

Charity Registration No. 1151118
Company Registration No. 08376180 (England and Wales)

BOLTON CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITY GROUP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 30 MARCH 2025

BOLTON CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITY GROUP

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees

Mrs A Dodd
Mrs K L Partridge
Mrs S Seddon
Mrs M E Wheatcroft

Chair

Mrs K L Partridge

Secretary

Mrs A Dodd

Charity Number

1151118

Company Number

08376180

Registered Office

Hamill House
112-116 Chorley New Road
Bolton
BL1 4DH

Independent Examiner

Mr Andrew Simm FCA
Smith & Goulding Limited
Hamill House
112-116 Chorley New Road
Bolton
BL1 4DH

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc
1 Market Street
Bolton
BL1 1XA

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(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
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BOLTON CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITY GROUP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2025

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act 2006, present their report and accounts for the year ended 30 March 2025.

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the Charity's memorandum and articles of association, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and "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 (effective 1 January 2019)".

Structure, governance and management

At a meeting of Trustees and members held on 7 December 2012 it was agreed to establish a Charitable Company to take over the assets and liabilities of Bolton Children's Opportunity Group for Handicapped Children an unincorporated charity with registered number 512813.

As a result, Bolton Children's Opportunity Group (COG), a Charitable Company limited by guarantee, was incorporated on 25 January 2013. The company was registered as a Charity on 6 March 2013 with registered number 1151118 and Company Registered Number 08376180.

The unincorporated organisation transferred all of its assets and liabilities to the Company with effect from 1 April 2013. The first Trustees of the Charitable Company were the same as those of the unincorporated organisation.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year were:

Mrs A Dodd
Mrs N Home (resigned 16/04/24)
Mrs K L Partridge
Mrs S Seddon
Mrs M E Wheatcroft

Under the requirements of the Memorandum and Articles of Association the Trustees are elected to serve for a period of years, now agreed as three. They retire by rotation and may be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting. None of the Trustees have any beneficial interest in the company. All of the Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute an amount not exceeding £10 in the event of winding up.

The skill requirements for the Trust Body are regularly reviewed and any vacancy arising is filled by consensus amongst the remaining Trustees to meet the necessary criteria. Trustees are sought whose skills build on the skill base of the existing board of trustees that include sector specific skills such as Health & Social Welfare, Finance, Legal, and Human Resources,

The induction process for any newly appointed Trustee comprises an initial meeting with the Chair followed by meetings with the other Trustees. New Trustees receive all the relevant information in respect of the organisational structures and plans, Trustee job description, the Memorandum and Articles of Association, Guidance on Trustee Responsibilities and other relevant Charity Commission Guidance. This is further supported with verbal information from Chair of Trustees and/or the other Trustees.

Meetings take place at least twice a year to review the Charity's financial matters and general operating management.

Bolton Children's Opportunity Group employs professional people with experience and expertise relevant to the business of the Charity and the young people it supports. The Trustees set and monitor the scale of delegated responsibility invested in the senior management team. Likewise, it monitors and reviews the overall strategy and business plan.

The principal office of the Charity is Lowndes St Nursey, Lowndes St, Bolton, BL1 4QB.

Risk Factors

The Trustees have assessed the major risks to which the Charity is exposed in view of the new funding formula and are satisfied that systems are in place to mitigate exposure to the major risks. The Trustees are fully aware of the difficulties of maintaining the quality of service it delivers particularly in the current economic climate and are aware that there may be financial challenges in the future.

BOLTON CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITY GROUP
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2025

Related Parties

Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council (the Local Authority) provides funding in support of the provision of Early Years Foundation Stage and Bolton Information and Advisory Service (previously Parent Partnership). The National Lotteries Community Fund is currently providing funding for the Nursery minibuss service.

Mrs Dodd has been an employee in the role of office administrator/ business manager since 1985. She was asked to become a Trustee in October 2017 as the Ofsted officer would only deal with a Trustee. Following this the Trustees did not feel they had enough knowledge regarding Ofsted and asked Mrs Dodd to become a Trustee in order to comply with the Ofsted requirements. She has retired as an employee on 31 March 2025 but remains a Trustee.

Mrs Partridge became a Trustee in January 2018 she was then asked to become an employee in September 2018 due to her knowledge as a retired special educational needs teacher and is well versed in all aspects of the position as an Information and Advisory Service officer. She has retired as an employee on 22 July 2024 but remains a Trustee.

Mrs Dodd lent the Charity £13,000 during the year to help with cashflow. No interest is being charged. £3000 has been repaid after the year end with the balance still in the Charity's bank account.

