ATTIC PROJECT

England & Wales · Charity number 1158300

Details

Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2014-08-20
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	27 Hartsop Drive Middleton Manchester M24 4JH
Phone	01616549282
Email	atticproject86@gmail.com

Activities

Objects: TO FURTHER OR BENEFIT THE RESIDENTS OF BURY AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD, WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, RACE OR OF POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS OR OTHER OPINIONS BY ASSOCIATING TOGETHER THE SAID RESIDENTS AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, VOLUNTARY OR OTHER ORGANISATIONS IN A COMMON EFFORT TO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND TO PROVIDE FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THE SAID RESIDENTS.IN FURTHERANCE OF THESE OBJECTS BUT NOT OTHERWISE, THE TRUSTEES SHALL HAVE POWER:TO ESTABLISH OR SECURE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY CENTRE AND TO MAINTAIN OR MANAGE OR CO-OPERATE WITH ANY STATUTORY AUTHORITY IN THE MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF SUCH A CENTRE FOR ACTIVITIES PROMOTED BY THE CHARITY IN FURTHERANCE OF THE ABOVE OBJECTS.

Activities: To further or benefit the residents of Bury and the neighbourhood, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said residents and local authorities, voluntary or other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Amateur Sport
- **Who:** Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Bolton
- Bury
- Lancashire
- Oldham
- Rochdale

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£46,603	£61,949	-	-
2024-03-31	£99,785	£72,686	-	-
2023-03-31	£64,377	£58,598	-	-
2022-03-31	£107,377	£88,613	-	-
2021-03-31	£122,368	£87,150	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Christopher Fargher		2021-04-01
DAVID STOPFORD		2014-08-20
DAWN TURNBULL		2014-08-20
Ezekiel Wakudyanaye		2021-10-01
Joseph Roantree		2018-09-01
Tracy Turner		2015-08-28

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ATTIC PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1158300

Accounts

ATTIC PROJECT
CHARITY NO. 1158300

TRUSTEES' REPORT AND UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS

31 MARCH 2025

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Trustee Annual Report - December 2025

Introduction

The Attic Project is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Charity Commission No 1158300. We have a board of committed Trustees who meet quarterly, and we hold an Annual General Meeting yearly. The "Attic Project" is a charitable foundation located in the heart of Bury, dedicated to providing targeted wrap around support to our most vulnerable and marginalised groups and helping those in need. With the dedication of our volunteers, staff members and partners, we strive to improve the lives of everyone who needs help within the community. The Attic project is here to support anyone struggling and in genuine need and bring about positive life changes. Empowering our people, building our communities and providing a lifeline to many.

Period 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025

Name of Trustees

David Stopford, Dawn Turnbull, Tracy Turner, and Chris Fargher.

Service User Trustees

Joseph Roantree and Jimmy Wakudyanaye

Number of Volunteers

15

1. Executive Summary

The Attic Project has continued to provide an essential lifeline for vulnerable individuals and families across Bury during a year marked by significant economic challenge, rising poverty, and increasing demand for support. Despite limited funding availability and spiralling operational costs, we have delivered high-impact community services, emergency support, and targeted projects that have transformed lives, supported wellbeing, and prevented crisis escalation for those most at risk.

Partnership working, community generosity, volunteer commitment and the continued success of our collaboration with **Realise Training** have been instrumental in enabling us to keep our doors open. We are proud of the positive outcomes achieved and remain committed to supporting those who need us most.

2. Overview of The Attic Project – Mission & Purpose

The Attic Project Bury exists to support people facing hardship, isolation, poverty, illness, or crisis. We provide a safe, welcoming environment where those who are struggling can access practical help, emotional support, opportunities to connect and rebuild confidence, and routes into training, employment, and improved wellbeing.

We support a wide range of vulnerable groups including older people, families on low income, individuals facing mental or physical health challenges, victims/survivors of domestic abuse or violence, and those experiencing economic hardship or social isolation.

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3. Core Services Provided (Ongoing Year-Round Support)

Alongside our funded projects, these core services form the backbone of our community impact:

- **Community Foodbank & Emergency Crisis Support**

Providing emergency food parcels, basic essentials, and urgent household support to individuals and families in emergency need. Demand has risen sharply over the last year due to cost-of-living pressures and increasing local poverty.

- **Welfare, Benefits & Financial Support**

Guiding people through benefit applications, appeals, debt concerns, housing challenges and hardship support. This has prevented crisis escalation for many households and improved financial capacity for those who had nowhere else to turn.

- **Mental Health & Peer-Support Groups**

Safe space support groups help reduce isolation, anxiety and loneliness while building confidence, connection, and emotional resilience.

- **Digital Inclusion & Practical Help**

Support with online access, application completion, job search, universal credit/benefit systems and general welfare support, vital for those who struggle digitally or lack computer access.

- **Community Drop-In & Warm Space Social Connection Hub**

A welcoming warm space offering hot drinks and warm snacks, conversation, belonging and community connection — Particularly for isolated older adults, those most vulnerable and those with mental health needs.

- **Emergency Food & Toys at Christmas (Annual Initiative)**

This support is vital because rising living costs leave many families and vulnerable individuals unable to afford even the basics, let alone anything extra for Christmas. Without help, children may wake up with no presents and families may go without a proper meal, deepening feelings of hardship and exclusion during what should be a joyful time. Providing food hampers and toys ensures that vulnerable people are not left behind, offering relief, dignity, and a sense of normality, while showing care leavers and those without support networks that they are valued and not alone.

Together, these services deliver emergency help and wrap around support, that improves wellbeing, reduces isolation, prevents crisis, and builds community resilience. Empowering our people, strengthening our communities and bringing about long-term positive growth.

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4. Funded Projects Delivered This Period

Supporting Our Pensioners Project

A vital programme protecting older residents facing loneliness, food insecurity and financial worry. Through group sessions, befriending, support access and emergency help, we improved wellbeing, reduced isolation, and ensured older people felt valued, connected, and supported.

Supporting Our Pensioners, a new 14-month project, created to support older residents across Bury who are struggling with rising living costs, isolation, and access to welfare entitlements. The project runs weekly face-to-face drop-in sessions providing a warm, welcoming environment with refreshments, social connection, and direct welfare support.

Specialist support staff offer pension credit checks, benefit application support (including Attendance Allowance), and wrap-around advice for individuals at risk of financial hardship. The service aims to maximise income for older people, improve wellbeing, reduce loneliness, and prevent crisis escalation during a period of increased pressure caused by the removal of Winter Fuel Payments and high household costs.

Through regular attendance monitoring, entitlement outcomes and client feedback, we have dealt with more than 150 clients since the project started and maximised income in the region of £425,000. The client feedback has been incredible, with people feeling much more equipped to cope, significant reductions in worry and stress and most importantly, people do not know how they would have survived these desperate times without the valuable help, support, and compassion of the Attic Project.
Many thanks for this valuable funding to National Lottery Awards for All.

Additional Smaller Funding Pots for Projects Delivered This Period.

In It Together Project
Delivered targeted support for individuals facing isolation, mental health challenges or social barriers. The project enabled our most vulnerable by building confidence, independence, created social connection and improved emotional wellbeing for participants through group activities, workshops and peer support.
Many thanks for this valuable funding to Bury VCFA

Cost of Living Support
This project aimed to provide direct support to individuals and families who are being affected by rising living costs, particularly those in work who are struggling to make ends meet. The initiative delivered immediate relief through emergency food parcels, helping households who experience shortfalls due to increased rent, utility bills, and other essential expenses. Alongside this, the project delivered individual, tailored wrap-around support to address the root causes of financial hardship and prevent future crisis. This included budgeting advice, access to benefits guidance, signposting to debt support services, and referrals to partner organisations for longer-term assistance. Our goal is to prevent families from reaching crisis point, improve financial stability, and support households towards greater resilience and independence.
Many thanks for this valuable funding to GM Grants Programme.

Supporting Bury East
Working directly at the heart of our community, supporting local families and individuals in hardship. We delivered practical help, community connection activities, welfare support, emergency intervention and food provision for those most in need.
Many thanks to our Local Councillors for a kind grant donation towards this.

Welcome Wednesdays
This project provided specialist welfare reform support alongside our core services, ensuring low-income families can access urgent advice when requesting emergency food support. The service helped prevent crises escalating, particularly for those with long-term mental/physical health conditions and victims / survivors of domestic abuse and violence who often lack support networks and working families, struggling to meet monthly outgoings. The project helped to stabilise households financially, reduce stress, remove risks

and prevent deeper poverty during a time of uncertainty and welfare changes.
Many thanks for this valuable funding to Bury VCFA

Beyond the Streets
A youth-led initiative tackling rising knife crime through safe discussion spaces, awareness workshops and positive diversion. Working alongside community mentors, young people took the lead in two workshop phases before expanding to sessions with parents and peers, creating open forums, honest conversations, and inspirational speakers. The project was aimed to address root causes, influence culture around knife carrying, and empower young people to choose safer pathways. The approach supports early intervention, builds resilience, and strengthens family/community relationships.
Many thanks for this valuable funding to Bury VCFA Standing Together Funding

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Emergency Food Bank – Top-Up Supplies
Funding used to replenish essential supplies post-Christmas to maintain crisis food support for residents in immediate hardship. The food bank operates two days a week with emergency provisions provided where necessary, offering wrap-around help and support with universal credit / benefits, debt, housing, employment support and digital access. Demand continues to rise due to the cost-of-living crisis, making this funding vital to maintain food security and safeguard residents during their most vulnerable moments. Christmas is particularity challenging for us due to emergency community needs, so topping up our essential supplies is vital.
Many thanks to Irwell Valley Homes for a kind grant donation towards this.

- **Family Christmas Support 2024**

Delivered festive support to at least *75 local families,* experiencing severe financial strain. *Toys for more than 80 local children othwise gone without, this was targeting those most vulnerable by working with front line statuary services and around 25 care leavers* with no stable family or support network. Essential Food Hampers were created and distributed through community donations, small business support and volunteers. This project built on last year's successful Christmas initiatives, by making sure families in crisis received essential food and children with nothing, received toys, helping to reduce hunger and hardship over Christmas and ensuring all families can enjoy a positive celebration. It also strengthened community engagement and showcased the collective compassion across Bury.
Many thanks to Great Places Housing for a kind grant donation towards this.

Warm Welcome Project
A new service offering weekly warm-space sessions, social connection place and targeted pension/welfare support to older residents. The project aimed to reduce loneliness, improve wellbeing, increase benefit entitlement (including Pension Credit, Attendance Allowance) and support residents through winter pressures and cost-of-living challenges. This initiative addressed isolation, financial vulnerability, and health decline among older adults, while building long-term resilience and community connection. This valuable pilot helped us capture the needs and demands within the community.
Many thanks for this valuable funding to Albert Hunt Trust.

Household Support Fund
Funding contributes to core operational costs ensuring continued food provision and warm-space access for struggling residents throughout winter. Support includes food, safe communal spaces, and wrap-around help, allowing The Attic Project to remain a lifeline for those facing hardship and help keep vulnerable people warm and safe during the winter months. This grant also underpins sustainability by covering utilities and operational essentials during a period of peak demand.
Many thanks for this valuable funding to Bury Council.

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5. Outcomes & Impact Achieved

Despite a difficult financial climate, we have achieved **outstanding results for those at highest risk**, including:

- Emergency food and crisis support preventing hardship and hunger.
- Wrap-around intervention for high-risk and vulnerable people
- Improved mental health, confidence, and emotional resilience.
- Reduced isolation among older people, carers and those living alone.
- Successful progression for participants into work, training, or volunteering
- Increased social value through partnerships, volunteering and community action.
- Lives changed, confidence restored, and hope rebuilt for those in crisis.
- Families in crisis receive essential food, helping to reduce hunger and hardship over Christmas.
- Children who would otherwise go without receive toys, allowing them to experience joy and inclusion during the festive season.

- Strengthened community engagement, ensured a sense of belonging and showcased the collective compassion and support across our communities.

For many local residents, **we have been a lifeline when no one else was there.**

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6. Challenges This Year

This year has brought significant strain:

- Severe reduction in available grant funding across the sector.
- Only small funding pots available but the needs of the community extremely high.
- Increased demand — more families are now in poverty and relying on support.
- Rising operational and utility costs threatening sustainability.
- Higher need for foodbank resources and crisis intervention.
- Growing mental health and wellbeing pressures among residents.

Despite these challenges, our team has worked tirelessly to maintain access and protect services, people in need and our communities.

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7. Partnership Spotlight

Realise Training

Our partnership with REALISE, a national training provider, has been invaluable.

Over the past 12 months, Realise have delivered a wide range of free training courses from The Attic, supporting local residents to upskill, gain confidence, and move closer to employment. Many participants have since successfully transitioned into paid work, which we are incredibly proud of.

Beyond life-changing outcomes for learners, the partnership has:

- Provided essential room-hire income helping us cover vital bills.
- Supported our survival during the most challenging financial period to date.
- Contributed food donations to our emergency foodbank.
- Offered volunteer help, goodwill, and shared community commitment.

We sincerely thank Realise for choosing to work with us. This partnership has not only changed lives — it helped us create an additional income stream helping keep our charity open when it was needed most.

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8. Looking Forward

Our priority for the coming year is to:

- Secure new funding streams to protect essential services.
- Build on partner relationships and expand community collaborations.
- Strengthen sustainability, reduce risk, and increase resilience.
- Grow capacity to meet increasing the needs within our communities.

Continued trustee guidance and support will be key as we navigate a challenging but hopeful future.

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9. Closing Statement

The Attic Project remains a vital lifeline for vulnerable people in Bury.
Despite a year of hardship, we have delivered exceptional impact and achieved outstanding outcomes. Prevented crisis for those most vulnerable and protected those at highest risk, we have continued to offer compassion, stability, and hope where it is needed most.

Throughout the year, we have played a key role in bringing our communities together, empowering our people, increasing community engagement, and creating shared ownership. We are very proud to be at the heart of building stronger, prouder, and more resilient communities.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our fantastic team, trustees, volunteers, partners, funders, community sponsors and supporters — without whom this incredible work would simply not be possible.

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Financial review

The net receipts for the period were £46,603 (unrestricted £15,573, restricted £31,030). The charity aims to build its unrestricted reserves to cover 6 months running expenses.

Investment powers and policy

Aside from retaining a prudent amount in reserves each year, most of the charity's funds are to be spent in the short term so there are few funds for any long-term investment.

Risk Management

The trustees have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and systems have been established to mitigate those risks.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

D. Turnbull
Trustee
19 December 2025

C. Fargher
Trustee
19 December 2025

Independent Examiners Report

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Attic Project

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Attic Project for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under the Charities Act 2011, s.144(2) (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

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 (S)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I can 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:

- the accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Scott Davenport

Davenports Group Ltd
Community House, Badger Street
Bury, BL9 6AD
19 December 2025

Statement of assets and liabilities

at 31 March 2025

Charity No. 1158300	**Unrestricted 2025** £	**Restricted 2025** £	**2025** £	**2024** £
Fixed assets				
Fixtures & Fittings	424	-	424	-
	424	-	424	-
Current assets				
Cash at bank and in hand	52,432	20,096	72,528	87,874
Prepayment and accrued income	-	-	-	126
	52,432	20,096	72,528	88,000
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	-	(1,779)	(1,779)	(409)
Net current assets	52,856	18,317	71,173	87,591
Total assets less current liabilities	52,856	18,317	71,173	87,591
Net assets excluding pension asset or liability	52,856	18,317	71,173	87,591
Total net assets	52,856	18,317	71,173	87,591

Approved by the trustees on 19 December 2025

And signed on their behalf by:

D. Turnbull
Trustee
19 December 2025

C. Fargher
Trustee
19 December 2025

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 March 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Receipts:					
Charitable activities		15,573	31,030	46,603	99,785
Total		15,573	31,030	46,603	99,785
Payments on:					
Charitable activities		2,143	4,350	6,493	6,174
Other		2,387	53,069	55,456	66,512
Total		4,530	57,419	61,949	72,686
Net gains on investments		-	-	-	-
Net income		11,043	(26,389)	(15,346)	27,100
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net income before other gains/(losses)		11,043	(26,389)	(15,346)	27,100
Other gains and losses					
Net movement in funds		11,043	(26,389)	(15,346)	27,100
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		41,389	46,485	87,874	60,774
Total funds carried forward		52,432	20,096	72,528	87,874

Notes to the Accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2025

1 Accounting policies

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic if Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Change in basis of accounting or to previous accounts

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and method of accounting) since last year and no changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

Fund accounting

These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.

Unrestricted funds	These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.
Designated funds	These are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.
Revaluation funds	These are unrestricted funds which include a revaluation reserve representing the restatement of investment assets at their market values.

Taxation The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities. The charity is not registered for VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the expense to which it relates

Transactions with trustees

No remuneration nor expenses were paid to trustees or any persons connected with them during the year or previous year

Detailed Statement of Financial

Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Receipts from:	15,573	31,030	46,603	99,785
Charitable activities	-	-	-	-
	15,573	31,030	46,603	99,785
Total income	15,573	31,030	46,603	99,785
Payments on:	2,143	4,350	6,493	6,174
Charitable activities	2,143	4,350	6,493	6,174
Total of expenditure on charitable activities	2,143	4,350	6,493	6,174
Employee costs				
Salaries/wages	-	45,759	45,759	47,707
Pension costs	-	1,041	1,041	1,318
Staff Training	-	-	-	6,170
	-	46,800	46,800	55,195
Motor and travel costs				
Travel and subsistence	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Premises costs				
Rent	-	1,800	1,800	4,306
Premise repairs and maintenance	1,046	126	1,172	2,556
	1,046	1,926	2,972	6,862
General administrative costs, including depreciation and amortisation				
Depreciation	81	-	81	-
General insurances	-	1,057	1,057	1,040
Software, IT support and related costs	374	296	670	-

Sundry expenses	886	-	886	-
Telephone, fax and broadband	-	2,028	2,028	2,842
	1,341	3,882	5,102	3,882
Legal and professional costs				
Accountancy and bookkeeping	-	461	461	574
Consultancy fees	-	-	-	-
	-	461	461	574
Total of expenditure of other costs	2,387	53,069	55,456	66,512
Activities Total expenditure	4,530	57,419	61,949	72,686
Net gains on investments	-	-	-	-
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Independent Examiners Report

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for the year ended 31 March 2025

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Change in basis of accounting or to previous accounts

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and method of accounting) since last year and no changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

Fund accounting

These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.

