

REAL LIVES REAL CHOICES

England & Wales · Charity number 1154861

Details

Other names	REAL LIVES: REAL CHOICES
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2013-12-04
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Unit D The Old Haberdashery Shop Sacriston Enterprise Workshops Old Coop Buildings Platsworth Road Durham
Phone	07989571106
Email	alisonadvocacy1@btinternet.com

Activities

Objects: THE NEW OBJECT WHICH HAS RECEIVED THE PRIOR CONSENT OF THE COMMISSION IS: TO RELIEVE THE NEEDS OF PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES, LEARNING DIFFICULTIES, AUTISM/AUTISM RELATED CONDITIONS WHO LIVE IN THE NORTH EAST OF ENGLAND BY ASSISTING SUCH PERSONS TO DEVELOP THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AND OBTAIN THEIR RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES, PARTICULARLY, BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY PROVIDING, OR ASSISTING IN THE PROVISION OF, INDEPENDENT ADVOCACY, SUPPORT, ADVICE, INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND TRAINING, ARTS, PAID AND UNPAID [VOLUNTEER] WORK, SOCIAL ENTERPRISE/S.

Activities: Real Lives: Real Choices supports adults with learning disabilities throughout County Durham and the north east of England in achieving their aspirations and goals through the provision of support, advice, information, training and learning opportunities

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Disability, Arts/culture/heritage/science, Human Rights/religious Or Racial Harmony/equality Or Diversity, Other Charitable Purposes
- **Who:** People With Disabilities

Geography

- Darlington
- Durham
- Middlesbrough
- Newcastle Upon Tyne City
- North Tyneside
- Northumberland
- Redcar And Cleveland
- South Tyneside
- Stockton-on-tees
- Sunderland

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-07-31	£133,950	£109,189	-	-
2024-07-31	£41,230	£63,338	-	-
2023-07-31	£60,720	£60,781	-	-
2022-07-31	£47,753	£61,390	-	-
2021-07-31	£69,971	£54,606	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Brian Robin Smith		2013-10-25
MARION FRANKLIN		2013-10-25
MRS ANNE RATCLIFFE		2013-10-25
Paul McMahon		2017-02-03

Accounts

Real Lives Real Choices
Financial Statements
For the Year Ending
31 July 2025

JANE ASCROFT ACCOUNTANCY LIMITED

Chartered Accountants
Enterprise House
Harmire Enterprise Park
Barnard Castle
County Durham
DL12 8XT

Real Lives Real Choices

Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 July 2025

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Real Lives Real Choices

Trustees' Annual Report

Year Ended 31 July 2025

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2025.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives

To relieve the needs of people with learning disabilities, learning difficulties, autism/autism related conditions who live in the North East of England by assisting such persons to develop their full potential and obtain their rights and privileges, particularly, but not exclusively by providing, or assisting in the provision of, independent advocacy, support, advice, information, education and training, arts, paid and unpaid volunteer work, social enterprise/s.

Public Benefit

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

We believe the charity's work to be in compliance with the duty in the section of the Charity's Act 2006 to have regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

This is reviewed at appropriate intervals.

Contribution by volunteers

The charity hosted a supported volunteering project for adults with learning disabilities during this period. The project provided opportunities for important life skills, community connections and life experiences.

The project was funded via 'Happiness Hub' funding providing the additional capacity and support for opportunities for people to be included and be a volunteer within the organisation across different areas.

Real Lives Real Choices

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2025

Achievements During the Year

Programming & Session Delivery:

We continue to provide all sessions on a no fee basis to prevent cost being a barrier to participation. Connecting through creativity is the 'golden thread' throughout the timetabling and alignment with the mission and values that connects the why we exist to what we do. The planning activities of the staff team endeavour to ensure high quality experiences and an individual approach that supports each person to grow and experience personal challenges and achievements.

Art Groups:

The arts groups have continued to be a supportive and creative environment where people can explore their skills, gain confidence and enjoy creativity on their terms. The themes and methods alternate throughout the year encouraging art based, making skills and creative confidence. The group members are making submissions to a Newcastle based exhibit planned for September 2025.

The advanced art groups continue in supporting individuals to advance their personal practice towards pieces and themed collections that will then form exhibits of work. An individual exhibit is planned for one group member for November 2025 and further dates into 2026.

Participation in the arts and culture is significantly associated with good health and high life satisfaction; we aim to expand our arts based programming in 2026.

Upcycling Groups:

The upcycling workshops are multi-faceted; they incorporate a diverse range of skills development opportunities, transferable skills and a safe environment in which personal progress and progression can be achieved. Participants have undertaken group and individual projects within themes and for specific purposes such as window displays at the coop buildings and products for our retail space, events and offsite stalls.

Work Experience & Employability Skills:

Work experience and employability skills are embedded into all our timetabling and planning; supporting the development of a broad range of transferrable skills. All learning activities are planned to maximise learning, personal development opportunities, independence skills and personal growth.

Retail Space & Attendance at events:

Grant funding supported increased capacity to develop our shop front space to create a permanent space within which to sell the high-quality products made by participants. This is ongoing both onsite at the old coop buildings and at offsite events to encourage footfall to the shop space.

Buildings development work & improvements:

During this year we achieved the important milestone of securing funding for making energy efficiency based improvements within our spaces. The installation of insulation to the workshop ceiling, double glazed windows and energy efficient lighting are significant points of progress in improving our spaces. We hope to continue this progress with further grant applications to improve our ability to heat the workshop spaces in an efficient and cost effective way. The old coop buildings base continues to meet the charities workplan and the workshops allow sessions to be held in a safe and welcoming space that can meet the needs of the beneficiaries and participants.

Partnerships & Partnership Work:

Partnerships continue to be central to our approach and enable us to provide safe community based spaces and opportunities for adults with learning disabilities and complex needs. We have supported taster visits and workshops to enable people to make choices and future plans.

Joint working arrangements and partnerships; particularly in relation to support and travel enable people to overcome the barriers that may restrict their access to arts and creative spaces.

Real Lives Real Choices

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2025

Individual Progress & Progression:

Our work has a strong focus on prevention; by establishing positive focus, stability and personal achievements the people we support have experienced extended periods of stability and positive engagement. In this reporting period some individuals have moved on to more independent living and new locations as a personal progression opportunity.

Financial Review

Reserves Policy

Reserves are held to meet fluctuations or problems in receipt of payments and to respond to contingencies and risks. At 31st July 2025 reserves totalled £8,282.

A separate fund of £10,000 has been designated to cover working capital requirements.

Sources of funds

Sources of funds for running costs are via grant applications to foundations seeking to support health, wellbeing and opportunities focused on outcomes for people with learning disabilities.

A capital funding submission and grant award supported works and improvements to the fabric of two buildings used by the charity.

Staffing has been used in efficient ways with a focus on the continuation of consistent weekly sessions for participants.

Funds are applied for from a number of sources in an extremely challenging funding environment. The charity makes applications for funding for its services and maintains a timetable that is free to access as a means to reduce barriers to participation. The charity is constantly monitoring the funding position and managing risk whilst meeting the needs of beneficiaries via face to face support and sessions.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with charity number 1154861. It was registered with the Charity Commission on 4th December 2013 and on 1st July 2015 took over the assets and activities from the old unincorporated charity of the same name. It is controlled by its governing document.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The RLRC Trustee Board has between 3 and 12 members. Trustees are elected from the membership.

Induction and training of new trustees

New trustees meet with the board /allocated board representatives for an induction meeting prior to attending their first board meeting and are provided with an induction pack containing all of the key information about the work of RLRC. Trustees are encouraged to visit the projects we host to better understand the work of the organisation.

External trainers and training are sourced to support trustees on specific areas, duties and compliance. Charity commission guidance and other materials are circulated to trustees.

Trustees undertake a DBS Enhanced Check

Real Lives Real Choices

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2025

Organisational Structure

The Board takes all strategic decisions relating to RLRC including:

- Approving and receiving reports from the Service Manager;
- Ensuring activity and performance is regularly reviewed and evaluated;- Monitoring the financial position including budget setting;
- Monitoring and reviewing policies as required;

Risk Management

Trustees review risks on an ongoing basis and in response to new areas of activity. Specific projects require their own risk sub-committee with special emphasis and duties.

Reference and Administrative Details

Registered charity name	Real Lives Real Choices
Charity registration number	1154861
Principal office	Unit D, The Old Haberdashery Shop Sacriston Enterprise Workshops Old Coop Buildings, Plawsworth Road Sacriston Durham

The Trustees

B Smith (Chairperson)	
P McMahon	(Resigned 29 August 2024)
M Franklin	
A Ratcliffe	

Independent Examiner	Jane Ascroft FCA MA (Cantab) Enterprise House Harmire Enterprise Park Barnard Castle County Durham DL12 8XT
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The trustees' annual report was approved on 8th April 2026 and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



B Smith (Chairperson)
Trustee

Real Lives Real Choices

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Real Lives Real Choices

Year Ended 31 July 2025

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Real Lives Real Choices ('the charity') for the year ended 31 July 2025.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

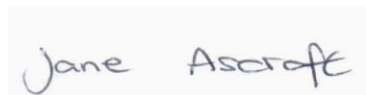
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.



Jane Ascroft FCA MA (Cantab)
Independent Examiner

Enterprise House
Harmire Enterprise Park
Barnard Castle
County Durham
DL12 8XT

Real Lives Real Choices

Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 July 2025

			2025		2024
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	4	672	133,278	133,950	41,230
Total income		<u>672</u>	<u>133,278</u>	<u>133,950</u>	<u>41,230</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	5,6	2,442	106,747	109,189	63,338
Total expenditure		<u>2,442</u>	<u>106,747</u>	<u>109,189</u>	<u>63,338</u>
Net income/(expenditure) and net movement in funds		<u>(1,770)</u>	<u>26,531</u>	<u>24,761</u>	<u>(22,108)</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		20,052	22,697	42,749	64,857
Total funds carried forward		<u>18,282</u>	<u>49,228</u>	<u>67,510</u>	<u>42,749</u>

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

The notes on pages 8 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

Real Lives Real Choices

Statement of Financial Position

31 July 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
Current Assets			
Debtors	11	89	78
Cash at bank and in hand		68,081	43,331
		<u>68,170</u>	<u>43,409</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	660	660
Net Current Assets		<u>67,510</u>	<u>42,749</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>67,510</u>	<u>42,749</u>
Net Assets		<u>67,510</u>	<u>42,749</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Restricted funds		49,228	22,697
Unrestricted funds		18,282	20,052
Total charity funds	13	<u>67,510</u>	<u>42,749</u>

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 8th April 2026, and are signed on behalf of the board by:



B Smith (Chairperson)
Trustee

The notes on pages 8 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 July 2025

1. General Information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a registered charity in England and Wales and is unincorporated. The address of the principal office is Unit D, Sacriston Enterprise Workshops, Plawsworth Road, Sacriston, Durham, DH7 6PD.

2. Statement of Compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

3. Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

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

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The trustees consider that there are no significant estimates or judgements affecting these financial statements.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2025

3. Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Income

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible Assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2025

3. Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Plant and machinery	- 25% straight line
Office Equipment	- 25% straight line

Impairment of Fixed Assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

Financial Instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Accrued income and tax recoverable is included at the best estimate of the amounts receivable at the balance sheet date.

Cash at Bank and in Hand

Cash at bank and cash 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.