- COG is a full Member of Bolton Together. Bolton Together is a Consortium for Voluntary Organisations. The aims of the Consortium are to share information, represent issues, share specialist training and offer representation on various Bolton Council led consultative groups.
- COG has been a Member of Bolton Parent Carer Consortium since 2014 when seven voluntary organisations together created Bolton Parent Carer Consortium. The aim is to become a stronger voice for parent carers of children with special educational needs (SEND) in Bolton. Consortium members represent parents and carers groups for health, social care and leisure. It aims for equality of opportunity and choice for disabled and young people aged 0 – 25 years.
- COG is a member of Bolton Community and Voluntary Service. Bolton CVS is a charitable company which exists to support voluntary and community organisations and positively promote voluntary action in Bolton.
- COG is a member of Greater Manchester Council for Voluntary Organisations. GMCVO is the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector support and development organisation covering the Greater Manchester city region.
- COG is a member of Bolton Early Start Panel (Resourced Nursery Panel).
- COG is a member of the Early Years Settings Managers Networking Group.
- COG is a member of SEND Reforms Strategy Group.
- COG is a member of the Inclusion Task and Finish Group.
- COG is a member of the Co-Production Task and Finish Group.
- COG is a member of Nurture Group Network.
- COG is a member of North West Information Advice and Support Service Network.
- COG is a member of the Startwell SEND Development Group.

Objectives and activities

The Charity's objects are specifically restricted to the following:

To advance the education of children and young adults with additional needs within the Metropolitan Borough of Bolton.

To promote the development of individual capabilities competences skills and understanding. To provide a safe environment for group play and activities to encourage children to interact and learn through structured play.

To promote the involvement of parents and guardians to engage more with their child's education including other charitable activities through which they can help their child.

The policies adopted in furtherance of these objects are that the group may:-

- a) run a playgroup enabling children with additional needs to mix with normal children.
- b) foster mutual help and co-operation between parents, guardians, relatives and friends of children with additional needs and those trusted with the care of children with additional needs.
- c) raise adequate funds for the achievement of the foregoing object and invite and receive contributions from any persons by way of subscriptions, donations and otherwise, provided that the group shall not undertake any permanent trading activities in raising funds for its charitable object.

BOLTON CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITY GROUP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2025

- d) hire premises, provide equipment, engage staff, admit children and require such payments to be made as are referred to below.
 - e) expend money received from any source.
 - f) maintain membership of the Pre-school Playgroups Association and assist in the promotion of that Association.
 - g) do all other things as appear to the Trustees and Senior Management Team to be necessary in pursuance of the objects.
- and there has been no change in these during the year.

Public benefit statement

The Charity meets its public benefit obligations by running a playgroup for children with additional needs, running outreach programmes for children with additional needs and providing help and support to children with additional needs and their parents or guardians. We believe that the Charity is in an excellent position to provide cost benefits when compared to other service providers in the maintained and private sectors.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

Use of volunteers

DBS checked volunteers help with the children, preparation of the play sessions and transporting the children to and from home in the Charity's minibuses. They also help with fundraising and answering the telephone.

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the Charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be, if possible, maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The Trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the Charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised.

Strategic Report

Achievements and performance

The Trustees held several virtual Trustee meetings to discuss specific issues and a couple of in person meetings during the year. The Trustees have focused on work throughout the year to address critical issues of funding insecurity. The Trustees' goal is to ensure that the Charity is able to access the Local Authority funding streams. The aim is to guarantee the future viability of each service provided by the Charity. The funding formula for the Early Years Education Grant does not cover transport costs which is an important part of the Charity's service and the Trustees are aware that fund raising is essential to maintain this vital service. A bid to the National Lottery for three years funding towards the cost of providing transport, which had been delayed because of the Covid 19 pandemic, was finally approved and extended to cover 5 years' operating costs and payments commenced in January 2021.

2024/25 has been financially challenging, initially with the rise of more than 9% in the Minimum Living Wage, which led to an increase of all child care staff by the same amount, this was followed by an issue with Barclay's bank's "know your customer" procedures, when they lost the paperwork that had been returned to them and had been acknowledged, but which resulted in our current account being frozen and payments for monthly wages being delayed. We also had major cash flow issues which led to a meeting with heads of service in December 2024, to see if there was anything they could do. One of the Trustees loaned the Charity £13,000 to help at this difficult period of time, £3000 of which has been repaid after the year end, the remaining £10,000 is still held in the group's account.

Previously the Trustees have expressed ongoing concerns that the financial projections for the Local Authority funding indicate that the sustainability could be precarious for the future of the Charity. In order to address these concerns the Trustees and senior management team have worked towards developing strategies to ensure financial viability these include:-

- The fee for the play sessions has remained at £15 per session, since September 2020, this may need to be reviewed in the near future. Although, as more children become eligible for free early years education, increasing the fees would not necessarily bring in more revenue, unless we began to start to charge for snacks etc. This is definitely on the card for January 2026.
- The Local Authority has continued to fund the teacher's salary in Nurture Group, but this may not be a permanent situation and the Trustees will continue to monitor the situation. Fees for children attending Nurture Group have not been increased since 2018, these are due to be increased in January 2026.