Unrestricted funds	These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.
Designated funds	These are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.
Revaluation funds	These are unrestricted funds which include a revaluation reserve representing the restatement of investment assets at their market values.

Taxation The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities. The charity is not registered for VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the expense to which it relates

Transactions with trustees

No remuneration nor expenses were paid to trustees or any persons connected with them during the year or previous year

Detailed Statement of Financial

Activities for the year ended 31 March 2025	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total funds 2025 £	Total funds 2024 £
Receipts from:	15,573	31,030	46,603	99,785
Charitable activities	-	-	-	-
	15,573	31,030	46,603	99,785
Total income	15,573	31,030	46,603	99,785
Payments on:	2,143	4,350	6,493	6,174
Charitable activities	2,143	4,350	6,493	6,174
Total of expenditure on charitable activities	2,143	4,350	6,493	6,174
Employee costs				
Salaries/wages	-	45,759	45,759	47,707
Pension costs	-	1,041	1,041	1,318
Staff Training	-	-	-	6,170
	-	46,800	46,800	55,195
Motor and travel costs				
Travel and subsistence	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-
Premises costs				
Rent	-	1,800	1,800	4,306
Premise repairs and maintenance	1,046	126	1,172	2,556
	1,046	1,926	2,972	6,862
General administrative costs, including depreciation and amortisation				
Depreciation	81	-	81	-
General insurances	-	1,057	1,057	1,040
Software, IT support and related costs	374	296	670	-

Sundry expenses	886	-	886	-
Telephone, fax and broadband	-	2,028	2,028	2,842
	1,341	3,882	5,102	3,882
Legal and professional costs				
Accountancy and bookkeeping	-	461	461	574
Consultancy fees	-	-	-	-
	-	461	461	574
Total of expenditure of other costs	2,387	53,069	55,456	66,512
Activities Total expenditure	4,530	57,419	61,949	72,686
Net gains on investments	-	-	-	-
Net income	11,043	(26,389)	(15,346)	27,100
Net income before other gains/(losses)	11,043	(26,389)	(15,346)	27,100
Other gains	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	11,043	(26,389)	(15,346)	27,100
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	41,389	46,485	87,874	60,774
Total funds carried forward	52,432	20,096	72,528	87,874

ATTIC PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1158300

Accounts

Trustee Annual Report - January 2024

Introduction

The Attic Project is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Charity Commission No 1158300. We have a board of committed Trustees who meet quarterly, and we hold an Annual General Meeting yearly.

Period 01/04/2023 – 31-03-2024
And 01/04/2024 - Date

Name of Trustees

David Stopford, Dawn Turnbull, Tracy Turner, and Chris Fargher.

Service User Trustees: Joseph Roantree and Jimmy Wakudyanaye

Number of Volunteers

25

Aims and Objectives of the Charity

The Attic Project is located in the heart of Bury and is dedicated to helping those in need. With the dedication of our volunteers, staff members and partners, we strive to improve the lives of everyone who needs help within the community. We use a person-centred approach that is flexible and tailored to meet the individual needs of each person we support.
At the time we approached the National Lottery, we could clearly demonstrate the positive impact our mental health support group was having on people and how we were successfully progressing people into volunteering. We also showcased positive partnerships with Bury Adult Learning through our work-club and how we had achieved a range of positive outcomes with various partners supporting us with debt and welfare advice and peer to peer mentoring. Our proposal was to build on this successful foundation and with your help, design a project responsive to the needs in our community.

Overview of Communities Funding

We were absolutely thrilled to get a funding award from The National Lottery and The Tudor Trust and this has enabled us to become an absolute lifeline to those struggling within our local areas. We were also very grateful for the advice and guidance that was given in terms of what they could fund and how this would be best utilised to meet our current needs and help shape the future delivery services of The Attic Project and benefit the wider community.

We have also managed to secure funding from a range of small local grants and are very proud of the unrestricted contributions we have received from local people and local businesses within our community. This has ensured we could keep helping the increasing numbers of struggling families and individuals within our communities. This has been needed more than ever as we moved from the Covid 19 pandemic, straight into the Cost-of- Living Crisis.

The story of our project this year.

What has the funding helped you to do? Tell us in your own words, or the words of the people you support.

The cost-of-living crisis has been extremely challenging for us this last year or so and has really hit our communities very hard. In addition, we have seen our own overhead costs of Gas, Electric and Rent go through the roof. Luckily, we were able to get an extended uplift grant of £27k from the National Lottery but this remains a key concern for our project of the coming months.

We have seen a significant increase in people accessing debts and welfare services and the biggest increase has been from pensioners, extremely worried that their state pension does not cover their hiked-up heating costs, they have not qualified for government help and they are having to choose between heating or eating. We have sadly had a significant increase in low-income working families, who have not been eligible for the government cost of living incentives and have needed essential food and low level medical and / or baby essentials to tide them over until pay day. We have needed to put on extra sessions so we can meet the demands of struggling local people needing to access welfare help and access local help from Bury Household Support Scheme. Also, with so many struggling local vulnerable people only able to afford to put their heating on for an hour or so a day, we made the decision to open extended hours to provide a warm, safe space to those struggling the most. This has also provided a lifeline to many, who can drop by for a hot drink and warm snack and most importantly, a valuable chat with others.

We became a small food bank with the onset of Covid-19 as many of our service users are over 50, live alone, have complex mental and physical health problems, and therefore went straight into shielding. Most are not online and just had pay as you go mobiles, so had no family support and were unable to access online facilities. We therefore supported with weekly food parcels and doorstep welfare visits. As the weeks turned into months, we worked closely with other foodbanks across the borough to make sure we could extend the emergency food and welfare checks to anyone in our community, vulnerable and in genuine need. The profile of The Attic Project has significantly increased over the last few years as we have continued to engage and support the wider community. We thought emergency

food was only a temporary emergency measure needed as we navigated through the unchartered waters of Covid. However, as we went from the challenges of Covid-19 straight into the Cost-of-Living Crisis, our emergency food parcels are now needed even more and have provided a lifeline for many. We always check those coming for emergency food are in genuine need and we work with the families / individuals to provide the wrap around support needed until their immediate crisis is dealt with. This ensures we are not creating dependency on food banks and are helping equip people to cope with the changing world. Providing food, additional support, and warm safe spaces, are all additional emergency services we are now providing because of the cost-of-living crisis. Although we get amazing support with food donations from local supermarkets and small local businesses, it all comes at extra costs to ourselves, in terms of extra resources, extra staffing and higher overheads for ourselves.
We have also seen a significant increase in referrals for all our community support provision from statutory services, social prescribers / link workers and other local charities and community groups. Since Covid-19 many statutory services are still working from home and face to face provision has significantly reduced. Bury Citizens Advice have merged with Bolton Citizens Advice and there are now very few face to face appointments for local people who are struggling. Again, with very little help available from Citizens Advice, the demands for our valuable services have significantly increased as CAB signpost so many struggling to us. All of these extra referrals have come with no extra funding, so it has been very challenging for us and we also have to meet our own increasing additional running costs ourselves.

We are extremely grateful our Reaching Communities and Tudor Trust funding has enabled us to achieve outstanding outcomes for our most vulnerable and support so many struggling within our wider communities. The additional uplift funding has also been truly appreciated to ensure we could continue to support those most in need at the time they need us the most and it has also really helped us with our with own massively inflated heating costs

How the funding has helped

The Reaching Communities and Tudor Trust Funding, including the 6-month extension has been invaluable for us to ensure we could keep supporting those most vulnerable and those in the most genuine need across our communities. Following the Covid-19 pandemic and now the cost-of-living crisis, our essential community support services have never been needed more.
It has also ensured we have been able to exceed all of the aims and objectives of our Reaching Community Project – People In The Lead. It has enabled us to reach wider into our communities, help many more local people struggling and strengthen the lifeline to so many who have benefited from our project right across our borough. This funding has helped us meet all the extra financial demands that have been placed on our Charity, because of the Cost-of-Living Crisis and meet all the extra demands on our services to ensure we are

continuing to bridge the alarming gap of adults and children falling into poverty. In addition, with statuary services relying on us more than ever to support our most vulnerable and those at-risk declining health and well-being. This funding has ensured we could continue to strengthen our community roots, increase community resilience, and help prevent significant declines in health and wellbeing. It has helped us reduce loneliness and isolation and prevented many local families, individuals, and children from falling below the poverty line.
We are very proud and grateful that because of the continued support of our funders the we have a positive life changing impact of thousands of people across our communities and it has provided a complete lifeline to hundreds of our most vulnerable residents. We have been able to create long term positive life changes for many and put a caring heart in the centre of our community for ALL.

Although things have been very challenging during our Our People in The Lead Project, we are very proud to have risen to all challenges, worked round the barriers and exceeded all expectations. The positive difference we have made to the lives of others is absolutely remarkable as you can see in the impacts and outcomes of our core aims and we are extremely grateful to all our amazing Trustees, Volunteers, Sponsors and everyone right across our communities that continuously supports The Attic Project.

Core Aim 1:
Empower our people and prevent further problems

Our weekly debt, benefit and welfare sessions at The Attic has provided a safe, confidential space for service users to get the help and support they needed at the earliest opportunity and help prevent further problems.

Impact and Outcomes

Being able to access face to face support with debt, benefits and welfare issues has been a lifeline to support our most vulnerable, improve the health and wellbeing of so many struggling and prevent local families from spiralling into poverty.

- We have dealt with an average of 4 debt/welfare issues a week for 70 weeks of the 78-week project. As a result, we have been able to support an amazing 280 local people in genuine need, rather than the 100 people we originally hoped to help. This is almost 3 times higher than our original target.
- Out of the 280 people accessing this valuable service 87 of them were struggling with debt issues and suffering with extreme stress. As a result of getting support to take control of their spiralling debt issues, there were significant improvements in improved wellbeing and capability. The total debt we reduced because of this valuable service was an incredible £330k.

- Out of 280 people accessing this valuable service 132 of them were struggling with benefit and welfare issues. Many of these were vulnerable and without our essential help and support, all would have been at significant risk of financial and social exclusion.
- As a result of the 132 benefit and welfare issues we were able to support with, we maximised local people's income be an incredible £985k.
- We know from our self- evaluation feedback forms that 100% of beneficiaries felt a reduction in stress, 91% noted improvements in health/ wellbeing and 97% felt more confident.

Numbers of beneficiaries we aimed to reach.
We aimed to help up to 100 local people per year but have again massively exceeded this by helping more than 280 local period during this final period.

Core Aim 2:
Get Online and Access Opportunities.
Service users can attend our work club and digital skills session to get help getting online and support applying for jobs. This will ensure our more vulnerable customers are not excluded and they are able to get the support they need to access new opportunities and essential services.
Impact and Outcomes

- We have had 48 people attend our work club and get support online.
- We have also had 24 people attend our digital skills sessions for more intensive support online.
- In total we have supported 72 people get online, access online services and gain new skills. From those that access this valuable service, 12 progressed into volunteer opportunities, 12 have progressed with further learning and 14 have progressed into employment.

Numbers of beneficiaries we aim to reach.
In total 72 people have benefited from this service; we have been able to recruit 7 volunteers to support the work club and digital skills sessions. In addition, we have been able to train 5 volunteer community digital buddies. As well as ensuring flexibility and we can also help more people in our community who just need to sit down with them and show them simple online tasks, more than 100 people have already benefited from our digital buddies.

Core Aim 3.

Increased Confidence and Personal Growth

New health and wellbeing sessions have been delivered every few months, these were person centred and co-designed and delivered with our service users, based on what they wanted and needed. By involving our service users from the start, the groups took ownership of the sessions and were able get a really lot from the as they covered things that mattered to them. Particular attention was paid to discussing barriers and exploring self-coping mechanisms. The sessions helped improved health and wellbeing, increased confidence and self-esteem and ensured our most vulnerable were enabled with new skills to help them reach their full potential

Impact and Outcomes

We used our health and wellbeing assessment wheel to help people self-evaluate and the results were outstanding:

- 100% Increased in confidence
- 93% Increased in self esteem
- 100% Experienced personal growth
- 96% noted improved mental and physical health and wellbeing

Numbers of beneficiaries we aim to reach.

We delivered six programs during this period and there were 12 attendees at each. We also trained 6 volunteers to help facilitate these valuable sessions and all these also experienced increased confidence and personal positive growth. Therefore, 72 attendees and 6 volunteers bringing the overall total to 78 who really benefited from these valuable sessions. Our original target was around 40 so we are thrilled that almost twice the amount of people were able to benefit from these valuable sessions.

Core Aim 4.

Create Volunteer Opportunities - Gain New Skills, Increased Self Worth and Give Something Back

We have a clear focus on increasing skills and creating new volunteering opportunities. This has ensured progression for our service users and positively engage people from the local area and created wonderful opportunities for people to give back to their community.

Impact and Outcomes

- We have a volunteer application process, so we can keep a check on numbers of people expressing an interest in volunteering.
- As part of the application process, we discuss skills, interests and what the volunteers' what's to get out of volunteering. This way we are clear of expectations,

we can match the volunteers with what they are interested in, and we can make sure our volunteers are happy and in the best position to progress.

- Our volunteer co-ordinator provides and arranges training for all volunteers, and she conducts regular 1:1's to check in with them, explore any personal development needs and look at ways to progress.
- In addition to our bank of regular volunteers, we also have lots of community volunteers and community partners, that we work with during bigger community events, and we have a number of small local businesses who have become amazing community partners and support us where they can.
- All our volunteers, community partners and local business sponsors, provide very positive feedback about how they love being involved with our project and how proud they are of the positive difference we are making to so many lives.
- All previous and current volunteers have gained a range of new skills and experienced significant growth in confidence and self-worth. During this period alone 15 volunteers have progressed into full time employment, 12 have engaged with additional education or training and even with this positive many still make time to volunteer when they can.
- We have captured a range of wonderful case studies, which we share with others and as they clearly demonstrate the value of volunteering and the positive difference for both the volunteer and to the lives they change.

Numbers of beneficiaries we aim to reach.

We have around 25 regular volunteers to help with sessions and activities and an additional 20 community volunteers, who support with specific events and activities. In addition, we regularly work closely with around 10 local businesses, who we are proud to call our amazing community partners and many others provide us with specific help and support when needed. With the fantastic help and support of all our volunteers, community volunteers and local sponsors, we have support more than 10,000 people during this period alone.

Core Aim 5.

Bring people together and build strong relationships in and across communities

We hold weekly social and skills sessions to bring people together and these are specifically targeted at our harder to reach marginalised groups including those with physical and/or mental health issues, older people, and people at risk of social isolation. During the winter months we also provide a warm, safe space for people to drop in and have a warm drink and hot snack. Both these projects have been invaluable to those within our community who are socially isolated and financially excluded. We have provided a warm safe space for

vulnerable people to come together, build social connections and access the valuable wrap around support they need to make positive life changes.

Impact and Outcomes

- We have had around 15/20 people attending our weekly social sessions this is a total of around 1000 social activity sessions for our most vulnerable.
- We have also had around 10/15 people attending our warm spaces, this is a total of 750 warm spaces sessions for those socially excluded and financially struggling.
- These valuable sessions have enabled people to attend our warm safe spaces, meet friends and enjoy social and wellbeing activities. In addition, we have also been able to provide more than 300 individual support sessions for people struggling with specific issues.
- We have captured some wonderful Case Studies to demonstrate progression and we have anonymised these and obtained permissions to share. These tell wonderful experiences of the positive life changes we have been able to support with.

Numbers of beneficiaries we aim to reach.

More than 75 people have directly benefited achieving positive life changes from this valuable project and more than 2000 social sessions have been delivered and enjoyed by those most vulnerable and struggling within our communities.

Core Aim 6.

Social Eating – Improving health, building relationships and reducing social isolation. As a result of Covid, we had to change this project and re-design the delivery due to long term changes Covid brought to our community space at The Green Community Café. Monthly community social eating projects have taken place at The Attic Project. These have brought people together in a lovely community space, helped reduce social anxiety and helped prevent social isolation.

In addition, we have also held social eating outings and gone to a community venue as a group to enjoy food and community social activities. These have helped our most vulnerable to overcome barriers with engaging in social a variety of community social sessions. They have helped build confidence with travelling to different social setting and they have helped people make friends and build social connections. This has had a real positive impact on the mental and physical health of all attendees. It has improved confidence and self-worth and helped those most isolated to build relationships and re-engage in the community.

Impact and Outcomes

- We have delivered 18 social eating sessions at the Attic Project during this latest period, and they have benefited 270 socially isolated.

- We have also held 6 community social eating outings to different places, and these have benefited an additional 260 individuals.
- We have noted a significant increase in confidence amongst those attending, we have seen new friendship groups form and we are proud to be instrumental in helping our lost lonely and isolated, start to enjoy being part of the community again.

Numbers of beneficiaries we aim to reach.

These social eating sessions have all been customer led and all beneficiaries played an active part in the planning the sessions. They gained new life skills by working as team and overcame barriers by factoring in things like food, cost, and transport. They also gained confidence in organising things as they worked together to consider dates times and locations. These wonderful sessions have benefited 530 people and grows in confidence and built social connections, they have also gained valuable volunteer skills as they started developing and owning activities and they are now very comfortable playing an active part of community led approaches.