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2025

3. Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Taxation

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

4. Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Donations			
Donations	672	—	672
Grants			
Durham County council	—	6,500	6,500
County Durham Community Foundation	—	21,100	21,100
Sir James Knott Foundation	—	5,000	5,000
PCP	—	14,460	14,460
The Fore	—	15,000	15,000
Barbour Trust	—	2,000	2,000
Groundwork	—	44,422	44,422
Barchester	—	2,296	2,296
Baily Thomas	—	12,000	12,000
1989 Willan Charitable Trust	—	10,000	10,000
Other smaller grants	—	500	500
	<u>672</u>	<u>133,278</u>	<u>133,950</u>

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2025

4. Donations and Legacies *(continued)*

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations			
Donations	1,230	–	1,230
Grants			
Durham County council	–	2,500	2,500
County Durham Community Foundation	–	15,000	15,000
PCP	–	7,500	7,500
The Fore	–	15,000	15,000
	<u>1,230</u>	<u>40,000</u>	<u>41,230</u>

5. Expenditure on Charitable Activities by Fund Type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Expenditure on charitable activities	<u>2,442</u>	<u>106,747</u>	<u>109,189</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Expenditure on charitable activities	<u>462</u>	<u>62,876</u>	<u>63,338</u>

6. Expenditure on Charitable Activities by Activity Type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Total funds 2025 £	Total fund 2024 £
Expenditure on charitable activities	<u>109,189</u>	<u>109,189</u>	<u>63,338</u>

7. Independent Examination Fees

	2025 £	2024 £
Fees payable to the independent examiner for:		
Independent examination of the financial statements	<u>660</u>	<u>660</u>

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 July 2025

8. Staff Costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Wages and salaries	<u>30,480</u>	<u>23,192</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 1 (2024: 2). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2025	2024
	No.	No.
Number of project staff	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2024: Nil).

9. Trustee Remuneration and Expenses

No trustees received any remuneration or expenses during the year (2024 - Nil).

10. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Plant and machinery £	Office Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2025	<u>3,999</u>	<u>11,796</u>	<u>15,795</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 August 2024 and 31 July 2025	<u>3,999</u>	<u>11,796</u>	<u>15,795</u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 July 2025	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
At 31 July 2024	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>

11. Debtors

	2025	2024
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>89</u>	<u>78</u>

12. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025	2024
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	<u>660</u>	<u>660</u>

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 July 2025

13. Analysis of Charitable Funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 August 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 July 2025 £
General funds	10,052	672	(2,442)	8,282
Working capital fund	10,000	—	—	10,000
	<u>20,052</u>	<u>672</u>	<u>(2,442)</u>	<u>18,282</u>

	At 1 August 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 July 2024 £
General funds	9,284	1,230	(462)	10,052
Working capital fund	10,000	—	—	10,000
	<u>19,284</u>	<u>1,230</u>	<u>(462)</u>	<u>20,052</u>

Restricted funds

	At 1 August 2024 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 July 2025 £
Durham County Council	2,500	—	(2,500)	—
Bailey Thomas	—	12,000	(4,000)	8,000
PCP 1	—	6,960	(4,060)	2,900
Sir James Knott Foundation	—	5,000	(1,248)	3,752
The Fore	15,000	15,000	(18,750)	11,250
CDCF PCP 2	1,875	—	(1,875)	—
CDCF	3,322	—	(3,322)	—
PCP 2	—	7,500	(625)	6,875
Groundwork	—	44,422	(44,422)	—
1989 Willan Charitable Trust	—	10,000	(5,454)	4,546
CDCF 1	—	10,000	(10,000)	—
CDCF 2	—	10,000	—	10,000
CDCF 3	—	1,100	(1,100)	—
Barchester Health	—	2,296	(391)	1,905
Catherine Cookson	—	500	(500)	—
Durham CC	—	6,500	(6,500)	—
Barbour Foundation	—	2,000	(2,000)	—
	<u>22,697</u>	<u>133,278</u>	<u>(106,747)</u>	<u>49,228</u>

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2025

13. Analysis of Charitable Funds *(continued)*

Restricted funds *(continued)*

	At 1 August 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 July 2024 £
Screwfix Foundation	5,000	–	(5,000)	–
Bailey Thomas	5,000	–	(5,000)	–
Durham County Council	–	2,500	–	2,500
National Lottery Community Foundation	9,136	–	(9,136)	–
Durham County Council - Courtyard Workshop	19,937	–	(19,937)	–
CDCF (Core)	–	5,000	(5,000)	–
PCP 1	6,500	–	(6,500)	–
The Fore	–	15,000	–	15,000
CDCF PCP 2	–	7,500	(5,625)	1,875
CDCF	–	10,000	(6,678)	3,322
	<u>45,573</u>	<u>40,000</u>	<u>(62,876)</u>	<u>22,697</u>

14. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2025 £
Current assets	18,942	49,228	68,170
Creditors less than 1 year	(660)	–	(660)
Net assets	<u>18,282</u>	<u>49,228</u>	<u>67,510</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Current assets	20,712	22,697	43,409
Creditors less than 1 year	(660)	–	(660)
Net assets	<u>20,052</u>	<u>22,697</u>	<u>42,749</u>

Real Lives Real Choices

Management Information

Year Ended 31 July 2025

The Following Pages Do Not Form Part of the Financial Statements.

Real Lives Real Choices

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 July 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	672	1,230
Durham County council	6,500	2,500
County Durham Community Foundation	21,100	15,000
Sir James Knott Foundation	5,000	–
PCP	14,460	7,500
The Fore	15,000	15,000
Barbour Trust	2,000	–
Groundwork	44,422	–
Barchester	2,296	–
Baily Thomas	12,000	–
Willan Community foundation	10,000	–
Other smaller grants	500	–
Total income	133,950	41,230
Expenditure		
Wages & salaries	30,480	23,192
Premises costs	59,143	21,987
Insurance	521	532
Accountancy and professional fees	868	839
Office costs	1,875	2,603
Materials and equipment	3,399	6,536
Travel and training	349	754
Other costs	12,554	6,895
Total expenditure	109,189	63,338
Net income/(expenditure)	24,761	(22,108)

Accounts

Real Lives Real Choices
Financial Statements
For the Year Ending
31 July 2024

JANE ASCROFT ACCOUNTANCY LIMITED

Chartered Accountants
Enterprise House
Harmire Enterprise Park
Barnard Castle
County Durham
DL12 8XP

Real Lives Real Choices

Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 July 2024

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Real Lives Real Choices

Trustees' Annual Report

Year Ended 31 July 2024

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2024.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives

To relieve the needs of people with learning disabilities, learning difficulties, autism/autism related conditions who live in the North East of England by assisting such persons to develop their full potential and obtain their rights and privileges, particularly, but not exclusively by providing, or assisting in the provision of, independent advocacy, support, advice, information, education and training, arts, paid and unpaid volunteer work, social enterprise/s.

Public Benefit

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

We believe the charity's work to be in compliance with the duty in the section of the Charity's Act 2006 to have regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

This is reviewed at appropriate intervals.

Contribution by volunteers

We continue to be supported by a small group of long-term volunteers who are essential to our work.

Achievements During the Year

Art Groups:

The arts groups have continued to be a supportive and creative environment where people can explore their skills, gain confidence and enjoy creativity on their terms. The group members have participated in both individual and group activities; expanding their creative outputs to banners, window dressings, backdrops, props, themed pieces for our spaces and commissions for neighbouring community groups.

The group members have visited galleries and exhibits for inspiration, ideas for genres and methods; also products, product ranges, merchandise and enterprise based activity.

Participation in the arts and culture is significantly associated with good health and high life satisfaction; studies show that arts and cultural activities can have a positive impact on the symptoms of conditions, for example improved cognition, physical stability, self-esteem, resilience, well-being and the ability of people to manage them, for example through changes in behaviour and increased social contact.

An advanced art group has been established supporting individuals to advance their personal practice towards exhibits of work and submission of works to arts competitions and calls for submissions.

Real Lives Real Choices

Trustees' Annual Report (*continued*)

Year Ended 31 July 2024

Upcycling Groups:

The upcycling workshops are multi-faceted; they incorporate a diverse range of skills development opportunities, transferable skills and a safe environment in which personal progress and progression can be achieved. Participants have undertaken group and individual projects within themes and for specific purposes such as window displays at the coop buildings and within the courtyard spaces for events. Donated and other locally sourced furniture items are given a new life using paint and decorative finishes with a creative twist and individual style. Some participants have developed particular skills in traditional upholstery techniques; renewing pieces and bringing them back into both use and fashion.

Work Experience & Employability Skills:

Work experience and employability skills are embedded into all our timetabling and planning supporting the development of a broad range of transferrable skills. All learning activities are planned to maximise learning, personal development opportunities, independence skills and personal growth. Going forward we aim to reuse a previous workshop space as a space for trading and selling the works created and repurposed by the creative groups. This trading space will also be an opportunity for customer service skills development and involvement in engaging with the community.

Development Work:

During this year we achieved the important milestone of securing funding for the repairs and renovations to a fully ground floor unit at our base to bring this space back into use as a workshop space for our programmes and timetable. Unit 'A1' sits in the top courtyard of the old coop buildings and provides a versatile space for workshop type activity and a separate room for breaks and time between sessions to allow for arrival via public and other transport and a quieter area for when needed on busier days. The old coop buildings base is an important resource and allows the workshops to be held in a safe and welcoming space that can meet the needs of the beneficiaries and participants.

Partnerships & Partnership Work:

Partnerships continue to be central to our approach and enable us to provide safe community based spaces and opportunities for adults with learning disabilities and complex needs.

Partnerships during this period have included NHS Services, Specialist Care Homes, Independent Sector Support provider services and individual Social Workers from adult social care teams.

Joint working arrangements; particularly in relation to support and travel enable people to overcome the barriers that may restrict their access to arts and creative spaces.

Woodshed Workshop CIC has continued to be an important partner in numerous projects and our day to day operations via sharing of resources, skills and support.

Real Lives Real Choices

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2024

Financial Review

Main sources of funds are grants via funders seeking to support health, wellbeing and opportunities focused on outcomes for people with learning disabilities.

Reserves Policy

Reserves are held to meet fluctuations or problems in receipt of payments and to respond to contingencies and risks. At 31st July 2024 reserves totalled £10,052.

A separate fund of £10,000 has been designated to cover working capital requirements.

Sources of funds

Sources of funds are grants via grant makers seeking to support health, wellbeing and opportunities focused on outcomes for people with learning disabilities. Capital and revenue expenditure has supported the objectives of the charity via the repair works in this year to provide additional spaces for timetabled activity, equipment and high quality resources/materials for use in sessions.

Staffing has been used in efficient ways with a focus on the continuation of consistent weekly sessions for participants. Funds are applied for from a number of sources in an extremely challenging funding environment. The charity receives no core funding for its services and is constantly monitoring the funding position whilst meeting the needs of beneficiaries via face to face support and sessions.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with charity number 1154861. It was registered with the Charity Commission on 4th December 2013 and on 1st July 2015 took over the assets and activities from the old unincorporated charity of the same name. It is controlled by its governing document.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The RLRC Trustee Board has between 3 and 12 members. Trustees are elected from the membership.

Induction and training of new trustees

New trustees meet with the board /allocated board representatives for an induction meeting prior to attending their first board meeting and are provided with an induction pack containing all of the key information about the work of RLRC. Trustees are encouraged to visit the projects we host to better understand the work of the organisation.

External trainers and training are sourced to support trustees on specific areas, duties and compliance. Charity commission guidance and other materials are circulated to trustees.

Trustees undertake a DBS Enhanced Check.

Real Lives Real Choices

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2024

Organisational Structure

The Board takes all strategic decisions relating to RLRC including:

- Approving and receiving reports from the Service Manager;
- Ensuring activity and performance is regularly reviewed and evaluated;- Monitoring the financial position including budget setting;
- Monitoring and reviewing policies as required;

Risk Management

Trustees review risks on an ongoing basis and in response to new areas of activity. Specific projects require their own risk sub-committee with special emphasis and duties.