The Charity is involved with the Bolton Hospice Lottery Partnership Scheme, the BWFC Lotteries Partnership Scheme, and is also registered with EasyFundraising.

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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2025

The Local Authority expressed a commitment to support the Charity financially and continue to provide accommodation at the current low rent.

Funding for the Nurture Group teacher is currently being provided via Behaviour Support. Unfortunately, the diary for the period March to July 2024 has been mislaid, so we can only provide the following information for the period September to March 2025.

In line with its training strategy, COG members of staff have completed the following training courses:

- 2 members of staff – Aided Language Stimulation
- 1 member of staff – Joint Attention
- 1 members of staff – Supporting children with Communication & Interaction Needs - Sensory Harmony
- 2 members of staff – Signalong
- 1 member of staff - Autism Pathway
- 1 member of staff – Supporting Early Communication & Language Development
- 7 members of staff – TeamTeach1
- 1 member of staff – Planning and Assessment
- 1 member of staff – Supporting Children's Wellbeing
- 2 members of staff – SALT Training
- 1 member of staff – Emotional Regulation in Children
- 7 members of staff – Paediatric First Aid

Staff members attended the following meetings

- 2 SENCo Network meetings
- 1 Child Protection meeting
- 3 Child Action meetings
- 1 Case Conference
- 5 Child in Need meetings
- 5 BASE network meetings
- 2 BASE panel meetings
- 4 Startwell SEND meetings
- 2 Core Group meetings
- 2 Strategy meetings

Staff members have also arranged and held

- 64 Early Help/ Early Help Review meetings
- 2 PEP Meetings
- 11 New Child Visits

We have had several students on work experience/college placements

- 1 work experience student
- 1 Health & Social Care student for 1 week
- Placement 2 yr student

The following professionals attended COG to work with individual children or for observational visits:

- 3 visits from Jo Brown (SEN BASE co-ordinator)
- 2 visits from Alex Baxter
- 4 visits from StartWell
- 3 visits from Social Worker
- 4 visits from Ladywood Outreach
- 4 visits from the Learning Disabilities Team
- 4 visits from Educational Psychologists (to either observe children and/or speak with parents)
- 13 visits from Speech & Language Therapy (SALT)
- 2 visits from Occupational Therapists assessing children, adjusting chairs & standing frames
- 1 visit from a Student Health Visitor
- 2 Health & Safety check for Work experience students
- 3 visits from R Kinsellas's tutor
- 1 visit from Shared Care
- 1 visit by Emma Spurling

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2025

- 1 visit from Short Break Assessor

In addition to the above

- A Speech Therapy Assistant attends Monday to Thursday each week to work one to one with children from the Yellow Room.

C.O.G is registered with Ofsted and following our most recent inspection 3 April 2019 we received the classification of Good. Ofsted said "The management and staff show a real passion to help children achieve the very best they can. Their proactive and dedicated approach helps to improve outcomes for all children. This includes the most vulnerable of children and those who have special educational needs (SEN) and/or disabilities."

The Charity was awarded the Bolton Mark Inclusion Award on 19 May 2015 this award is in recognition of complying with all operating standards set by the Local Authority deeming the organisation safe, friendly and effective. The accreditation is a mark of high quality for organisations working within communities.

Monitoring achievement

The care and education of our children and young adults has been maintained according to our objectives. Each child or young person has been helped and supported to achieve their full potential through individual and group activities. Individual guidance and tuition have been given to each child as necessary for that child or young person to fulfil their potential.

During the period 31 March 2024 to 30 March 2025 COG nursery and the High Needs Base (Blue Room) have cared for 57 children, 46 of which have additional needs which is 80.7%. Many of whom have been diagnosed as being on the Austistic Spectrum.

24 children left us during this period, some went onto specialist provision, others went into mainstream and several children returned to us for a further year.

Nurture Group

During the year, we have provided places for 24 children from 19 different schools.

Of the children who have attended Nurture Group

- 14 children joined us from Reception (58%). Of these children 12 returned in Year one to complete their placements with us
- 10 children joined us from Year one (42%) and 9 of these children returned in Year two to complete their placements with us
- Of the 24 children who attended 19 (79%) were boys and 5 (21%) were girls.
- Of the above children, one child was receiving targeted early help and 2 were on child protection plans. 3 children had previously been on child protection plans. Of these children, one was under special guardianship with a family member. None of the children were Looked After Children.
- Many of the children have had EHCP's applied for during their time with us and Mrs Tate (Nurture Group Teacher) has written reports in support of these applications.
- 1 child has moved to Specialist provision at the Forward Centre due to being permanently excluded from their mainstream school.

We have worked with professionals from a variety of other agencies eg., Bolton Educational Psychology service, Bolton Behaviour Support service, Speech & language therapy. Social Workers, targeted early help family support workers etc to support our children in a variety of ways.

