



Annual Report

Sefton CU Trust

Academic Year 2022-2023

Contents

Page

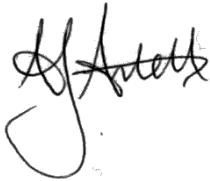
3	Sefton CU Trust Chairman's Foreword
7	Annual Report 2022 - 23
11	Financial Statement and Review
13	Notes to the Accounts
Annex 1	Sefton CU Trust Board Membership

Chairman's Foreword

"Sefton Children's University Charitable Trust is making a real difference to the lives of young people and their families in our area. The organisation promotes lifelong learning by validating and rewarding learning outside the classroom and there are thousands of pupils involved in the scheme across the Sefton borough.

Children love the opportunities that are offered both in and out of school. Schools value the structure that is provided to the curriculum outside the school day and parents support the messages of commitment that the system brings.

As a Board of Trustees, we are all very proud to be part of a growing organisation that makes a difference to the lives of young people each and every day. Children's University raises their aspirations and allows young people to reach and realise their potential. We aim to keep delivering a successful, independent Children's University for every young person and their families in the Sefton area."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adrian Antell', with a large, stylized initial 'A'.

Adrian Antell

Head Teacher Farnborough Road Junior School, Southport
Chair of Board, Sefton CU Trust

Annual Report 2022-23

INTRODUCTION

Sefton Children's University is a local charitable organisation giving 5 to 14 year olds exciting and innovative learning activities and experiences outside normal school hours. Children's University's innovative Passport to Learning encourages children from the age of 5 to try new learning experiences outside of school - at after school clubs, local community clubs, grassroot activities, in the local library, museum or further afield.

Culminating in an inspirational graduation ceremony, this adventure encourages children to see the joy of learning, giving a sense of wonder in the world around them and develops their confidence and aspirations for the brightest futures. Raising children's aspirations is important to us and we aim to develop the understanding that learning can be the satellite navigation to better places in life!

Sefton Children's University is part of a national network of Children's University Centre's, who are supported by Children's University Trust; a charity that sits at the heart of the network supporting delivery.

Our vision is to celebrate learning, raise aspirations, boost achievement, and encourage life-long learning for Sefton students and their families.

The Charity

Sefton CU Trust is constituted as an Independent Charitable Trust (registered with the Charity Commission, Charity Number 1147624) and is a Company Limited by Guarantee, not having a share capital. (Registered in England and Wales no. 07745834).

Sefton CU Trust is governed by a Board of non-executive Trustees who meet termly. The principal governing document is the Company Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Since April 2011, Sefton Children's University has been independent of the Local Authority and ran on behalf of the primary schools within the borough. We are paying members of the national Children's University network with Children's University Trust to operate as a Partner Organisation.

Structure, Governance and Management

Sefton Children's University is governed by a Board of Non-Executive Trustees and Members, See Annex 1. As set out in the Articles of Association, the trustees are elected during Annual General Meeting, each of whom agrees to contribute £1 in the event of the charity winding up.

The management of Sefton Children's University is contracted to Elevate - The Education Business Partnership (EBP, previously known as Sefton EBP). The team is staffed by Laura Grigsby – CU Manager, Laura Ashcroft – CU Coordinator and with administrative support from Laura Hale.

A Manager is appointed by the trustees to manage the day to day operations of the charity. To facilitate effective operations the Manager has delegated authority for operational matters. The charity does not directly employ any staff and therefore has no direct employment or redundancy liabilities.

OPERATIONS

Participation and Engagement

Despite Covid impacting our normal programme operations for the part several years, we are thrilled to have such a large impact and reach across the borough, returning to more familiar statistics around reach and engagement. From September 2022 we had 36 primary schools participating (3 through an EEF programme). Our priority going forward for this academic year is to increase engagement across the borough.

During the academic year September 2022 – August 2023, we supported 9,504 Sefton students who took part in over 218,220 hours of learning by participating in school-based activities, virtual activities, Masterclasses and visiting Public Learning Destinations using their Passport to Learning. This is an increase of nearly 90,000 hours compared to the previous year, highlighting the impact that the pandemic had on enrichment engagement.

We had an overall engagement rate of 75% from all participating schools. We are particularly proud of the engagement from our Pupil Premium, ESOL and SEND students groups who all had engagement of over 70%.