Reference and Administrative Details

Registered charity name	Real Lives Real Choices
Charity registration number	1154861
Principal office	Unit D, The Old Haberdashery Shop Sacriston Enterprise Workshops Old Coop Buildings, Plawsworth Road Sacriston Durham

The Trustees

B Smith (Chairperson)
P McMahon
M Franklin
A Ratcliffe

Independent Examiner	Jane Ascroft FCA MA (Cantab) Enterprise House Harmire Enterprise Park Barnard Castle County Durham DL12 8XP
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The trustees' annual report was approved on and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

B Smith (Chairperson)
Trustee

Real Lives Real Choices

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Real Lives Real Choices

Year Ended 31 July 2024

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Real Lives Real Choices ('the charity') for the year ended 31 July 2024.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

Jane Ascroft FCA MA (Cantab)
Independent Examiner

Enterprise House
Harmire Enterprise Park
Barnard Castle
County Durham
DL12 8XP

Real Lives Real Choices

Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 July 2024

			2024		2023
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	4	1,230	40,000	41,230	60,720
Total income		<u>1,230</u>	<u>40,000</u>	<u>41,230</u>	<u>60,720</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	5,6	462	62,876	63,338	60,781
Total expenditure		<u>462</u>	<u>62,876</u>	<u>63,338</u>	<u>60,781</u>
Net expenditure and net movement in funds		<u>768</u>	<u>(22,876)</u>	<u>(22,108)</u>	<u>(61)</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		19,284	45,573	64,857	64,918
Total funds carried forward		<u>20,052</u>	<u>22,697</u>	<u>42,749</u>	<u>64,857</u>

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

The notes on pages 8 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

Real Lives Real Choices

Statement of Financial Position

31 July 2024

	Note	2024 £	2023 £
Current Assets			
Debtors	11	78	136
Cash at bank and in hand		43,331	65,381
		<u>43,409</u>	<u>65,517</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	12	660	660
Net Current Assets		<u>42,749</u>	<u>64,857</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>42,749</u>	<u>64,857</u>
Net Assets		<u>42,749</u>	<u>64,857</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Restricted funds		22,697	45,573
Unrestricted funds		20,052	19,284
Total charity funds	14	<u>42,749</u>	<u>64,857</u>

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

B Smith (Chairperson)
Trustee

The notes on pages 8 to 15 form part of these financial statements.

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 July 2024

1. General Information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a registered charity in England and Wales and is unincorporated. The address of the principal office is Unit D, Sacriston Enterprise Workshops, Plawsworth Road, Sacriston, Durham, DH7 6PD.

2. Statement of Compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

3. Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

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

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The trustees consider that there are no significant estimates or judgements affecting these financial statements.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2024

3. Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Income

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible Assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2024

3. Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Plant and machinery	- 25% straight line
Office Equipment	- 25% straight line

Impairment of Fixed Assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

Financial Instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Defined Contribution Plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2024

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Accrued income and tax recoverable is included at the best estimate of the amounts receivable at the balance sheet date.

Cash at Bank and in Hand

Cash at bank and cash 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.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Taxation

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

4. Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Donations			
Donations	1,230	–	1,230
Grants			
Durham County council	–	2,500	2,500
County Durham Community Foundation	–	15,000	15,000
PCP	–	7,500	7,500
The Fore	–	15,000	15,000
	<u>1,230</u>	<u>40,000</u>	<u>41,230</u>

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2024

4. Donations and Legacies *(continued)*

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations			
Donations	1,280	–	1,280
St Cuthberts Charity of the Year	11,940	–	11,940
Grants			
Bailey Thomas	–	15,000	15,000
County Durham Community Foundation	–	20,000	20,000
Sir James Knott Foundation	–	5,000	5,000
PCP	–	7,500	7,500
	<u>13,220</u>	<u>47,500</u>	<u>60,720</u>

5. Expenditure on Charitable Activities by Fund Type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Expenditure on charitable activities (see page 17)	<u>462</u>	<u>62,876</u>	<u>63,338</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Expenditure on charitable activities (see page 17)	<u>11,132</u>	<u>49,649</u>	<u>60,781</u>

6. Expenditure on Charitable Activities by Activity Type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Total funds 2024 £	Total fund 2023 £
Expenditure on charitable activities (see page 17)	<u>63,338</u>	<u>63,338</u>	<u>60,781</u>

7. Independent Examination Fees

	2024 £	2023 £
Fees payable to the independent examiner for:		
Independent examination of the financial statements	<u>660</u>	<u>660</u>

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2024

8. Staff Costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Wages and salaries	23,192	38,691
Employer contributions to pension plans	—	491
	<u>23,192</u>	<u>39,182</u>

The average head count of employees during the year was 2 (2023: 2). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2024	2023
	No.	No.
Number of project staff	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2023: Nil).

9. Trustee Remuneration and Expenses

No trustees received any remuneration or expenses during the year (2023 - Nil).

10. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Plant and machinery £	Office Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 August 2023 and 31 July 2024	<u>3,999</u>	<u>11,796</u>	<u>15,795</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 August 2023 and 31 July 2024	<u>3,999</u>	<u>11,796</u>	<u>15,795</u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 July 2024	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
At 31 July 2023	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>

11. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>78</u>	<u>136</u>

12. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	<u>660</u>	<u>660</u>

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2024

13. Pensions and Other Post Retirement Benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £Nil (2023: £491).

14. Analysis of Charitable Funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 August 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 July 2024 £
General funds	9,284	1,230	(462)	10,052
Working capital fund	10,000	–	–	10,000
	<u>19,284</u>	<u>1,230</u>	<u>(462)</u>	<u>20,052</u>

	At 1 August 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 July 2023 £
General funds	7,196	13,220	(11,132)	9,284
Working capital fund	10,000	–	–	10,000
	<u>17,196</u>	<u>13,220</u>	<u>(11,132)</u>	<u>19,284</u>

Restricted funds

	At 1 August 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 July 2024 £
Screwfix Foundation	5,000	–	(5,000)	–
Bailey Thomas	5,000	–	(5,000)	–
Durham County Council	–	2,500	–	2,500
National Lottery Community Foundation	9,136	–	(9,136)	–
Durham County Council - Courtyard Workshop	19,937	–	(19,937)	–
CDCF (Core)	–	5,000	(5,000)	–
CDCF PCP	6,500	–	(6,500)	–
The Fore	–	15,000	–	15,000
CDCF PCP 2	–	7,500	(5,625)	1,875
CDCF	–	10,000	(6,678)	3,322
	<u>45,573</u>	<u>40,000</u>	<u>(62,876)</u>	<u>22,697</u>

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 July 2024

14. Analysis of Charitable Funds (continued)

	At 1 August 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 July 2023 £
Screwfix Foundation	5,000	–	–	5,000
Bailey Thomas	5,000	–	–	5,000
National Lottery Community Foundation	10,000	–	(864)	9,136
Durham County Council - Courtyard Workshop	22,722	–	(2,785)	19,937
CDCF (Core)	5,000	–	(5,000)	–
CDCF ESF	–	20,000	(20,000)	–
Bailey Thomas	–	15,000	(15,000)	–
CDCF PCP	–	7,500	(1,000)	6,500
James Knott Trust	–	5,000	(5,000)	–
	<u>47,722</u>	<u>47,500</u>	<u>(49,649)</u>	<u>45,573</u>

15. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2024 £
Current assets	20,712	22,697	43,409
Creditors less than 1 year	(660)	–	(660)
Net assets	<u>20,052</u>	<u>22,697</u>	<u>42,749</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Current assets	19,944	45,573	65,517
Creditors less than 1 year	(660)	–	(660)
Net assets	<u>19,284</u>	<u>45,573</u>	<u>64,857</u>

Real Lives Real Choices

Management Information

Year Ended 31 July 2024

The Following Pages Do Not Form Part of the Financial Statements.

Real Lives Real Choices

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 July 2024

	2024 £	2023 £
Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Donations	1,230	1,280
St Cuthberts Charity of the Year	–	11,940
Bailey Thomas	–	15,000
Durham County council	2,500	–
County Durham Community Foundation	15,000	20,000
Sir James Knott Foundation	–	5,000
PCP	7,500	7,500
The Fore	15,000	–
	<u>41,230</u>	<u>60,720</u>
Total income	<u>41,230</u>	<u>60,720</u>
Expenditure		
Wages & salaries	23,192	38,691
Pension costs	–	491
Premises costs	21,987	10,375
Insurance	532	886
Accountancy and professional fees	839	966
Office costs	2,603	2,246
Materials and equipment	6,536	4,176
Travel and training	754	2,342
Other costs	6,895	608
Total expenditure	<u>63,338</u>	<u>60,781</u>
Net expenditure	<u>(22,108)</u>	<u>(61)</u>

Accounts

Real Lives Real Choices
Financial Statements
For the Year Ending
31 July 2023

JANE ASCROFT ACCOUNTANCY LIMITED

Chartered Accountants
Enterprise House
Harmire Enterprise Park
Barnard Castle
County Durham
DL12 8XT

Real Lives Real Choices

Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 July 2023

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Real Lives Real Choices

Trustees' Annual Report

Year Ended 31 July 2023

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2023.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives

To relieve the needs of people with learning disabilities, learning difficulties, autism/autism related conditions who live in the Northeast of England by assisting such persons to develop their full potential and obtain their rights and privileges, particularly, but not exclusively by providing, or assisting in the provision of, independent advocacy, support, advice, information, education and training, arts, paid and unpaid (volunteer) work, social enterprise/s.

Public Benefit

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

We believe the charity's work to be in compliance with the duty in the section of the Charity's Act 2006 to have regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

This is reviewed at appropriate intervals.

Contribution by volunteers

We continue to be supported by a small group of long-term volunteers who are essential to our work.

Real Lives Real Choices

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2023

Achievements During the Year

The Charity continues to support adults with learning disabilities. Our programmes and projects provide essential stability and consistency during times where people are experiencing reductions in services.

We continue to prioritise supporting those people who have low or no access to other services to address issues of social exclusion and isolation. We have many examples from our work of the positive benefits of inclusion and group membership in addressing isolation, loneliness, supporting resilience and mental health.

Beneficiary story: L

The group helps with my confidence. Being part of the group has helped me with my skills working in a team and helping other people. The sessions get me out the house; 'it's good craic' I get to meet and talk to different people. I enjoy what I do at RLRC because its creative and makes use of furniture instead of it going to the tip.

It means a lot to be able to bring my dog (retired assistance dog). The group makes me feel like I'm not alone, it makes me feel happy because I can come and have a chat and feels like a safe space for me.

The session leader - "she's alright !!"

Session leader comments - L attends the session with assistance from their care coordinator for transport costs. L lives independently but is socially isolated by their circumstances, needs and challenges that has made other groups and group membership problematic. The session and group membership is supported by grant funding that enables L to attend without cost and is an essential part of L's life providing focus and human contact. L is a complex character but we know greatly benefits from the group, its activities and opportunities. This has been especially important during some times of change such as a recent divorce and gender transition.

Our arts timetable has continued to gain momentum and is an important aspect of our work in supporting people with learning disabilities to experience full lives with cultural experiences and high quality creative content. Working in small groups supports the quality of the participation and the depth of learning people can experience. As a small charity with the specific focus of supporting people with learning disabilities we are able to maintain strong core values and person centred approaches. The beneficiaries we support are creating art that is exceptional and individual. Moving forward we aim to expand this area of work, support people to create exhibits and enter arts competitions.

Real Lives Real Choices

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2023

Partnership based approaches continue to be central to our approach and enable us to provide safe community based spaces and opportunities for adults with learning disabilities and complex needs.

Partnerships during this period have included NHS Services, Specialist Care Homes, Independent Sector Support provider services and individual Social Workers from adult social care teams.

Joint working arrangements; particularly in relation to support and travel enable people to overcome the barriers that may restrict their access to arts and creative spaces.

Woodshed Workshop CIC an organisation who is based within the Coop Buildings has provided both practical support and added value to our work with beneficiaries.

Also supporting the creation of additional space for sessions via an art room that increases our capacity and flexibility of timetable.

