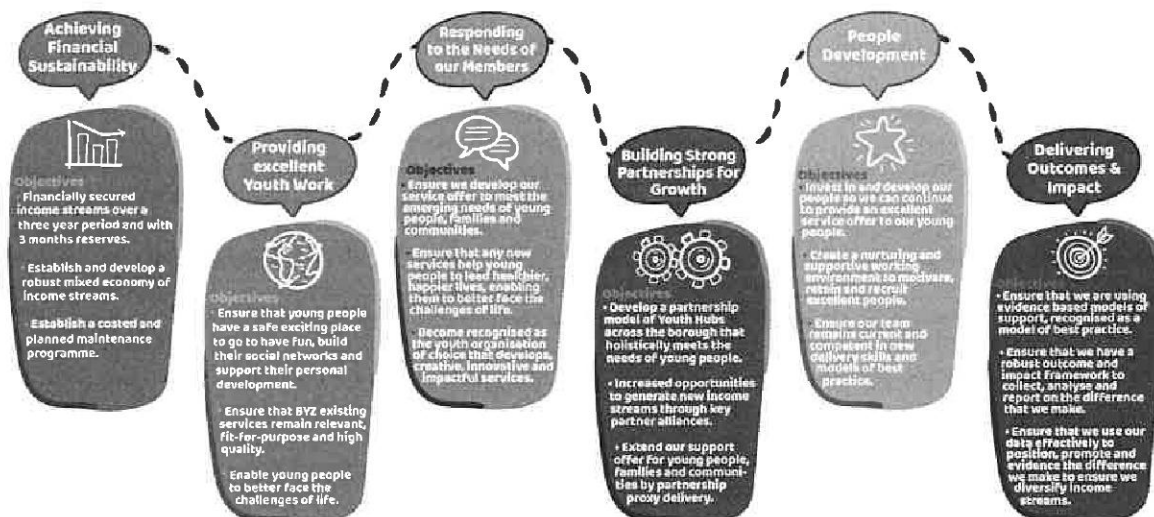
We reviewed our five year strategy throughout the year to ensure the now drastically changed needs of young people are met. Our core strategic objectives for 2020-25, to ensure that any developments and activities are contributing towards the growth and sustainability of the organisation, its people and members.

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Our six strategic goals are:



The Trustees have given due consideration to the Charity Commission published guidance on the operation of the public benefit requirement and are satisfied that this requirement is met by carrying out the activities as described in this report.

Blackburn Youth Zone Objectives

Blackburn Youth Zone's objectives are to help educate children and young people resident in the North West of England through their leisure time activities. Blackburn Youth Zone does this by promoting their full physical, mental and spiritual potential in order that they may grow to full maturity as individuals and members of society and that their quality of life may improve.

Vision - where we want to be

Blackburn Youth Zone to be at the heart of the community, collaborating to create a more cohesive and prosperous Blackburn and Darwen.

Mission - our purpose

To inspire all, to have fun, meet different people, try new things and challenge themselves to be the best they can be.

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Blackburn Youth Zone Values

We will	
Honesty	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Inspire our young people and demonstrate that what we say is what we do- Be challenging of each other for the benefit of our young people, remembering to be kind always
Excellence	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Strive to set new and exciting standards in youth work practice- Keep a keen eye to the future and the opportunities it presents
Accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Take responsibility for our personal contribution to our strategy, ensuring that young people are at the H.E.A.R.T. of everything we do- Operate along sound business and financial principles, modelling ourselves on national sector-leading organisations
Respect	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Inspire positive change and personal development through our own example, expecting the same from our young people- Listen, even to those who think they have no voice
Teamwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Work across and form new partnerships as these are critical to our success.- Support together, our young people in all their richness and diversity and always according to their needs

The Impact of COVID-19

Our response to COVID-19 has consistently focused on ensuring our members and young people across the community could access support, whether that was digital, face to face, an essential meal or a welfare call to ensure they are supported through such a challenging year. This year, we reflect on the serious challenges and uncertainty our organisation and our colleagues have faced. It has been difficult, but every member of our team at Blackburn Youth Zone rose to the test and went above and beyond to help each other and those in their communities and Blackburn with Darwen as a whole. During the Covid period the Board met (online) weekly and continuously provided guidance and support to help our team do the right thing. We are very proud of the role everybody at Blackburn Youth Zone has played during the pandemic.

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In March 2020, the Government Covid restrictions meant that we had to close our doors. However, we adapted to do what we do best and deliver the best quality youth work we can with what we have. Digitally over Zoom we reached over 5,000 young people, Blackburn Youth Zone fed the community, serving over 25,000 meals with support from our local community and grant funders. When restrictions loosened over the summer and towards the end of the financial year we were also able to deliver various high profile projects funded by our Network, OnSide, through the Department of Culture, Media & Sport which gave Blackburn Youth Zone the funding and support to give valuable and much-needed opportunities to our young people at such a difficult time.

Food for All

Blackburn Youth Zone launched its food offer on the first day of the lockdown, providing healthy, cooked meals to young people and their families every day throughout the crisis. In total, in collaboration with partners, we have supported the distribution of over 25,000 meals to members of the community in need during the crisis.

Safety for All

It is essential to us that Blackburn Youth Zone is a safe place to visit and work and we are pleased that 99% of our team felt safe working at the youth zone and hubs across the borough. We have made significant investments in safety and social distancing measures across our facilities so that everyone involved at the youth zone can continue to work and visit with confidence. Our improvements included limits on the number of young people as per the National Youth Associations guidance, social distancing signage, sanitising stations, protective screening at our kitchen and reception, and face coverings and other protective equipment for the team, visitors and members of the youth zone.

Support for our Team

We have more than 100 team members, including volunteers, across Blackburn Youth Zone who have consistently shown dedication, despite any personal challenges they have faced due to the pandemic. Everyone's circumstances are different but we ensured our most vulnerable colleagues remained at home on 90% pay when government guidance advised that they should shield. To cover absences and to help meet increased demand, we recruited community & patron volunteers to help with our food campaigns to ensure there was enough support. At the end of the year, we recognised the contribution of our frontline and back-office colleagues, with a thank you gesture for their hard work at the end of 2020. It has also been important to recognise the mental health challenges of this year too, and we made the government-funded Able Futures support available as free support tools to team members as well as virtual team socials and 'Team Huddles' to ensure everyone had someone to speak to and connect with.

Support for our Members

Although these are such unprecedented times, the paradox of COVID-19 is a hugely increased demand for our services and young people needing us now more than ever. Our team of youth & playworkers have been reporting on average 8 safeguarding concerns a week – double the norm. Of these, mental health concerns have nearly doubled (30% vs 17% pre-crisis). Domestic violence concerns have tripled, from 5% to 15%. Increased numbers of self-harm, physical abuse, child sexual exploitation and domestic violence concerns have also been reported.

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In May 2020, 344 young people took part in an online consultation showing 67% had struggled through the crisis and asked for support from BYZ, specifically with their mental health and emotional wellbeing. 93% told us they had greatly missed the face to face support they would normally receive from BYZ, with 58% describing feeling lonely. 31% shared that their family was struggling for money due to COVID-19 redundancies and job losses. 76% were worried that loved ones might die from COVID-19. To ensure we supported all young people:

Health & Wellbeing: We spoke to 354 young people, through consultations, 67% of young people stated they had struggled through the crisis and had benefited from the support BYZ has provided them with. During the crisis, we cooked 9,520 healthy wholesome meals and worked collaboratively with partners to support the distribution of 10,520 meals to members of the community. We have provided 2,476 welfare calls to our most vulnerable young people. 12 of our most vulnerable young people have received 1-2-1 digital mentoring sessions each week delivered by volunteers. We have provided 150 members with personal care products such as toilet rolls and sanitary products.