Mrs Tate (teacher) has been into schools to observe both children who have been referred and children who are currently attending Nurture Group to provide advice and support to schools. She has also attended meetings for the children such as PEP, Child protection conferences and reviews, core group meetings, early help reviews and annual reviews, etc. These have been both in person and remotely on Teams/Zoom.

We have provided resources and support to both parents and school staff working with the children who attend Nurture Group. We analyse the children's Boxall profiles and use these to set targets for the children. We provide half yearly termly reports to both schools and parents. We have had observations/visits from some staff from the children's schools. These usually last from an hour to half a day.

BOLTON CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITY GROUP
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TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2025

Nurture Group Training

All staff have completed Level 3 Paediatric (RQF) training. Keeping children Safe Basic: Signs & Symptoms, Prevent Awareness, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), half day Thrive Manchester Foundational training about Adverse Childhood Experiences and Trauma, I-Thrive.

Helen Tate and Leanne Hardman have completed Prevent Referrals Training in their role as designated and deputy designated safeguarding leads.

Helen Tate completed Children's Mental Health Training

Leanne Hardman & Lisa Dunn have undertaken the Theory & Practice of Nurture Group training.

The Information and Advisory Service (SEND)

The Information and Advisory Service (SEND) have provided services to 3200 families/carers/children/young adults ranging from telephone calls, personal visits, school meetings, arbitration and appeals. So much was the demand the Local Authority agreed to award additional funding for an extra part time member of staff.

The Trustees are confident that the Charity's objects have been fulfilled throughout this financial year.

Financial review

During the year ended 30 March 2025 income exceeded expenditure resulting in a deficit on unrestricted funds of £42,688. The net incoming resources on the restricted fund were £4,356.

Fundraising income of £5,470 was achieved during the year.

At 30 March 2025 the balance of unrestricted funds carried forward was £33,768.

A grant received specifically towards the nursery transport costs amounted to £18,005. This is included within income on restricted funds.

The balance carried forward on restricted funds at 30 March 2025 was £11,207. This is comprised of the written down values of furniture, donated by a grant from Bolton Council, two donations for hoists, the balance of the grant from the National Lottery for the nursery transport costs and the balance for the Nurture Group teacher wages, all amounting to £11,207.

The Charity received funding from the Local Authority for the Nurture Group Teacher which is included in the income from restricted fund charitable activities.

The Charity rents the premises for £1,000 per year, which is below market value, from Bolton Council who also cover the costs of light and heat and buildings insurance. The Trustees are unable to ascertain the exact value but would estimate the donated facilities at about £25,000.

Plans for the future

The Trustees will continue to explore new avenues of funding in order to diversify C.O.G.'s funding sources.

Monies that had been deposited in a higher yield fixed term savings account, which has now matured, have been moved into the higher yield easy access account in order to maximise income from savings. The Trustees are still looking at ways of minimising bank charges, by possibly changing banks.

Funding that had been secured from Bolton MBC because of the high number of children attending the nursey for whom we receive the Inclusion Fund, and which had relieved some of the worries surrounding the sustainability of the service, has been modified by the Local Authority meaning it is more difficult for the group to access the same level of funding it had previously enjoyed. Which has led to a return of some of the financial insecurities.

Also, the increase in the numbers of funded placements has also reduced the amount of possible income from unfunded places.

BOLTON CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITY GROUP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
TRUSTEES' REPORT (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2025

the financial statements in accordance with 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).

Company law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the Trustees are required to:

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

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

In so far as the Trustees are aware:

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

The Trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

I declare. In my capacity of Charity Trustee that:

the Trustees have approved the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report and strategic report) above: and have authorised me to sign it on their behalf.

Annette Dodd
Annette Dodd
Trustee

Dated 19/12/25

BOLTON CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITY GROUP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
TO THE TRUSTEES OF BOLTON CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITY GROUP

I report to the Charity Trustees on my examination of the accounts of the company for the year ended 30 March 2025, which are set out on pages 9 to 23.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the Charity's Trustees of the company (and also its directors for the purposes of company law) you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act').

Having satisfied myself that the accounts of the company are not required to be audited under Part 16 of the 2006 Act and are eligible for independent examination, I report in respect of my examination of your Charity's accounts as carried out under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the '2011 Act'). In carrying out my examination I have followed the Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's report

Since the company's gross income exceeded £250,000 your examiner must be a member of a body listed in section 145 of the 2011 Act. I confirm that I am qualified to undertake the examination because I am a member of ICAEW, which is one of the listed bodies.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe:

- (1) accounting records were not kept in respect of the company as required by section 386 of the 2006 Act; or
- (2) the accounts do not accord with those accounting records; or
- (3) the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements of section 396 of the 2006 Act other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination; or
- (4) the accounts have not been prepared in accordance with the methods and principles of the Statement of Recommended practice for accounting and reporting by charities [applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)].

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

Signed.....