Financial Review

Sources of funds are grants via grant makers seeking to support health, wellbeing and opportunities focused on outcomes for people with learning disabilities. Significant support for our work was accessed via the County Durham Community Foundation whose organisation oversee and administer community grants from a number of sources.

Reserves Policy

Reserves held to meet fluctuations or problems in receipt of payments.

Reserves held to respond to contingencies and risks.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with charity number 1154861. It was registered with the Charity Commission on 4th December 2013 and on 1st July 2015 took over the assets and activities from the old unincorporated charity of the same name. It is controlled by its governing document.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The RLRC Trustee Board has between 3 and 12 members. Trustees are elected from the membership.

Induction and training of new trustees

New trustees meet with the board /allocated board representatives for an induction meeting prior to attending their first board meeting and are provided with an induction pack containing all of the key information about the work of RLRC. Trustees are encouraged to visit the projects we host to better understand the work of the organisation.

External trainers and training are sourced to support trustees on specific areas, duties and compliance. Charity commission guidance and other materials are circulated to trustees.

Trustees undertake a DBS Enhanced Check

Real Lives Real Choices

Trustees' Annual Report (*continued*)

Year Ended 31 July 2023

Organisational Structure

The Board takes all strategic decisions relating to RLRC including:

- Approving and receiving reports from the Service Manager;
- Ensuring activity and performance is regularly reviewed and evaluated;- Monitoring the financial position including budget setting;
- Monitoring and reviewing policies as required;

An enterprise and primary purpose trading sub-committee is going to be established to provide emphasis on the area and report back to the Board.

Risk Management

Trustees review risks on an ongoing basis and in response to new areas of activity. Specific projects require their own risk sub-committee with special emphasis and duties.

Reference and Administrative Details

Registered charity name	Real Lives Real Choices
Charity registration number	1154861
Principal office	Unit D, The Old Haberdashery Shop Sacriston Enterprise Workshops Old Coop Buildings, Plawsworth Road Sacriston Durham

The Trustees

B Smith (Co-Chairperson)
P McMahon (Co-Chairperson)
M Franklin
A Ratcliffe

Independent Examiner	Jane Ascroft FCA MA (Cantab) Enterprise House Harmire Enterprise Park Barnard Castle County Durham DL12 8XT
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The trustees' annual report was approved on 21/05/2024..... and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



B Smith (Co-Chairperson)
Trustee

Real Lives Real Choices

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Real Lives Real Choices

Year Ended 31 July 2023

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Real Lives Real Choices ('the charity') for the year ended 31 July 2023.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

Jane Ascroft FCA MA (Cantab)
Independent Examiner

Enterprise House
Harmire Enterprise Park
Barnard Castle
County Durham
DL12 8XT

Real Lives Real Choices

Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 July 2023

			2023		2022
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	4	13,220	47,500	60,720	46,112
Charitable activities	5	—	—	—	1,641
Total income		<u>13,220</u>	<u>47,500</u>	<u>60,720</u>	<u>47,753</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	6,7	11,132	49,649	60,781	61,390
Total expenditure		<u>11,132</u>	<u>49,649</u>	<u>60,781</u>	<u>61,390</u>
Net expenditure and net movement in funds		<u>2,088</u>	<u>(2,149)</u>	<u>(61)</u>	<u>(13,637)</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		17,196	47,722	64,918	78,555
Total funds carried forward		<u>19,284</u>	<u>45,573</u>	<u>64,857</u>	<u>64,918</u>

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

The notes on pages 8 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

Real Lives Real Choices

Statement of Financial Position

31 July 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Current Assets			
Debtors	12	136	134
Cash at bank and in hand		65,381	67,264
		<u>65,517</u>	<u>67,398</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	660	2,480
Net Current Assets		<u>64,857</u>	<u>64,918</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>64,857</u>	<u>64,918</u>
Net Assets		<u>64,857</u>	<u>64,918</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Restricted funds		45,573	47,722
Unrestricted funds		19,284	17,196
Total charity funds	15	<u>64,857</u>	<u>64,918</u>

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 21/05/2024., and are signed on behalf of the board by:



B Smith (Co-Chairperson)
Trustee

The notes on pages 8 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 July 2023

1. General Information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a registered charity in England and Wales and is unincorporated. The address of the principal office is Unit D, Sacriston Enterprise Workshops, Plawsworth Road, Sacriston, Durham, DH7 6PD.

2. Statement of Compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

3. Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

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

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The trustees consider that there are no significant estimates or judgements affecting these financial statements.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2023

3. Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Income

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible Assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2023

3. Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Plant and machinery	- 25% straight line
Office Equipment	- 25% straight line

Impairment of Fixed Assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

Financial Instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Defined Contribution Plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2023

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Accrued income and tax recoverable is included at the best estimate of the amounts receivable at the balance sheet date.

Cash at Bank and in Hand

Cash at bank and cash 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.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Taxation

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

4. Donations and Legacies

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Donations			
General donations	1,280	—	1,280
Donations - St Cuthberts Charity of the year	11,940	—	11,940
Grants			
Baily Thomas	—	15,000	15,000
Durham County council	—	—	—
County Durham Community Foundation	—	20,000	20,000
Sir James Knott Foundation	—	5,000	5,000
Pioneering Care Partnership	—	7,500	7,500
	<u>13,220</u>	<u>47,500</u>	<u>60,720</u>

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 July 2023

4. Donations and Legacies (continued)

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Grants			
Durham County council	–	25,521	25,521
County Durham Community Foundation	–	9,991	9,991
Bernica Foundation	–	600	600
National Lottery Community Foundation	–	10,000	10,000
	<u>–</u>	<u>46,112</u>	<u>46,112</u>

5. Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Trading income	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>1,641</u>	<u>1,641</u>

6. Expenditure on Charitable Activities by Fund Type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Charitable activities (see page 18)	<u>11,132</u>	<u>49,649</u>	<u>60,781</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Charitable activities (see page 18)	<u>–</u>	<u>61,390</u>	<u>61,390</u>

7. Expenditure on Charitable Activities by Activity Type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Total funds 2023 £	Total fund 2022 £
Charitable activities (see page 18)	<u>60,781</u>	<u>60,781</u>	<u>61,390</u>

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 July 2023

8. Independent Examination Fees

	2023 £	2022 £
Fees payable to the independent examiner for: Independent examination of the financial statements	660	600

9. Staff Costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	38,691	38,518
Employer contributions to pension plans	491	181
	39,182	38,699

The average head count of employees during the year was 2 (2022: 2). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2023 No.	2022 No.
Number of project staff	2	2

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2022: Nil).

10. Trustee Remuneration and Expenses

No trustees received any remuneration or expenses during the year (2022 - Nil).

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Plant and machinery £	Office Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 August 2022 and 31 July 2023	3,999	11,796	15,795
Depreciation			
At 1 August 2022 and 31 July 2023	3,999	11,796	15,795
Carrying amount			
At 31 July 2023	—	—	—
At 31 July 2022	—	—	—

12. Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Prepayments and accrued income	136	134

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2023

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	660	1,200
Social security and other taxes	—	1,231
Other creditors	—	49
	<u>660</u>	<u>2,480</u>

14. Pensions and Other Post Retirement Benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £491 (2022: £181).

15. Analysis of Charitable Funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 August 2022	Income	Expenditure	At 31 July 2023
	£	£	£	£
General funds	7,196	13,220	(11,132)	9,284
Working capital fund	10,000	—	—	10,000
	<u>17,196</u>	<u>13,220</u>	<u>(11,132)</u>	<u>19,284</u>

	At 1 August 2021	Income	Expenditure	At 31 July 2022
	£	£	£	£
General funds	5,555	1,641	—	7,196
Working capital fund	10,000	—	—	10,000
	<u>15,555</u>	<u>1,641</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>17,196</u>

A separate fund has been designated to cover the costs of redundancies (redundancy fund).

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 July 2023

15. Analysis of Charitable Funds (continued)

Restricted funds

	At 1 August 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 July 2023 £
Screwfix Foundation	5,000	–	–	5,000
Bailey Thomas	5,000	–	–	5,000
National Lottery Community Foundation	10,000	–	(864)	9,136
Durham County Council - Courtyard Workshop	22,722	–	(2,785)	19,937
CDCF (Core)	5,000	–	(5,000)	–
CDCF (ESF)	–	20,000	(20,000)	–
Baily Thomas	–	15,000	(15,000)	–
Pioneering Care Partnership	–	7,500	(1,000)	6,500
Sir James Knott Foundation	–	5,000	(5,000)	–
	<u>47,722</u>	<u>47,500</u>	<u>(49,649)</u>	<u>45,573</u>

	At 1 August 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 July 2022 £
Screwfix Foundation	5,000	–	–	5,000
Bailey Thomas	5,000	–	–	5,000
National Lottery Community Foundation	–	10,000	–	10,000
Durham County Council - Heating grant	–	2,074	(2,074)	–
Durham County Council - Courtyard Workshop	–	23,447	(725)	22,722
Bernica Foundation (Individual Support)	–	600	(600)	–
Bernica Foundation (Positive Choices)	10,000	–	(10,000)	–
CDCF (NHS Community Connector)	25,000	–	(25,000)	–
CDCF (Winter resilience)	13,500	–	(13,500)	–
CDCF (Employability)	4,500	–	(4,500)	–
CDCF (Core)	–	5,000	–	5,000
CDCF (Arts & Culture)	–	4,991	(4,991)	–
	<u>63,000</u>	<u>46,112</u>	<u>(61,390)</u>	<u>47,722</u>

The restricted grants are for the following purposes:

County Durham Community Foundation - Courses to support the personal progression;
and skills building of adults with learning disabilities

Bailey Thomas - project costs The Co-operative Creatives;

Pioneering Care Partnership - project costs Happiness Hub;

Sir James Knott - Core Costs ;

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2023

16. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2023 £
Current assets	19,944	45,573	65,517
Creditors less than 1 year	(660)	—	(660)
Net assets	<u>19,284</u>	<u>45,573</u>	<u>64,857</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Current assets	19,676	47,722	67,398
Creditors less than 1 year	(2,480)	—	(2,480)
Net assets	<u>17,196</u>	<u>47,722</u>	<u>64,918</u>

Real Lives Real Choices

Management Information

Year Ended 31 July 2023

The Following Pages Do Not Form Part of the Financial Statements.

Real Lives Real Choices

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 July 2023

	2023 £	2022 £
Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
General donations	1,280	—
Donations - St Cuthberts Charity of the year	11,940	—
Baily Thomas	15,000	—
Durham County council	—	25,521
County Durham Community Foundation	20,000	9,991
Sir James Knott Foundation	5,000	—
Bernica Foundation	—	600
National Lottery Community Foundation	—	10,000
Pioneering Care Partnership	7,500	—
	<u>60,720</u>	<u>46,112</u>
Charitable activities		
Trading income	—	1,641
	<u>—</u>	<u>1,641</u>
Total income	<u>60,720</u>	<u>47,753</u>
Expenditure		
Wages & salaries	38,691	38,518
Pension costs	491	181
Premises costs	10,375	9,280
Insurance	886	478
Accountancy and professional fees	966	2,967
Office costs	2,246	1,746
Materials and equipment	4,176	5,734
Travel and training	2,342	2,066
Other costs	608	420
Total expenditure	<u>60,781</u>	<u>61,390</u>
Net expenditure	<u>(61)</u>	<u>(13,637)</u>



Annual Impact Report

2022 - 2023

PLACES
FOR
PEOPLE

Real Lives: Real Choices

Registered Charity: 1154861

Everyone deserves a place to *feel safe*

Our work brings many practical and values base challenges. Including challenging the inequalities and barriers people with learning disabilities face. RLRC remains committed to providing spaces and places for people to grow and develop across their lives.