Social Integration: We celebrated cohesion and social integration by bringing 70 members from across the community together to celebrate the boroughs first online community Iftar. The initiative was supported by up to 30 volunteers from BYZ's patron network including BAE Systems, Canopies UK, Granby Marketing, Graham & Brown and PM+M.

Skills & Aspirations: Supported 903 young people through targeted youth support via our 'Internet Youth Club' and our 'Youth Zone at Home' programme on social media. 115 young people have benefited from a range of different employability opportunities providing them with essential skills and techniques. 30 local businesses came together to share their COVID-19 preparations via the BYZ Patron virtual breakfast series. Over two events in March and June, business leaders discussed their concerns and shared learnings about furlough, health and safety and business continuity. In the first session we heard from our Chairman Rt Hon Jack Straw and our Treasurer David Gorton, Partner of PM+M. The next event was hosted by Hannah Allen BYZ CEO with guest speakers Michelle Mellor MD from Cummins Mellor and Fiona Eason, former People & Culture Director from Crown Paints, with legal support from Emma Swan from Forbes Solicitors.

Partnerships

Partnership working and multi-agency teams enable the borough to be innovative and responsive to the needs of our young people. The multi-agency teams already in place in the borough are achieving better outcomes for young people. (Blackburn with Darwen Adolescent Strategy, 2019). Blackburn Youth Zone are passionate about working in partnership with like-minded organisations across Blackburn with Darwen to achieve remarkable outcomes for young people; in 2020/21 we did this by:

- being committed to working in partnership to deliver a service that is responsive to the priorities of the borough and the individual needs of our young people. This is exemplified by our lead role in the Strategic Youth Alliance and this year our active role in the borough's Crisis Response Food Group.
- Throughout the crisis, Blackburn Youth Zone has supported multi-agency teams in place within the borough by providing a safe space and positive activity to 51 young people with key workers.
- Despite the crisis and lockdown restrictions our offer has continued to complement the neighbourhood provision providing a minimum of 40hours of provision a week across 7 days a week with up to 20 activities a night.

There has been a shift in the nature of young people's vulnerabilities and the intensity of particular needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Nationally we have seen increasing concerns around mental and physical health, online grooming and radicalisation, a rise in domestic abuse and emotional abuse against children, as well as concerns around the widening socioeconomic gap due to unemployment, poverty and disparities in access to education and digital connectivity (National Youth Association, 2020)

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- We have supported 309 of our most vulnerable members with effective intervention throughout the crisis. This included weekly wellbeing calls, digital mentoring, positive activity and providing meals.
- We have made 99 referrals to specialist services to support young people with early intervention.
- 11 Blackburn Youth Zone staff members trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid, putting us in a strong position to support young people with emerging needs from the pandemic.
- 8 young people benefited from the Pause for Thought programme delivered by Blackburn Youth Zone. The programme delivered by partners across the borough offered therapeutic support to young people aged 10-14.

The Impact of Blackburn Youth Zone

To develop & offer high-quality services that meet young people's needs in 2020/21

Blackburn Youth Zone opens 7 days per week, currently for free, providing a full range of activities including Dance, Sports, Arts and Health and Wellbeing for the ages of 8-12 Juniors and 13-19 Youth. As well as our age ranges, the team have developed and adapted a new and inspiring programme incorporating our core offers including the introduction of a new Health & Wellbeing offer as well as a number of vital projects delivered across the sessions.

The impact we've had:

5,000 Young People throughout 2020. We have made a difference to over 5,000 young people across Blackburn with Darwen.

3,120 hours of youth work delivered across the year providing young people with somewhere to go, something to do, someone to talk to.

903 Young people continuously supported each week through the Coronavirus Crisis. When the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis hit in March 2020 Blackburn Youth Zone adapted quickly to ensure that we were continuing to meet the needs of the children and young people of Blackburn with Darwen.

40% of our membership comes from the BAME community with a 68% increase in young people (YP) from a BAME background attending Blackburn Youth Zone since 2012. Having mixed social networks consisting of people from different ethnic and material backgrounds, helps aid social mobility reducing the risk of entrenched poverty later in life.

45% of our active members come from the top 10% of most deprived wards in the country.

34% of Blackburn Youth Zone members come from the top five areas with the highest current reported antisocial behaviour (ASB).

18% of the borough's looked-after children attend Blackburn Youth Zone on average of once every two weeks. **444** hours of mentoring. This year our mentoring programme has taken place through both digital and face-to-face. In total 37 young people have benefited from a 1:1 mentor to support them.

544 young people have benefited from employability support through engaging with our highly tailored employment training courses.

11 Blackburn Youth Zone staff members trained in Youth Mental Health First Aid, putting us in a strong position to support young people with emerging needs from the pandemic

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Youth Zone in Darwen

Blackburn Youth Zone has been operating in Darwen since August 2020, offering free open access for young people aged 8-21. Young people can engage in a wide array of enriching activities, focused on improved outcomes relating to health and wellbeing, skills and aspirations and social integration.

In total there are 26,741 young people in Blackburn with Darwen of which just over 10,000 live within the Darwen area (37.4%). Whilst we have an established youth zone located in the town centre of Blackburn, we know that many young people from Darwen (and the more rural outskirts of Blackburn with Darwen) are not accessing our provision, support and activities due to a number of factors. In Blackburn with Darwen, there are 14 communities identified as being in the top 5% of the most deprived areas nationally, 4 of which are located in the centre of Darwen, with 2,900 young people living in food poverty and the 5th highest child poverty rate nationally (5,600 young people within Darwen).

Our Youth Zone provision in Darwen provides local young people and communities exactly the same life-changing, beneficial opportunities as those young people accessing our Blackburn offer. Reducing inequalities, whilst improving outcomes and impact for the young people of Darwen. Since opening in August, following government guidance, we have delivered 208 hours of service enabling 136 local young people to benefit from attending the centre.

In a recent consultation with our members and parents in Darwen young people reported:

- 92% agree or strongly agree our services meet their expectations
- 98% agree or strongly agree they feel safe
- 86% feel they have learnt a new skill
- 100% of parents would recommend our services

Outcomes through our strategic pillars

Our mission is to support young people with their skills and aspirations, health and wellbeing and social integration, levelling the playing field by providing them with the same choices, quality of life opportunities and aspirations. Inspiring young people to have fun, meet different people, try new things and challenge themselves to reach their full potential in life.

Health & Wellbeing

Blackburn with Darwen is the 9th most deprived area within the IOD, with a third of the population living in income deprived homes and 40% of young people now living in poverty.

This year we have worked collaboratively with partners and supported the distribution of over 25,000 meals to members of the community in need during the COVID-19 crisis.

We have provided 4,353 welfare calls to our most vulnerable young people.

37 of our most vulnerable young people have received 121 digital mentoring sessions each week delivered by volunteers.

We have provided 550 young people and members of the community with personal care products such as toilet rolls and sanitary products.

We worked alongside 13 community partners to distribute 1,200 Health & Wellbeing Christmas Stockings to the most vulnerable young people in the community.

50 young people aged 8-12 have taken part in targeted early intervention emotional health and wellbeing programme 'Mind Moose' focusing on areas that young people identify as needing the most support with.

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An average of 1,300 young people a month have taken part in activities supporting health and wellbeing through our digital and face-to-face delivery.

Skills & Aspirations

Despite the pandemic, an average of 1,138 young people every month have benefited from taking part in skill-building activities at Blackburn Youth Zone, this includes face-to-face activity and digital activity.

544 young people have benefited from a range of different employability opportunities providing them with vital skills and techniques.

164 young people have gained accreditations such as Food Hygiene Level 1, First Aid, Canoeing 1 Star and Sports Leaders.

Over 250 local secondary school pupils signed up to take part in the highly popular Blackburn Youth Zone Gatsby Project. The project saw 11 secondary schools engaging with 8 local businesses around employability opportunities available to them.