Final Summary

When we received our 3-year funding just before the pandemic hit, none of us had any idea that the world as we knew it was about to completely change. Thanks to this amazing funding and belief in The Attic Project, we had the resources and expertise to support our wider community and provide an essential lifeline for so many. Without this valuable funding, we would have had no choice other than to sadly close our doors, like many other charities and community groups had to. Instead, we were able to respond to the immediate needs of our community, we have completely exceeded our expectations within these last few years and have achieved so much more than we could have ever hoped for.

In addition to massively exceeding our core aims and objectives as noted above, here are a few of our other key achievements.

- Sourced food donations and distributed emergency food parcels to more than 10,000 local residents. This has provided a complete lifeline to our most vulnerable and significantly helped so many struggling families having to choose whether to heat or eat.
- Sourced toy donations and distributed over 1000 emergency Christmas and Birthday toys packages, to local children living on or below the poverty line. Without this emergency help, these children would sadly have gone without.
- Sourced donations and helped over 3000 with emergency help and food over the Easter period.
- Sourced donations and helped with over 600 emergency Christmas gifts for older people isolated in our community and without families to support.

Both the look and the feel of The Attic Project has changed so much during this time and it has been a real hive of positive activity within the heart of our community. We are truly grateful to each volunteer within the Attic Project, to every community volunteer who helps us and to every small local business who supports us. Every one of them have been truly amazing and we couldn't have done all we have without them. Together we have helped thousands of local people in genuine need, we have supported thousands of our most vulnerable people, and we have provided an absolute lifeline for so many families and individuals. We are extremely proud of how we have brought our whole community together and become the absolute heartbeat of Moorside. We look forward to positively embracing our next challenges and continuing working together to support our communities through the struggles of this coming year.

We are very proud to have been nominated by local people in the "Pride of Moorside" and extremely touched to be presented this wonderful award.

We are also absolutely thrilled that all the hard work, passion, dedication and commitment of our amazing volunteers, management team and trustees has been recognised at regional level and we were awarded the prestigious "Queens Honorary Award for Voluntary Service".

We are extremely proud of all we have achieved and the positive difference we continually make in the lives of others, this could have been done without the fantastic dedication and commitment of our team, our volunteers, our management board and trustees and all our amazingly kind sponsors and donators. We couldn't continue to provide all the essential help and support we provide to our local community, if it wasn't for the ongoing help and support, we receive from so many.

As well as actively exploring all funding sources, we are desperately hoping that The National Lottery and The Tudor Trust can consider an extension to our funding applications. We can strongly demonstrate how the tremendous work we have delivered has had a massive positive impact on our communities and benefited so many. We can clearly evaluate the outstanding outcomes we have achieved for so many struggling people and we can clearly evidence the strong partnerships we have created over the last 3 years.

None of this could have been achieved without the invaluable funding from the National Lottery, The Tudor Trust and everyone that has donated and supported The Attic Project. We are so grateful you believed in us, and we hope you are very proud to see how your funding has helped us positively improve the lives of so many. We truly hope you can continue helping us to keep helping others at the time they need us the most.

Independent Examiners Report

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Attic Project

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Attic Project for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011{'the Act'). The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under the Charities Act 2011, s.144(2) (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

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{S)(b) of the **Act.**

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I can 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:

- the accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Scott Davenport

Davenports Group Ltd
Community House.Badger Street
Bury, BL9 6AD
8 August 2024

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total funds 2024 £	Total funds 2023 £
Receipts:					
Charitable activities	2	10,872	88,913	99,785	64,377
Total		10,872	88,913	99,785	64,377
Payments on:					
Charitable activities	3	1,278	4,895	6,174	5,234
Other	4	199	66,313	66,512	52,489
Total		1,478	71,208	72,686	57,723
Net gains on investments					
Net income		9,395	17,705	27,100	6,655
Transfers between funds					
Net income before other gains/(losses)		9,395	17,705	27,100	6,655
Other gains and losses					
Net movement in funds		9,395	17,705	27,100	6,655
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		31,994	28,780	60,774	54,119
Total funds carried forward		41,389	46,485	87,874	60,774

Statement of assets and liabilities

at 31 March 2024

CharityNo.1158300	**Unrestricted 2024** £	**Restricted 2024** £	**2024** £	**2023** £
Current assets				
Cash at bank and in hand	41,389	46,485	87,874	60,774
Prepayment and accrued income		126	126	
	41,389	46,611	88,000	60,774
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year		(409)	(409)	(6,861)
Net current assets	41,389	46,202	87,591	53,913
Total assets less current liabilities	41,389	46,202	87,591	53,913
Net assets excluding pension asset or liability	41,389	46,202	87,591	53,913
Total net assets	41,389	46,202	87,591	53,913

Approved by the trustees on 8 August 2024

And signed on their behalf by:

D. Turnbull
Trustee
8 August 2024

C. Fargher
Trustee
8 August 2024

Notes to the Accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2024

1 *Accounting policies*

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic if Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

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Revaluation funds	These are unrestricted funds which include a revaluation reserve representing the restatement of investment assets at their market values.

Taxation	The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities. The charity is not registered for VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the expense to which it relates

Transactions with trustees

No remuneration nor expenses were paid to trustees or any persons connected with them during the year or previous year

Detailed Statement of Financial

Activities for the year ended 31 March 2024

	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total funds 2024	Total funds 2023
	£	£	£	£
Receipts from:	10,872	88,913	99,785	64,377
Charitable activities				
	10,872	88,913	99,785	64,377
Total income	10,872	88,913	99,785	64,377
Payments	1,278	4,895	6,174	5,234
	1,278	4,895	6,174	**5,234**
on:				
Charitable activities	1,278	4,895	6,174	5,234
Total of expenditure on charitable activities		47,707	47,707	42,100
Employee costs		1,318	1,318	3,804
Salaries/wages		6,170	6,170	
Pension costs		55,195	55,195	45,904
StaffTraining				240
				240
Motor and travel costs				
Travel and subsistence		4,306	4,306	750
	199	2,357	2,556	432
Premises costs	199	6,663	6,862	1,182
Rent				
Premise repairs and maintenance				
General administrative costs, including depreciation and amortisation				
General insurances		1,040	1,040	2,420
Software, IT support and related costs				199
Sundry expenses				95

telephone, fax and broadband		2,842	2,842	2,129
		3,882	3,882	5,620
Legal and professional costs				
Accountancy and bookkeeping		574	574	240
Consultancy fees				
		574	574	240
Total of expenditure of other costs	199	66,313	66,512	53,186
Activities Total expenditure	1,478	71,208	72,686	57,723
Net gains on investments				
Net income	9,395	17,705	27,100	6,655
Net income before other gains/(losses)	9,395	17,705	27,100	6,655
Other gains				
Net movement in funds	9,395	17,705	27,100	6,655
Reconciliation of funds				
Total funds brought forward	31,994	28,780	60,774	54,119
Total funds carried forward	41,389	46,485	87,874	60,774

Independent Examiners Report

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Attic Project

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Attic Project for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011{'the Act'). The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under the Charities Act 2011, s.144(2) (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

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{S)(b) of the **Act.**

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I can 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:

- the accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Scott

Davenport

Davenports

Group Ltd

Community
House.Badger Street
Bury, BL9 6AD
8 August 2024

ATTIC PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1158300

Accounts

Trustee Annual Report - January 2024

Introduction
The Attic Project is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Charity Commission No 1158300. We have a board of committed Trustees who meet quarterly, and we hold an Annual General Meeting yearly.

Period 01/04/2022 – 31-03-2023
And 01/04/2023 - Date

Name of Trustees

David Stopford, Dawn Turnbull, Tracy Turner, and Chris Fargher.

Service User Trustees: Joseph Roantree and Jimmy Wakudyanaye

Number of Volunteers

25

Aims and Objectives of the Charity

The Attic Project is located in the heart of Bury and is dedicated to helping those in need. With the dedication of our volunteers, staff members and partners, we strive to improve the lives of everyone who needs help within the community. We use a person-centred approach that is flexible and tailored to meet the individual needs of each person we support.
At the time we approached the National Lottery, we could clearly demonstrate the positive impact our mental health support group was having on people and how we were successfully progressing people into volunteering. We also showcased positive partnerships with Bury Adult Learning through our work-club and how we had achieved a range of positive outcomes with various partners supporting us with debt and welfare advice and peer to peer mentoring. Our proposal was to build on this successful foundation and with your help, design a project responsive to the needs in our community.

Overview of Communities Funding
We were absolutely thrilled to get a funding award from The National Lottery and The Tudor Trust and this has enabled us to become an absolute lifeline to those struggling within our local areas. We were also very grateful for the advice and guidance that was given in terms of what they could fund and how this would be best utilised to meet our current needs and help shape the future delivery services of The Attic Project and benefit the wider community.

We have also managed to secure funding from a range of small local grants and are very proud of the unrestricted contributions we have received from local people and local businesses within our community. This has ensured we could keep helping the increasing numbers of struggling families and individuals within our communities. This has been needed more than ever as we moved from the Covid 19 pandemic, straight into the Cost-of-Living Crisis.

The story of our project this year.

What has the funding helped you to do? Tell us in your own words, or the words of the people you support.

The cost-of-living crisis has been extremely challenging for us this last year or so and has really hit our communities very hard. In addition, we have seen our own overhead costs of Gas, Electric and Rent go through the roof. Luckily, we were able to get an extended uplift grant of £27k from the National Lottery but this remains a key concern for our project of the coming months.

We have seen a significant increase in people accessing debts and welfare services and the biggest increase has been from pensioners, extremely worried that their state pension does not cover their hiked-up heating costs, they have not qualified for government help and they are having to choose between heating or eating. We have sadly had a significant increase in low-income working families, who have not been eligible for the government cost of living incentives and have needed essential food and low level medical and / or baby essentials to tide them over until pay day. We have needed to put on extra sessions so we can meet the demands of struggling local people needing to access welfare help and access local help from Bury Household Support Scheme. Also, with so many struggling local vulnerable people only able to afford to put their heating on for an hour or so a day, we made the decision to open extended hours to provide a warm, safe space to those struggling the most. This has also provided a lifeline to many, who can drop by for a hot drink and warm snack and most importantly, a valuable chat with others.

We became a small food bank with the onset of Covid-19 as many of our service users are over 50, live alone, have complex mental and physical health problems, and therefore went straight into shielding. Most are not online and just had pay as you go mobiles, so had no family support and were unable to access online facilities. We therefore supported with weekly food parcels and doorstep welfare visits. As the weeks turned into months, we worked closely with other foodbanks across the borough to make sure we could extend the emergency food and welfare checks to anyone in our community, vulnerable and in genuine need. The profile of The Attic Project has significantly increased over the last few years as we have continued to engage and support the wider community. We thought emergency

food was only a temporary emergency measure needed as we navigated through the unchartered waters of Covid. However, as we went from the challenges of Covid-19 straight into the Cost-of-Living Crisis, our emergency food parcels are now needed even more and have provided a lifeline for many. We always check those coming for emergency food are in genuine need and we work with the families / individuals to provide the wrap around support needed until their immediate crisis is dealt with. This ensures we are not creating dependency on food banks and are helping equip people to cope with the changing world. Providing food, additional support, and warm safe spaces, are all additional emergency services we are now providing because of the cost-of-living crisis. Although we get amazing support with food donations from local supermarkets and small local businesses, it all comes at extra costs to ourselves, in terms of extra resources, extra staffing and higher overheads for ourselves.
We have also seen a significant increase in referrals for all our community support provision from statutory services, social prescribers / link workers and other local charities and community groups. Since Covid-19 many statutory services are still working from home and face to face provision has significantly reduced. Bury Citizens Advice have merged with Bolton Citizens Advice and there are now very few face to face appointments for local people who are struggling. Again, with very little help available from Citizens Advice, the demands for our valuable services have significantly increased as CAB signpost so many struggling to us. All of these extra referrals have come with no extra funding, so it has been very challenging for us and we also have to meet our own increasing additional running costs ourselves.

We are extremely grateful our Reaching Communities and Tudor Trust funding has enabled us to achieve outstanding outcomes for our most vulnerable and support so many struggling within our wider communities. The additional uplift funding has also been truly appreciated to ensure we could continue to support those most in need at the time they need us the most and it has also really helped us with our with own massively inflated heating costs

How the funding has helped

The Reaching Communities and Tudor Trust Funding, including the 6-month extension has been invaluable for us to ensure we could keep supporting those most vulnerable and those in the most genuine need across our communities. Following the Covid-19 pandemic and now the cost-of-living crisis, our essential community support services have never been needed more.
It has also ensured we have been able to exceed all of the aims and objectives of our Reaching Community Project – People In The Lead. It has enabled us to reach wider into our communities, help many more local people struggling and strengthen the lifeline to so many who have benefited from our project right across our borough. This funding has helped us meet all the extra financial demands that have been placed on our Charity, because of the Cost-of-Living Crisis and meet all the extra demands on our services to ensure we are

continuing to bridge the alarming gap of adults and children falling into poverty. In addition, with statuary services relying on us more than ever to support our most vulnerable and those at-risk declining health and well-being. This funding has ensured we could continue to strengthen our community roots, increase community resilience, and help prevent significant declines in health and wellbeing. It has helped us reduce loneliness and isolation and prevented many local families, individuals, and children from falling below the poverty line.
We are very proud and grateful that because of the continued support of our funders the we have a positive life changing impact of thousands of people across our communities and it has provided a complete lifeline to hundreds of our most vulnerable residents. We have been able to create long term positive life changes for many and put a caring heart in the centre of our community for ALL.

Although things have been very challenging during our Our People in The Lead Project, we are very proud to have risen to all challenges, worked round the barriers and exceeded all expectations. The positive difference we have made to the lives of others is absolutely remarkable as you can see in the impacts and outcomes of our core aims and we are extremely grateful to all our amazing Trustees, Volunteers, Sponsors and everyone right across our communities that continuously supports The Attic Project.

Core Aim 1:
Empower our people and prevent further problems
Our weekly debt, benefit and welfare sessions at The Attic has provided a safe, confidential space for service users to get the help and support they needed at the earliest opportunity and help prevent further problems.

Impact and Outcomes
Being able to access face to face support with debt, benefits and welfare issues has been a lifeline to support our most vulnerable, improve the health and wellbeing of so many struggling and prevent local families from spiralling into poverty.

- We have dealt with an average of 4 debt/welfare issues a week for 70 weeks of the 78-week project. As a result, we have been able to support an amazing 280 local people in genuine need, rather than the 100 people we originally hoped to help. This is almost 3 times higher than our original target.
- Out of the 280 people accessing this valuable service 87 of them were struggling with debt issues and suffering with extreme stress. As a result of getting support to take control of their spiralling debt issues, there were significant improvements in improved wellbeing and capability. The total debt we reduced because of this valuable service was an incredible £330k.

- Out of 280 people accessing this valuable service 132 of them were struggling with benefit and welfare issues. Many of these were vulnerable and without our essential help and support, all would have been at significant risk of financial and social exclusion.
- As a result of the 132 benefit and welfare issues we were able to support with, we maximised local people's income be an incredible £985k.
- We know from our self- evaluation feedback forms that 100% of beneficiaries felt a reduction in stress, 91% noted improvements in health/ wellbeing and 97% felt more confident.

Numbers of beneficiaries we aimed to reach.
We aimed to help up to 100 local people per year but have again massively exceeded this by helping more than 280 local period during this final period.

Core Aim 2:
Get Online and Access Opportunities.
Service users can attend our work club and digital skills session to get help getting online and support applying for jobs. This will ensure our more vulnerable customers are not excluded and they are able to get the support they need to access new opportunities and essential services.
Impact and Outcomes

- We have had 48 people attend our work club and get support online.
- We have also had 24 people attend our digital skills sessions for more intensive support online.
- In total we have supported 72 people get online, access online services and gain new skills. From those that access this valuable service, 12 progressed into volunteer opportunities, 12 have progressed with further learning and 14 have progressed into employment.

Numbers of beneficiaries we aim to reach.
In total 72 people have benefited from this service; we have been able to recruit 7 volunteers to support the work club and digital skills sessions. In addition, we have been able to train 5 volunteer community digital buddies. As well as ensuring flexibility and we can also help more people in our community who just need to sit down with them and show them simple online tasks, more than 100 people have already benefited from our digital buddies.

Core Aim 3.

Increased Confidence and Personal Growth
New health and wellbeing sessions have been delivered every few months, these were person centred and co-designed and delivered with our service users, based on what they wanted and needed. By involving our service users from the start, the groups took ownership of the sessions and were able get a really lot from the as they covered things that mattered to them. Particular attention was paid to discussing barriers and exploring self-coping mechanisms. The sessions helped improved health and wellbeing, increased confidence and self-esteem and ensured our most vulnerable were enabled with new skills to help them reach their full potential

Impact and Outcomes
We used our health and wellbeing assessment wheel to help people self-evaluate and the results were outstanding:

- 100% Increased in confidence
- 93% Increased in self esteem
- 100% Experienced personal growth
- 96% noted improved mental and physical health and wellbeing

Numbers of beneficiaries we aim to reach.
We delivered six programs during this period and there were 12 attendees at each. We also trained 6 volunteers to help facilitate these valuable sessions and all these also experienced increased confidence and personal positive growth. Therefore, 72 attendees and 6 volunteers bringing the overall total to 78 who really benefited from these valuable sessions. Our original target was around 40 so we are thrilled that almost twice the amount of people were able to benefit from these valuable sessions.

Core Aim 4.
Create Volunteer Opportunities - Gain New Skills, Increased Self Worth and Give Something Back
We have a clear focus on increasing skills and creating new volunteering opportunities. This has ensured progression for our service users and positively engage people from the local area and created wonderful opportunities for people to give back to their community.

Impact and Outcomes

- We have a volunteer application process, so we can keep a check on numbers of people expressing an interest in volunteering.
- As part of the application process, we discuss skills, interests and what the volunteers' what's to get out of volunteering. This way we are clear of expectations,

we can match the volunteers with what they are interested in, and we can make sure our volunteers are happy and in the best position to progress.