Our Vision

Our vision is for every person we support to live a life they enjoy, that is creative and meaningful to them at every stage



Everyone
deserves a
place to
feel included

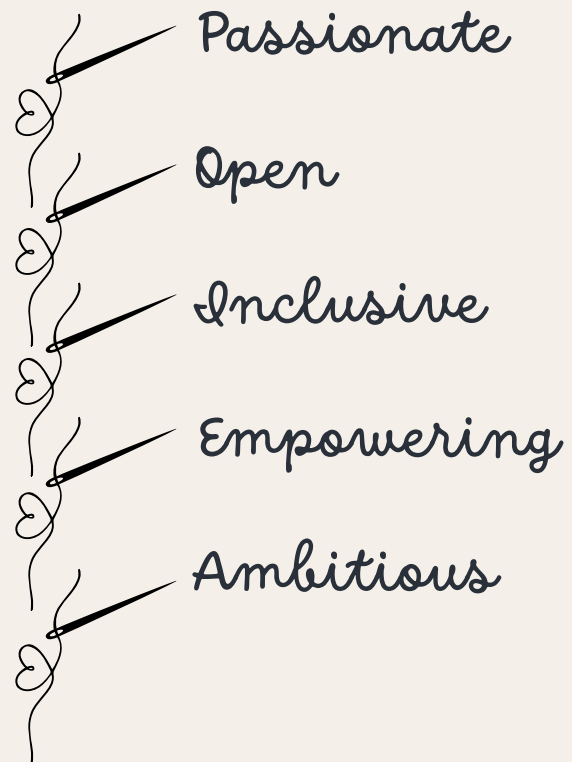
Our Mission

To support and empower individuals with learning disabilities through the provision of creative person centred support, whilst promoting training, wellbeing, inclusion, acceptance and community connections



Everyone
deserves a
place to
feel connected

Our Values



Everyone deserves a place to feel creative



Our Creative Lead Beth
designs and delivers
challenging creative
and arts based content
for our programme
timetable



Everyone deserves a place to feel creative



Our up-cycling project
RecycLD provides lifelong
learning & skills
development opportunities
for adults from all areas of
County Durham.

The opportunity to continue
to develop skills builds
resilience and transferable
skills whilst also
supporting mental health,
reducing isolation and
providing important
community & social
connections.



Partnerships



From dark & unwelcoming to quirky and flexible!
Working collaboratively with
Woodshed Workshop CIC we have created new
spaces for creativity at our base in
The Old Coop Buildings

"We need people to imagine what it would feel like to live a life without creativity, connections and community. That's the reality facing thousands of people with learning disabilities in our region."

Alison Russell
Senior Tutor / Coordinator



Engagement & retention on programme timetable for up to one year +



Satisfaction with quality & content of creative timetable



Satisfaction with personal progress & achievements

Projects

Details

Outcomes

Arts & Creativity



High quality learning experiences, techniques and methods delivered in small groups for greatest impact

- Improved mental health, resilience, confidence & wellbeing
- Self esteem, personal achievements & pride

Cooperative Creatives



Multi-faceted timetable of making content including upcycling & furniture restoration

- Community Connections
- Creativity Skills
- Team Skills
- Communication Skills

Employability Programmes



Developing skills for life, work & personal progress

- Confidence Building
- Transferable Skills
- Employability & Soft Skills





The year in review

The pace and approach of this year has had an emphasis on rebuilding participants confidence following the previous years of lockdown with its associated isolation, loneliness and mental health challenges. The opportunity of working in small groups enables us to provide personalised confidence building and learning to help individuals become part of something bigger than just their home life, or personal circumstances at a pace they find manageable.

This year saw the end of Hannah Foulds time with the charity, she has moved on to a new challenge developing her personal professional progression. This is in keeping with the charities ethos and building on the training and support she received while at the charity. We thank her for the impact she has made on the participants personal progress and wish her well for the future. Hannah left a legacy of working practice within our arts based offer that elevated the skill levels of participants by focusing on individual personal artistic strengths, developing strategies to build arts skills, technique and individual style.

The artwork produced is of a quality and to an artistically recognised level with the regional art community. Continuing this approach is central to our strategy moving forward to empower participants.

Beth Young made a seamless transition from a neighbouring charitable organisation bringing with her a background in textile art, costume and prop design.

She hopes to build on and extend the range of creative learning activities offered by the charity.

None of our work would be possible without the generous support of our funders. This included funding to develop employability training and support seventeen participants via The European Social Fund, administered by County Durham Community Foundation.

Funding from the Happiness Hub via Pioneering Care Partnership allows us to continue our art offer.

Funding from Sir James Knott Trust contributed to core costs.

We were thrilled to be selected as charity of the year by St Cuthbert's, Durham University Students who held a fashion show and donated the proceeds to our charity.

Brian Smith

Co-Chair

Real Lives: Real Choices

Finances

FINANCIAL YEAR END 31ST JULY 2023

INCOME:

£60,720

EXPENDITURE:

£60,781

EXPENDITURE

SALARIES & WAGES	£38,961
PREMISES COSTS	£10,375
MATERIALS & EQUIP	£4,176
TRAVEL & TRAINING	£2,342
OFFICE COSTS	£2,246
ACCOUNTANCY & FEES	£966
INSURANCE	£886
OTHER COSTS	£608
PENSION COSTS	£491



Funding Summary

£13,220

Donations

£47,500

Grants



CONNECTIONS



CREATIVITY



COMMUNITY



SIR JAMES KNOTT TRUST



The support of grant funding is essential to our offer & enables us to overcome financial and practical barriers to inclusion faced by people with learning disabilities

We'd like to thank all our funders & partners for their *amazing support*



Acknowledgements

Maintaining our offer for people with learning disabilities is reliant on strong relationships with funders and partners who understand and support our approaches. We are grateful for their ongoing support in being a movement for change in the opportunities and life chances of people with learning disabilities.

Small numbers = sustained impact

Trauma Informed

Asset Based

Co-Produced

Evidence Based Practice

Accounts

Real Lives Real Choices
Financial Statements
For the Year Ending
31 July 2022

JANE ASCROFT ACCOUNTANCY LIMITED

Chartered Accountants
Enterprise House
Harmire Enterprise Park
Barnard Castle
County Durham
DL12 8XP

Real Lives Real Choices

Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 July 2022

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Real Lives Real Choices

Trustees' Annual Report

Year Ended 31 July 2022

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2022.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives

To relieve the needs of people with learning disabilities, learning difficulties, autism/autism related conditions who live in the North East of England by assisting such persons to develop their full potential and obtain their rights and privileges, particularly, but not exclusively by providing, or assisting in the provision of, independent advocacy, support, advice, information, education and training, arts, paid and unpaid volunteer work, social enterprise/s.

Public Benefit

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

We believe the charity's work to be in compliance with the duty in the section of the Charity's Act 2006 to have regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

This is reviewed at appropriate intervals.

Contribution by volunteers

We continue to be supported by a small group of long-term volunteers who are essential to our work.

Real Lives Real Choices

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2022

Achievements During the Year

During this period the Charity continued to support adults with learning disabilities, their families and carers within the ongoing recovery and return back to direct service delivery, being a member of a group and group membership. The positive benefits of inclusion and group membership in addressing isolation and loneliness have been demonstrated within the beneficiaries we support and are an important aspect of our programmes and timetable.

Partnership working with other agencies was central to the approach in order to reach those with the highest needs and ensure support was in place; in particular in relation to health, wellbeing and maintaining social connections.

People with learning disabilities are still deeply impacted by the ongoing effects of the restrictions and have required creative responses that could be flexible to their needs. In response the organisation has adapted and created content that could be delivered in new ways and within a different timetabling approach in order to work in a cost effective way and offer more spaces. This also fed to new ways of working once face-to-face support started again by incorporating some of the positive elements learnt from the distance support delivery e.g., using video link instead of just telephoning to improve communication for some individuals.

We continue to prioritise supporting those people who do not participate in other services due to social exclusion and isolation. This includes individuals who require more tailored support due to long term or historical problematic issues around interaction with others.

We have worked closely with other organisations also based within the Sacristan Enterprise Workshops site, introducing the groups to people with learning disabilities. This has developed partnership working and skills sharing with other organisations including the social enterprise Woodshed which recycles old wood into items which our groups can then work with creatively to create high quality items. Some of our group participants are now also availing themselves of additional support at Woodshed to to supplement their training and development progression, including one of our co-chairs.

Hannah, an artist who works for the charity has expanded and developed partnership opportunities with established respected art institutions, including Newcastle Arts Centre and Bowes Museum and Art Gallery.

This has included giving individual support for people to access arts and culture in a participatory manner, entering open art competitions and exhibitions including displaying their work alongside classic works of art in a public arena.

Partnership working with Tin-Arts has used movement and dance to support physical health alongside improved mental health well-being for our participants.

Durham County Council gave an investment grant to improve the heating within the workshop. Core costs were supported by a grant administered by County Durham Foundation, this funding is helping to support and maintain the sustainability of the charity.

Real Lives Real Choices

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2022

Financial Review

Main sources of funds are grants via funders seeking to support health, wellbeing and opportunities focused on outcomes for people with learning disabilities.

Reserves Policy

Reserves are held to meet fluctuations or problems in receipt of payments and to respond to contingencies and risks. At 31st July 2022 reserves totalled £7,196.

A separate fund of £10,000 has been designated to cover working capital requirements.

Important partnerships during this period have included NHS Services, Specialist Care Homes, Wood-Shed, Newcastle Arts Centre, Bowes Museum and Art Gallery, Durham County Council, County Durham Foundation, Tin-Arts, Sacristan Enterprise Workshops, Independent Sector Support provider services and workers that could support our connection with individuals living at home and with family carers.

We have greatly valued the honest conversations and flexibility of approach with key grant funders that has enabled us to be responsive and individualised in our support of people with learning disabilities.

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with charity number 1154861. It was registered with the Charity Commission on 4th December 2013 and on 1st July 2015 took over the assets and activities from the old unincorporated charity of the same name. It is controlled by its governing document.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The RLRC Trustee Board has between 3 and 12 members. Trustees are elected from the membership.

Induction and training of new trustees

New trustees meet with the board /allocated board representatives for an induction meeting prior to attending their first board meeting and are provided with an induction pack containing all of the key information about the work of RLRC. Trustees are encouraged to visit the projects we host to better understand the work of the organisation.

External trainers and training are sourced to support trustees on specific areas, duties and compliance. Charity commission guidance and other materials are circulated to trustees.

Trustees undertake a DBS Enhanced Check

Real Lives Real Choices

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2022

Organisational Structure

The Board takes all strategic decisions relating to RLRC including:

- Approving and receiving reports from the Service Manager;
- Ensuring activity and performance is regularly reviewed and evaluated;- Monitoring the financial position including budget setting;
- Monitoring and reviewing policies as required;

An enterprise and primary purpose trading sub-committee is going to be established to provide emphasis on the area and report back to the Board.

Risk Management

Trustees review risks on an ongoing basis and in response to new areas of activity. Specific projects require their own risk sub-committee with special emphasis and duties.

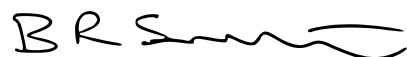
Reference and Administrative Details

Registered charity name	Real Lives Real Choices
Charity registration number	1154861
Principal office	Unit D, The Old Haberdashery Shop Sacriston Enterprise Workshops Old Coop Buildings, Plawsworth Road Sacriston Durham

The Trustees

	B Smith (Co-Chairperson)	
	P McMahon (Co-Chairperson)	
	M Franklin	
	A Ratcliffe	
	C Clifford (Treasurer)	(Resigned 12 February 2022)
Independent Examiner	Jane Ascroft FCA MA (Cantab)	
	Enterprise House	
	Harmire Enterprise Park	
	Barnard Castle	
	County Durham	
	DL12 8XP	

The trustees' annual report was approved on ..24./5./2023:..... and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:



B Smith (Co-Chairperson)
Trustee

Real Lives Real Choices

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Real Lives Real Choices

Year Ended 31 July 2022

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Real Lives Real Choices ('the charity') for the year ended 31 July 2022.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

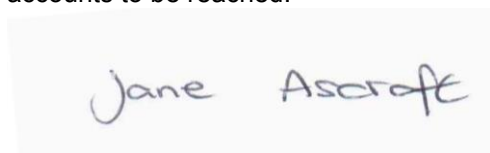
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.