36 young people have been provided with targeted wrap-around support for young people who may be at risk or have disengaged from mainstream education through our transitions programme.

This year we have embedded our Youth Voice programme which so far has engaged 84 young people. Actively creating an environment and culture where young people's opinions and contributions are encouraged, valued, and recognised.

Through DCMS funding Blackburn Youth Zone funded 8 local organisations to provide end to end opportunities for 264 young people in Blackburn with Darwen, with the outcome of 'levelling up' aspirations, ambition and opportunities for young people harnessing the reach, vision, resources and opportunities in each organisation.

Social Integration

During Ramadan, we ran the borough's first-ever online Iftar where over 70 people from different backgrounds came together to share an Iftar video call. The Big Iftar event was arranged with the help of the Youth Ambassadors and Community Ambassadors, both projects delivered through the Our Community, Our Future social integration programme.

In December we launched our Citizens Jury project. The project saw 15 young people from the Bastwell, Shear Brow & Corporation Park and Audley areas of Blackburn come together to inform and educate young people in these areas on the consequence of not complying with local restrictions.

Throughout October we celebrated 'Black History Month' with 492 young people taking part in a wide range of activities and exploring how it was relevant, especially given the Black Lives Matter campaign.

30 senior members took part in a community integration project highlighting their opinions on racism in our communities. The open debate sessions allowed young people to understand each other better and what barriers one another face.

During the summer we delivered a social action project, to address and remove upsetting and discriminative graffiti. The project engaged 7 local young people who went through a process of group team building, community consultation, community debate and then continued to replace the graffiti with an art piece that had the contribution, views and thoughts of the wider community.

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Project Highlights

Links to BYZ Strategic Pillars	Projects	Output (new members/visits/number of sessions)	Outcome (feedback, impact, quotes etc)
	Gatsby Masterclasses	Over 250 local secondary school pupils signed up to take part in the highly popular Blackburn Youth Zone Gatsby Project. The project saw 11 secondary schools engaging with 8 local businesses around employability opportunities available to them	<p>100% of schools who participated said the masterclasses were beneficial for their pupils</p> <p>100% of schools who participated have asked for future masterclasses</p> <p>"Thank you for all the work you and the Youth Zone have put in this term, the Gatsby masterclass programme has been excellent. Very well organised. One of the girls who attended regularly has just been awarded Head Girl."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Andrew Larking, Careers/Personal Development Lead Our Lady & St John Catholic College
Skills and Aspirations	Get a Job	16 young people aged 16-25 who were NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) completed a 6-week programme supporting them with employability skills. All young people completed a level 1 accreditation in customer service.	<p>80% of the young people moved into education, employment or training.</p> <p>"The Get a Job course was really useful, I learnt a lot about interview skills and after the course got a job through the Kickstart programme"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project Participant

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	Dare to Dream	Working with 280 young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Providing opportunities for them to get insight into different careers available to them.	<p>"I have to applaud your choice of speaker at today's session in Medicine. She was a real inspiration and the fact she was quite local to us and had failed to get into Medicine originally was a real inspiration for young people. She was very clear in her explanation of the route in and so I would highly recommend that schools access the recording if they can."</p> <p>- New Directions Career service</p>
	HAF Summer programme	Young people were given the opportunity to gain a level 1 accreditation including food hygiene, first aid, sports leaders, NICAS climbing (available in total) through our summer HaF programme funded by the Department of Education.	<p>164 young people received an accreditation in an area of their choice.</p> <p>89% of young people stated they had grown in confidence from taking part in the programme</p>
	Transitions	36 young people in school years 9-11 who had become disengaged with school due to the pandemic attended BYZ daily for 6-8 weeks. Through both academic and pastoral support young people worked towards re-engaging with school.	<p>100% of young people were supported back into school</p> <p>"Youth zone has supported pupils who are hard to reach to attend the workshops and get more involved with their education. Pupil enjoyment and learning new skills has shown through their commitment to the project"</p> <p>- Billy Begum, Teacher St Thomas School</p>

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	Youth Hub	<p>BYZ provided funding to 8 local partners to come together through a place based approach to support young people moving into EET.</p> <p>Delivered over 6 months with the aim of reaching some of the hardest to reach young people in the borough.</p>	<p>916 young people benefited from the project through face to face delivery/detached work with 212 of these moving into education, employment or training.</p> <p>“Thanks to the Youth Hub project I am now about to start an apprenticeship”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - James, project participant
Social Integration	Citizens Jury	<p>15 young people from different backgrounds came together to explore the views of different communities during the pandemic. Speaking with members of the community who had been directly impacted by Covid-19 they created a short film to showcase their findings.</p>	<p>13 of the 15 young people reported a greater understanding on the Covid-19 restrictions/guidance</p> <p>13 of the 15 young people reported that they would try to follow the guidance more</p>
	The Big Iftar	<p>We celebrated cohesion and social integration by bringing 70 members from across the community together to celebrate the boroughs first online community Iftar.</p>	<p>“I am delighted to be part of this event to share with everyone how the Muslim community open their fast and how Ramadan is not simply an exercise in fasting during the day and binge eating during the night. This year’s Ramadan, due to the lockdown, will be remembered by Muslims across the globe as a special one and will be recorded in the history books. Ramadan is the chance for a spiritual boost, with lessons to be applied long after the month is out.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project participant Umaimah <p>“It was wonderful to see so many people sharing a meal together in this new way. The current lockdown is a difficult time for so many people, but we’ve shown that as a community we can still come together, and support one another”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rebecca Ramsay, Our Community, Our Future programme manager 2020

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Health and Wellbeing	Covid emergency food response	We worked collaboratively with partners and supported the distribution of over 25,000 meals to members of the community in need during the COVID-19 crisis.	<p>"Blackburn Youth Zone has been a lifesaver, delivering food daily. I relied on that food to feed my children, I was really worried I wouldn't be able to feed them"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BYZ member parent <p>"My brother and I want to thank you from the bottom of our hearts. You have provided food for our vulnerable mum during the covid crisis when she needed it the most"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BYZ member <p>"A huge thank you to Blackburn Youth Zone who are going above and beyond to provide meals to families who need them"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BwD Care Network
	Mentoring	<p>37 of our most vulnerable young people have received 121 digital mentoring sessions each week delivered by volunteers.</p> <p>In total we delivered 444 hours of mentoring.</p>	<p>"I've allowed someone to support me in every way possible and to share my feelings with someone I trust. BYZ have helped me with my mental health during the pandemic which in result has had a huge impact on me planning my future"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matthew, BYZ member
	HAF Summer 2020	<p>656 individuals per day benefited from engaging with positive activity and healthy meals.</p> <p>In total we had 10,496 engagements with young people over a 4 week period during the summer holidays</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 96% of young people agree/strongly agree they are happy with our service. - 89% of individuals stated they have grown in confidence since attending HAF. - 87% of young people said the online activity helped them connect with others. - 100% of young people said they felt safe while online with Blackburn Youth Zone services. - 78% of young people felt they learnt a new skill.