Andrew Simm

Date.....

29/1/2026

Andrew Simm FCA

Smith & Goulding Limited
Hamill House
112-116 Chorley New Road
Bolton
BL1 4DH

BOLTON CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITY GROUP**(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)****COMBINED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES & INCOME AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2025**

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2025 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:					
Charitable activities	2	271,837	166,372	438,209	405,435
Donations	3	28,327	-	28,327	27,412
Other trading activities	4	5,420	-	5,420	669
Investments	5	370	27	397	788
Total income		305,954	166,399	472,353	434,304
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	7	345,787	162,043	507,830	473,959
Raising funds		2,855	-	2,855	114
Total expenditure		348,642	162,043	510,685	474,073
Net income / (expenditure) for the year		(42,688)	4,356	(38,332)	(39,769)
Fund balances at 31 March 2024		76,456	6,851	83,307	123,076
Fund balances at 30 March 2025		33,768	11,207	44,975	83,307

The statement of financial activities also complies with the requirements for an income and expenditure account under the Companies Act 2006.

The breakdown of the 2024 figures between the unrestricted and restricted funds are in note 19 on pages 19 to 23.

BOLTON CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITY GROUP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 30 MARCH 2025

		2025		2024	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	15		13,211		13,640
Current Assets					
Debtors	13	43,789		29,575	
Cash at Bank and in Hand	12	16,143		58,486	
		<u>59,932</u>		<u>88,061</u>	
Current Liabilities					
Creditors	14	<u>(28,168)</u>		<u>(18,394)</u>	
Net Current Assets			<u>31,764</u>		<u>69,667</u>
Total Net Assets			<u>44,975</u>		<u>83,307</u>
The Funds of the Charity					
Restricted Funds	16		11,207		6,851
Unrestricted Funds	18		33,768		76,456
Total Charity Funds			<u>44,975</u>		<u>83,307</u>

For the year in question, the charitable company was entitled to exemption from an audit under section 477 of the Companies Act 2006.

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

The trustees/directors acknowledge their responsibilities for complying with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 with respect to accounting records and the preparation of accounts.

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

The accounts were approved by the Trustees on 19/12/25

Annette Dodd
Annette Dodd
Trustee

Company Registration No. 08376180

BOLTON CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITY GROUP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2025

1 Accounting policies

1.1 Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the Charity's memorandum and articles of association, the Companies Act 2006, the Charities Act 2011 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) (effective 1 January 2019)". The Charity is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The accounts have departed from the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 only to the extent required to provide a true and fair view. This departure has involved following the Statement of Recommended Practice for charities applying FRS 102 rather than the version of the Statement of Recommended Practice which is referred to in the Regulations but which has since been withdrawn.

The accounts are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention. The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the Charity is responsible in law.

1.2 Legal status of the Charity

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee and has no share capital. In the event of the Charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £10 per member of the Charity.

1.3 Going concern

The Trustees have expressed serious concerns that the level of funding from the current contracts may not be sufficient to enable the Charity to deliver the contracted services. The Trustees consider that, at the date of approval of these accounts, the Charity has sufficient reserves to ensure that all liabilities could be discharged in the event of a winding up.

The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis. The Trustees consider that the Charity's reserves would not show a material difference if the balance sheet was restated to realisable value.

1.4 Funds

The Restricted Funds are subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the accounts.

Unrestricted funds are funds which are expendable at the discretion of the Trustees in furtherance of the objects of the Charity, and is the sum of the Charity's surplus income over the past 12 years and includes the transfer of net assets from Bolton Children's Opportunity Group for Handicapped Children, a now ceased charity, registration number 512813.

1.5 Incoming resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) when:

1. the Charity becomes legally entitled to the benefit of use of the resources;
2. an inflow of economic benefit is probable; and
3. the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Investment income is included on the basis of interest receivable in the year.

Where income has related expenditure (as with fundraising or contract income), the income and related expenditure are reported gross in the Statement of Financial Activities.

Donations, grants and gifts are recognised when receivable. In the event that a donation is subject to fulfilling performance conditions before the Charity is entitled to the funds, the income is deferred and not recognised until it is probable that those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period. Income from Gift Aid tax reclaims is recognised for any donations with relevant Gift Aid certificates recognised in income for the year. Any amounts of Gift Aid not received by the year-end are accounted for in income and accrued income in debtors.

BOLTON CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITY GROUP

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2025

Income from government contracts and other grants, whether 'capital' grants or 'revenue' grants, are recognised when the Charity has entitlement to the funds, any performance conditions attached to the grants have been met, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured reliably and is not deferred.

1.6 Donated goods and services

Donated services or facilities are recognised when the Charity 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 item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably.

Donated professional services and facilities are included in income at the estimated value of the gift to the Charity when received, based on the amount that the Charity would have been prepared to pay for these services or facilities had it been required to purchase them, with a corresponding entry in the appropriate expenditure heading for the same amount. Donated fixed assets are similarly taken to income at the value to the Charity with the other entry being capitalised in fixed assets.