Jane Ascroft FCA MA (Cantab)
Independent Examiner

Enterprise House
Harmire Enterprise Park
Barnard Castle
County Durham
DL12 8XP

Real Lives Real Choices

Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 July 2022

			2022		2021
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	4	–	46,112	46,112	68,836
Charitable activities	5	1,641	–	1,641	1,135
Total income		<u>1,641</u>	<u>46,112</u>	<u>47,753</u>	<u>69,971</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	6,7	–	61,390	61,390	54,606
Total expenditure		<u>–</u>	<u>61,390</u>	<u>61,390</u>	<u>54,606</u>
Net (expenditure)/income and net movement in funds		<u>1,641</u>	<u>(15,278)</u>	<u>(13,637)</u>	<u>15,365</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		15,555	63,000	78,555	63,190
Total funds carried forward		<u>17,196</u>	<u>47,722</u>	<u>64,918</u>	<u>78,555</u>

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

The notes on pages 8 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

Real Lives Real Choices

Statement of Financial Position

31 July 2022

	Note	2022 £	2021 £
Current Assets			
Debtors	12	134	136
Cash at bank and in hand		67,264	85,519
		<u>67,398</u>	<u>85,655</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	2,480	7,100
Net Current Assets		<u>64,918</u>	<u>78,555</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>64,918</u>	<u>78,555</u>
Net Assets		<u>64,918</u>	<u>78,555</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Restricted funds		47,722	63,000
Unrestricted funds		17,196	15,555
Total charity funds	15	<u>64,918</u>	<u>78,555</u>

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on 24/5/2023, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

P McMahon (Co-Chairperson)
Trustee

paul mcMahon

B R Smith

P McMahon (Co-Chairperson)
Trustee

The notes on pages 8 to 16 form part of these financial statements.

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 July 2022

1. General Information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a registered charity in England and Wales and is unincorporated. The address of the principal office is Unit D, Sacriston Enterprise Workshops, Plawsworth Road, Sacriston, Durham, DH7 6PD.

2. Statement of Compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

3. Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

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

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The trustees consider that there are no significant estimates or judgements affecting these financial statements.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2022

3. Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Income

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible Assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2022

3. Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Plant and machinery	- 25% straight line
Office Equipment	- 25% straight line

Impairment of Fixed Assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

Financial Instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Defined Contribution Plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2022

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Accrued income and tax recoverable is included at the best estimate of the amounts receivable at the balance sheet date.

Cash at Bank and in Hand

Cash at bank and cash 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.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Taxation

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

4. Donations and Legacies

	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Grants				
Durham County council	25,521	25,521	12,336	12,336
County Durham Community Foundation	9,991	9,991	21,500	21,500
Bernica Foundation	600	600	10,000	10,000
NHS Connector	—	—	25,000	25,000
National Lottery Community Foundation	10,000	10,000	—	—
	<u>46,112</u>	<u>46,112</u>	<u>68,836</u>	<u>68,836</u>

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2022

5. Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2022	Unrestricted Funds	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£	£
Trading income	1,641	1,641	635	635
Other fees	—	—	500	500
	<u>1,641</u>	<u>1,641</u>	<u>1,135</u>	<u>1,135</u>

6. Expenditure on Charitable Activities by Fund Type

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2022
	£	£	£
Charitable activities (see page 18)	<u>—</u>	<u>61,390</u>	<u>61,390</u>

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2021
	£	£	£
Charitable activities (see page 18)	<u>3,770</u>	<u>50,836</u>	<u>54,606</u>

7. Expenditure on Charitable Activities by Activity Type

	Activities undertaken directly	Total funds 2022	Total fund 2021
	£	£	£
Charitable activities (see page 18)	<u>61,390</u>	<u>61,390</u>	<u>54,606</u>

8. Independent Examination Fees

	2022 £	2021 £
Fees payable to the independent examiner for: Independent examination of the financial statements	<u>600</u>	<u>600</u>

9. Staff Costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	33,118	11,493
Employer contributions to pension plans	71	59
Redundancy costs	—	12,822
	<u>33,189</u>	<u>24,374</u>

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 July 2022

The average head count of employees during the year was 2 (2021: 2). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2022	2021
	No.	No.
Number of project staff	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2021: Nil).

10. Trustee Remuneration and Expenses

No trustees received any remuneration or expenses during the year (2021 - Nil).

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Plant and machinery £	Office Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 August 2021 and 31 July 2022	<u>3,999</u>	<u>11,796</u>	<u>15,795</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 August 2021 and 31 July 2022	<u>3,999</u>	<u>11,796</u>	<u>15,795</u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 July 2022	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
At 31 July 2021	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>

12. Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>134</u>	<u>136</u>

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Accruals and deferred income	1,200	600
Social security and other taxes	1,231	1,438
Wages Creditor	—	4,896
Other creditors	49	166
	<u>2,480</u>	<u>7,100</u>

14. Pensions and Other Post Retirement Benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £181 (2021: £71).

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2022

15. Analysis of Charitable Funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 August 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 July 2022 £
General funds	5,555	1,641	–	7,196
Working capital fund	10,000	–	–	10,000
	<u>15,555</u>	<u>1,641</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>17,196</u>

	At 1 August 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 July 2021 £
General funds	8,190	1,135	(3,770)	5,555
Working capital fund	10,000	–	–	10,000
	<u>18,190</u>	<u>1,135</u>	<u>(3,770)</u>	<u>15,555</u>

A separate fund has been designated to cover the costs of redundancies (redundancy fund).

Restricted funds

	At 1 August 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 July 2022 £
Screwfix Foundation	5,000	–	–	5,000
Bailey Thomas	5,000	–	–	5,000
National Lottery Community Foundation	–	10,000	–	10,000
Durham County Council - Heating grant	–	2,074	(2,074)	–
Durham County Council - Courtyard Workshop	–	23,447	(725)	22,722
Bernica Foundation (Individual Support)	–	600	(600)	–
Bernica Foundation (Positive Choices)	10,000	–	(10,000)	–
CDCF (NHS Community Connector)	25,000	–	(25,000)	–
CDCF (Winter resilience)	13,500	–	(13,500)	–
CDCF (Employability)	4,500	–	(4,500)	–
CDCF (Core)	–	5,000	–	5,000
CDCF (Arts & Culture)	–	4,991	(4,991)	–
	<u>63,000</u>	<u>46,112</u>	<u>(61,390)</u>	<u>47,722</u>

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2022

15. Analysis of Charitable Funds *(continued)*

	At 1 August 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	At 31 July 2021 £
Screwfix Foundation	5,000	–	–	5,000
Bailey Thomas	20,000	–	(15,000)	5,000
Durham County Council	10,000	12,336	(22,336)	–
County Durham Community Foundation	10,000	46,500	(13,500)	43,000
Bernicia Foundation (Positive Choices)	–	10,000	–	10,000
	<u>45,000</u>	<u>68,836</u>	<u>(50,836)</u>	<u>63,000</u>

The restricted grants are for the following purposes:

Screwfix Foundation and Bailey Thomas - Workshop renovations

Bernicia Foundation - £10,000 for staffing for the Positive Choices Project and £600 for individual support.

Durham County Council - £2,074 towards the new heating system and £23,447 towards workshop renovations and staffing costs.

County Durham Community Foundation - £13,500 for winter resilience, £4,500 for employability, £25,000 of NHS Community Connector funding towards staffing and overheads, £5,000 core costs and £4,991 for the Arts & Culture project.

National Lottery Community Foundation - £10,000 towards the Articipants project.

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2022

16. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2022 £
Current assets	19,676	47,722	67,398
Creditors less than 1 year	(2,480)	—	(2,480)
Net assets	<u>17,196</u>	<u>47,722</u>	<u>64,918</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Current assets	22,655	63,000	85,655
Creditors less than 1 year	(7,100)	—	(7,100)
Net assets	<u>15,555</u>	<u>63,000</u>	<u>78,555</u>

Real Lives Real Choices

Management Information

Year Ended 31 July 2022

The Following Pages Do Not Form Part of the Financial Statements.

Real Lives Real Choices

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 July 2022

	2022 £	2021 £
Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Durham County council	25,521	12,336
County Durham Community Foundation	9,991	21,500
Bernica Foundation	600	10,000
NHS Connector	—	25,000
National Lottery Community Foundation	10,000	—
	<u>46,112</u>	<u>68,836</u>
Charitable activities		
Trading income	1,641	635
Other fees	—	500
	<u>1,641</u>	<u>1,135</u>
Total income	<u>47,753</u>	<u>69,971</u>
Expenditure		
Wages & salaries	38,518	33,118
Pension costs	181	71
Premises costs	9,280	3,730
Insurance	478	868
Accountancy and professional fees	2,967	2,496
Office costs	1,746	943
Materials and equipment	5,734	11,748
Travel and training	2,066	1,083
Other costs	420	549
Total expenditure	<u>61,390</u>	<u>54,606</u>
Net (expenditure)/income	<u>(13,637)</u>	<u>15,365</u>

IMPACT REPORT 2021 / 2022



A message from the team

We are happy to report a year of exceptional outcomes supporting individuals in achieving life skills, employability skills and creative skills. These provide strong foundations for personal growth and learning. Within the spaces at Sacriston Enterprise Workshops we have established a safe and creative space in which we hope to grow and expand going forward.

A year with unique challenges

As an organisation we continue our commitment to supporting some of the most vulnerable and excluded individuals within County Durham. We have overcome challenges and supported individuals to experience life-long learning opportunities that are transformative and aspirational in nature. Our core values and creative approaches have consistently provided a safe and inclusive space through exceptionally challenging times.

IMPACT SNAPSHOT

Life Skills

Mental Health & Wellbeing

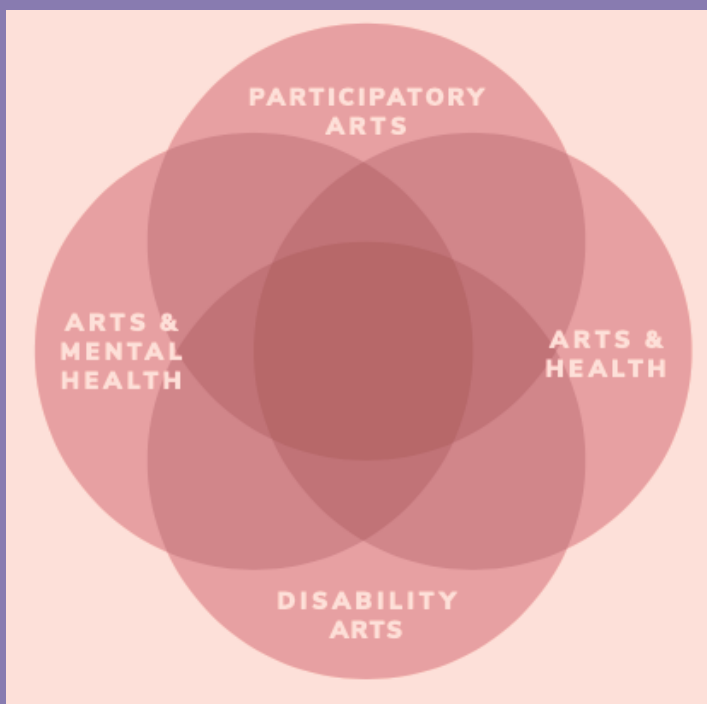
Creativity

Aspirations



**A year of
outstanding
creativity.....**

**Our projects and
activities have at their
core the arts and
creativity as the vehicle
to support our aim of
enabling people in
achieving positive
outcomes that are
supportive of their health,
happiness
well-being and inclusion**



PROJECTS

DETAILS

OUTCOMES

Arts, Creativity & Culture

Supporting access
to high quality arts
and cultural
activities

- 100% increase in participation in arts access and accessing cultural venues
- Sustained access and participation in arts-based activities

Health & Wellbeing

Supporting access
to activities and
sessions for mental
and physical health

- 100% ratings in personal health & wellbeing outcomes recorded.