- Our volunteer co-ordinator provides and arranges training for all volunteers, and she conducts regular 1:1's to check in with them, explore any personal development needs and look at ways to progress.
- In addition to our bank of regular volunteers, we also have lots of community volunteers and community partners, that we work with during bigger community events, and we have a number of small local businesses who have become amazing community partners and support us where they can.
- All our volunteers, community partners and local business sponsors, provide very positive feedback about how they love being involved with our project and how proud they are of the positive difference we are making to so many lives.
- All previous and current volunteers have gained a range of new skills and experienced significant growth in confidence and self-worth. During this period alone 15 volunteers have progressed into full time employment, 12 have engaged with additional education or training and even with this positive many still make time to volunteer when they can.
- We have captured a range of wonderful case studies, which we share with others and as they clearly demonstrate the value of volunteering and the positive difference for both the volunteer and to the lives they change.

Numbers of beneficiaries we aim to reach.
We have around 25 regular volunteers to help with sessions and activities and an additional 20 community volunteers, who support with specific events and activities. In addition, we regularly work closely with around 10 local businesses, who we are proud to call our amazing community partners and many others provide us with specific help and support when needed. With the fantastic help and support of all our volunteers, community volunteers and local sponsors, we have support more than 10,000 people during this period alone.

Core Aim 5.
Bring people together and build strong relationships in and across communities
We hold weekly social and skills sessions to bring people together and these are specifically targeted at our harder to reach marginalised groups including those with physical and/or mental health issues, older people, and people at risk of social isolation. During the winter months we also provide a warm, safe space for people to drop in and have a warm drink and hot snack. Both these projects have been invaluable to those within our community who are socially isolated and financially excluded. We have provided a warm safe space for

vulnerable people to come together, build social connections and access the valuable wrap around support they need to make positive life changes.

Impact and Outcomes

- We have had around 15/20 people attending our weekly social sessions this is a total of around 1000 social activity sessions for our most vulnerable.
- We have also had around 10/15 people attending our warm spaces, this is a total of 750 warm spaces sessions for those socially excluded and financially struggling.
- These valuable sessions have enabled people to attend our warm safe spaces, meet friends and enjoy social and wellbeing activities. In addition, we have also been able to provide more than 300 individual support sessions for people struggling with specific issues.
- We have captured some wonderful Case Studies to demonstrate progression and we have anonymised these and obtained permissions to share. These tell wonderful experiences of the positive life changes we have been able to support with.

Numbers of beneficiaries we aim to reach.
More than 75 people have directly benefited achieving positive life changes from this valuable project and more than 2000 social sessions have been delivered and enjoyed by those most vulnerable and struggling within our communities.

Core Aim 6.
Social Eating – Improving health, building relationships and reducing social isolation.
As a result of Covid, we had to change this project and re-design the delivery due to long term changes Covid brought to our community space at The Green Community Café. Monthly community social eating projects have taken place at The Attic Project. These have brought people together in a lovely community space, helped reduce social anxiety and helped prevent social isolation.
In addition, we have also held social eating outings and gone to a community venue as a group to enjoy food and community social activities. These have helped our most vulnerable to overcome barriers with engaging in social a variety of community social sessions. They have helped build confidence with travelling to different social setting and they have helped people make friends and build social connections. This has had a real positive impact on the mental and physical health of all attendees. It has improved confidence and self-worth and helped those most isolated to build relationships and re-engage in the community.

Impact and Outcomes

- We have delivered 18 social eating sessions at the Attic Project during this latest period, and they have benefited 270 socially isolated.

- We have also held 6 community social eating outings to different places, and these have benefited an additional 260 individuals.
- We have noted a significant increase in confidence amongst those attending, we have seen new friendship groups form and we are proud to be instrumental in helping our lost lonely and isolated, start to enjoy being part of the community again.

Numbers of beneficiaries we aim to reach.

These social eating sessions have all been customer led and all beneficiaries played an active part in the planning the sessions. They gained new life skills by working as team and overcame barriers by factoring in things like food, cost, and transport. They also gained confidence in organising things as they worked together to consider dates times and locations. These wonderful sessions have benefited 530 people and grows in confidence and built social connections, they have also gained valuable volunteer skills as they started developing and owning activities and they are now very comfortable playing an active part of community led approaches.

Final Summary

When we received our 3-year funding just before the pandemic hit, none of us had any idea that the world as we knew it was about to completely change. Thanks to this amazing funding and belief in The Attic Project, we had the resources and expertise to support our wider community and provide an essential lifeline for so many. Without this valuable funding, we would have had no choice other than to sadly close our doors, like many other charities and community groups had to. Instead, we were able to respond to the immediate needs of our community, we have completely exceeded our expectations within these last few years and have achieved so much more than we could have ever hoped for.

In addition to massively exceeding our core aims and objectives as noted above, here are a few of our other key achievements.

- Sourced food donations and distributed emergency food parcels to more than 10,000 local residents. This has provided a complete lifeline to our most vulnerable and significantly helped so many struggling families having to choose whether to heat or eat.
- Sourced toy donations and distributed over 1000 emergency Christmas and Birthday toys packages, to local children living on or below the poverty line. Without this emergency help, these children would sadly have gone without.
- Sourced donations and helped over 3000 with emergency help and food over the Easter period.
- Sourced donations and helped with over 600 emergency Christmas gifts for older people isolated in our community and without families to support.

Both the look and the feel of The Attic Project has changed so much during this time and it has been a real hive of positive activity within the heart of our community. We are truly grateful to each volunteer within the Attic Project, to every community volunteer who helps us and to every small local business who supports us. Every one of them have been truly amazing and we couldn't have done all we have without them. Together we have helped thousands of local people in genuine need, we have supported thousands of our most vulnerable people, and we have provided an absolute lifeline for so many families and individuals. We are extremely proud of how we have brought our whole community together and become the absolute heartbeat of Moorside. We look forward to positively embracing our next challenges and continuing working together to support our communities through the struggles of this coming year.

We are very proud to have been nominated by local people in the "Pride of Moorside" and extremely touched to be presented this wonderful award.

We are also absolutely thrilled that all the hard work, passion, dedication and commitment of our amazing volunteers, management team and trustees has been recognised at regional level and we were awarded the prestigious "Queens Honorary Award for Voluntary Service".

We are extremely proud of all we have achieved and the positive difference we continually make in the lives of others, this could have been done without the fantastic dedication and commitment of our team, our volunteers, our management board and trustees and all our amazingly kind sponsors and donators. We couldn't continue to provide all the essential help and support we provide to our local community, if it wasn't for the ongoing help and support, we receive from so many.

As well as actively exploring all funding sources, we are desperately hoping that The National Lottery and The Tudor Trust can consider an extension to our funding applications. We can strongly demonstrate how the tremendous work we have delivered has had a massive positive impact on our communities and benefited so many. We can clearly evaluate the outstanding outcomes we have achieved for so many struggling people and we can clearly evidence the strong partnerships we have created over the last 3 years.

None of this could have been achieved without the invaluable funding from the National Lottery, The Tudor Trust and everyone that has donated and supported The Attic Project. We are so grateful you believed in us, and we hope you are very proud to see how your funding has helped us positively improve the lives of so many. We truly hope you can continue helping us to keep helping others at the time they need us the most.

Trustee Annual Report - January 2024

Introduction
The Attic Project is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Charity Commission No 1158300. We have a board of committed Trustees who meet quarterly, and we hold an Annual General Meeting yearly.

Period 01/04/2022 – 31/03/2023

Name of Trustees

David Stopford, Dawn Turnbull, Tracy Turner, and Chris

Fargher. **Service User Trustees:** Joseph Roantree and

Jimmy Wakudyanaye **Number of Volunteers**

25

Aims and Objectives of the Charity

The Attic Project is located in the heart of Bury and is dedicated to helping those in need. With the dedication of our volunteers, staff members and partners, we strive to improve the lives of everyone who needs help within the community. We use a person-centred approach that is flexible and tailored to meet the individual needs of each person we support.
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The story of our project this year.

What has the funding helped you to do? Tell us in your own words, or the words of the people you support.

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have continued to engage and support the wider community. We thought emergency

food was only a temporary emergency measure needed as we navigated through the unchartered waters of Covid. However, as we went from the challenges of Covid-19 straight into the Cost-of-Living Crisis, our emergency food parcels are now needed even more and have provided a lifeline for many. We always check those coming for emergency food are in genuine need and we work with the families / individuals to provide the wrap around support needed until their immediate crisis is dealt with. This ensures we are not creating dependency on food banks and are helping equip people to cope with the changing world. Providing food, additional support, and warm safe spaces, are all additional emergency services we are now providing because of the cost-of-living crisis. Although we get amazing support with food donations from local supermarkets and small local businesses, it all comes at extra costs to ourselves, in terms of extra resources, extra staffing and higher overheads for ourselves.
We have also seen a significant increase in referrals for all our community support provision from statutory services, social prescribers / link workers and other local charities and community groups. Since Covid-19 many statutory services are still working from home and face to face provision has significantly reduced. Bury Citizens Advice have merged with Bolton Citizens Advice and there are now very few face to face appointments for local people who are struggling. Again, with very little help available from Citizens Advice, the demands for our valuable services have significantly increased as CAB signpost so many struggling to us. All of these extra referrals have come with no extra funding, so it has been very challenging for us and we also have to meet our own increasing additional running costs ourselves.

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How the funding has helped

The Reaching Communities and Tudor Trust Funding, including the 6-month extension has been invaluable for us to ensure we could keep supporting those most vulnerable and those in the most genuine need across our communities. Following the Covid-19 pandemic and now the cost-of-living crisis, our essential community support services have never been needed more.
It has also ensured we have been able to exceed all of the aims and objectives of our Reaching Community Project – People In The Lead. It has enabled us to reach wider into our communities, help many more local people struggling and strengthen the lifeline to so many who have

benefited from our project right across our borough. This funding has helped us meet all the extra financial demands that have been placed on our Charity, because of the Cost-of-Living Crisis and meet all the extra demands on our services to ensure we are

continuing to bridge the alarming gap of adults and children falling into poverty. In addition, with statuary services relying on us more than ever to support our most vulnerable and those at-risk declining health and well-being. This funding has ensured we could continue to strengthen our community roots, increase community resilience, and help prevent significant declines in health and wellbeing. It has helped us reduce loneliness and isolation and prevented many local families, individuals, and children from falling below the poverty line.
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Impact and Outcomes
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- We have dealt with an average of 4 debt/welfare issues a week for 70 weeks of the 78-week project. As a result, we have been able to support an amazing 280 local people in genuine need, rather than the 100 people we originally hoped to help. This is almost 3 times higher than our original target.
- Out of the 280 people accessing this valuable service 87 of them were struggling with debt issues and suffering with extreme stress. As a result of getting support to take control of their spiralling debt issues, there were significant improvements in improved wellbeing and capability. The total debt we reduced because of this valuable service was an incredible £330k.

- Out of 280 people accessing this valuable service 132 of them were struggling with benefit and welfare issues. Many of these were vulnerable and without our essential help and support, all would have been at significant risk of financial and social exclusion.
- As a result of the 132 benefit and welfare issues we were able to support with, we maximised local people's income be an incredible £985k.
- We know from our self- evaluation feedback forms that 100% of beneficiaries felt a reduction in stress, 91% noted improvements in health/ wellbeing and 97% felt more confident.

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We aimed to help up to 100 local people per year but have again massively exceeded this by helping more than 280 local period during this final period.

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Impact and Outcomes

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- We have also had 24 people attend our digital skills sessions for more intensive support online.
- In total we have supported 72 people get online, access online services and gain new skills. From those that access this valuable service, 12 progressed into volunteer opportunities, 12 have progressed with further learning and 14 have progressed into employment.

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Impact and Outcomes
We used our health and wellbeing assessment wheel to help people self-evaluate and the results were outstanding:

- 100% Increased in confidence
- 93% Increased in self esteem
- 100% Experienced personal growth
- 96% noted improved mental and physical health and wellbeing

Numbers of beneficiaries we aim to reach.
We delivered six programs during this period and there were 12 attendees at each. We also trained 6 volunteers to help facilitate these valuable sessions and all these also experienced increased confidence and personal positive growth. Therefore, 72 attendees and 6 volunteers bringing the overall total to 78 who really benefited from these valuable sessions. Our original target was around 40 so we are thrilled that almost twice the amount of people were able to benefit from these valuable sessions.

Core Aim 4.
Create Volunteer Opportunities - Gain New Skills, Increased Self Worth and Give Something Back
We have a clear focus on increasing skills and creating new volunteering opportunities. This has ensured progression for our service users and positively engage people from the local area and created wonderful opportunities for people to give back to their community.

Impact and Outcomes

- We have a volunteer application process, so we can keep a check on numbers of people expressing an interest in volunteering.
- As part of the application process, we discuss skills, interests and what the volunteers' what's to get out of volunteering. This way we are clear of expectations,

we can match the volunteers with what they are interested in, and we can make sure our volunteers are happy and in the best position to progress.

- Our volunteer co-ordinator provides and arranges training for all volunteers, and she conducts regular 1:1's to check in with them, explore any personal development needs and look at ways to progress.
- In addition to our bank of regular volunteers, we also have lots of community volunteers and community partners, that we work with during bigger community events, and we have a number of small local businesses who have become amazing community partners and support us where they can.
- All our volunteers, community partners and local business sponsors, provide very positive feedback about how they love being involved with our project and how proud they are of the positive difference we are making to so many lives.
- All previous and current volunteers have gained a range of new skills and experienced significant growth in confidence and self-worth. During this period alone 15 volunteers have progressed into full time employment, 12 have engaged with additional education or training and even with this positive many still make time to volunteer when they can.
- We have captured a range of wonderful case studies, which we share with others and as they clearly demonstrate the value of volunteering and the positive difference for both the volunteer and to the lives they change.

Numbers of beneficiaries we aim to reach.
We have around 25 regular volunteers to help with sessions and activities and an additional 20 community volunteers, who support with specific events and activities. In addition, we regularly work closely with around 10 local businesses, who we are proud to call our amazing community partners and many others provide us with specific help and support when needed. With the fantastic help and support of all our volunteers, community volunteers and local sponsors, we have support more than 10,000 people during this period alone.

Core Aim 5.
Bring people together and build strong relationships in and across communities
We hold weekly social and skills sessions to bring people together and these are specifically targeted at our harder to reach marginalised groups including those with physical and/or mental health issues, older people, and people at risk of social isolation. During the winter months we also

provide a warm, safe space for people to drop in and have a warm drink and hot snack. Both these projects have been invaluable to those within our community who are socially isolated and financially excluded. We have provided a warm safe space for

vulnerable people to come together, build social connections and access the valuable wrap around support they need to make positive life changes.

Impact and Outcomes

- We have had around 15/20 people attending our weekly social sessions this is a total of around 1000 social activity sessions for our most vulnerable.
- We have also had around 10/15 people attending our warm spaces, this is a total of 750 warm spaces sessions for those socially excluded and financially struggling.
- These valuable sessions have enabled people to attend our warm safe spaces, meet friends and enjoy social and wellbeing activities. In addition, we have also been able to provide more than 300 individual support sessions for people struggling with specific issues.
- We have captured some wonderful Case Studies to demonstrate progression and we have anonymised these and obtained permissions to share. These tell wonderful experiences of the positive life changes we have been able to support with.

Numbers of beneficiaries we aim to reach.
More than 75 people have directly benefited achieving positive life changes from this valuable project and more than 2000 social sessions have been delivered and enjoyed by those most vulnerable and struggling within our communities.

Core Aim 6.
Social Eating – Improving health, building relationships and reducing social isolation. As a result of Covid, we had to change this project and re-design the delivery due to long term changes Covid brought to our community space at The Green Community Café. Monthly community social eating projects have taken place at The Attic Project. These have brought people together in a lovely community space, helped reduce social anxiety and helped prevent social isolation. In addition, we have also held social eating outings and gone to a community venue as a group to enjoy food and community social activities. These have helped our most vulnerable to overcome barriers with engaging in social a variety of community social sessions. They have helped build confidence with travelling to different social setting and they have helped people make friends and build social connections. This has had a real positive impact on the mental and physical health of all attendees. It has improved confidence and self-worth and helped those most isolated to build relationships and re-engage in the community.

Impact and Outcomes

- We have delivered 18 social eating sessions at the Attic Project during this latest period, and they have benefited 270 socially isolated.

- We have also held 6 community social eating outings to different places, and these have benefited an additional 260 individuals.
- We have noted a significant increase in confidence amongst those attending, we have seen new friendship groups form and we are proud to be instrumental in helping our lost lonely and isolated, start to enjoy being part of the community again.

Numbers of beneficiaries we aim to reach.

These social eating sessions have all been customer led and all beneficiaries played an active part in the planning the sessions. They gained new life skills by working as team and overcame barriers by factoring in things like food, cost, and transport. They also gained confidence in organising things as they worked together to consider dates times and locations. These wonderful sessions have benefited 530 people and grows in confidence and built social connections, they have also gained valuable volunteer skills as they started developing and owning activities and they are now very comfortable playing an active part of community led approaches.

Final Summary

When we received our 3-year funding just before the pandemic hit, none of us had any idea that the world as we knew it was about to completely change. Thanks to this amazing funding and belief in The Attic Project, we had the resources and expertise to support our wider community and provide an essential lifeline for so many. Without this valuable funding, we would have had no choice other than to sadly close our doors, like many other charities and community groups had to. Instead, we were able to respond to the immediate needs of our community, we have completely exceeded our expectations within these last few years and have achieved so much more than we could have ever hoped for.

In addition to massively exceeding our core aims and objectives as noted above, here are a few of our other key achievements.

- Sourced food donations and distributed emergency food parcels to more than 10,000 local residents. This has provided a complete lifeline to our most vulnerable and significantly helped so many struggling families having to choose whether to heat or eat.
- Sourced toy donations and distributed over 1000 emergency Christmas and Birthday toys packages, to local children living on or below the poverty line. Without this emergency help, these children would sadly have gone without.
- Sourced donations and helped over 3000 with emergency help and food over the Easter period.
- Sourced donations and helped with over 600 emergency Christmas gifts for older people isolated in our community and

without families to support.