School-led Extra Curricular Activities

We have seen a return to a more robust offer of enrichment within schools after pandemic in this academic year. Normally there are over 600 school-based clubs that are available across Sefton and registered for Children's University. From Kindle club to Yoga covering subject groups from literacy, languages, STEM to sports and Creative Arts. All have clear learning aims and objectives with tangible links to university study or career pathways. All our Curriculum Activities are validated against the Planning for Learning National Framework.

School-led activities made up 159,978 hours of learning last year across Sefton schools (an increase of 62,468 hours from the previous academic year). The majority of these were sports based, which made up 44% of activity however this has reduced from 53% in the previous academic year. This is followed by Creative (Arts, Culture, Music) which made up 22%. The lowest percentage of activity comes from History and Heritage activities, making up only 1% of school-based activities.

Schools also have access to a variety of session plans and materials to support the delivery of clubs and activities including sporting equipment, Recycle Rangers, CLORE materials, PDSA Pet Club resources, Making for Charity Sewing Club and Code Club.

Masterclasses

We began delivery of on-line Masterclasses in January 2021 to underfill the gap of provision during the pandemic. These have been very well received and have since transitioned into a monthly activity delivered to schools. The sessions are with a variety of Guest Speakers and Learning Destinations and are delivered via Zoom direct into the classroom. Multiple schools access the activity together. Students receive 1 credit (1 hour) for attending.

Sessions that we have ran in the past academic year include – Leopard's delivered by Wildlife SOS, Smiles and Frowns delivered by local author Natalie Reeves-Billing and her illustrator, The Secret Life of Bats delivered by Ness Gardens, Quentin Blake Illustrations by Outline Arts, All Things Music by School of Rox, Holly's Big Adventure by Alder Hey Hospital, Kennings Poems by Ian Bland and Art of Water by Martin Mere.

Over 10,000 students have taken part in Masterclasses throughout the academic year.

A monthly offer will continue as part of our Children's University service.

Passports to Learning and Public Learning Destinations

Passports to Learning were introduced within Sefton in January 2012. As from September 2023, there are over 14,225 passports issued in Sefton.

We have already successfully validated over 400 Learning Destination venues in reachable distance from Sefton with many more available nationally. Learning Destinations include Sefton Libraries, Active Sefton activities, Farmer Ted's, Ykids, B&M Waste, Veolia, Liverpool Museums, Apple Store, Hobbycraft and Liverpool One. Our partnership with Albert Dock Liverpool has seen the creation of a family trail, designed in consultation with students, the trail is a great opportunity for family learning. Our network of Learning Destinations continue to grow and are available to search on the Children's University website - [Activity Search | Children's University \(childrensuniversity.co.uk\)](https://activitysearch.childrensuniversity.co.uk)

Children's University credits gained from Learning Destinations using the Passport to Learning made up 27% of all CU activity recorded in Sefton for the last academic year, a total of 58,233 hours.

We produce holiday "challenges" for Christmas, Easter and half terms to encourage learning during school holidays.

All Learning Destinations are validated against the Planning for Learning National Framework.

Graduation Ceremonies

We take huge pride in organising inspirational events that feature performances, local guest speakers and allow our children to feel celebrated alongside their peers and in front of their teachers, parents and local dignitaries. Attending these ceremonies is a big deal to our graduates and the sense of celebration that is created is a huge part of what keeps children motivated and engaged with learning. This year we held our graduations at Edge Hill University over a 2 week period.

1421 young people from across Sefton received their graduation certificates across 13 ceremonies. We celebrate over 183,027 hours of extra-curricular learning from our graduates alone with thousands more hours being accumulated by remaining year groups, a fantastic achievement in the circumstances.

Students are invited to graduations at the end of Year 2 and Year 6. This year we returned to our traditional threshold for attending the graduation in Year 6 of Gold Award (100 hours of learning). All other year groups receive their certificates at the start of the new academic year during celebration assemblies.

Similar to previous years, our graduates adorned the traditional scholar uniform of a cap and gown. Guest Speakers included Jayne McCubbin (BBC Breakfast News), Rachel Brown-Finnis (BBS Sports Personality and Footballer), Katherine Birch from Alder Hey Hospital, Kevin Mullin from Keir, local authors Jude Lennon and Natalie Reeves-Billing, representatives from Learning Destinations including Active Sports, Connect Dance Studios, Houghton Tower, Ykids, Martin Mere, Western Approaches.