Employability Skills, Skills for Life & Life-long Learning

Designing &
delivering learning
programmes
tailored to learners
with multiple
barriers

- 96% Satisfaction with personal outcomes achieved

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Our work is not possible without partnership working with
local agencies and without the support of key funders



County Durham
Community Foundation



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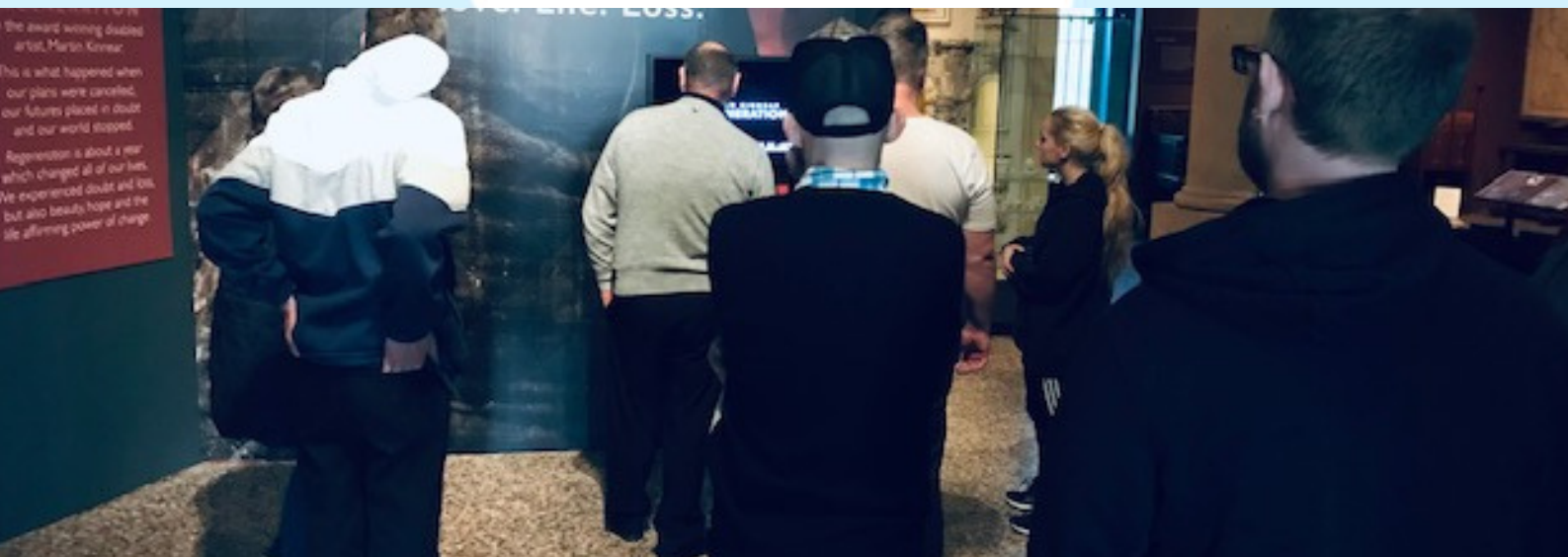
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Accounts

Real Lives Real Choices
Financial Statements
For the Year Ending
31 July 2021

JANE ASCROFT ACCOUNTANCY LIMITED

Chartered Accountants
Enterprise House
Harmire Enterprise Park
Barnard Castle
County Durham
DL12 8XP

Real Lives Real Choices

Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 July 2021

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Real Lives Real Choices

Trustees' Annual Report

Year Ended 31 July 2021

The trustees present their report and the unaudited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 July 2021.

Objectives and Activities

Objectives

To relieve the needs of people with learning disabilities, learning difficulties, autism/autism related conditions who live in the North East of England by assisting such persons to develop their full potential and obtain their rights and privileges, particularly, but not exclusively by providing, or assisting in the provision of, independent advocacy, support, advice, information, education and training, arts, paid and unpaid volunteer work, social enterprise/s.

Public Benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charity should undertake. We believe the charity's work to be in compliance with the duty in the section of the Charity's Act 2006 to have regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission. This is reviewed at appropriate intervals.

Contribution by volunteers

We continue to be supported by a small group of long-term volunteers who are essential to our work.

Volunteers supported the collating and distribution of creative care packages, including commitment to weekly packaging within the themes and a home delivery service to numerous areas of County Durham.

Real Lives Real Choices

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2021

Update on how the pandemic affected our operations, ongoing impact, and strategic changes as a result:

The pandemic in the first stages severely impacted our ability to apply for grant funding as many funders changed priorities and shifted focus. Our beneficiaries still needed support and their needs were being exacerbated by the impact of the restrictions. We saw a huge increase in issues and deterioration in the mental health and wellbeing of the adults with learning disabilities we support.

Our core team converted our offer and increased the art and creativity aspect; which is research and evidence based as beneficial in supporting health and wellbeing. We designed and created care packages and delivered sessions in alternative ways. The outreach work we completed was locally recognised as good practice and an essential support service that complimented and assisted the essential services and statutory service provision locally.

We continue to see changes in our user groups since the pandemic.

As we continue the recovery process from Covid-19, we are experiencing higher numbers of users, an increase of people who need our services for the first time and higher levels of need within existing participants.

Having increased demand from participants, seeing an increase in users and the need for additional resources adds to the pressures on the organisation within an existing high pressure environment where small organisations are competing for the grant funding available. This is being made even harder with the increased costs associated with inflation, energy prices and the cost-of-living crisis in general.

We know and understand the need in our user group, we have gathered the views of those we support and have asked the best way of meeting their needs. We have consulted with professionals and are clear on how important the support we provide is for people with the most complex needs locally who need our level of support in the first instance and at crisis points to then move on to other services. Strategically we are expanding the arts, creativity, cultural and inclusion aspects of our offer and services in line with the direction we are seeing funders taking and the ways we know we can use these themes to support adults with learning disabilities to achieve better lives and personal outcomes.

Real Lives Real Choices

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2021

Achievements During the Year

During this period the Charity continued to support adults with learning disabilities, their families and carers within the on-going restrictions and guidelines relating to Covid-19.

Partnership working with other agencies was central to the approach in order to reach those with the highest needs and ensure support was in place; in particular in relation to health, wellbeing and maintaining connections.

People with learning disabilities were deeply impacted and required responses that could be flexible to their needs. In response the organisation converted and created content that could be delivered via creative care packages and a combination of group, collective and 1:1 support; including video calls, online based sessions, telephone support and packages when face-to-face support was not possible.

Face-to-face sessions returned once the restrictions were lifted with smaller group sizes, timetabling in 'bubbles' and working arrangements to support safer ways of working.

The Charity delivered a programme funded via European Social Fund for a group of individuals developing skills for life and work;

The Charity delivered a programme targeted providing groups and support via funding specifically for 'Women and Girls'

The 'Wellsolate & Create' project distributing creativity packs with themes and techniques that included - working with clay, tattoo art, glass painting, tattoo art, metal embossing, decoupage, tabletop woodwork and making skills.

Financial Review

Main sources of funds are grants via funders seeking to support health, wellbeing and opportunities focused on outcomes for people with learning disabilities. Key themes include life skills, personal progression, life-long learning and progressing towards employment options.

Reserves Policy

Reserves are held to meet fluctuations or problems in receipt of payments and to respond to contingencies and risks. At 31st July 2021 reserves totalled £5,555.

A separate fund of £10,000 has been designated to cover working capital requirements.

Important partnerships during this period have included NHS Services, Specialist Care Homes, Independent Sector Support provider services and workers that could support our connection with individuals living at home and with family carers.

We have greatly valued the honest conversations and flexibility of approach with key grant funders that has enabled us to be responsive and individualised in our support of people with learning disabilities.

Real Lives Real Choices

Trustees' Annual Report *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2021

Structure, Governance and Management

The charity is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) with charity number 1154861. It was registered with the Charity Commission on 4th December 2013 and on 1st July 2015 took over the assets and activities from the old unincorporated charity of the same name. It is controlled by its governing document.

Recruitment and appointment of new trustees

The RLRC Trustee Board has between 3 and 12 members. Trustees are elected from the membership.

Induction and training of new trustees

New trustees meet with the board /allocated board representatives for an induction meeting prior to attending their first board meeting and are provided with an induction pack containing all of the key information about the work of RLRC. Trustees are encouraged to visit the projects we host to better understand the work of the organisation. External trainers and training is sourced to support trustees on specific areas, duties and compliance. Charity Commission guidance and other materials are circulated to trustees. Trustees undertake a DBS Enhanced Check.

Organisational Structure

The Board takes all strategic decisions relating to RLRC including:

- Approving and receiving reports from the Service Manager;
- Ensuring activity and performance is regularly reviewed and evaluated;- Monitoring the financial position including budget setting;
- Monitoring and reviewing policies as required;

An enterprise and primary purpose trading sub-committee is going to be established to provide emphasis on the area and report back to the Board.

Risk Management

Trustees review risks on an ongoing basis and in response to new areas of activity. Specific projects require their own risk sub-committee with special emphasis and duties.

Real Lives Real Choices

Trustees' Annual Report (*continued*)

Year Ended 31 July 2021

Reference and Administrative Details

Registered charity name Real Lives Real Choices

Charity registration number 1154861

Principal office

The Trustees

B Smith (Co-Chairperson)
P McMahon (Co-Chairperson)
M Franklin
A Ratcliffe
C Clifford (Treasurer)

Independent Examiner Jane Ascroft FCA MA (Cantab)
Enterprise House
Harmire Enterprise Park
Barnard Castle
County Durham
DL12 8XP

The trustees' annual report was approved on and signed on behalf of the board of trustees by:

B Smith (Co-Chairperson)
Trustee

Real Lives Real Choices

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Real Lives Real Choices

Year Ended 31 July 2021

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Real Lives Real Choices ('the charity') for the year ended 31 July 2021.

Responsibilities and Basis of Report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent Examiner's Statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 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.

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.

Jane Ascroft FCA MA (Cantab)
Independent Examiner

Enterprise House
Harmire Enterprise Park
Barnard Castle
County Durham
DL12 8XP

Real Lives Real Choices

Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 July 2021

			2021		2020
	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Total funds £
Income and endowments					
Donations and legacies	4	–	68,836	68,836	51,950
Charitable activities	5	1,135	–	1,135	–
Total income		<u>1,135</u>	<u>68,836</u>	<u>69,971</u>	<u>51,950</u>
Expenditure					
Expenditure on charitable activities	6,7	3,770	50,836	54,606	38,708
Total expenditure		<u>3,770</u>	<u>50,836</u>	<u>54,606</u>	<u>38,708</u>
Net income and net movement in funds		<u>(2,635)</u>	<u>18,000</u>	<u>15,365</u>	<u>13,242</u>
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		18,190	45,000	63,190	49,948
Total funds carried forward		<u>15,555</u>	<u>63,000</u>	<u>78,555</u>	<u>63,190</u>

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

The notes on pages 9 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

Real Lives Real Choices

Statement of Financial Position

31 July 2021

	Note	2021 £	2020 £
Current Assets			
Debtors	12	136	115
Cash at bank and in hand		85,519	64,264
		<u>85,655</u>	<u>64,379</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	7,100	1,189
Net Current Assets		<u>78,555</u>	<u>63,190</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities		<u>78,555</u>	<u>63,190</u>
Net Assets		<u>78,555</u>	<u>63,190</u>
Funds of the Charity			
Restricted funds		63,000	45,000
Unrestricted funds		15,555	18,190
Total charity funds	15	<u>78,555</u>	<u>63,190</u>

These financial statements were approved by the board of trustees and authorised for issue on, and are signed on behalf of the board by:

B Smith (Co-Chairperson)
Trustee

C Clifford (Treasurer)
Trustee

The notes on pages 9 to 17 form part of these financial statements.