Both the look and the feel of The Attic Project has changed so much during this time and it has been a real hive of positive activity within the heart of our community. We are truly grateful to each volunteer within the Attic Project, to every community volunteer who helps us and to every small local business who supports us. Every one of them have been truly amazing and we couldn't have done all we have without them. Together we have helped thousands of local people in genuine need, we have supported thousands of our most vulnerable people, and we have provided an absolute lifeline for so many families and individuals. We are extremely proud of how we have brought our whole community together and become the absolute heartbeat of Moorside. We look forward to positively embracing our next challenges and continuing working together to support our communities through the struggles of this coming year.

We are very proud to have been nominated by local people in the "Pride of Moorside" and extremely touched to be presented this wonderful award.

We are also absolutely thrilled that all the hard work, passion, dedication and commitment of our amazing volunteers, management team and trustees has been recognised at regional level and we were awarded the prestigious "Queens Honorary Award for Voluntary Service".

We are extremely proud of all we have achieved and the positive difference we continually make in the lives of others, this could have been done without the fantastic dedication and commitment of our team, our volunteers, our management board and trustees and all our amazingly kind sponsors and donators. We couldn't continue to provide all the essential help and support we provide to our local community, if it wasn't for the ongoing help and support, we receive from so many.

As well as actively exploring all funding sources, we are desperately hoping that The National Lottery and The Tudor Trust can consider an extension to our funding applications. We can strongly demonstrate how the tremendous work we have delivered has had a massive positive impact on our communities and benefited so many. We can clearly evaluate the outstanding outcomes we have achieved for so many struggling people and we can clearly evidence the strong partnerships we have created over the last 3 years.

None of this could have been achieved without the invaluable funding from the National Lottery, The Tudor Trust and everyone that has donated and supported The Attic Project. We are so grateful you believed in us, and we hope you are very proud to see how your funding has helped us positively improve the lives of so many. We truly hope you can continue helping us to keep helping others at the time they need us the most.

Attic
Independent Examiners Report

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Attic Project

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Attic Project for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the Act'). The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under the Charities Act 2011, s.144(2) (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

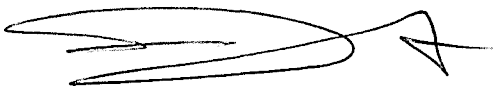
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145{S)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner’s statement

I have completed my examination. I can 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:

- the accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.



Scott Davenport

Davenports
Group Ltd
Community
House Badger
Street
Bury

BL9 6AD
15 January 2024

Attic

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Receipts:					
Charitable activities	2	11,829	52,549	64,377	107,377
Total		11,829	52,549	64,377	107,377
Payments on:					
Charitable activities	3	5,234	-	5,234	23,000
Other	4	735	51,754	52,489	65,613
Total		5,969	51,754	57,723	88,613
Net gains on investments		-	-	-	-
Net income		5,860	795	6,655	18,764
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net income before other gains/(losses)		5,860	795	6,655	18,764
Other gains and losses					
Net movement in funds		5,860	795	6,655	18,764
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		26,134	27,985	54,119	35,355
Total funds carried forward		31,994	28,780	60,774	54,119

Attic Project

Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 March 2023

Charity No. 1158300	**Unrestricted 2023 £**	**Restricted 2023 £**	**2023 £**	**2022 £**
Current assets				
Cash at bank and in hand	31,994	28,780	60,774	54,119
	31,994	28,780	60,774	54,119
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	-	(6,861)	(6,861)	(2,634)
Net current assets	31,994	21,919	53,913	51,485
Total assets less current liabilities	31,994	21,919	53,913	51,485

Approved by the trustees on 23 January 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

D. Turnbull
Trustee
23 January 2024

C. Fargher
Trustee
23 January 2024

Attic Project
Notes to the

for the year ended 31 March 2023

1 **Accounting policies Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic if Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Change in basis of accounting or to previous accounts

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and method of accounting) since last year and no changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds in	These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees furtherance of the general objects of the charity.
Designated funds	These are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.
Revaluation funds	These are unrestricted funds which include a revaluation reserve representing the restatement of investment assets at their market values.
Restricted funds	These are available for use subject to restrictions imposed by the donor or through terms of an appeal.

Taxation The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities. The charity is not registered for VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the expense to which is relates.

Transactions with trustees No remuneration nor expenses were paid to trustees or any persons connected with them during the year or previous year.

Attic Project
Detailed

Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Receipts from:				
Charitable activities	11,829	52,549	64,377	107,377
	-	-	-	-
Total income	11,829	52,549	64,377	107,377
	11,829	52,549	64,377	107,377
Payments on:				
Charitable activities	5,234	-	5,234	23,000
Total of expenditure on charitable activities	5,234	-	5,234	23,000
Employee costs				
Salaries/wages	-	42,100	42,100	48,636
Pension costs	-	3,804	3,804	3,051
Temporary staff		-	-	-
	-	45,904	45,904	51,867
Motor and travel costs				
Travel and subsistence	-	240	240	5,942
	-	240	240	5,942
Premises costs Rent	-	750	750	-
Premises repairs and maintenance	400	112	512	2,098
	400	862	1,262	2,098
General administrative costs, including depreciation and amortisation	-	2,420	2,420	2,613
General insurances				
Software, IT support and related costs	-	199	199	203
Sundry expenses	95	-	95	732
Telephone, fax and broadband	-	2,129	2,129	2,054
	95	4,748	4,843	5,602
Legal and professional costs				
Accountancy and bookkeeping	240	-	240	284
Consultancy fees	-	-	-	-

Attic Project
Detailed

	240	-	240	284
Total of expenditure of other costs	735	51,754	52,489	65,613

Attic Project
Detailed Statement of

Activities Total expenditure	5,969	51,754	57,723	88,613
Net gains on investments	-	-	-	-
Net income	5,860	795	6,655	18,764
Net income before other gains/(losses)	5,860	795	6,655	18,764
Other Gains	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	5,860	795	6,655	18,764
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	26,134	27,985	54,119	35,355
Total funds carried forward	31,994	28,780	60,774	54,119

Trustee Annual Report - January 2024

Introduction
The Attic Project is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Charity Commission No 1158300. We have a board of committed Trustees who meet quarterly, and we hold an Annual General Meeting yearly.

Period 01/04/2022 – 31/03/2023

Name of Trustees

David Stopford, Dawn Turnbull, Tracy Turner, and Chris

Fargher. **Service User Trustees:** Joseph Roantree and

Jimmy Wakudyanaye **Number of Volunteers**

25

Aims and Objectives of the Charity

The Attic Project is located in the heart of Bury and is dedicated to helping those in need. With the dedication of our volunteers, staff members and partners, we strive to improve the lives of everyone who needs help within the community. We use a person-centred approach that is flexible and tailored to meet the individual needs of each person we support.
At the time we approached the National Lottery, we could clearly demonstrate the positive impact our mental health support group was having on people and how we were successfully progressing people into volunteering. We also showcased positive partnerships with Bury Adult Learning through our work-club and how we had achieved a range of positive outcomes with various partners supporting us with debt and welfare advice and peer to peer mentoring. Our proposal was to build on this successful foundation and with your help, design a project responsive to the needs in our community.

Overview of Communities Funding
We were absolutely thrilled to get a funding award from The National Lottery and The Tudor Trust and this has enabled us to become an absolute lifeline to those struggling within our local areas. We were also very grateful for the advice and guidance that was given in terms of what they could fund and how this would be best utilised to meet our current needs and help shape the future delivery services of The Attic Project and benefit the wider community.

We have also managed to secure funding from a range of small local grants and are very proud of the unrestricted contributions we have received from local people and local businesses within our community. This has ensured we could keep helping the increasing numbers of struggling families and individuals within our communities. This has been needed more than ever as we moved from the Covid 19 pandemic, straight into the Cost-of- Living Crisis.

The story of our project this year.

What has the funding helped you to do? Tell us in your own words, or the words of the people you support.

The cost-of-living crisis has been extremely challenging for us this last year or so and has really hit our communities very hard. In addition, we have seen our own overhead costs of Gas, Electric and Rent go through the roof. Luckily, we were able to get an extended uplift grant of £27k from the National Lottery but this remains a key concern for our project of the coming months.

We have seen a significant increase in people accessing debts and welfare services and the biggest increase has been from pensioners, extremely worried that their state pension does not cover their hiked-up heating costs, they have not qualified for government help and they are having to choose between heating or eating. We have sadly had a significant increase in low-income working families, who have not been eligible for the government cost of living incentives and have needed essential food and low level medical and / or baby essentials to tide them over until pay day. We have needed to put on extra sessions so we can meet the demands of struggling local people needing to access welfare help and access local help from Bury Household Support Scheme. Also, with so many struggling local vulnerable people only able to afford to put their heating on for an hour or so a day, we made the decision to open extended hours to provide a warm, safe space to those struggling the most. This has also provided a lifeline to many, who can drop by for a hot drink and warm snack and most importantly, a valuable chat with others.

We became a small food bank with the onset of Covid-19 as many of our service users are over 50, live alone, have complex mental and physical health problems, and therefore went straight into shielding. Most are not online and just had pay as you go mobiles, so had no family support and were unable to access online facilities. We therefore supported with weekly food parcels and doorstep welfare visits. As the weeks turned into months, we worked closely with other foodbanks across the borough to make sure we could extend the emergency food and welfare checks to anyone in our community, vulnerable and in genuine need. The profile of The Attic Project has significantly increased over the last few years as we

have continued to engage and support the wider community. We thought emergency

food was only a temporary emergency measure needed as we navigated through the unchartered waters of Covid. However, as we went from the challenges of Covid-19 straight into the Cost-of-Living Crisis, our emergency food parcels are now needed even more and have provided a lifeline for many. We always check those coming for emergency food are in genuine need and we work with the families / individuals to provide the wrap around support needed until their immediate crisis is dealt with. This ensures we are not creating dependency on food banks and are helping equip people to cope with the changing world. Providing food, additional support, and warm safe spaces, are all additional emergency services we are now providing because of the cost-of-living crisis. Although we get amazing support with food donations from local supermarkets and small local businesses, it all comes at extra costs to ourselves, in terms of extra resources, extra staffing and higher overheads for ourselves.
We have also seen a significant increase in referrals for all our community support provision from statutory services, social prescribers / link workers and other local charities and community groups. Since Covid-19 many statutory services are still working from home and face to face provision has significantly reduced. Bury Citizens Advice have merged with Bolton Citizens Advice and there are now very few face to face appointments for local people who are struggling. Again, with very little help available from Citizens Advice, the demands for our valuable services have significantly increased as CAB signpost so many struggling to us. All of these extra referrals have come with no extra funding, so it has been very challenging for us and we also have to meet our own increasing additional running costs ourselves.

We are extremely grateful our Reaching Communities and Tudor Trust funding has enabled us to achieve outstanding outcomes for our most vulnerable and support so many struggling within our wider communities. The additional uplift funding has also been truly appreciated to ensure we could continue to support those most in need at the time they need us the most and it has also really helped us with our with own massively inflated heating costs

How the funding has helped

The Reaching Communities and Tudor Trust Funding, including the 6-month extension has been invaluable for us to ensure we could keep supporting those most vulnerable and those in the most genuine need across our communities. Following the Covid-19 pandemic and now the cost-of-living crisis, our essential community support services have never been needed more.
It has also ensured we have been able to exceed all of the aims and objectives of our Reaching Community Project – People In The Lead. It has enabled us to reach wider into our communities, help many more local people struggling and strengthen the lifeline to so many who have

benefited from our project right across our borough. This funding has helped us meet all the extra financial demands that have been placed on our Charity, because of the Cost-of-Living Crisis and meet all the extra demands on our services to ensure we are

continuing to bridge the alarming gap of adults and children falling into poverty. In addition, with statuary services relying on us more than ever to support our most vulnerable and those at-risk declining health and well-being. This funding has ensured we could continue to strengthen our community roots, increase community resilience, and help prevent significant declines in health and wellbeing. It has helped us reduce loneliness and isolation and prevented many local families, individuals, and children from falling below the poverty line.
We are very proud and grateful that because of the continued support of our funders the we have a positive life changing impact of thousands of people across our communities and it has provided a complete lifeline to hundreds of our most vulnerable residents. We have been able to create long term positive life changes for many and put a caring heart in the centre of our community for ALL.

Although things have been very challenging during our Our People in The Lead Project, we are very proud to have risen to all challenges, worked round the barriers and exceeded all expectations. The positive difference we have made to the lives of others is absolutely remarkable as you can see in the impacts and outcomes of our core aims and we are extremely grateful to all our amazing Trustees, Volunteers, Sponsors and everyone right across our communities that continuously supports The Attic Project.

Core Aim 1:
Empower our people and prevent further problems
Our weekly debt, benefit and welfare sessions at The Attic has provided a safe, confidential space for service users to get the help and support they needed at the earliest opportunity and help prevent further problems.

Impact and Outcomes
Being able to access face to face support with debt, benefits and welfare issues has been a lifeline to support our most vulnerable, improve the health and wellbeing of so many struggling and prevent local families from spiralling into poverty.

- We have dealt with an average of 4 debt/welfare issues a week for 70 weeks of the 78-week project. As a result, we have been able to support an amazing 280 local people in genuine need, rather than the 100 people we originally hoped to help. This is almost 3 times higher than our original target.
- Out of the 280 people accessing this valuable service 87 of them were struggling with debt issues and suffering with extreme stress. As a result of getting support to take control of their spiralling debt issues, there were significant improvements in improved wellbeing and capability. The total debt we reduced because of this valuable service was an incredible £330k.

- Out of 280 people accessing this valuable service 132 of them were struggling with benefit and welfare issues. Many of these were vulnerable and without our essential help and support, all would have been at significant risk of financial and social exclusion.
- As a result of the 132 benefit and welfare issues we were able to support with, we maximised local people's income be an incredible £985k.
- We know from our self- evaluation feedback forms that 100% of beneficiaries felt a reduction in stress, 91% noted improvements in health/ wellbeing and 97% felt more confident.

Numbers of beneficiaries we aimed to reach.
We aimed to help up to 100 local people per year but have again massively exceeded this by helping more than 280 local period during this final period.

Core Aim 2:
Get Online and Access Opportunities.
Service users can attend our work club and digital skills session to get help getting online and support applying for jobs. This will ensure our more vulnerable customers are not excluded and they are able to get the support they need to access new opportunities and essential services.
Impact and Outcomes

- We have had 48 people attend our work club and get support online.
- We have also had 24 people attend our digital skills sessions for more intensive support online.
- In total we have supported 72 people get online, access online services and gain new skills. From those that access this valuable service, 12 progressed into volunteer opportunities, 12 have progressed with further learning and 14 have progressed into employment.

Numbers of beneficiaries we aim to reach.
In total 72 people have benefited from this service; we have been able to recruit 7 volunteers to support the work club and digital skills sessions. In addition, we have been able to train 5 volunteer community digital buddies. As well as ensuring flexibility and we can also help more people in our community who just need to sit down with them and show them simple online tasks, more than 100 people have already benefited from our digital buddies.

Core Aim 3.

Increased Confidence and Personal Growth
New health and wellbeing sessions have been delivered every few months, these were person centred and co-designed and delivered with our service users, based on what they wanted and needed. By involving our service users from the start, the groups took ownership of the sessions and were able get a really lot from the as they covered things that mattered to them. Particular attention was paid to discussing barriers and exploring self- coping mechanisms. The sessions helped improved health and wellbeing, increased confidence and self-esteem and ensured our most vulnerable were enabled with new skills to help them reach their full potential

Impact and Outcomes
We used our health and wellbeing assessment wheel to help people self-evaluate and the results were outstanding:

- 100% Increased in confidence
- 93% Increased in self esteem
- 100% Experienced personal growth
- 96% noted improved mental and physical health and wellbeing

Numbers of beneficiaries we aim to reach.
We delivered six programs during this period and there were 12 attendees at each. We also trained 6 volunteers to help facilitate these valuable sessions and all these also experienced increased confidence and personal positive growth. Therefore, 72 attendees and 6 volunteers bringing the overall total to 78 who really benefited from these valuable sessions. Our original target was around 40 so we are thrilled that almost twice the amount of people were able to benefit from these valuable sessions.

Core Aim 4.
Create Volunteer Opportunities - Gain New Skills, Increased Self Worth and Give Something Back
We have a clear focus on increasing skills and creating new volunteering opportunities. This has ensured progression for our service users and positively engage people from the local area and created wonderful opportunities for people to give back to their community.

Impact and Outcomes

- We have a volunteer application process, so we can keep a check on numbers of people expressing an interest in volunteering.
- As part of the application process, we discuss skills, interests and what the volunteers' what's to get out of volunteering. This way we are clear of expectations,

we can match the volunteers with what they are interested in, and we can make sure our volunteers are happy and in the best position to progress.

- Our volunteer co-ordinator provides and arranges training for all volunteers, and she conducts regular 1:1's to check in with them, explore any personal development needs and look at ways to progress.
- In addition to our bank of regular volunteers, we also have lots of community volunteers and community partners, that we work with during bigger community events, and we have a number of small local businesses who have become amazing community partners and support us where they can.
- All our volunteers, community partners and local business sponsors, provide very positive feedback about how they love being involved with our project and how proud they are of the positive difference we are making to so many lives.
- All previous and current volunteers have gained a range of new skills and experienced significant growth in confidence and self-worth. During this period alone 15 volunteers have progressed into full time employment, 12 have engaged with additional education or training and even with this positive many still make time to volunteer when they can.
- We have captured a range of wonderful case studies, which we share with others and as they clearly demonstrate the value of volunteering and the positive difference for both the volunteer and to the lives they change.

