

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

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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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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
- Staffordshire - 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

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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
Safeguarding <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

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 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

BLACKBURN YOUTH ZONE

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

People 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 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

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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

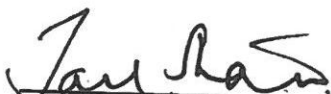
The Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding 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**

		Unrestricted funds 2023	Restricted funds 2023	Total funds 2023	Total funds 2022
	Note	£	£	£	£
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
	<u>104,448</u>	<u>76,744</u>

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
	<u>348,984</u>	<u>256,640</u>

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)
	<u>157,872</u>	<u>33,743</u>
At 31 March 2023		

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
	581,231	1,210,020	(1,229,210)	-	562,041
Restricted Funds					
Restricted Funds	13,012	544,543	(546,720)	-	10,835
Property Reserves	4,752,487	-	(110,309)	-	4,642,178
	4,765,499	544,543	(657,029)	-	4,653,013
Total of Funds	5,346,730	1,754,563	(1,886,239)	-	5,215,054

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
	420,550	935,509	(774,828)	-	581,231
Restricted Funds					
Restricted Funds	26,120	868,315	(881,423)	-	13,012
Property Reserves	4,862,796	-	(110,309)	-	4,752,487
	4,888,916	868,315	(991,732)	-	4,765,499
Total of Funds	5,309,466	1,803,824	(1,766,560)	-	5,346,730

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	Paddlesports training or delivery of paddlesports.
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.