Our graduations this year were sponsored by Active Sports.

Sefton Children's University Chancellor

We are very pleased that Sefton Children's Universities Chancellor is Sir John Jones. Knighted in 2003 for services to education, Sir John Jones has vast experience and knowledge within education and learning. A previous secondary Head Teacher from Sefton, he has strong links with the area and was thrilled to be invited to represent Sefton CU. He attends a number of graduations each year to present students with certificates and is a great advocate of Children's University.

We are also thrilled to welcome Amanda Fulford, Associate Dean and Professor of Philosophy of Education as our Chancellor from Edge Hill University.

Additional Funding and Project Delivery

Sefton Children's University was recently part of an Education Endowment Foundation effectiveness study of Children's University, ending in July 2023. We had 3 schools in the trial; Lander Road Primary School, St Jerome's Primary School and Rimrose Hope Primary School. EEF have appointed the National Foundation for Education Research (NFER) to run a study that will monitor a cohort of children in 150 new schools from January 2022 to June 2023 (postponed for 18 months due to Covid). 2 Sefton schools were allocated to a control group (not receiving CU for the next 2 years). This trial ended at the close of the last academic year, the Impact Report will likely be published in 2024.

Further funding streams are being actively sort.

Children's University Trust

CU Trust is a charitable organisation that operates as a social franchise model. Sefton Children's University has an annual membership as a CU Partner to Children's University™ and follows the national framework and guidelines. Children's University nationally is delivered through a network of just over 60 centres, hosted by universities, charities, local authorities and clusters of schools, each covering a specific geographical area.

Children's University was included in the top 100 social enterprises in the Natwest SE100 Index 2020 in May 2020 in recognition for all the hard work and social impact Children's University has. The NatWest SE100 is published by Pioneers Post, in partnership with NatWest Social & Community Capital.

Children's University Trust and the network are also members of the Fair Education Alliance and the Skills Builder Partnership.

Sefton Children's University will continue to communicate regularly with the Trust to keep abreast of national priorities and strategic direction, with a clear focus on evaluation and impact measurement going forward.

CU Trust launched a new Digital Platform in January 2019 that allows children to log their hours through an interactive system. This will give local CU centres and schools a dashboard of information that will allow us to analyse participation and engagement, skills built and will map the different categories of activities in more detail. At present, we only utilise this system for Learning Destinations, validations and ensuring the correct data appears on the national website. All schools that participated in the EEF trial were asked to use CU online.

A major part of the new digital system is the alignment with The Skills Builder Partnership, mapping skills as well as hours of participation. There latest findings can be found in the report "The State of The Nation" - [State of the Nation | Children's University \(childrensuniversity.co.uk\)](https://www.childrensuniversity.co.uk/state-of-the-nation)

The current CEO of Children's University Trust will be leaving post in December 2023.

School Dashboards

Sefton Children's University is continuously striving to deliver a quality service to schools and young people across our area. We are also keen to highlight the impact and support that we are having.

We have recently moved to a new and improved database for recording student hours of learning. As well as recording students' progress in hours, we are now able to analyse and report on this data in a much more meaningful way. Not only can we review this from a borough wide perspective but schools also have access to individual dashboards to review their own practices. Annual reports are shared with schools for them to reflect on their own strengths and gaps in provision.

Our system reports on the following -

- Type of activity participated in by student
- Analysis of school v's Learning Destination engagement
- Activity engagement trends by class, year group, Key Stage and school
- Engagement comparisons by year groups
- Engagement comparisons by gender
- Engagement comparisons for specific cohorts including Pupil Premium, SEND, EAL and Ethnicity, LAC

Schools utilise the system to evidence the benefit of Children's University (for Ofsted, governors etc). We are hoping that the rich data will attract additional funding.