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Core Aim 5.
Bring people together and build strong relationships in and across communities
We hold weekly social and skills sessions to bring people together and these are specifically targeted at our harder to reach marginalised groups including those with physical and/or mental health issues, older people, and people at risk of social isolation. During the winter months we also

provide a warm, safe space for people to drop in and have a warm drink and hot snack. Both these projects have been invaluable to those within our community who are socially isolated and financially excluded. We have provided a warm safe space for

vulnerable people to come together, build social connections and access the valuable wrap around support they need to make positive life changes.

Impact and Outcomes

- We have had around 15/20 people attending our weekly social sessions this is a total of around 1000 social activity sessions for our most vulnerable.
- We have also had around 10/15 people attending our warm spaces, this is a total of 750 warm spaces sessions for those socially excluded and financially struggling.
- These valuable sessions have enabled people to attend our warm safe spaces, meet friends and enjoy social and wellbeing activities. In addition, we have also been able to provide more than 300 individual support sessions for people struggling with specific issues.
- We have captured some wonderful Case Studies to demonstrate progression and we have anonymised these and obtained permissions to share. These tell wonderful experiences of the positive life changes we have been able to support with.

Numbers of beneficiaries we aim to reach.
More than 75 people have directly benefited achieving positive life changes from this valuable project and more than 2000 social sessions have been delivered and enjoyed by those most vulnerable and struggling within our communities.

Core Aim 6.
Social Eating – Improving health, building relationships and reducing social isolation. As a result of Covid, we had to change this project and re-design the delivery due to long term changes Covid brought to our community space at The Green Community Café. Monthly community social eating projects have taken place at The Attic Project. These have brought people together in a lovely community space, helped reduce social anxiety and helped prevent social isolation. In addition, we have also held social eating outings and gone to a community venue as a group to enjoy food and community social activities. These have helped our most vulnerable to overcome barriers with engaging in social a variety of community social sessions. They have helped build confidence with travelling to different social setting and they have helped people make friends and build social connections. This has had a real positive impact on the mental and physical health of all attendees. It has improved confidence and self-worth and helped those most isolated to build relationships and re-engage in the community.

Impact and Outcomes

- We have delivered 18 social eating sessions at the Attic Project during this latest period, and they have benefited 270 socially isolated.

- We have also held 6 community social eating outings to different places, and these have benefited an additional 260 individuals.
- We have noted a significant increase in confidence amongst those attending, we have seen new friendship groups form and we are proud to be instrumental in helping our lost lonely and isolated, start to enjoy being part of the community again.

Numbers of beneficiaries we aim to reach.

These social eating sessions have all been customer led and all beneficiaries played an active part in the planning the sessions. They gained new life skills by working as team and overcame barriers by factoring in things like food, cost, and transport. They also gained confidence in organising things as they worked together to consider dates times and locations. These wonderful sessions have benefited 530 people and grows in confidence and built social connections, they have also gained valuable volunteer skills as they started developing and owning activities and they are now very comfortable playing an active part of community led approaches.

Final Summary

When we received our 3-year funding just before the pandemic hit, none of us had any idea that the world as we knew it was about to completely change. Thanks to this amazing funding and belief in The Attic Project, we had the resources and expertise to support our wider community and provide an essential lifeline for so many. Without this valuable funding, we would have had no choice other than to sadly close our doors, like many other charities and community groups had to. Instead, we were able to respond to the immediate needs of our community, we have completely exceeded our expectations within these last few years and have achieved so much more than we could have ever hoped for.

In addition to massively exceeding our core aims and objectives as noted above, here are a few of our other key achievements.

- Sourced food donations and distributed emergency food parcels to more than 10,000 local residents. This has provided a complete lifeline to our most vulnerable and significantly helped so many struggling families having to choose whether to heat or eat.
- Sourced toy donations and distributed over 1000 emergency Christmas and Birthday toys packages, to local children living on or below the poverty line. Without this emergency help, these children would sadly have gone without.
- Sourced donations and helped over 3000 with emergency help and food over the Easter period.
- Sourced donations and helped with over 600 emergency Christmas gifts for older people isolated in our community and

without families to support.

Both the look and the feel of The Attic Project has changed so much during this time and it has been a real hive of positive activity within the heart of our community. We are truly grateful to each volunteer within the Attic Project, to every community volunteer who helps us and to every small local business who supports us. Every one of them have been truly amazing and we couldn't have done all we have without them. Together we have helped thousands of local people in genuine need, we have supported thousands of our most vulnerable people, and we have provided an absolute lifeline for so many families and individuals. We are extremely proud of how we have brought our whole community together and become the absolute heartbeat of Moorside. We look forward to positively embracing our next challenges and continuing working together to support our communities through the struggles of this coming year.

We are very proud to have been nominated by local people in the "Pride of Moorside" and extremely touched to be presented this wonderful award.

We are also absolutely thrilled that all the hard work, passion, dedication and commitment of our amazing volunteers, management team and trustees has been recognised at regional level and we were awarded the prestigious "Queens Honorary Award for Voluntary Service".

We are extremely proud of all we have achieved and the positive difference we continually make in the lives of others, this could have been done without the fantastic dedication and commitment of our team, our volunteers, our management board and trustees and all our amazingly kind sponsors and donators. We couldn't continue to provide all the essential help and support we provide to our local community, if it wasn't for the ongoing help and support, we receive from so many.

As well as actively exploring all funding sources, we are desperately hoping that The National Lottery and The Tudor Trust can consider an extension to our funding applications. We can strongly demonstrate how the tremendous work we have delivered has had a massive positive impact on our communities and benefited so many. We can clearly evaluate the outstanding outcomes we have achieved for so many struggling people and we can clearly evidence the strong partnerships we have created over the last 3 years.

None of this could have been achieved without the invaluable funding from the National Lottery, The Tudor Trust and everyone that has donated and supported The Attic Project. We are so grateful you believed in us, and we hope you are very proud to see how your funding has helped us positively improve the lives of so many. We truly hope you can continue helping us to keep helping others at the time they need us the most.

Attic
Independent Examiners Report

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Attic Project

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Attic Project for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the Act'). The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under the Charities Act 2011, s.144(2) (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

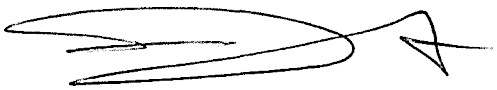
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145{S)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner’s statement

I have completed my examination. I can 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:

- the accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.



Scott Davenport

Davenports
Group Ltd
Community
House Badger
Street
Bury

BL9 6AD
15 January 2024

Attic

Statement of Financial Activities

for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Receipts:					
Charitable activities	2	11,829	52,549	64,377	107,377
Total		11,829	52,549	64,377	107,377
Payments on:					
Charitable activities	3	5,234	-	5,234	23,000
Other	4	735	51,754	52,489	65,613
Total		5,969	51,754	57,723	88,613
Net gains on investments		-	-	-	-
Net income		5,860	795	6,655	18,764
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net income before other gains/(losses)		5,860	795	6,655	18,764
Other gains and losses					
Net movement in funds		5,860	795	6,655	18,764
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		26,134	27,985	54,119	35,355
Total funds carried forward		31,994	28,780	60,774	54,119

Attic Project

Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 March 2023

Charity No. 1158300	**Unrestricted 2023 £**	**Restricted 2023 £**	**2023 £**	**2022 £**
Current assets				
Cash at bank and in hand	31,994	28,780	60,774	54,119
	31,994	28,780	60,774	54,119
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	-	(6,861)	(6,861)	(2,634)
Net current assets	31,994	21,919	53,913	51,485
Total assets less current liabilities	31,994	21,919	53,913	51,485

Approved by the trustees on 23 January 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

D. Turnbull
Trustee
23 January 2024

C. Fargher
Trustee
23 January 2024

Attic Project
Notes to the

for the year ended 31 March 2023

1 **Accounting policies Basis of preparation**

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic if Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Change in basis of accounting or to previous accounts

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and method of accounting) since last year and no changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds in	These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees furtherance of the general objects of the charity.
Designated funds	These are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.
Revaluation funds	These are unrestricted funds which include a revaluation reserve representing the restatement of investment assets at their market values.
Restricted funds	These are available for use subject to restrictions imposed by the donor or through terms of an appeal.

Taxation The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities. The charity is not registered for VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the expense to which is relates.

Transactions with trustees No remuneration nor expenses were paid to trustees or any persons connected with them during the year or previous year.

Attic Project
Detailed

Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted funds 2023 £	Restricted funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Receipts from:				
Charitable activities	11,829	52,549	64,377	107,377
	-	-	-	-
Total income	11,829	52,549	64,377	107,377
	11,829	52,549	64,377	107,377
Payments on:				
Charitable activities	5,234	-	5,234	23,000
Total of expenditure on charitable activities	5,234	-	5,234	23,000
Employee costs				
Salaries/wages	-	42,100	42,100	48,636
Pension costs	-	3,804	3,804	3,051
Temporary staff		-	-	-
	-	45,904	45,904	51,867
Motor and travel costs				
Travel and subsistence	-	240	240	5,942
	-	240	240	5,942
Premises costs Rent	-	750	750	-
Premises repairs and maintenance	400	112	512	2,098
	400	862	1,262	2,098
General administrative costs, including depreciation and amortisation	-	2,420	2,420	2,613
General insurances				
Software, IT support and related costs	-	199	199	203
Sundry expenses	95	-	95	732
Telephone, fax and broadband	-	2,129	2,129	2,054
	95	4,748	4,843	5,602
Legal and professional costs				
Accountancy and bookkeeping	240	-	240	284
Consultancy fees	-	-	-	-

Attic Project
Detailed

	240	-	240	284
Total of expenditure of other costs	735	51,754	52,489	65,613

Attic Project
Detailed Statement of

Activities Total expenditure	5,969	51,754	57,723	88,613
Net gains on investments	-	-	-	-
Net income	5,860	795	6,655	18,764
Net income before other gains/(losses)	5,860	795	6,655	18,764
Other Gains	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	5,860	795	6,655	18,764
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	26,134	27,985	54,119	35,355
Total funds carried forward	31,994	28,780	60,774	54,119

ATTIC PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1158300

Accounts

Attic Project

Charity No. 1158300

Trustees' Report and Unaudited Accounts

31 March 2022

Attic Project

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Attic Project
Trustees Annual Report

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

REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Charity No. 1158300

Trustees

The following trustees served during the year:

C. Fargher
J. Roantree
D. Stopford
D. Turnbull
T. Turner
E. Wakudyanaye

Bankers

Co-Operative Bank
PO Box 250
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

Independant Examiner

Davenports Group Ltd
Preservation House
Badger Street
Bury
BL9 6AD

Trustee Annual Report - January 2023

Introduction
The Attic Project is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Charity Commission No 1158300. We have a board of committed Trustees who meet quarterly, and we hold an Annual General Meeting yearly.

Period 01/04/2021 – 31-03-2022
And 01/04/2022 - Date

Name of Trustees

David Stopford, Dawn Turnbull, Tracy Turner and Chris Fargher.

Service User Trustees: Joseph Roantree and Jimmy Wakudyanaye

Number of Volunteers

25

Aims and Objectives of the Charity

The Attic Project is located in the heart of Bury and is dedicated to helping those in need. With the dedication of our volunteers, staff members and partners, we strive to improve the lives of everyone who needs help within the community. We use a person-centred approach that is flexible and tailored to meet the individual needs of each person we support.
At the time we approached the National Lottery, we could clearly demonstrate the positive impact our mental health support group was having on people and how we were successfully progressing people into volunteering. We also showcased positive partnerships with Bury Adult Learning through our work-club and how we had achieved a range of positive outcomes with various partners supporting us with debt and welfare advice and peer to peer mentoring. Our proposal was to build on this successful foundation and with your help, design a project responsive to the needs in our community.

Overview of Communities Funding
We were absolutely thrilled to get funding awards from The National Lottery and from The Tudor Trust. We were also very grateful for the advice and guidance that was given in terms of what they could fund and how this would be best utilised to meet our current needs and help shape the future delivery services of The Attic Project and benefit the wider community.
We have also managed to secure funding from a range of small local grants and are very proud of the unrestricted contributions we have received from local people and local businesses within our community. This has ensured we could keep helping the increasing numbers of struggling families and individuals within our communities. This has been needed more than ever as we moved from the Covid 19 pandemic, straight into the Cost-of-Living Crisis.

Our initial Aims and Objectives:

Empower our people and prevent further problems

To deliver weekly debt, benefit and welfare sessions at The Attic to provide a safe space for service users to get the help and support they need at the earliest opportunity and help prevent further problems. A person-centred approach is used to enable people, so they can take control of their situation, achieve personal growth and fulfil their full potential.

Outcomes

We have been able to set up this valuable debt and welfare service which has been very successful. This has been invaluable to our local community, who are unable to access any face-to-face provision Bury Citizens Advice and statutory front line services due to Covid. Sadly, Citizens Advice have now cut all debt and welfare services, right across Bury and Bolton due to funding cuts.

We are very proud we are now able to bridge this gap for local people and continue supporting growing numbers of people. We appreciate the importance of being able to access high quality support with debt, benefits and welfare issues. As we enter the current cost of living crisis, it is essential to support our most vulnerable and help those in genuine in order to prevent increasing problems and in order to protect our local economy.

Get Online and Access Opportunities.

We planned a weekly work club to get help those struggling to get online and support them in applying for jobs. This will ensure our more vulnerable customers are not digitally excluded and they are able to get the support they need to access new opportunities. Bury Adult Learning previously provided this weekly drop-in, but it was likely to stop in the near future. Getting this grant funding ensured we were able to take over the delivery of this provision and help build in peer support to ensure this is sustainable going forward. We know many people across the wider community are struggling and we wanted to raise awareness of this valuable service and ensure it is accessible for all.

Outcomes

During the pandemic all statutory services went digital by default and many will not be returning to face to face appointments and services. This left our most vulnerable and harder to reach groups, at serious risk of digital, financial and medical exclusion. Also, as predicted Bury Adult Education are no longer able to deliver their weekly work club at the Attic Project. Luckily, we now have trained staff and volunteers that have set up our own work club and this is supported by community digital buddies we have trained up. Our weekly work club is invaluable with increasing demands for people to access digital job search, the need to manage benefits online and the increased need to access health services online. It is essential we have support systems in place to help our wider community and we are very proud to be able to provide this, with increasing number of vulnerable people at risk.

Increased Confidence and Personal Growth

New mentoring sessions to help build confidence and self-esteem, to ensure our most vulnerable are enabled with new skills to help them reach their full potential. We have previously piloted a mentor programme with some customers from our mental health group, which they feel was very valuable for them and would benefit others.

Outcomes

With increasing mental health issues and ongoing cuts to support and statutory services, many people are struggling to cope. We felt it was important to put valuable community support in place, increase confidence and create coping strategies and help increasing numbers of people struggling. Our aim was to bridge the gap in declining mental health support and have upskill our teams to ensure we are well equipped to support the growing needs of our community. We have successfully achieved this and now have three team members who have completed train the trainer courses and are accredited to deliver a range of training within our community. We have created a small bank of peer mentors and we have also have a qualified counsellor, a trainee counsellor and a holistic therapist within our team.

Create Volunteer Opportunities - Gain New Skills, Increased Self Worth and Give Something Back

We had a clear focus on increasing skills and creating new volunteering opportunities. This will ensure progression for our service users and positively engage people from the wider community. By bringing people together and supporting volunteers both in The Attic and within the local community, we have increased skills, embraced new opportunities and created community ownership. This helps improve the health and wellbeing of individuals, supports our work at the Attic project, ensure longer term sustainability and helps strengthen our wider community.

Outcomes

We recognise the increased pressure on our more vulnerable people and the increased risks with them not having the skills and confidence to progress and improve their lives. We also know from experience that many people want to make a change, feel some fulfilment and get closer to the labour market but don't know how to achieve this. We have been able to deliver a very successful volunteer programme to ensure people progress, gain new skills and gain valuable experience to help them progress and reach their full potential. This has been so successful that many have progressed into paid employment.

Bring people together and build strong relationships in and across communities

Weekly social and skills sessions to bring people together, especially some of our harder to reach marginalised groups including those with physical and/or mental health issues, older people and people at risk of social isolation. These sessions customer led sessions allow the group will decide on what activities they want to do, empower them to arrange social outings and design a program of guest speakers/ workshops they can learn from.

We know from current service users how many people with mental or physical illnesses can easily become isolated and detached from society. This is also true of other marginalised groups we have worked with including people from ethnic minorities, older people and people from faith groups. We would like to build on a pilot peer led group we have started to engage and welcome other people at risk across our communities.

Outcomes

These valuable sessions have helped build relationships and integrate people from across all strands of our communities. Individuals can build social connections and deal with common themes. This was especially needed following long periods of lockdown and people getting very isolated and lonely. Building social connects helped people stay connected, increases confidence and helps reduce declining health issues.

Social Eating – Improving health, building relationships and reducing social isolation.
We planned to build on our social eating sessions, to bring people together in a lovely community space, build on life skills and help prevent social isolation. These sessions will be customer led and customers will be central to the design and delivery of how this grows. Some of things current service users think would add value to these exciting new sessions would be: Healthy Eating, Cooking on a Budget and Cook and Eat together.
Having consulted with service users, spoken to people across the wider community and explored with local community groups, we know that many people have poor lifestyle eating habits and these lead to isolation and reduced confidence. People tell us they can't be bothers to cook for one, it is too expensive and creates feelings of loneliness too eat alone. The impacts of this leads to weight gain or loss, reduced self-esteem and social isolation.

Outcomes
Sadly, due to Covid we had to change our aims and use a new social eating project to bring about positive life-style changes, build relationships, increase social connections and reduce social isolation. This was all positively embraced, and service users have really enjoyed the new re-designed sessions. We have also been able to enjoy some wonderful mini trips out and internal social eating events as we moved from lock downs. This helped keep peoples spirits up, ensured they spent valuable social time with others and gave them something to look forward to.