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	Health & Wellbeing Christmas Stocking	Blackburn Youth Zone created 1200 Christmas Health & Wellbeing stockings. The stockings contained a number of activities and signposting information for young people over the Christmas period. In total we worked with 21 partners to ensure we reached young people across the whole borough who needed them the most.	<p>"I really struggle with anxiety and the pandemic has made it worse. The Youth Zone has supported me loads even when I couldn't come in. The stocking had lots of activities and information in to support me over Christmas"</p> <p>- Ami, BYZ Member</p>
	Mind Moose	53 young people aged 8-12 took part in an early intervention emotional health and wellbeing online programme 'Mind Moose'. Young people with support from our staff learnt how to look after their minds, keep their brains healthy, deal with emotions, develop resilience and flourish	<p>"I like Mind Moose because I am in a session where I can work on my own and talk about my life"</p> <p>- Harry, project participant</p> <p>Following the Mind Moose sessions, young people took part in a thorough discussion and shared ideas with confidence, which was really good to see. It has helped them with coping mechanisms for when they have made a mistake, and they have also learnt the importance of being kind to themselves and doing acts of kindness towards others</p> <p>- 1 Voice, partner organisation</p>
	Winter Warmer	The winter warmer project engaged with 845 young people and families from across the borough by providing warm essential items during the winter period.	<p>Our students need the support, as a lot of their families have had reduced income so are struggling, the pupils really enjoyed having an item of clothing to keep them warm, thank you Blackburn Youth Zone and the winter warmer project.</p> <p>- Deputy Head Teacher, SEMH School</p>

Fundraising & Income Streams

For every **£1** of funding which we receive from Blackburn with Darwen council, Blackburn Youth Zone raises **£10. £3.10** of this comes from the business community and individuals who support Blackburn Youth Zone. Blackburn Youth Zone is the most successful youth zone for attracting and sustaining high levels of donations from local businesses.

Blackburn Youth Zone's Business Development Team's objective is to generate income to ensure we are able to achieve our vision to be at the heart of the community, collaborating to create a more cohesive and prosperous Blackburn and Darwen.

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Patron involvement

Blackburn Youth Zone is supported financially by our generous network of Patrons, who donate unrestricted funding. We are thankful to the following Patrons who supported us in 2020/21:

Bowland Trust	Brian Mercer Trust	Crown Paints	Graham & Brown
Senator	Totally Wicked	JMWM Foundation	Accrol Papers
Forbes Solicitors	Peter Cummings	PM+M Accountants	Napthens Solicitors
BAE Systems	Pets Choice	Blackburn College	Cardboard Box Co.
Tensar	AMS Accountants	Star Tissues	Silicone Engineering
Peter & Linda Street	Star Academies	Vision Support	Canopies UK
Businesswise Solutions	Fagan & Whalley	MDS Healthcare	Educational Partnership Trust
Sagar Insurance	Vital Life	Nybble IT	Granby Marketing
Dinner Lady Vape	Fogarty's Insurance		

In-Kind Support

During the pandemic, we have received £20,435 of In-Kind Support. We are grateful to our Patrons & Supporters who provided support in kind:

- Graham & Brown - Paints and wallpaper
- Pets Choice - Christmas stockings
- Crown Paint - Paints for the building upgrades
- Bright Blue Foods - Mince pies
- McDonald's Darwen - soft drinks throughout the pandemic
- BRCT - soft drinks throughout the pandemic
- HSL - Lights
- Accrol - Toilet rolls through the pandemic
- 2BR & 24 Laundromat - Toys at Christmas
- Morrisons - Selection Boxes
- Boohoo - Vital warm essential clothing
- Fareshare - Food
- Nybble IT - Easter Eggs
- Nybble IT - IT equipment for young people
- Lazar Family - Raspberry Pie IT equipment for young people
- Senator - Easter Eggs
- Cardboard Box Company - various cardboard items including food parcel boxes for the Easter Zone to Home boxes.

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Grant Funding

Grant funding is a main source of income for Blackburn Youth Zone. The 2020/21 was an unprecedented year with funding available for charities and community groups. Our investment into applying for trusts and grants proved a success with BYZ applying for and receiving £637,170 from a variety of funders. Our biggest funder this year was the Department of Culture Media & Sport (DCMS) through the OnSide Foundation. Through being a Youth Zone in the OnSide Network we were able to access funding for projects totalling £200,732 (included in the grants total above) as well as a further £212,718 towards our general core running costs. The CMC project enabled us to deliver high profile, high impact projects (as seen in Project Highlights) to young people who needed us most.

Events, Gift Aid & Community Fundraising

Due to COVID restrictions, our usual events were all cancelled in line with government guidelines. We have been able to gift aid a significant amount from patron contributions, community fundraising and one-off donations, in total we received from Gift Aid £9,293.

We were fortunate to have many supporters who still fundraised for Blackburn Youth Zone including Cummins Mellor who raised over £10,000 for the Youth Zone with a virtual quiz. In total, our community fundraising target was exceeded significantly raising a total of £52,220. This total included the Big Give Christmas Campaign which raised an additional £30,000 for Blackburn Youth Zone's mentoring project. Donations made to this project during the week-long campaign were match funded by pledges from the Cardboard Box Company.

Facility Hire

Due to COVID restrictions, our plans for Facility Hire were cancelled in line with government guidelines.

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme

When the lockdown was announced in March 2020 the BYZ board made the decision to take advantage of the furlough scheme instead of laying off team members who were unable to work. We claimed a total of £83,549 across the year to help support paying the BYZ team when the youth zone could not open as well as to support those who were advised to shield.

Structure, Governance and Management

Blackburn Youth Zone is a registered charity and a company limited by guarantee without share capital. Blackburn Youth Zone is registered under the Companies Act 1985, registration number 6944317. The company is governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association, dated 25th June 2009. Management of the company's affairs is vested in the trustees.

In the event of a winding-up, the present members and those who have ceased to be a member within one year of such event have guaranteed liabilities of the company to the sum not exceeding one pound each year.

Organisational Structure

Blackburn Youth Zone is governed by its Board of Trustees, who are also Directors for the purposes of Company Law, which retains overall responsibility for the strategic direction and the policy of the organisation. The Trustees carry ultimate responsibility for the conduct of Blackburn Youth Zone and for ensuring that the charity satisfies its legal and contractual obligations.

A Chief Executive is appointed by the Board to manage the day to day operations. To facilitate effective operations the Chief Executive has delegated authority as approved by the Board for all operational matters including finance, human resources and operational delivery. During the period from December 2020 - June 2021 BYZ was managed by an interim CEO whilst our permanent CEO was on maternity leave. The board approves the strategic plan and annual Business plan and scrutinises business performance including financial performance as well as providing advice to the Chief Executive on operational matters of performance.

The pay of the Chief Executive Officer is reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees, benchmarking their salaries against those of similar Youth Zones within the OnSide Network.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Blackburn Youth Zone is part of the network of Youth Zones established by OnSide Youth Zones (Charity Registered in England & Wales no: 1125893). Many of the operational policies and procedures of the Youth Zone are influenced by being part of this wider network.

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees is composed of 5 Directors representing the public, private and third sector. They are supported by representatives from the Local Authority and private sector that provide additional expertise but do not have voting rights.

Trustees can be nominated for a fixed or indeterminate period of time. One third of the Directors will retire by rotation at each AGM, retiring Directors can be re-appointed.

The Trustees normally meet on a bi-monthly basis however due to the pandemic the board met on a weekly moving to a monthly basis to scrutinise finance and performance.

New trustees will be recruited according to the needs of the charity and the suitability of possible candidates. The unanimous approval of existing Trustees leads to their appointment.

Newly appointed trustees are provided with a comprehensive induction to Blackburn Youth Zone's provision, including key information about the organisation's development, governance and safeguarding.

Four Trustees of Blackburn Youth Zone board, Andrew Graham MBE, David Gorton, Alison Durkin and Adam Bromley have all served on the board as a trustee or as a consultant for longer than eight years due to their extensive experience in their fields of expertise. This is now under rigorous review to ensure that there is the required rotation needed and as a result David Gorton and Alison Durkin have now stood down from the board of Trustees with effect from 31st October 2021. The board and CEO are seeking out their replacements.

Financial review

Total income for the year was £1,745,436 (2020: £1,119,848). Of this amount £801,838 (2020: £671,083) was from donations and grants, primarily from the local business community; public grants of £886,385 (2020: £239,046) were received; and the balance of £57,213 (2020: £209,719) was fundraising and investment income.

Total expenditure for the year was £1,339,504 (2020: £1,302,816) of which £86,467 (2020: £119,502) related to Fundraising activities and £1,253,037 (2020: £1,183,314) related to Charitable Activities.