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements

Year Ended 31 July 2021

1. General Information

The charity is a public benefit entity and a registered charity in England and Wales and is unincorporated. The address of the principal office is Unit D, Sacriston Enterprise Workshops, Plawsworth Road, Sacriston, Durham, DH7 6PD.

2. Statement of Compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the 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) (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

3. Accounting Policies

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the historical cost basis, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and investment properties measured at fair value through income or expenditure.

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

Going Concern

There are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue.

Judgements and Key Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the amounts reported. These estimates and judgements are continually reviewed and are based on experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The trustees consider that there are no significant estimates or judgements affecting these financial statements.

Fund Accounting

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees to further any of the charity's purposes.

Designated funds are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular future project or commitment.

Restricted funds are subjected to restrictions on their expenditure declared by the donor or through the terms of an appeal, and fall into one of two sub-classes: restricted income funds or endowment funds.

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2021

3. Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Income

All incoming resources are included in the statement of financial activities when entitlement has passed to the charity; it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the charity and the amount can be reliably measured. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

- income from donations or grants is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement to the gift, receipt is probable and its amount can be measured reliably.
- legacy income is recognised when receipt is probable and entitlement is established.
- income from donated goods is measured at the fair value of the goods unless this is impractical to measure reliably, in which case the value is derived from the cost to the donor or the estimated resale value. Donated facilities and services are recognised in the accounts when received if the value can be reliably measured. No amounts are included for the contribution of general volunteers.
- income from contracts for the supply of services is recognised with the delivery of the contracted service. This is classified as unrestricted funds unless there is a contractual requirement for it to be spent on a particular purpose and returned if unspent, in which case it may be regarded as restricted.

Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised on an accruals basis as a liability is incurred. Expenditure includes any VAT which cannot be fully recovered, and is classified under headings of the statement of financial activities to which it relates:

- expenditure on raising funds includes the costs of all fundraising activities, events, non-charitable trading activities, and the sale of donated goods.
- expenditure on charitable activities includes all costs incurred by a charity in undertaking activities that further its charitable aims for the benefit of its beneficiaries, including those support costs and costs relating to the governance of the charity apportioned to charitable activities.
- other expenditure includes all expenditure that is neither related to raising funds for the charity nor part of its expenditure on charitable activities.

All costs are allocated to expenditure categories reflecting the use of the resource. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs are apportioned between the activities they contribute to on a reasonable, justifiable and consistent basis.

Tangible Assets

Tangible assets are initially recorded at cost, and subsequently stated at cost less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2021

3. Accounting Policies *(continued)*

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated so as to write off the cost or valuation of an asset, less its residual value, over the useful economic life of that asset as follows:

Plant and machinery	- 25% straight line
Office Equipment	- 25% straight line

Impairment of Fixed Assets

A review for indicators of impairment is carried out at each reporting date, with the recoverable amount being estimated where such indicators exist. Where the carrying value exceeds the recoverable amount, the asset is impaired accordingly. Prior impairments are also reviewed for possible reversal at each reporting date.

Financial Instruments

A financial asset or a financial liability is recognised only when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at the amount receivable or payable including any related transaction costs, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where it is recognised at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

Current assets and current liabilities are subsequently measured at the cash or other consideration expected to be paid or received and not discounted.

Debt instruments are subsequently measured at amortised cost.

Defined Contribution Plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense in the period in which the related service is provided. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that the prepayment will lead to a reduction in future payments or a cash refund.

When contributions are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months of the end of the reporting date in which the employees render the related service, the liability is measured on a discounted present value basis. The unwinding of the discount is recognised as an expense in the period in which it arises.

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2021

Debtors

Trade and other debtors are recognised at the settlement amount due after any trade discount offered. Prepayments are valued at the amount prepaid net of any trade discounts due.

Accrued income and tax recoverable is included at the best estimate of the amounts receivable at the balance sheet date.

Cash at Bank and in Hand

Cash at bank and cash 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.

Creditors

Creditors are recognised where the charity has a present obligation resulting from a past event that will probably result in the transfer of funds to a third party and the amount due to settle the obligation can be measured or estimated reliably. Creditors are normally recognised at their settlement amount after allowing for any trade discounts due.

Taxation

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

4. Donations and Legacies

	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Grants				
Bailey Thomas	–	–	20,000	20,000
Durham County council	12,336	12,336	10,000	10,000
County Durham Community Foundation	21,500	21,500	10,000	10,000
Screwfix Foundation	–	–	5,000	5,000
Karbon Homes	–	–	1,000	1,000
Sir James Knott Foundation	–	–	4,000	4,000
Rothley Trust	–	–	1,000	1,000
Bernica Foundation	10,000	10,000	–	–
NHS Connector	25,000	25,000	–	–
Other smaller grants	–	–	950	950
	<u>68,836</u>	<u>68,836</u>	<u>51,950</u>	<u>51,950</u>

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2021

5. Charitable Activities

	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Unrestricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Trading income	635	635	—	—
Other fees	500	500	—	—
	<u>1,135</u>	<u>1,135</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>

6. Expenditure on Charitable Activities by Fund Type

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Charitable activities (see page 19)	<u>3,770</u>	<u>50,836</u>	<u>54,606</u>
	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Charitable activities (see page 19)	<u>29,798</u>	<u>8,910</u>	<u>38,708</u>

7. Expenditure on Charitable Activities by Activity Type

	Activities undertaken directly £	Total funds 2021 £	Total fund 2020 £
Charitable activities (see page 19)	<u>54,606</u>	<u>54,606</u>	<u>38,708</u>

8. Independent Examination Fees

	2021 £	2020 £
Fees payable to the independent examiner for: Independent examination of the financial statements	<u>600</u>	<u>600</u>

9. Staff Costs

The total staff costs and employee benefits for the reporting period are analysed as follows:

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	33,118	11,493
Employer contributions to pension plans	71	59
Redundancy costs	—	12,822
	<u>33,189</u>	<u>24,374</u>

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

Year Ended 31 July 2021

9. Staff Costs (continued)

The average head count of employees during the year was 2 (2020: 2). The average number of full-time equivalent employees during the year is analysed as follows:

	2021 No.	2020 No.
Number of project staff	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>

No employee received employee benefits of more than £60,000 during the year (2020: Nil).

10. Trustee Remuneration and Expenses

No trustees received any remuneration or expenses during the year (2019 - Nil).

11. Tangible Fixed Assets

	Plant and machinery £	Office Equipment £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 August 2020 and 31 July 2021	<u>3,999</u>	<u>11,796</u>	<u>15,795</u>
Depreciation			
At 1 August 2020 and 31 July 2021	<u>3,999</u>	<u>11,796</u>	<u>15,795</u>
Carrying amount			
At 31 July 2021	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>
At 31 July 2020	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>

12. Debtors

	2021 £	2020 £
Prepayments and accrued income	<u>136</u>	<u>115</u>

13. Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2021 £	2020 £
Trade creditors	—	589
Accruals and deferred income	600	600
Social security and other taxes	1,438	—
Wages Creditor	4,896	—
Other creditors	<u>166</u>	<u>—</u>
	<u>7,100</u>	<u>1,189</u>

14. Pensions and Other Post Retirement Benefits

Defined contribution plans

The amount recognised in income or expenditure as an expense in relation to defined contribution plans was £71 (2020: £59).

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2021

15. Analysis of Charitable Funds

Unrestricted funds

	At 1 August 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 July 2021 £
General funds	8,190	1,135	(3,770)	–	5,555
Redundancy fund	–	–	–	–	–
Working capital fund	10,000	–	–	–	10,000
	<u>18,190</u>	<u>1,135</u>	<u>(3,770)</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>15,555</u>

	At 1 August 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 July 2020 £
General funds	15,166	–	(29,798)	22,822	8,190
Redundancy fund	12,822	–	–	(12,822)	–
Working capital fund	20,000	–	–	(10,000)	10,000
	<u>47,988</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>(29,798)</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>18,190</u>

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2021

15. Analysis of Charitable Funds *(continued)*

Restricted funds

	At 1 August 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 July 2021 £
Screwfix Foundation	5,000	–	–	–	5,000
Bailey Thomas	20,000	–	(15,000)	–	5,000
Durham County Council County Durham	10,000	12,336	(22,336)	–	–
Community Foundation	10,000	46,500	(13,500)	–	43,000
Bernica Foundation	–	10,000	–	–	10,000
	<u>45,000</u>	<u>68,836</u>	<u>(50,836)</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>63,000</u>

	At 1 August 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 July 2020 £
Screwfix Foundation	–	5,000	–	–	5,000
Karbon Homes	–	1,000	(1,000)	–	–
Bailey Thomas	–	20,000	–	–	20,000
Durham County Council County Durham	–	10,000	–	–	10,000
Community Foundation	1,960	10,000	(1,960)	–	10,000
Hospital of God at Greatham	–	450	(450)	–	–
Sir James Knott Foundation	–	4,000	(4,000)	–	–
Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust	–	500	(500)	–	–
Rothley Trust	–	1,000	(1,000)	–	–
	<u>1,960</u>	<u>51,950</u>	<u>(8,910)</u>	<u>–</u>	<u>45,000</u>

Real Lives Real Choices

Notes to the Financial Statements *(continued)*

Year Ended 31 July 2021

15. Analysis of Charitable Funds *(continued)*

The restricted grants are for the following purposes:

Screwfix Foundation - Capital works
Karbon Homes - Covid support
Bailey Thomas - £5,000 for capital works, remainder for revenue costs
Durham County Council - Covid support
County Durham Community Foundation - Revenue costs
Hospital of God - Revenue costs
Sir James Knott Foundation - Revenue costs
Catherine Cookson - Capital and equipment
Rothley Trust - Capital and equipment

16. Analysis of Net Assets Between Funds

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2021 £
Current assets	22,655	63,000	85,655
Creditors less than 1 year	(7,100)	—	(7,100)
Net assets	<u>15,555</u>	<u>63,000</u>	<u>78,555</u>

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds 2020 £
Current assets	19,379	45,000	64,379
Creditors less than 1 year	(1,189)	—	(1,189)
Net assets	<u>18,190</u>	<u>45,000</u>	<u>63,190</u>

Real Lives Real Choices

Management Information

Year Ended 31 July 2021

The Following Pages Do Not Form Part of the Financial Statements.

Real Lives Real Choices

Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Year Ended 31 July 2021

	2021 £	2020 £
Income and endowments		
Donations and legacies		
Bailey Thomas	–	20,000
Durham County council	12,336	10,000
County Durham Community Foundation	21,500	10,000
Screwfix Foundation	–	5,000
Karbon Homes	–	1,000
Sir James Knott Foundation	–	4,000
Rothley Trust	–	1,000
Bernica Foundation	10,000	–
NHS Connector	25,000	–
Other smaller grants	–	950
	<u>68,836</u>	<u>51,950</u>
Charitable activities		
Trading income	635	–
Other fees	500	–
	<u>1,135</u>	<u>–</u>
Total income	<u>69,971</u>	<u>51,950</u>
Expenditure		
Expenditure on charitable activities		
Wages & salaries	33,118	11,493
Pension costs	71	59
Redundancy costs	–	12,822
Premises costs	3,730	8,149
Insurance	868	1,229
Accountancy and professional fees	2,496	853
Office costs	943	655
Materials and equipment	11,748	2,305
Travel and training	1,083	1,065
Other costs	549	78
Total expenditure	<u>54,606</u>	<u>38,708</u>
Net income	<u>15,365</u>	<u>13,242</u>