1.7 Resources expended

Liabilities are recognised as soon as an outflow of economic benefit is probable.

Support costs comprise those costs which are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the Charity and include governance costs, finance and office costs. Governance costs comprise of all costs involving the public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. These include costs of the preparation and examination of statutory accounts, the costs of Trustees meetings, rent, subscriptions and costs of any legal advice to trustees on governance or constitutional matters. Support costs are allocated to each of the activities on one of the following basis: either staff time or number of nursery sessions depending on the nature of the support costs, to best allocate the costs to each attributable heading.

1.8 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand and deposits held at call with banks.

1.9 Leasing and hire purchase commitments

Rentals payable under operating leases are charged against income on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

1.10 Tangible fixed assets and depreciation

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost less estimated residual value of each asset over its expected useful life, as follows:

Fixtures, fittings & equipment	15% reducing balance
Motor vehicles	25% reducing balance

2 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Fees, funding and grants	271,837	166,372	438,209	405,435

3 Other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Fund raising	5,420	-	5,420	669

BOLTON CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITY GROUP

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2025

4 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Interest receivable	370	27	397	788

5 Donations

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Donations	3,327	-	3,327	2,412
Donated services, facilities and goods	25,000	-	25,000	25,000
	28,327	-	28,327	27,412

The Charity rents the premises for £1000 per year, which is below market value, from Bolton Council who also cover the costs of light and heat and buildings insurance. The Trustees are unable to ascertain the exact value but would estimate the donated facilities at £25,000. This is included as income.

6 Commitments under operating leases

At 30 March 2024 the Charity had annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases as follows:

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Rent due within one year	1,000	-	1,000	1,000

7 Total expenditure

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Fundraising	2,855	-	2,855	114
Expenditure on charitable activities	52,262	30,575	82,837	79,221
Wages and salaries	291,792	130,690	422,482	392,091
Depreciation	1,733	778	2,511	2,647
	348,642	162,043	510,685	474,073

BOLTON CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITY GROUP

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2025

8 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Support costs	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Activities	-	1,358	-	1,358	2,137
Catering	196	2,783	196	3,175	2,209
Insurance	5,726	-	-	5,726	5,427
Repairs	3,425	-	-	3,425	4,496
Cleaning	6,095	-	-	6,095	6,418
Telephone	5,084	293	923	6,300	5,988
Stationery and postage	2,761	377	37	3,175	2,742
Motor expenses	-	2,772	5,251	8,023	9,432
Travelling	-	106	1,607	1,713	2,061
Staff training	-	3,988	759	4,747	959
Sundry expenses	1,590	-	595	2,185	3,302
Rent	26,000	-	-	26,000	26,000
Legal and professional	1,534	3,201	-	4,735	2,082
Independent Examiner's fees	3,252	-	-	3,252	3,222
Subscriptions	889	1,198	634	2,721	2,585
Bank charges & interest	207	-	-	207	161
Allocation of Support costs	(56,759)	36,186	20,573	-	-
	-	52,262	30,575	82,837	79,221

The Charity rents the premises for £1,000 per year, which is below market value, from Bolton Council who also cover the costs of light and heat and buildings insurance. The Trustees are unable to ascertain the exact value but would estimate the donated facilities at £25,000. This is included as expenditure.

9 Use of volunteers

DBS checked volunteers help with the children, preparation of the play sessions and transporting the children to and from home in the Charity's minibuses. They also help with fundraising and answering the telephone. The Trustees are unable to reliably measure their contribution to the Charity.

BOLTON CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITY GROUP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2025

10 Employees / Key Personnel

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Staff	26	24
	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	394,881	367,576
Social security costs	20,892	18,256
Defined Contribution Pension costs	6,709	6,259
	422,482	392,091

In the year to 30 March 2025 the Nurture Group Teacher was funded by the Charity with the help of a grant from the Local Authority.

In the year to 30 March 2025 two Trustees (2024 – two) were paid for their employment with the Charity. This amounted to £17,662 for wages and salaries, £793 for social security costs and £0 for defined contribution pension costs.

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was £60,000 or more.

11 Related parties

Bolton Council provides funding in support of the provision of Early Years Foundation Stage, Bolton Information and Advisory Service (previously Parent Partnership) and the Nurture Group Teacher.

Mrs Dodd has been an employee in the role of office administrator/ business manager since 1985. She was asked to become a Trustee in October 2017 as the Ofsted officer would only deal with a Trustee. Following this the Trustees did not feel they had enough knowledge regarding Ofsted and asked Mrs Dodd to become a Trustee in order to comply with the Ofsted requirements. She retired as an employee on 31 March 2025 but still remains a Trustee.