The resulting surplus for the year of £405,932 (2020: deficit £182,968) was after charging £130,243 (2020: £127,471) of depreciation on fixed assets.

The total unrestricted funds held at 31 March 2021 were £420,550 (2020: -£89,302), with the Total Net Assets of the organisation being £5,309,466 (2020: £4,903,534)

During the year the charity took advantage of the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme in order to avoid laying off staff who had no work during the lockdown periods receiving £83,549, which is included in the Public Grants total above.

The charity also benefited, via the OnSide Foundation, from the DCMS Community Matched Funding Challenge and in total £413,450 was received from this fund during the year and again this is included within Public Grants above.

The charity is extremely grateful to the many funders who provided additional funding during the year with specific focus on Covid-19 recovery and support. As well as the funds received from the DCMS, a further £142,761 was received to help the charity to continue to deliver services to the most vulnerable young people.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Without this financial support many young people would have suffered even more during an extremely difficult year for everyone.

Risk Management

The board fully accepts its responsibilities under the Charity Commission's statement of Recommended Practice (SORP). The Trustees have considered the major risks to which the charity is exposed and are committed to ensuring these are effectively managed.

The Chief Executive and senior managers have undertaken a comprehensive risk assessment and established risk registers from an organisation and operational perspective and have established risk management and control procedures which are reviewed regularly by the board.

Blackburn Youth Zone's top risks are outlined below;

Risk	Mitigation
<p>Safeguarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Risk of abuse by Blackburn Youth Zone staff/volunteers● Non reporting of serious safeguarding concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● All staff, volunteers and board members have DBS's and full training on safeguarding.● Freelancers and partners also need to produce their DBS to work at Blackburn Youth Zone and have a full induction.● We have a nominated safeguarding lead on the board and an SLT members who act as our health and safety lead, both are responsible in ensuring we review our annual safeguarding policy and procedures.● We have an annual review of our safeguarding policy and procedures.
<p>Health and Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● We annually review our health and safety policy and procedures, ensure all team members are trained.● We have an annual external check of our health safety culture and compliance.● All statutory compliance is managed by BwD council, to ensure the highest standards.● SLT regularly review the COVID-19 risk following government guidelines. All recommendations are approved at board

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

**TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	level.
<p>Finance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Income • Expenditure • Cash 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have a highly qualified accountant acting as treasurer on Blackburn Youth Zone board, in addition we have a finance committee who review monthly income, expenditure and cash. • We have a fully resourced finance team responsible for reporting management accounts and ensuring all financial controls are in place and enforced. • We have fully resourced business development team to ensure we maximise income, with governance around meeting targets.
<p>Performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor quality service which does not meet the needs of young people • Low attendance numbers which results in low return on investment • Poor performance from facilities staff which results in an unclean or unsafe building • Poor performance from catering staff resulting in unhealthy or unsafe food • Poor performance from business development team resulting in financial instability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff are fully trained with regular refreshers to ensure youth offer is up to date • Staff values ensure team is happy, committed and passionate • Proactive membership and engagement which maximises all routes to securing new members and retaining existing members • Regular one to ones and appraisals, along with spot checks where necessary to ensure staff performance is of expected levels.
<p>Reputation</p> <p>Negative impacts on reputation of Blackburn Youth Zone due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negative press coverage of incidents • Negative opinions of stakeholders due to unprofessional work ethics • Mismanagement of time, resources, service delivery 	<p>Maintain a professional, reliable and trustworthy appearance through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance at local and regional networking and multi-agency meetings • Fulfilling all obligations to funders including reporting and financial management • Sharing best practice and research as

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

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**TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	<p>appropriate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring all policies and procedures are effectively followed and enforced
<p>People</p> <p>Staff issues due to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turnover • Sickness • Poor organisational culture/moral • Poor communication • Burnout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have a clear plan to build the culture at Blackburn Youth Zone ensuring all team members feel valued and engaged in decision making. • A full review of HR will take place and the team will be trained on supporting team members to perform.

Reserves Policy

The Board of Trustees of Blackburn Youth Zone has established a reserves policy that appropriately reflects the risks to which the Charity is exposed.

In reviewing the potential costs that could arise should a significant reduction in income be incurred, the Trustees have determined that it is appropriate for unrestricted, 'free', reserves to be maintained at a minimum of 3 months. Due to the current uncertainty in the economic climate, shifting restrictions and an anticipated increase in demand for our services, the Trustees have agreed that the Charity will ideally hold more unrestricted funds than the minimum required in the reserves policy. A proportion of funds raised from the private sector against which the DCMS Community Match Challenge project was 'matched' in 2020/21 are held within the unrestricted reserves. There is an expectation that the Charity will spend this within the next financial period.

At 31st March 2021 the Charity had accumulated unrestricted, 'free', reserves of £420,550; this provides cover equivalent to 4.9 months of operating costs, within the range that the Trustees are currently comfortable with. The reserves policy does not consider expenditure that is linked to restricted projects and therefore covered by restricted funds.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Charity will review regularly both the sum it wishes to hold in reserves in unrestricted funds and the basis for that figure, particularly considering the ongoing impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. Total reserves at the end of the period were £5,309,466, of which restricted funds totalled £4,888,916 and unrestricted funds totalled £420,550.

Investment Policy

Any surplus funds that are not immediately required may, at the Board's discretion, be invested in order to ensure the Charity's future sustainability. To ensure such investments are safeguarded;

- Any decision about investment will be made by the board (potentially having professional advice) considering the suitable and diversification of investments, including investments in deposit accounts, to ensure that the failure of one investment or institution does not have a major impact on Blackburn Youth Zone
- Investments will be made in line with Blackburn Youth Zone values and ethos
- Investment performance will be regularly reviewed
- Records will be maintained of all investments held (including details of all those sold or purchased) by the charity

Accounting controls will be fully implemented to ensure that all dividends or interest payments due are received and accounted for.

Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the Trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The Trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient, with the level of reserves, for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

Fundraising Standards Information

Blackburn Youth Zone raises funds by approaching businesses and philanthropic individuals who have an interest in supporting young people. We also apply for grants from Trusts that have the same interest. During the year we used a mix of our own employees plus the services of an external fundraiser who assisted with the major donor fundraising. This external fundraiser had previously worked for the organisation prior to setting up her own business.

The charity is not currently a member of any voluntary scheme for regulating fundraising.

Primarily we work with people who have been introduced to our cause on a one-to-one basis and all fundraising activities are monitored by the Chief Executive. During the period the charity received no complaints regarding its fundraising activities.

The charity does not do street or door-to-door fundraising so does not come into contact with vulnerable or other people who may feel intruded upon, unreasonably persistently approached or have had undue pressure placed upon them.

Plans for future periods

Over the past 18 months, Blackburn Youth Zone has strengthened foundations, this will allow us to move into our next phase of sustainability and growth. Blackburn Youth Zone delivers high quality and creative activities that engage young people across the borough of Blackburn with Darwen.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT) FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

In partnership with the board, team, stakeholders and young people, we have defined our vision, mission and values further that will guide Blackburn Youth Zone in the years ahead.

Due to significant funding through the Department of Work and Pensions as well as other significant funders Blackburn Youth Zone have been able to open a 'Youth Hub'. Launching on 10th September 2021, Youth Hub is our new employability service. It will support local young people to overcome barriers to employment, by raising their aspirations, increase their work-related skills, link them to training opportunities and ultimately support them into employment. The introduction of Youth Hub supports the wider development of our targeted service offer. It will further raise the profile for Blackburn Youth Zone and reach an extended audience of local young people, additional statutory and non-statutory partners and the local business community. It will present further opportunities to secure patronage from local businesses as the service grows.

After an internal analysis key board members have resigned from the board and therefore, a full board review in 2021 has been implemented with recommendations. New board members have been approached and interviewed with a view to those successful starting as board members in January 2022.