Quality, Evaluation and Impact Measurement

A number of academic research and evaluation reports have been published over recent years that showcase the impact that extra-curricular learning has:

- NatCen: Can Out of School Activities Close the Education Gap? 2016. "Disadvantaged children who take part in after-school clubs during primary school have higher KS2 results than those who do not".
- The State of the Nation: a Children's University Trust report on skill development from extracurricular activities. Evidence and impact of the importance of learning beyond the classroom in 2021
- The Education Endowment Foundation published their Children's University Evaluation Report at the beginning of this year. This report is the result of an independent evaluation over two years from schools across Lancashire by a team from Durham University with funding from EEF and the Cabinet Office. Summary of their findings include –
 1. Children in CU schools made two additional months' progress in reading and maths compared to children in other schools.
 2. Children were more likely to select professional occupations as their future aspiration, and to report higher levels of communication, empathy, self-confidence, resilience, and happiness, after the intervention.

Children's University was listed on EEF's list of Promising Projects, EEF funded projects that have shown promising results after being trialled. As a result, we are now part of the effectiveness trial previously mentioned. This is very positive recognition of the potential impact Children's University can have. The Impact Report for the EEF trial is due to be published by NFER in February 2024.

Partnerships

Sefton Children's University has a very productive relationship with our local Universities; Edge Hill University, which is represented on the Board of Trustees and The University of Liverpool. Edge Hill University has had a long-standing relationship with Sefton CU and is the venue for Graduations along with providing student ambassadors.

Sefton Children's University is part of the Sefton Local Cultural Education Partnership Steering Group, chaired by Curious Minds. We are hoping to develop our cultural activities as a result.

Sefton Children's University has recently developed partnerships with the Sefton Mental Health and Wellbeing Team to look at how we can support their borough wide agenda.

Sefton Children's University has also had very productive links with the Sefton 14-19 Participation Manager, as part of our alignment with careers agenda within Sefton.

Laura Grigsby- Blackburn
Sefton Children's University Manager
30th October 2023

Financial Statements & Review

Sefton Children's University is offered to all schools in the borough with a set pricing structure based on school size for annual membership. Our main source of income is from School Membership however Sefton CU also receives irregular income from other sources including funding, sponsorship and passport sales – See Financial Statements for more details.

During the 2022/23 financial year, Sefton Children's University generated an income of £48,551.

The charity maintained a healthy balance sheet to cover planned activities in the coming year. We do not have any loans or other liabilities in relation to buildings either owned or leased. In our opinion the financial statement gives a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as of 31st March 2023.

Financial Statements & Review
Sefton CU Trust
Company No:
07745834

**Receipts
and
Payments
Account**

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Receipts						
School subscriptions	38,128				38,128	24,420
Grants	2,577				2,577	0
Passport Sales To Schools	4,936				4,936	2,344
Sponsorship	0				0	1,071
Management Recharge	0				0	0
Other	2,910				2,910	127
	48,551	0	0	0	48,551	27,962
Payments						
Sefton EBP Management Fees	29,452				29,452	29,417
Graduation Ceremony	0				0	0
Sefton CU Passports	3,079				3,079	946
National CU Subscription	1,561				1,561	0
Legal Fees	0				0	0
Accountancy Fees	425				425	400
Sundries	11,144				11,144	4,864
Travel	0				0	0
	45,661	0	0	0	45,661	35,627
Surplus of Receipts Over Payments	2,891	0	0	0	2,891	-7,665

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

As At 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	2023	2022
Current Assets						
Nat West Current Account	24,012				24,012	38,049
Trade Debtors	1,115				1,115	1,519
Passport Stock	485				485	1,690
	25,612	0	0	0	25,612	41,258
Creditors Falling Due Within 1 Yr	(12,084)				(12,084)	(30,621)
Nett Assets	13,528	0	0	0	13,528	10,637
Opening Capital b/f	10,637				10,637	18,302
Nett Revenue Retained	2,891				2,891	(7,665)
Total Funds	13,528				13,528	10,637

Notes To The Accounts

1) Basis of Accounts

The accounts have been prepared under the accruals basis in accordance with the SORP and s386 OF 2006 Companies Act.

2) Incoming Resources

a) Subscriptions

Each subscribing school pays an annual membership, this year a short year from. September. The financial years are in line with the fiscal year hence enabling accounting based upon a full years subscription.

b) Other Income

Sponsorship and the sale of passports to schools are the two other minor income sources. These are accounted for on a receipts basis due to their occasional nature. The effects of covid restrictions has meant reduced income and opportunities for young people thus reducing demand for sundries such as passports, stamps and sponsorship.

2) Resources Expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis as the liability is incurred and this is also nett of reclaimable vat.