Mrs Partridge became a Trustee in January 2018 she was then asked to become an employee in September 2018 due to her knowledge as a retired special educational needs teacher and is well versed in all aspects of the position as an Information and Advisory Service officer. She retired as an employee on 22 July 2024 but still remains a Trustee.

Name of Trustee	Amounts paid 2025				Total 2024
	Remuneration	Social Security costs	Pension Contribution	Total 2025	
Mrs A Dodd	13,901	663	-	14,564	13,151
Mrs K Partridge	3,761	130	-	3,891	12,828
	17,662	793	-	18,455	25,979

BOLTON CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITY GROUP

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2025

During the year Mrs Dodd, a Trustee, lent the Charity £13,000. No interest is being charged and no security over assets is charged. £3000 has been repaid after the year end with the remaining balance being repaid when the Charity has the funds to do so.

Name of Related Party	Balance at 31 March 2024	Loan during the year	Repayment	Balance at 30 March 2025
Mrs A Dodd	-	13,000	-	13,000

12 Cash at bank and in hand

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Barclays Bank plc Current account	29,876	(16,737)	13,139	38,826
Aldermore Bank plc	1,123	-	1,123	17,806
Barclays Bank plc Minibus account	-	1,851	1,851	1,824
Petty cash	30	-	30	30
	<u>31,029</u>	<u>(14,886)</u>	<u>16,143</u>	<u>58,486</u>

13 Debtors

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Trade debtors	12,825	30,714	43,539	7,100
Prepayments	250	-	250	200
Accrued income	-	-	-	22,275
	<u>13,075</u>	<u>30,714</u>	<u>43,789</u>	<u>29,575</u>

14 Creditors

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2025	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Trade creditors	90	76	166	265
Taxes and social security costs	6,067	-	6,067	2,949
Pension costs	1,111	-	1,111	2,390
Other creditors	13,000	-	13,000	2,267
Accruals	3,240	-	3,240	6,048
Deferred income	-	4,584	4,584	4,474
	<u>23,508</u>	<u>4,660</u>	<u>28,168</u>	<u>18,393</u>

BOLTON CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITY GROUP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2025

15 Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings & equipment Unrestricted Funds	Fixtures, fittings & equipment Restricted Funds	Motor Vehicles Unrestricted Funds	Total 2025
Cost	£	£	£	£
At 31 March 2024	53,364	270	13,594	67,228
Additions	2,082	-	-	2,082
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 30 March 2025	55,446	270	13,594	69,310
Depreciation				
At 31 March 2024	41,281	224	12,083	53,588
Charge for the year	2,126	7	378	2,511
Charge on disposals	-	-	-	-
At 30 March 2025	43,407	231	12,461	56,099
Net book value				
At 30 March 2025	12,039	39	1,133	13,211
At 31 March 2024	12,083	46	1,511	13,640

16 Restricted Funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

Funds	Balance at 31 March 2024	Movement in funds			Balance at 30 March 2025
		Income	Expenditure	Depreciation	
Furniture	46	-	-	(7)	39
Donations	2,728	-	-	-	2,728
Charitable Activities	2,143	148,367	(147,389)	(771)	2,350
Minibus running costs	1,934	18,032	(13,876)	-	6,090
Total Funds	6,851	166,399	(161,265)	(778)	11,207

Bolton Council awarded a grant for the provision of furniture. This is in the restricted fund and is being depreciated over its useful life.

BOLTON CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITY GROUP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2025

17 Total Movement in funds

Funds	Balance at 31 March 2024	Movement in funds		Balance at 30 March 2025
		Income	Expenditure	
Restricted Fund	6,851	166,399	(162,043)	11,207
Unrestricted Fund	76,456	305,954	(348,642)	33,768
Total Funds	83,307	472,353	(510,685)	44,975

18 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
Fund balances at 30 March 2024 are represented by:	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	13,172	39	13,211
Current assets	44,104	15,828	59,932
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(23,508)	(4,660)	(28,168)
	33,768	11,207	44,975

BOLTON CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITY GROUP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2025

19 Comparatives for 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Income from:			
Charitable activities	254,564	150,871	405,435
Donations	27,412	-	27,412
Other trading activities	669	-	669
Investments	766	22	788
Total income	283,411	150,893	434,304
Expenditure on:			
Charitable activities	325,184	148,775	473,959
Raising funds	114	-	114
Total expenditure	325,298	148,775	474,073
Net income / (expenditure) for the year	(41,887)	2,118	(39,769)
Fund balances at 31 March 2023	118,343	4,733	123,076
Fund balances at 30 March 2024	76,456	6,851	83,307

Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Fees, funding and grants	254,564	150,871	405,435

Donations

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Donations	2,412	-	2,412
Donated services, facilities and goods	25,000	-	25,000
	27,412	-	27,412

The Charity rents the premises for £1,000 per year, which is below market value, from Bolton Council who also cover the costs of light and heat and buildings insurance. The Trustees are unable to ascertain the exact value but would estimate the donated facilities at £25,000. This is included as income.