Business Plan

2021/22 business plan has been developed and will act as an annual plan to meet year one of the new strategy as described above.

The priorities will be led by senior leaders within Blackburn Youth Zone and will be monitored by the Senior Leadership Team monthly and reported to the board bi-monthly. Each programme of work has an associated operational plan, which is fed into the annual objectives of all team members across the organisation.

Trustees Responsibilities

The Charity's Trustees (who are also directors for the purpose of company law) are responsible for preparing the Annual Report (including the Strategic Report) and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

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

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Observe the methods and principles of the Charity SORP 2019 (FRS102)
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent
- State whether UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements, and
- Prepare financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume the charity will continue in operation

The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that 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. The Trustees 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.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

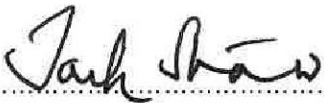
**TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT AND STRATEGIC REPORT)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

Statement as to disclosure to our auditors

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

- There is no relevant audit information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing their report, of which the auditor is unaware, and
- The trustees, have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of this information.

This report was approved by the Board of Directors on 13 December 2021 and on behalf of the board by:



.....
Rt Hon Jack Straw
Trustee

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 13, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

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

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the strategic report and the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the strategic report and the directors' report have been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the strategic report and the directors' report. We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 13, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

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

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BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

We obtained an understanding of the legal and regulatory framework applicable to the company and the sector in which it operates and considered the risk of non-compliance with applicable laws or regulations.

We determined that the following laws and regulations were most significant: the Companies Act 2006 and the Charities Act 2011. We designed audit procedures to respond to the risk, recognising that the risk of not detecting a material misstatement due to fraud is higher than the risk of not detecting one resulting from error, as fraud may involve deliberate concealment, for example, forgery or intentional misrepresentations, or through collusion.

We obtained an understanding of how the company is complying with those legal and regulatory frameworks by making enquiries of the management. We corroborated our enquiries through our review of board minutes.

Our tests also included agreeing the financial statements disclosures to underlying supporting documentation. There are inherent limitations in the audit procedures described above and, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely we would become aware of it. We did not identify any key audit matters relating to irregularities, including fraud.

We also addressed the risk of management override of internal controls, including testing journals and evaluating whether there was evidence of bias by the management or trustees that represented a risk of material misstatement due to fraud.

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

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Angela Donohoe FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

for and on behalf of
Donnelly Bentley Limited
Chartered Accountants
Statutory Auditors
Hazlemere
70 Chorley New Road
Bolton
BL1 4BY

13 December 2021

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE**(A company limited by guarantee)****STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCORPORATING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	Note	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
INCOME FROM:					
Donations and legacies	2	1,214,229	473,994	1,688,223	910,129
Charitable activities	3	4,969	-	4,969	72,844
Other trading activities	4	52,220	-	52,220	136,822
Investments	5	24	-	24	53
TOTAL INCOME		1,271,442	473,994	1,745,436	1,119,848
EXPENDITURE ON:					
Raising funds		79,566	6,901	86,467	119,502
Charitable activities		682,024	571,013	1,253,037	1,183,314
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		761,590	577,914	1,339,504	1,302,816
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE TRANSFERS		509,852	(103,920)	405,932	(182,968)
Transfers between Funds		-	-	-	-
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE) BEFORE OTHER RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES		509,852	(103,920)	405,932	(182,968)
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		509,852	(103,920)	405,932	(182,968)
RECONCILIATION OF FUNDS:					
Total funds brought forward		(89,302)	4,992,836	4,903,534	5,086,502
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		420,550	4,888,916	5,309,466	4,903,534

The notes on pages 31 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

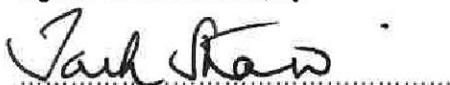
BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)
REGISTERED NUMBER: 6944317

**BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2021**

	Note	£	2021 £	£	2020 £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	10		4,913,604		5,025,114
CURRENT ASSETS					
Stocks	11	1,630		2,033	
Debtors	12	75,973		43,444	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>578,846</u>		<u>94,317</u>	
		656,449		139,794	
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	13	<u>(260,587)</u>		<u>(261,374)</u>	
NET CURRENT ASSETS / (LIABILITIES)			<u>395,862</u>		<u>(121,580)</u>
NET ASSETS			<u>5,309,466</u>		<u>4,903,534</u>
CHARITY FUNDS					
Restricted funds	15		4,888,916		4,992,836
Unrestricted funds	15		<u>420,550</u>		<u>(89,302)</u>
TOTAL FUNDS			<u>5,309,466</u>		<u>4,903,534</u>

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Trustees on 13 December 2021 and signed on their behalf, by:



Rt Hon Jack Straw
Trustee

The notes on pages 31 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE**(A company limited by guarantee)****STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021**

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net cash provided by operating activities	17	<u>503,615</u>	<u>(20,718)</u>
Cash flows from investing activities:			
Dividends, interest and rents from investments		24	53
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(19,110)	(12,350)
Receipt from sale of tangible fixed asset		-	-
Net cash used in investing activities		<u>(19,086)</u>	<u>(12,297)</u>
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		484,529	(33,015)
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		<u>94,317</u>	<u>127,332</u>
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	18	<u>578,846</u>	<u>94,317</u>

The notes on pages 31 to 45 form part of these financial statements.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

1.1 Basis of preparation of financial statements

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 issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

Blackburn Youth Zone 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.

1.2 Company status

The company is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The members of the company are the Trustees named on page 2. In the event of the company being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the company. The address of the registered office is Jubilee Street, Blackburn, Lancashire, BB1 1EP. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are to improve the life chances of young people in the Blackburn with Darwen area, helping them to gain increased levels of confidence and self-esteem and raising their aspirations for the future.

1.3 Income

All income is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) once the company has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received, and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Gifts in kind donated for distribution are included at valuation and recognised as income when they are distributed to the projects. Gifts donated for resale are included as income when they are sold. Donated facilities are included at the value to the company where this can be quantified and a third party is bearing the cost. No amounts are included in the financial statements for services donated by volunteers.

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the company has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use of the company of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably.

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

Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Income tax recoverable in relation to investment income is recognised at the time the investment income is receivable.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.4 Grants

Income from government and other grants are recognised at fair value when the charity has entitlement after any performance conditions have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably. If entitlement is not met then these amounts are deferred.

1.5 Interest receivable

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

1.6 Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

Fundraising costs are those incurred in seeking voluntary contributions and do not include the costs of disseminating information in support of the charitable activities. Support costs are those costs incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the company and include project management carried out at Headquarters.

Costs of generating funds are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Charitable activities and Governance costs are costs incurred on the company's educational operations, including support costs and costs relating to the governance of the company apportioned to charitable activities.

1.7 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are carried at cost, net of depreciation and any provision for impairment. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Long-term leasehold property	-	2% straight line
Plant and machinery	-	25% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	-	20% straight line
Fixtures and fittings	-	25% reducing balance
Office equipment	-	33% straight line

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.8 Operating leases

Rentals under operating leases are charged to the Statement of financial activities incorporating income and expenditure account on a straight line basis over the lease term.

1.9 Stocks

Stocks are valued at the lower of cost and net realisable value after making due allowance for obsolete and slow-moving stocks. Cost includes all direct costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

1.10 Debtors and creditors receivable / payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

1.11 Cash at bank and in hand

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

1.12 Provisions

Liabilities are recognised when there is an obligation at the Balance sheet date as a result of a past event, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefit will be required in settlement, and the amount of the settlement can be estimated reliably.