Trade Debtors

At the year end, trade debtors were recorded:

Elevate EBP	259
Linaker	642
St Philips	600
	859

Creditors Due In Under 1 Year

Trade Creditors	12,017
Vat	68
	12,085

Retained Funds

Capital b/f	10,637
Net Deficit YE 31.03.22	2891
	13,528

The trust has been independent of the local education authority since April 2011.
As such,it has the status of a private company, limited by guarantee.



Contact –

Adrian Antell, Chair of Board
Farnborough Road Junior School
Farnborough Road
Southport
PR8 3DF
Tel: 01704 577625

Laura Grigsby-Blackburn, Children's University Manager
Elevate Education Business Partnership
Sefton House
Bridle Road
Bootle
Liverpool
L30 4XR
Tel: 0151 330 5760
Laura.grigsby@elevate-ebp.co.uk

Twitter - @SeftonCU
Facebook – Sefton Children's University

www.childrensuniversity.co.uk

Sefton CU Trust is a Registered Charity (no. 1147624) and a Company Limited by Guarantee.
Registered in England and Wales (no. 07745834)



Sefton Childrens University
Trustees Annual Report and Accounts Year Ended 31 March 2023

Financial Statements & Review
Sefton CU Trust
Company No: 07745834
Financial Statements Y/E 31 March 2023

Receipts and Payments Account

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Total
	Funds	Funds	Funds	Funds	2023	2022
Receipts						
School subscriptions	38,128				38,128	24,420
Grants	2,577				2,577	0
Passport Sales To Schools	4,936				4,936	2,344
Sponsorship	0				0	1,071
Management Recharge	0				0	0
Other	2,910				2,910	127
	48,551	0	0	0	48,551	27,962
Payments						
Sefton EBP Management Fees	29,452				29,452	29,417
Graduation Ceremony	0				0	0
Sefton CU Passports	3,079				3,079	946
National CU Subscription	1,561				1,561	0
Legal Fees	0				0	0
Accountancy Fees	425				425	400
Sundries	11,144				11,144	4,864
Travel	0				0	0
	45,661	0	0	0	45,661	35,627
Deficit of Receipts Over Payments	2,891	0	0	0	2,891	-7,665

Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As At 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Current Assets						
Nat West Current Account	24,012				24,012	38,049
Trade Debtors	1,115				1,115	1,519
Passport Stock	485				485	1,690
	25,612	0	0	0	25,612	41,258
 Creditors Falling Due Within 1 Yr	 -12,084				 -12,084	 -30,621
 Nett Assets	 13,528	 0	 0	 0	 13,528	 10,637
 Opening Capital b/f	 10,637				 10,637	 18,302
Nett Revenue Retained	2,891				2,891	-7,665
Total Funds	13,528				13,528	10,637

Notes To The Accounts

1) Basis of Accounts

The accounts have been prepared under the accruals basis in accordance with the SORP and s386 OF 2006 Companies Act.

2) Incoming Resources

a) Subscriptions

Each subscribing school pays an annual membership, this year a short year from. September. The financial years are in line with the fiscal year hence enabling accounting based upon a full years subscription.

b) Other Income

Sponsorship and the sale of passports to schools are the two other minor income sources. These are accounted for on a receipts basis due to their occasional nature. The effects of covid restrictions has meant reduced income and opportunities for young people thus reducing demand for sundries such as passports, stamps and sponsorship.

2) Resources Expended

Expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis as the liability is incurred and this is also nett of reclaimable vat.

Trade Debtors

At the year end, trade debtors were recorded:

Elevate EBP	259
Linaker	642
St Philips	600
	859

Creditors Due In Under 1 Year

Trade Creditors	-12,017
Vat	-68
	-12,085

Retained Funds

Capital b/f	10,637
Net Deficit YE 31.03.22	2891
	13,528

The trust has been independent of the local education authority

since April 2011.

As such, it has the status of a private company, limited by guarantee.

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Sefton Children's University

I report on the accounts of Sefton Children's University for the year ended 31st March 2023, which are set out on the previous pages.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees (who are also the directors of the company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

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

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

Basis of independent examiner's report

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

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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

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

have not been met; or

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



Name: Carina Baylis

Address: 46 Daneway, Ainsdale, Southport, PR8 2QW

Date: 28th October 2023