Investment income	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Interest receivable	766	22	788

BOLTON CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITY GROUP

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2025

19 Comparatives for 2024 continued

Total expenditure

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Fundraising	114	-	114
Expenditure on charitable activities	46,871	32,350	79,221
Wages and salaries	276,448	115,643	392,091
Depreciation	1,865	782	2,647
	<u>325,298</u>	<u>148,775</u>	<u>474,073</u>

Expenditure on charitable activities

	Support costs	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Activities	-	2,137	-	2,137
Catering	110	1,989	110	2,209
Insurance	5,427	-	-	5,427
Repairs	4,496	-	-	4,496
Cleaning	6,418	-	-	6,418
Telephone	3,956	433	1,599	5,988
Stationery and postage	274	1,782	686	2,742
Motor expenses	-	3,181	6,251	9,432
Travelling	-	165	1,896	2,061
Staff training	-	554	405	959
Sundry expenses	3,219	-	83	3,302
Rent	26,000	-	-	26,000
Legal and professional	2,082	-	-	2,082
Independent Examiner's fees	3,222	-	-	3,222
Subscriptions	1,328	486	771	2,585
Bank charges	161	-	-	161
Allocation of Support costs	(56,693)	36,144	20,549	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>46,871</u>	<u>32,350</u>	<u>79,221</u>

BOLTON CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITY GROUP
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2025

19 Comparatives for 2024 continued
Employees / Key Personnel

	Total 2024 £
Wages and salaries	367,576
Social security costs	18,256
Defined Contribution Pension costs	6,259
	<u>392,091</u>

Tangible fixed assets

	Fixtures, fittings & equipment Unrestricted Funds	Fixtures, fittings & equipment Restricted Funds	Motor Vehicles Unrestricted Funds	Total 2024
Cost	£	£	£	£
At 31 March 2023	53,364	270	13,594	67,228
Additions	-	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-
At 30 March 2024	<u>53,364</u>	<u>270</u>	<u>13,594</u>	<u>67,228</u>
Depreciation				
At 31 March 2023	39,146	216	11,579	50,941
Charge for the year	2,135	8	504	2,647
Charge on disposals	-	-	-	-
At 30 March 2024	<u>41,281</u>	<u>224</u>	<u>12,083</u>	<u>53,588</u>
Net book value At 30 March 2024	<u>12,083</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>1,511</u>	<u>13,640</u>
At 31 March 2023	14,218	54	2,015	16,287

Debtors

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total 2024 £
Trade debtors	2,100	5,000	7,100
Prepayments	200	-	200
Accrued income	6,225	16,050	22,275
	<u>8,525</u>	<u>21,050</u>	<u>29,575</u>

BOLTON CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITY GROUP

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2025

19 Comparatives for 2024 continued

Cash at bank and in hand

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Barclays Bank plc	50,256	(11,430)	38,826
Aldermore Bank plc	17,806	-	17,806
Barclays Bank plc Minibus account	-	1,824	1,824
Petty cash	30	-	30
	<u>68,092</u>	<u>(9,606)</u>	<u>58,486</u>

Creditors

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2024
	£	£	£
Trade creditors	100	165	265
Taxes and social security costs	2,949	-	2,949
Pension costs	2,390	-	2,390
Other creditors	2,267	-	2,267
Accruals	6,048	-	6,048
Deferred income	-	4,474	4,474
	<u>13,754</u>	<u>4,639</u>	<u>18,393</u>

Restricted Funds

The income funds of the charity include restricted funds comprising the following unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust for specific purposes:

Funds	Balance at 31 March 2023	Movement in funds			Balance at 30 March 2024
		Income	Expenditure	Depreciation	
Furniture	54	-	-	(8)	46
Donations	2,728	-	-	-	2,728
Charitable Activities	1,260	133,701	(132,044)	(774)	2,143
Minibus running costs	691	17,192	(15,949)	-	1,934
Total Funds	<u>4,733</u>	<u>150,893</u>	<u>(147,993)</u>	<u>(782)</u>	<u>6,851</u>

Bolton Council awarded a grant for the provision of furniture. This is also in the restricted fund and is being depreciated over its useful life.

BOLTON CHILDREN'S OPPORTUNITY GROUP

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 MARCH 2025

19 Comparatives for 2024 continued

Total Movement in funds

Funds	Balance at 31 March 2023	Movement in funds		Balance at 30 March 2024
		Income	Expenditure	
Restricted Fund	4,733	150,893	(148,775)	6,851
Unrestricted Fund	118,343	283,411	(325,298)	76,456
Total Funds	123,076	434,304	(474,073)	83,307

Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
Fund balances at 30 March 2024 are represented by:	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	13,594	46	13,640
Current assets	76,616	11,444	88,060
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(13,754)	(4,639)	(18,393)
	76,456	6,851	83,307