1.13 Financial instruments

The company only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

1.14 Pensions

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme and the pension charge represents the amounts payable by the company to the fund in respect of the year.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.15 Fund accounting

General funds are unrestricted funds which are available for use at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the company and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by donors or which have been raised by the company for particular purposes. The costs of raising and administering such funds are charged against the specific fund. The aim and use of each restricted fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

1.16 Tax

The charity is an exempt charity within the meaning of schedule 3 of the Charities Act 2011 and is considered to pass the test set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK Corporation Tax purposes.

1.17 Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

The preparation of these financial statements require certain judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

1.18 Going Concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

2. INCOME FROM DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Donations	474,785	-	474,785	442,877
Grants	188,666	138,387	327,053	228,206
Government grants	550,778	335,607	886,385	239,046
Total donations and legacies	<u>1,214,229</u>	<u>473,994</u>	<u>1,688,223</u>	<u>910,129</u>
Total 2020	<u>697,856</u>	<u>212,273</u>	<u>910,129</u>	

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Young People's activity sessions	1,107	-	1,107	53,597
Facility hire	3,862	-	3,862	19,247
	<u>4,969</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,969</u>	<u>72,844</u>
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>72,844</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,844</u>	

4. FUNDRAISING INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Events income	<u>52,220</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>52,220</u>	<u>136,822</u>
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>136,822</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>136,822</u>	

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £	Total funds 2020 £
Bank interest received	<u>24</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>53</u>
<i>Total 2020</i>	<u>53</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>53</u>	

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

6. DIRECT COSTS

	Fundraising expenses	Charitable Activities costs	Total 2021	<i>Total 2020</i>
	£	£	£	£
Catering supplies	-	20,070	20,070	23,467
Commissioning artists	-	21,531	21,531	6,740
Partnership & arrangements	-	164,247	164,247	-
Trips and minibus hire	-	2,349	2,349	27,669
Youth activity consumables	-	104,107	104,107	84,655
Fundraising events costs	7,660	-	7,660	39,705
Wages and salaries	49,825	408,902	458,727	410,161
Pension cost	1,332	6,476	7,808	6,570
Agency staff	-	-	-	1,673
Professional fees	27,650	-	27,650	34,518
	<u>86,467</u>	<u>727,682</u>	<u>814,149</u>	<u>635,158</u>
<i>At 31 March 2020</i>	<u>119,502</u>	<u>515,656</u>	<u>635,158</u>	

7. SUPPORT COSTS

	Fundraising expenses	Charitable Activities costs	Total 2021	<i>Total 2020</i>
	£	£	£	£
Office costs	-	49,500	49,500	49,858
Other building running costs	-	119,841	119,841	133,264
Insurance	-	23,790	23,790	21,310
Other staff costs	-	11,283	11,283	19,516
Other costs	-	59,081	59,081	71,596
Wages and salaries	-	128,165	128,165	239,286
Pension cost	-	3,077	3,077	5,357
Depreciation	-	130,242	130,242	127,471
Loss on sale of tangible assets	-	376	376	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>525,355</u>	<u>525,355</u>	<u>667,658</u>
<i>At 31 March 2020</i>	<u>-</u>	<u>667,658</u>	<u>667,658</u>	

£6,901 (2020: £nil) of fundraising costs were attributable to restricted funds and £79,566 (2020: £119,502) were attributable to unrestricted funds.

£571,013 (2020: £341,890) of charitable activities were attributable to restricted funds and £682,024 (2020: £841,424) were attributable to unrestricted funds.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

CORRECTION OF PRIOR YEAR ERRORS

The 2020 comparative figures for direct costs and support costs have been amended to give a more accurate description of the expenditure. £44,205 of wages and salaries, £1,074 of pension costs and £34,518 of 'other costs' have been moved from fundraising expenses within support costs to fundraising costs within direct costs. Therefore, the 2020 comparative figure for support costs has decreased by £79,797 and the 2020 figure for direct costs has increased by £79,797.

8. NET INCOME/(EXPENDITURE)

This is stated after charging:

	2021 £	2020 £
Depreciation of tangible fixed assets:		
- owned by the charity	130,243	127,471
Auditor's remuneration	<u>7,930</u>	<u>8,100</u>

During the year, no trustees received any remuneration (2020 - £NIL).

During the year, no trustees received any benefits in kind (2020 - £NIL).

During the year, no trustees received any reimbursement of expenses (2020 - £NIL).

9. STAFF COSTS

Staff costs were as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	555,343	614,254
Social security costs	31,548	35,193
Pension costs	10,885	11,927
	<u>597,776</u>	<u>661,374</u>

The average number of persons employed by the company during the year was as follows:

	2021 No.	2020 No.
Fundraising and administration	7	5
Delivery	<u>45</u>	<u>51</u>
	<u>52</u>	<u>56</u>

Average headcount expressed as a full time equivalent:

	2021 No.	2020 No.
Fundraising and administration	6	6
Delivery	<u>19</u>	<u>21</u>
	<u>25</u>	<u>27</u>

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

No employee received remuneration amounting to more than £60,000 in either year.

Key management personnel are considered to be the Chief Executive, Interim Chief Executive (maternity cover) Head of Operations and Head of Business Management. The total amount of employee benefits paid to the key management personnel for the year was £138,654 (2020 - £169,639).

10. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Long-term leasehold property	Motor vehicles	Plant and machinery, fixtures and fittings	Office equipment and computers	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Cost					
At 1 April 2020	5,515,459	36,594	113,834	62,834	5,728,721
Additions	-	-	9,227	9,883	19,110
Disposals	-	-	(2,800)	-	(2,800)
At 31 March 2021	5,515,459	36,594	120,261	72,717	5,745,031
Depreciation					
At 1 April 2020	542,353	26,037	79,573	55,644	703,607
Charge for the year	110,309	3,959	9,114	6,861	130,243
Eliminated on disposal	-	-	(2,423)	-	(2,423)
At 31 March 2021	652,662	29,996	86,264	62,505	831,427
Net book value					
At 31 March 2021	4,862,797	6,598	33,997	10,212	4,913,604
At 31 March 2020	4,973,106	10,556	34,261	7,191	5,025,114

On 17 April 2015 the property from which the company operates was legally transferred to the company from Onside Youth Zones.

Onside Youth Zones previously built and developed the property with the support of a £5 million grant provided by the Big Lottery Fund, acting as agent for the Secretary of State.

The Secretary of State holds a legal charge over the company secured on the property, for a period of 20 years from 26 February 2009. The charge has terms associated which if not met by the company could result in the grant becoming repayable.

11. STOCKS

	2021 £	2020 £
Finished goods and goods for resale	1,630	2,033

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

12. DEBTORS

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade debtors	33,156	7,333
Other debtors	3,405	4,432
Prepayments and accrued income	39,412	31,679
	<u>75,973</u>	<u>43,444</u>

13. CREDITORS: Amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	96,521	113,273
Other taxation and social security	19,571	17,761
Other creditors	10,719	33,741
Accruals and deferred income	133,776	96,599
	<u>260,587</u>	<u>261,374</u>

14. DEFERRED INCOME

	2021 £	2020 £
At 1 April 2020	35,412	38,754
Additions during the year	282,246	208,188
Amounts released to income	(256,616)	(211,530)
	<u>61,042</u>	<u>35,412</u>
At 31 March 2021		

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021****15. STATEMENT OF FUNDS****STATEMENT OF FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR**

	Balance at 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers Between Funds £	Balance at 31 March 2021 £
Unrestricted Funds					
General Funds	(89,302)	1,271,442	(761,590)	-	420,550
Restricted Funds					
Restricted Funds	19,730	473,994	(467,604)		26,120
Property Reserves	4,973,106	-	(110,310)	-	4,862,796
	4,992,836	473,994	(577,914)	-	4,888,916
Total of Funds	4,903,534	1,745,436	(1,339,504)	-	5,309,466