Getting Active and Feeling Good
Getting active in the community with be new exercise/ wellbeing sessions, bringing people together, get more active, increased confidence and improve health and wellbeing.
These new sessions are co- designed with our customers in order to meet the needs of current service users and engage the wider community. We already had relationships with a range of community partners who we can help us deliver these.

Outcomes
Again, initial plans had to be re-designed due to Covid, but we have still been able to meet our aims and objectives. Our groups have enjoyed several wonderful outdoor walks and people who wouldn't normally participate in this type of activity have really enjoyed it.
We were able to give people information on how to stay well at home, this included simple meals, easy chair-based exercises and creative activities to help keep them occupied. In addition, they have all participated in group sessions of Help Yourself to Wellbeing workshops. This was very valuable to help reduce stress, manage anxiety and help with a range of coping mechanisms. It was great to get our most vulnerable more active in the community and provide them with self-help and coping strategies to keep them keep safe and well.

Improve the places and spaces that matter to communities
When we applied for this grant, we had consulted with a network of community groups who form a local alliance 'Ambition for Moorside' on how we can improve the places and space that matter to the communities we all represent. Clean and tidy, safe spaces are all key priorities for local people; therefore, we planned we would work with others to organise

quarterly environmental clean-ups and help promote recycle/reduce/re-use awareness sessions.

Outcomes

We now play a very active role in our community and take a lead role within many of the Ambitions within Moorside. We work closely with other community groups and many of them now come to us for advice, guidance and support. We have been able to build on the skills and experiences of people and community groups within our locality, support and strengthen relationships and have a much greater positive impact on the people and places within our wider community.

We have also built on the success of our first Community Celebration Event and now hold these annually. It is a truly wonderful way to reward all our volunteers, thank all our local sponsors and show everyone what a positive difference they help us make within our community. We are so proud to be able to acknowledge the value of all our volunteers and reflect on all our achievements and the positive difference we have made in the lives of others.

Governance and Financial Management

In addition to the above, very ambitious aims and objectives, our funders also asked us to evidence how we will manage the large increase in annual income and explain the long-term sustainability plan in more depth.

Our Response

We initially conducted a Skills Audit of our Trustee Board and have recognised gaps in the skills that we need to manage the large increase in income and allow the Attic Project to grow and become more sustainable.

We recruited additional trustees with IT, Marketing and Finance experience to fill the skills gaps and help strengthen our board.

We have also successfully recruited an additional service user; this is to ensure our services users are fairly represented and have a strong voice in all we say and do at The Attic Project.

Employing additional staff has helped manage daily tasks, keep project plans to agreed timelines and ensure correct governance measures are adhered to.

Developing, delivering and embedding our new volunteer programme from the start of the project will ensure local people are in the lead of our exciting new project and provide us with the additional extra resources to grow the Attic and ensure long term sustainability.

Learning, sharing and long-term sustainability

Getting this grant funding at the onset of Covid-19 enabled us to reach out into the heart of our communities at the time they needed it the most and we very quickly became a lifeline for many of our most vulnerable people and marginalised groups. The increased resources enable us to bring in the specialised skills needed to deliver these valuable projects that instantly had a positively impact on the people, communities and environments we live in. By empowering our people, engaging and training a network of volunteers and working with

others to build community capacity, we are confident positive change and long term sustainably will be achieved.
We use the progress measures noted in the impacts and outcome sections above, to produce reports which are monitor and evaluated at monthly management meetings. This ensures we are achieving our aims, meeting our objectives and brining about positive change. These are also used to produce regular reports to be scrutinised by our board of trustees.
In line with our Mission and Aims - Our work is about practical help for the most marginalised and hard to reach people that statuary providers are unable to engage in Bury and our neighbouring areas. We are passionate about equality and diversity and specifically target our most at risk and harder to reach groups. We are committed to making sure all current and future activities and projects, meet the varying needs of our diverse communities and are fully accessible to all.

Progress – Year 2
We were very grateful to achieve so much in such a short period of time, in March 2020 the Covid-19 pandemic hit and everybody's life was about to change. Luckily due to our grant funding we had already secured, The Attic Project was in a much stronger position.

When everyone around us began closing their doors, we were in the position to open our doors even wider. We very quickly adapted to embrace the challenges and support our community at the time they needed us the most.

Our Covid-19 – Our Emergency Response Continues.

How our learning from Covid continues to re-design our services.
With the risks of the virus remaining high for the foreseeable future – We felt it essential to take our learning from the Covid-19 emergency response group we put in place, to build in longer term support for our most vulnerable and support those most at risk within the wider community.

Following the first lockdown we asked all the people we had helped through our emergency Covid-19 response group to complete a feedback survey. This ensured we could capture any learning, re-design existing services and ensure any future services meet the changing needs of our community.

There were several ways people told us they need help and we have responded to this learning in the best way we could.

1. We needed to get our highest risk online and socially connected as quickly as possible. This is desperately needed in order to keep our most vulnerable safe and well and prevent significant negative impacts on their physical and mental health. People told us they were unable to access medical help or food shopping as they were not online.

Our Response – As soon as we were able to re-open safely, we utilised our partnership with Bury Adult Education to design and deliver some basic online training. These were delivered to small numbers of vulnerable people in a Covid safe environment. We also managed to secure a supply of tablets and Wi-Fi top up vouchers to be distributed to our members that were most in need.

2. We have continued to supply food and essential supplies to up to 75 - 200 families and individuals per week during periods of lockdown. People have been extremely grateful, they told us they couldn't have managed without our help and our most vulnerable said we had been an absolute lifeline for them. When we were out of the first lockdown, we assessed what was going on with Covid-19 nationally and could predict there would be a growing need for emergency food and individual support for the long term. With increasing numbers of people struggling as a result of lower income and losing their jobs and further restrictions and lockdowns highly likely. We needed to make sure both our building and our services could best meet the growing needs. We also identified how we could create safer spaces and food permanent storage.

   Our Response – We looked at how we could continue being responsive to the changing needs of our community and best support people at the time they needed it the most. We managed to access a small pot of National Lottery Emergency Covid-19 funding and this through this enabled us to make some small renovations to a couple of our rooms. This ensured we were able to build on the emergency food lifeline we have put in place and create a permanent emergency foodbank / food pantry within our local area. The wider community have really supported a local emergency food bank and the people we have helped have been extremely grateful. We have also been able to create more safe office space so we can provide essential face to face debt and welfare support in a covid safe environment.

3. Our most vulnerable and highest risk tell us they have really struggled with lockdown, mental health issues have significantly increased, and people have become very lonely due to the long period of isolation. Once shielding restrictions were lifted, people were very keen to get out of their houses and safely connect with others, but they were also very scared and had completely lost all confidence. Many told us they were too worried to go to a supermarket and did not feel safe travelling on public transport.

   Our Response - We completely understood the importance of reducing the stress and anxiety on our mental health and socially isolated members. We put plans in place to bring them back safely and in small numbers, as soon as possible. With most too worried to get on public transport and in the high risk of Covid-19 groups, putting safe transportation in place became a priority for us. Luckily throughout the pandemic have been supported by local minibus firm Harveys. All drivers are enhanced DBS checked, buses can all accommodate power chairs, which some of our members have and all are compliant with Covid-19 regulations. We managed to negotiate reduced rates with Harveys and were thrilled to fulfil the needs of our community and re-engage them safely and securely. We saw first-hand the significant positive impact this had on mental and physical health and well-being. In addition, it gave us a valuable opportunity to help upskill some of our most disadvantaged members. We were able to access valuable online devices which we could distribute to our members. We also worked closely with Bury Adult Learning

and based on what we had learned people needed most as a result of the impacts of Covid-19. We re-designed our work club and instead delivered some much-needed simple digital skills support sessions. This was to help people gain life changing skills and allow them to gain access the essential online services and build social contacts. We were also able to support the groups in ways to keep well at home and give them coping strategies should further lockdowns happen.

4. We also wanted to respond to the needs of what our most vulnerable have said will help them going forward. This includes starting some new groups, safely and in small numbers. Building social connections, creating peer to peer support and ensuring these new activities can be continued at home, as future risks of local lockdowns remained very high.
   Our Response – As the predicted additional lock downs happened, we were in a much stronger position having utilised valuable learning from the first lockdown. We are very proud to have been able to respond to the needs of our vulnerable and wider community, re-design services in line with new regulations, create essential new life skills and help individuals build important coping mechanisms. In addition, we have created a range of things to do at home, been able to provide online devices where needed and progressed to start interacting online. In addition, we were fully prepared to continue with weekly welfare checks and essential food deliveries, work in partnership with others to provide weekly hot foods and deliver a virtual welfare support service.

5. As a result of Covid-19 we have had a lot of additional costs to comply with new Covid-19 regulations and ensure we fully compliant, delivering safe services and have Covid safe environment.
   Our Response - We have completed robust Covid-19 risk assessments, adopted new Covid-19 safety measures and ensured we are fully compliant with social distancing. Staff and volunteers have also undergone Covid-19 safety training. Our responsive approach ensured we were able to safely reopen and provide the essential support local people need, at the time they needed it the most.

How Covid-19 has enabled us to engage, support and connect with the wider community.
Since successfully setting up our emergency Covid-19 response group in April 2020, we are thrilled how we have managed to engage the wider community. Local people were very quick to both refer vulnerable people who needed help to us, and our community have also been an amazing support by kindly helping us generate food donations. We have been able to engage some wonderful community volunteers, and these will be invaluable to us as we continue to grow. It has been really humbling the number of local people who have taken a lead role in collecting on behalf of their own neighbourhoods and it has provided a fantastic opportunity for us to continue building on these wonderful community resources. We have also had great community support from some small local businesses, who have helped us with donations, deliveries and even emergency transport when needed for people to attend hospital. We are so proud of how The Attic Project has been able to become the heart of our community, bring the community together and provide essential support to anybody who needs it going forward.

How Covid-19 has enabled us to engage, support and connect with community and statutory partners.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic and with no other food bank in Bury East, we have been working closely with the Bury Council, Bury CCG and other statutory agencies to provide additional support for the emergency community hubs they set up. We quickly joined up local provision by working closely with Burys main food provider Porch Boxes and other food banks across the borough. It quickly became clear that coronavirus would have significant impacts locally, nationally and worldwide for the foreseeable future. We formalised our local network of support in Bury and we are very proud to be a founder member of our new high-profile community led initiative "Bury Community Support Network". This brings together Charities and Community Groups and has senior members from key of services across Bury including Bury Council, Public Health and NHS. Our new community support network has had several guests attending meetings, including Andy Burnham, Mayor of Manchester. Andy was so impressed with what we have done in Bury, he has spotlighted our network as best practice and endorsed our joined-up approach to all the other boroughs across Greater Manchester. The plan going forward is to build on this valuable new support network to provide continued support to our most vulnerable and highest risk within our community, help re-design local strategic priorities, create funding opportunities and inform regional best practice going forward.

Communication Tools

Over the last year we have re-designed the way we communicate with people; we have been very successful is raising awareness about what we do, and we have been able to reach a much wider audience.

By setting up a new face book page and being very active online, our followers increased from having 50 at the start of the project to us now having almost than 1000. This has been an invaluable platform for us to engage our grass roots community, let people know how we can support them and showcase ways local people can get involved with The Attic Project and help us support our wider community.

Our website has been re-designed, this now reflects the valuable help and support available here at The Attic Project. With the new online contact form, people can easily engage with our services. In addition, it is a great way to showcase our valuable services and going forward to will be a great tool to attract potential funders.

All our marketing material has been redesigned and we have had new information leaflets designed and printed, to raise awareness of our services and promote volunteering opportunities. We also have a new referral form, which has been shared across front line statutory services and we now get regular referrals to help struggling families, from partners at NHS, DWP and Bury Council.

A lot of work has been done to raise the profile of The Attic Project and we are very lucky to have successfully engaged the wider community. We have recently had new signage put on the outside of the building, this is amazing to let people know where we are, and it has

really put us on the map locally. We were absolutely thrilled to get this designed and put up free of charge from an amazing local business who have really supported us over the last 9 months and really value and acknowledge all we do at The Attic Project.

Project Outcomes – Year 3 – Cost of Living Crisis

Empower our people and prevent further problems

Through our telephone advice line, we have helped more than 300 people, get the valuable advice they needed to support with debt, welfare and housing issues.

We delivered over 250 face-to-face appointments to support with benefits, debt and housing issues. This has maximised income for those struggling the most by around £75k, helped reduced personal debt by around £50k and we helped around 30 families or individuals access emergency housing.

We provide on average, 40 food parcels a week - These are for those in our community who are genuinely struggling and in emergency need. As a trusted partner of Bury Council, we have helped more than 400 people get extra help with emergency fuel vouchers of £100 each from Bury Support Fund – Generating £40k in extra fuel help for those most in need.

We have helped over 200 people get emergency new white goods at an average of £250 per item, amounting to £50k help with emergency white goods. By recycling used furniture we have helped over 1000 people obtain essential free furniture by matching with people gifting items.

The intensive help and wrap around support we provide, continuously helps keep our most vulnerable keep safe and well, helps increasing numbers from falling into poverty and provides an essential lifeline when those struggling, need it the most.

Get Online and Access Opportunities.

We have continued working with adult learning to deliver 3 digital skills courses, targeted at those not online and these have helped 22 digitally excluded individuals.

We have supported 20 people from out mental health support group, helped upskill them, enabled them by letting them have our devices to use from home and supported them access essential online health services.

We have trained 30 Community Digital Buddies as peer support within our communities.

In addition, we have provided face to face employment support to over 50 individuals, who were struggling to get online and access employment opportunities.

Increased Confidence and Personal Growth

All our advisers engaged in some valuable train the trainer Helping Yourself 2 Wellbeing training. This is an accredited course delivered by Bury Council and aimed at promoting the 5 steps to personal wellbeing and achieving personal growth.

We have safely delivered this valuable 6 session interactive course, in small groups to an additional 25 vulnerable people who were really struggling with their mental health. With so many people so stressed and worried by the Cost-of-Living Crisis and struggling to access adequate health and mental health provision, accessing our wellbeing sessions and sharing new coping mechanisms was very valuable for them.

Create Volunteer Opportunities - Gain New Skills, Increased Self Worth and Give Something Back

During the pandemic we were really fortunate in engaging volunteers and very grateful for the tremendous support we received. More than 50 people have volunteered with us here at The Attic Project, some just for a few weeks during our busy times and others are just on hand when we need them. We have a current small group of volunteers who are training to be digital mentors and we have regular volunteers who help prepare our food packs, support with our valuable sessions and some that help with cleaning and gardening. Our very valuable volunteer programme has been very successful, and we have helped more than 25 of our volunteers access paid employment.

Bring people together and build strong relationships in and across communities

This element of our project has been very different to how we managed delivering this over a year ago before the Covid-19 Pandemic hit.

Our Facebook page has been a critical tool in engaging people and local businesses across our wider community during the pandemic. At the start of the pandemic, we had 50 followers on our Facebook page which had been previously set up by a volunteer. We were unable to access, and the volunteer had dis-engaged from the project some time ago without leaving contact details. We set up a new page and started keeping people up to date on what we were doing. Through this we managed to engage many other people from right across our community and we now have almost 1500 followers. We have now managed to connect to large numbers of people right across our community, help support people where needed and gained some valuable support ourselves.

We now regularity host very successful community partnership meetings, local statutory consultations, Police and Communities Together meetings and local network meetings as part of Bury Community Support Network.

We are very passionate about working with others in the heart of our community and helping be a voice for our community, to ensure everybody is heard and we build a stronger more resilient community together.

Social Eating – Improving health, building relationships and reducing social isolation.

We really value the benefits of social eating and the importance this brings in helping people build connections and reduce isolation. Any social eating event would have been very difficult to deliver this past year. However, thanks to building some fantastic community partners we managed to flip this into weekly home cooked delivered to the homes of our most vulnerable. This ensured we could still have a weekly doorstep catch up, deal with any issues people were struggling with and everyone truly appreciated the lovely home cooked meal, provided to us from a fabulous local restaurant The Victoria. During the pandemic we are proud to report, we have delivered over 1500 weekly hot meals to our most vulnerable. This has been a very important part of keeping our most vulnerable safe and well and keeping us connected.

In the very dark days, between lockdown 2 and lockdown 3 – We also brought some much-needed sunshine and were able to deliver 3 social eating events in small numbers of 10 people per session. These events were held a few weeks before Christmas, we were able to bring our support groups and we all shared a wonderful Christmas Dinner, and some very much need Covid safe, social connection with others. The food was delivered to us by The Victoria, and we are very excited to be working with them going forward on some more wonderful social eating and community cooking sessions.

In-between lock downs we have also managed to design and deliver 3 external social eating activities and arrange a wonderful day out to Blackpool. These were enjoyed by 30 of our most vulnerable beneficiaries, all of whom have been locked down alone and all of whom haven't been out socially in a very long time.
We have used our learning from the pandemic and now have regular social eating events and at least an annual day out, although there are plans for more.

Getting Active and Feeling Good
Promoting people to keep active has also been an important part of us keeping our most vulnerable safe and well during the pandemic. We have checked up on everyone weekly, encouraged them to get out walking if they are able to do so and we have had volunteers go out on social distanced walks, with some of our most vulnerable. This has contributed to getting 12 vulnerable people walking, getting more active and enjoying the health benefits of socialising outdoors.
We have delivered monthly feel-good sessions online which have helped an additional 50 vulnerable people and provided keeping well at home advice and activities.
In addition, we have also trained one of our volunteers, so they are able to help with fitness and nutrition as soon as we are able to socialise again indoors in small numbers.