STATEMENT OF FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	Balance at 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfer Between Funds	Balance at 31 March 2020 £
Unrestricted Funds					
General Funds	(42,153)	907,575	(960,926)	6,202	(89,302)
Restricted Funds					
Restricted Funds	45,240	212,273	(231,581)	(6,202)	19,730
Property Reserves	5,083,415	-	(110,309)	-	4,973,106
	5,128,655	212,273	(341,890)	(6,202)	4,992,836
Total of Funds	5,086,502	1,119,848	(1,302,816)	-	4,903,534

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Restricted Funds	Balance at 1 April 2020	Income	Expenditure	Fund Transfers	Balance at 31 March 2021
	£	£	£	£	£
Diversity	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Intergration Funding 3 rd Party	-	15,245	(15,245)	-	-
Children in Need	-	11,941	(7,884)	-	4,057
Duchy of Lancaster	-	5,000	(5,000)	-	-
Digital Future - Lazars	-	15,000	(8,331)	-	6,669
Albert Gubay	-	16,000	(14,000)	-	2,000
Oglesby Trust	-	18,687	(18,687)	-	-
Holiday Hunger	-	130,835	(130,835)	-	-
Dare to Dream - Future U	-	13,396	(13,396)	-	-
Onside - Active Youth	-	20,094	(20,094)	-	-
Onside CMC - Youth Voice	-	6,101	(6,101)	-	-
Onside CMC - Transitions	-	19,281	(19,281)	-	-
Onside CMC - Youth Hub	-	110,950	(110,950)	-	-
Onside - Be Internet Citizens	-	3,300	(3,300)	-	-
Onside CMC - Mind Moose	-	26,700	(26,700)	-	-
Onside CMC - Citizen's Jury	-	9,701	(9,701)	-	-
Onside CMC - Winter Warmer	-	15,000	(15,000)	-	-
Onside CMC - Supporting Vulnerable Families	-	10,000	(10,000)	-	-
Get Stuck in - HAF - Easter	-	7,039	(7,039)	-	-
Police Commissioner - Knife Crime	939	-	(544)	-	395
Active Lancashire	4,087	-	(1,147)	-	2,940
St James Palace	-	7,742	(7,742)	-	-
Street Games	-	2,167	(2,167)	-	-
Sport England	-	4,815	(4,815)	-	-
Capital Building Project	4,973,106	-	(110,310)	-	4,862,796
New Mini Bus	11,632	-	(3,960)	-	7,672
Sport England (Wheelchairs)	3,072	-	(685)	-	2,387
Total	4,992,836	473,994	(577,914)	-	4,888,916

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Diversity	Disabled young people - sports and health
Integration Funding 3 rd Parties	Partnership approach across the borough to increase social integration and social inclusion with young people.
Children in Need	Funding to support our members with additional needs/disabilities in living healthier lifestyles
Duchy of Lancaster Albert Gubay	Funding to support our dance provision To provide food parcels to families during covid
Oglesby Trust	To create a culture of health at BYZ
Holiday Hunger 'Get Stuck In'	Providing positive activity and food through the summer holidays to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds tackling holiday hunger
Dare to Dream - Future U	Employability project working with young people aged 11-16 to increase aspirations
OnSide - Active Youth	Supporting inactive young people to get active through sports
OnSide CMC - Youth Voice	Giving young people a voice in making decisions that affect them
OnSide CMC - Transitions	Supporting young people who have struggled to transition back into mainstream school as a result of the pandemic
OnSide CMC - Youth Hub (Placebase)	Partnership approach to supporting young people across the borough with employability skills
OnSide - Be Internet Citizens	An internet safety project
OnSide CMC - Mind Moose	An online programme to support young people aged 8-12 with their emotional health and wellbeing
OnSide CMC - Citizen's Jury	Working with young people not complying with covid restrictions, speaking to members of the community who have been affected by the pandemic and creating a film.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

OnSide CMC - Winter Warmer	Providing the community with essential items over the winter period
OnSide CMC - Supporting Vulnerable Families	Providing advice and support to vulnerable families during the pandemic/lockdown
Get Stuck In - HAF - Easter	Providing positive activity and food through the easter holidays to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds tackling holiday hunger
Active Lancashire (Boxing & UV Equip)	To purchase equipment and run boxing and UV sports
St James Place	Weekly arts sessions
Street Games (trampolining)	To run a weekly trampoline club
Sport England	To run weekly boxing, handball, cricket and rugby sessions at BYZ
Police Commissioner - Knife Crime	Detached work in communities with high ASB to provide positive activity
Capital Building Project	Monies received for the initial construction and fitting Out of the building. The original expenditure relates to the annual depreciation charge
New Mini Bus	Purchase of new mini-bus
Sport England (Wheelchairs)	Weekly wheelchair sports activities at BYZ
Digital Future-Lazars	To set up and run a digital provision at BIYZ.

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE**(A company limited by guarantee)****NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021****16. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS****ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - CURRENT YEAR**

	Unrestricted funds 2021 £	Restricted funds 2021 £	Total funds 2021 £
Tangible fixed assets	50,807	4,862,797	4,913,604
Current assets	630,330	26,119	656,449
Creditors due within one year	(260,587)	-	(260,587)
	<u>420,550</u>	<u>4,888,916</u>	<u>5,309,466</u>

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS - PRIOR YEAR

	<i>Unrestricted</i> <i>funds</i> 2020 £	<i>Restricted</i> <i>funds</i> 2020 £	<i>Total</i> <i>funds</i> 2020 £
Tangible fixed assets	52,008	4,973,106	5,025,114
Current assets	120,064	19,730	139,794
Creditors due within one year	(261,374)	-	(261,374)
	<u>(89,302)</u>	<u>4,992,836</u>	<u>4,903,534</u>

**17. RECONCILIATION OF NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS TO NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING
ACTIVITIES**

	2021 £	2020 £
Net income /(expenditure) for the year (as per Statement of Financial Activities)	405,932	(182,968)
Adjustment for:		
Depreciation charges	130,243	127,471
Dividends, interest and rents from investments	(24)	(53)
Loss on the sale of fixed assets	376	-
Decrease/(increase) in stocks	403	(1,004)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(32,529)	18,762
(decrease)/increase in creditors	(787)	17,074
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>503,614</u>	<u>(20,718)</u>

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

(A company limited by guarantee)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

18. ANALYSIS OF CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	2021 £	2020 £
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>578,846</u>	<u>94,317</u>
Total	<u>578,846</u>	<u>94,317</u>

19. PENSION COMMITMENTS

The company operates a defined contributions pension scheme. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund. The pension cost charge represents contributions payable by the company to the fund and amounted to £10,885 (2020 - £11,927). Contributions totaling £2,050 (2020 - £2,025) were payable to the fund at the balance sheet date and are included in other creditors.

20. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

AH Graham who is a Trustee, is a director of Graham & Brown Limited. During the year, this company made donations totaling £25,000 (2020 - £25,000) and sponsorship of events of £nil (2020 - £300).

DJ Gorton, who is a Trustee, is a partner in PM+M Solutions for Business LLP. During the year, this LLP made donations totaling £10,000 (2020 - £10,000) and sponsorship of events of £nil (2020 - £nil) and provided services of £2,728 (2020 - £2,139). Included within trade creditors is £210 (2020 £nil) due to PM+M Solutions for Business LLP.

DJ Gorton is also a director of East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce and Industry. During the year this company made donations totaling £1,000 (2020 - £1,000) and provided services of £1,206 (2020 - £1,206).

A Bromley, who is a Trustee, is a partner of Forbes Solicitors. During the year, Forbes Solicitors made donations totaling £10,000 (2020 - £10,000) and sponsorship of events of £nil (2020 - £nil) and provided services of £1,200 (2020 - £3,440).

EA Sidat who has been a trustee from 18 February 2021 is a director of AMS Accountants Group Limited. From the date of his appointment until 31 March 2021 the company made donations totaling £3,333.

21. CONTROLLING PARTY

There is no controlling party.