Improve the places and spaces that matter to communities
In our original proposal we had planned on delivering this strand of our project in association with a network of other local community groups that we worked closely with to form Ambition for Moorside. Sadly, once the pandemic hit, most of these groups closed their doors and stopped delivering their community initiatives. Luckily with our increased resources and a passion to make a difference, The Attic Project took a lead role in supporting all our wider community. We worked with other proactive Charities and Community Groups from right across the borough, to form Bury Community Support Network. Where we also have senior members from key of services across Bury including Bury Council, Public Health and NHS. Through this amazing network of support, we are able service the needs of all our communities right across the borough. As lead representatives for Bury East, we work closely with our community and local counsellors to improve the spaces we live in.

We have taken a lead in hosting 2 community volunteer initiatives in partnership with Bury Collage. During the summer event, we were joined by 15 college students who helped redesign and improve our community gardens and improve the public spaces around our building. In the winter one we were joined by 20 college students to help with our Christmas Appeal, they sourced valuable food donations, helped prepare around 50 essential Christmas Family Hampers and helped us wrap around 70 toys for our most vulnerable children.

We take an active role in recycling essential furniture and clothes by matching items being gifted with struggling families. This not only helps with recycling goods and reducing landfill, but it also really supports those most in the most genuine need to obtain essential items.

We have also managed to host our second wonderful Volunteer Celebration event and we help this as part of the fabulous Queens Platinum Jubilee. This enabled us to bring around 70 people together and included volunteers, local sponsors and service users. It was truly wonderful for everyone to meet and not only celebrate our wonderful Queens Platinum

Jubilee but to also acknowledge the value they all bring individually and reflect on the tremendous difference we have made within our communities together. This was an extra special day as we had arranged a very special VIP to attend as a surprise guest and we were bursting with pride as our Deputy Lieutenant for Greater Manchester proudly presented us with our amazing Queens Award for Voluntary Service.

Our Next Steps and Mitigating against The Cost-of-Living Crisis

We have designed our next steps based on what people want and what people need within our community. Thanks to the continued funding and the ongoing support of our wider community, we have had an amazing opportunity to maximise help and support within our community - At this very difficult time when people need this help the most. However, with fewer funding opportunities available and our own overhead costs increasing, it is essential we explore new opportunities and help build some longer-term sustainability in order to continue our essential services.

- We had never envisaged there would be such an emergency need for food and in supporting the needs of our community we would become a food bank. However, in the absence of any food provision in Bury East food parcels became an emergency need which we very successfully responded to. We know from our feedback forms this provided a valuable lifeline for many. Therefore, with darker days ahead as we are now struggling with the Cost-of-Living Crisis, we now have increasing numbers of families needing our help as they struggle to heat or eat. This acts as a lifeline to many and provides a safety to those we are supporting with debt, welfare and benefit issues and allows us to supply emergency food until the emergency need is removed and their issue is resolved. We are passionate about being a food provider to meet genuine needs but do not want to create any dependency culture which can result in traditional food banks. We have therefore explored ways of we can make emergency food provision sustainable and have manged to put some measures in place:
    - In partnership with Tesco Bury, we have set up a permanent local foodbank donation point and now get regular bulk donations every 5 weeks. are exploring a community food pantry model going forward.
    - We have a valuable network of local sponsors who kindly help with donations when we are very low on stock.
    - People within our local community kindly bring regular donations
    - We have created a very simple to use donation option on our website
    - We work closely with Bury Council and other community partners to monitor and review trends and threats.
- Building on the success of our essential debt, welfare and employment support is also a growing priority to meet the increasing number of people and families struggling through these challenging times. This has got so much worse since Covid-19 as so many face to face statutory and community services have not returned and sadly, now all debt and benefit advice provided by Citizens Advice has also been removed in Bury. We have applied for additional funding to continue with this much needed essential service, and we are continuing to progress with longer term funding applications to help secure this essential support.
- Upskilling those not online, by providing targeted but simple IT awareness and one to one support. This will be specifically tailored it to meet their individual needs and

build confidence. Getting some of our most vulnerable online will ensure those most at risk are not left socially and financially isolated and help prevent declining mental and physical health problems.

- We have built a pool of communication tools, which can be loaned out where needed to support those most at risk. We know many people struggling do not have the up-to-date devices they need to access online services and if we are able to loan them a device where needed, this will ensure we are able to upskill, build confidence and keep them connected.
- We continue creating new small groups, building social connections and delivering new activities, this includes our new weekly peer to peer support group and the launch of our new community library. These social interactions are essential to help reduce mental health issues and give our most vulnerable new ways of coping.
- Our weekly mother and toddlers' interactive sessions are invaluable to the toddlers to help build social skills and they also provide essential support to the parents and allow them to build valuable social connections.
- Considering so many are struggling with the Cost-of-Living Crisis we are also exploring becoming a warm hub and opening our doors 3 mornings a week to people struggling the wider community. This new and valuable initiative is in partnership with Bury Council and other community groups and charities across the borough, to help support struggling people within our community and help keep our most vulnerable safe.

Final Summary

When we received our 3-year funding just before the pandemic hit, none of us had any idea that the world as we knew it was about to completely change. Thanks to this amazing funding and belief in The Attic Project, we had the resources and expertise to support our wider community and provide an essential lifeline for so many. Without this valuable funding, we would have had no choice other than to sadly close our doors, like many other charities and community groups had to. Instead, we were able to respond to the immediate needs of our community, we have completely exceeded our expectations within this last year and have achieved so much more than we could have ever hoped for. Both the look and the feel of The Attic Project has changed so much in the couple of years, and it has been a real hive of positive activity within the heart of our community. We are truly grateful to each volunteer within the Attic Project, to every community volunteer who supports us and to every small local business who supports us. Every one of them have been truly amazing and we couldn't have done all we have without them. Together we have helps thousands of local people in genuine need, we have supported hundreds of our most vulnerable and we have provided an absolute lifeline for so many families and individuals. We are so proud of how we have brought our whole community together and become the absolute heartbeat of Moorside. We look forward to positively embracing our next challenges and continuing working together to support our communities through the struggles of this coming year.

We are very proud to have been nominated by local people in the "Pride of Moorside" and extremely touched to be presented this wonderful award.

We are also absolutely thrilled that all the hard work, passion, dedication and commitment of our amazing volunteers, management team and trustees has been

recognised at regional level and we were awarded the prestigious "Queens Honorary Award for Voluntary Service".

We are extremely proud of all we have achieved and the positive difference we continually make in the lives of others, this could have been done without the fantastic dedication and commitment of our team, our volunteers, our management board and trustees and all our amazingly kind sponsors and donators. We couldn't continue to provide all the essential help and support we provide to our local community, if it wasn't for the ongoing help and support, we receive from so many. We are truly grateful and very proud to be at the heart of our community and able to provide a lifeline to so many.

Financial review

The net receipts for the period were £18,764 (unrestricted £4,292, restricted £14,472). The charity aims to build its unrestricted reserves to cover 6 months running expenses.

Investment powers and policy

Aside from retaining a prudent amount in reserves each year, most of the charity's funds are to be spent in the short term so there are few funds for any long-term investment.

Risk Management

The trustees have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and systems have been established to mitigate those risks.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing a trustees' annual report and financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Trust deed. The Trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

D. Turnbull
Trustee
30 January 2023

C. Fargher
Trustee
30 January 2023

Attic Project
Independent Examiners Report

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Attic Project

I report to the trustees on my examination of the financial statements of Attic Project for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet and the related notes.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011('the Act'). The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under the Charities Act 2011, s.144(2) (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

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 can 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:

- the accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- the financial statements do not accord with those records; or
- the financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the financial statements set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the financial statements 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 financial statements to be reached.

Scott Davenport

Davenports Group Ltd
Preservation House
Badger Street
Bury

BL9 6AD
30 January 2023

Attic Project
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Receipts:					
Charitable activities	2	30,534	76,843	107,377	104,484
Total		30,534	76,843	107,377	104,484
Payments on:					
Charitable activities	3	18,673	4,327	23,000	19,017
Other	4	7,570	58,044	65,613	68,133
Total		26,242	62,371	88,613	87,150
Net gains on investments		-	-	-	-
Net income		4,292	14,472	18,764	17,334
Transfers between funds		-	-	-	-
Net income before other gains/(losses)		4,292	14,472	18,764	17,334
Other gains and losses					
Net movement in funds		4,292	14,472	18,764	17,334
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		21,842	13,513	35,355	18,021
Total funds carried forward		26,134	27,985	54,119	35,355

Attic Project
Notes to the Accounts

for the year ended 31 March 2022

1 **Accounting policies**

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic if Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Change in basis of accounting or to previous accounts

There has been no change to the accounting policies (valuation rules and method of accounting) since last year and no changes have been made to accounts for previous years.

Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds	These are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objects of the charity.
Designated funds	These are unrestricted funds earmarked by the trustees for particular purposes.
Revaluation funds	These are unrestricted funds which include a revaluation reserve representing the restatement of investment assets at their market values.
Restricted funds	These are available for use subject to restrictions imposed by the donor or through terms of an appeal.

Taxation

The charity is exempt from tax on its charitable activities. The charity is not registered for VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the expense to which is relates.

Transactions with trustees

No remuneration nor expenses were paid to trustees or any persons connected with them during the year or previous year.

Attic Project
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 March 2022

	Unrestricted funds 2022 £	Restricted funds 2022 £	Total funds 2022 £	Total funds 2021 £
Receipts from:				
Charitable activities	30,534	76,843	107,377	104,484
	-	-	-	-
	30,534	76,843	107,377	104,484
Total income	30,534	76,843	107,377	104,484
Payments on:				
Charitable activities	18,673	4,327	23,000	19,017
Total of expenditure on charitable activities	18,673	4,327	23,000	19,017
	18,673	4,327	23,000	19,017
Employee costs				
Salaries/wages	-	48,636	48,636	47,097
Pension costs	-	3,051	3,051	-
Temporary staff	-	-	-	1,668
	-	51,687	51,687	48,765
Motor and travel costs				
Travel and subsistence	5,942	-	5,942	-
	5,942	-	5,942	-
Premises costs				
Rent	-	-	-	3,167
Premises repairs and maintenance	0	2,098	2,098	12,277
	0	2,098	2,098	15,444
General administrative costs, including depreciation and amortisation				
General insurances	0	2,613	2,613	-
Software, IT support and related costs	-	203	203	-
Sundry expenses	732	-	732	698
Telephone, fax and broadband	611	1,443	2,054	1,196
	1,343	4,259	5,602	1,894
Legal and professional costs				
Accountancy and bookkeeping	284	-	284	360
Consultancy fees	-	-	-	1,670
	284	-	284	2,030
Total of expenditure of other costs	7,570	58,044	65,613	68,133

Attic Project
Detailed Statement of Financial Activities

Total expenditure	26,242	62,371	88,613	87,150
Net gains on investments	-	-	-	-
Net income	4,292	14,472	18,764	17,334
Net income before other gains/(losses)	4,292	14,472	18,764	17,334
Other Gains	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	4,292	14,472	18,764	17,334
Reconciliation of funds:				
Total funds brought forward	21,842	13,513	35,355	18,021
Total funds carried forward	26,134	27,985	54,119	35,355

ATTIC PROJECT

England & Wales - Charity number 1158300

Accounts

Attic Project

Registered Charity Number: 1158300

Annual Report and Unaudited Financial Statements
For the year ended 31 March 2021

Attic Project

Financial Statements for the year ended 31 March 2021

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Attic Project

Reference and administrative details

Charity Name: Attic Project
Registered charity number: 1158300

Structure, governance and management
The charity became a registered charity on the 20th August 2014
The charity is governed by a constitution adopted on 2nd June 2014

The Trustees who served during the period are as follows:

Dawn Turnball	Appointed on 20th August 2014
Ezekiel Wakudyanaye	Appointed 01 October 2021
Christopher Fargher	Appointed 01 April 2021
Joseph Roantree	Appointed 01 September 2018
Tracy Turner	Appointed 28 August 2015
David Stopford (chair(	Appointed 20th August 2014
Robert Hughes	June 2021 (passed away)

Charity's principal address
27 Hartsop Drive
Middleton
Manchester
M24 4JH

Bankers
CO OP
PO Box 250
Skelmersdale
WN8 6WT

Independent Examiner
Sugra Akbar FCCA
Accountex Pro
Chartered Certified Accountants
16 Cestrian Street
Bolton
BL3 2BD

Attic Project

Trustees annual report for the year ended 31 March 2021

Introduction
The Attic Project is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, Charity Commission No 1158300. We have a board of committed Trustees who meet quarterly and we an Annual General Meeting yearly.

Period 01/04/2020 – 31-03-2021

Number of Volunteers

40

Aims and Objectives of the Charity

The Attic Project is located in the heart of Bury and is dedicated to helping those in need. With the dedication of our volunteers, staff members and partners, we strive to improve the lives of everyone who needs help within the community. We use a person-centred approach that is flexible and tailored to meet the individual needs of each person we support.
At the time we approached the National Lottery, we could clearly demonstrate the positive impact our mental health support group was having on people and how we were successfully progressing people into volunteering. We also showcased positive partnerships with Bury Adult Learning through our work-club and how we had achieved a range of positive outcomes with various partners supporting us with debt and welfare advice and peer to peer mentoring. Our proposal was to build on this successful foundation and with your help, design a project responsive to the needs in our community.

A review of our achievements and performance: How our activities delivered public benefit:

Overview of Communities Funding
We were absolutely thrilled to get a funding awards from The National Lottery and from The Tudor Trust. We were also very grateful for the advice and guidance that was given in terms of what they could fund and how this would be best utilised to meet our current needs and help shape the future delivery services of The Attic Project and benefit the wider community.
We have also managed to secure funding from a range of small local grants and are very proud of the unrestricted contributions we have received from local people and local businesses within our community. This has ensured we could keep helping the increasing numbers of struggling families and individuals within our communities.

Attic Project

Trustees annual report for the year ended 31 March 2021

Our initial Aims and Objectives:

Empower our people and prevent further problems

To deliver weekly debt, benefit and welfare sessions at The Attic to provide a safe space for service users to get the help and support they need at the earliest opportunity and help prevent further problems. A person-centred approach is used to enable people, so they are able to take control of their situation and reach their full potential.

Outcomes

We have been able to set up this valuable debt and welfare service which has been very successful. This has been invaluable to our local community, who are unable to access any face-to-face provision Bury Citizens Advice and statutory front line services due to Covid. Sadly, Citizens Advice have now cut all debt and welfare services, right across Bury and Bolton due to funding cuts.

We are very proud we are now able to bridge this gap for local people and continue supporting growing numbers of people. We appreciate the importance of being able to access high quality support with debt, benefits and welfare issues. As we enter the current cost of living crisis, it is essential to support our most vulnerable and help those in genuine in order to prevent increasing problems and in order to protect our local economy.

Get Online and Access Opportunities.

We planned a weekly work club to get help those struggling to get online and support them in applying for jobs. This will ensure our more vulnerable customers are not digitally excluded and they are able to get the support they need to access new opportunities. Bury Adult Learning previously provided this weekly drop-in, but it was likely to stop in the near future. Getting this grant funding ensured we were able to take over the delivery of this provision and help build in peer support to ensure this is sustainable going forward. We know many people across the wider community are struggling and we wanted to raise awareness of this valuable service and ensure it is accessible for all.

Outcomes

During the pandemic all statutory services went digital by default and many will not be returning to face to face appointments and services. This left our most vulnerable and harder to reach groups, at serious risk of digital, financial and medical exclusion. Also, as predicted Bury Adult Education are no longer able to deliver their weekly work club at the Attic Project. Luckily, we now have trained staff and volunteers that have set up our own work club and this is supported by community digital buddies we have trained up. Our weekly work club is invaluable with increasing demands for people to access digital job search, the need to manage benefits online and the increased need to access health services online. It is essential we have support systems in place to help our wider community and we are very proud to be able to provide this, with increasing number of vulnerable people at risk.

Increased Confidence and Personal Growth

New mentoring sessions to help build confidence and self-esteem, to ensure our most vulnerable are enabled with new skills to help them reach their full potential. We have previously piloted a mentor programme with some customers from our mental health group, which they feel was very valuable for them and would benefit others.

Outcomes

With increasing mental health issues and ongoing cuts to support and statutory services, many people are struggling to cope. We felt it was important to put valuable community support in place, increase confidence and create coping strategies and help increasing numbers of people struggling. Our aim was to bridge the gap in declining mental health support and have upskill our teams to ensure we are well equipped to support the growing needs of our community. We have successfully achieved this and now have three team members who have completed train the trainer courses and are accredited to deliver a range of training within our community. We have created a small bank of peer mentors and we have also have a qualified counsellor, a trainee counsellor and a holistic therapist within our team.

Create Volunteer Opportunities - Gain New Skills, Increased Self Worth and Give Something Back

We had a clear focus on increasing skills and creating new volunteering opportunities. This will ensure progression for our service users and positively engage people from the wider community. By bringing people together and supporting volunteers both in The Attic and within the local community, we have increased skills, embraced new opportunities and created community ownership. This helps improve the health and wellbeing of individuals, supports our work at the Attic project, ensure longer term sustainability and helps strengthen our wider community.

Outcomes

We recognise the increased pressure on our more vulnerable people and the increased risks with them not having the skills and confidence to progress and improve their lives. We also know from experience that many people want to make a change, feel some fulfilment and get closer to the labour market but don't know how to achieve this. We have been able to deliver a very successful volunteer programme to ensure people progress, gain new skills and gain valuable experience to help them progress and reach their full potential. This has been so successful that many have progressed into paid employment.

Bring people together and build strong relationships in and across communities
Weekly social and skills sessions to bring people together, especially some of our harder to reach marginalised groups including those with physical and/or mental health issues, older people and people at risk of social isolation. These sessions customer led sessions allow the group will decide on what activities they want to do, empower them to arrange social outings and design a program of guest speakers/ workshops they can learn from.
We know from current service users how many people with mental or physical illnesses can easily become isolated and detached from society. This is also true of other marginalised groups we have worked with including people from ethnic minorities, older people and people from faith groups. We would like to build on a pilot peer led group we have started to engage and welcome other people at risk across our communities.

Outcomes
These valuable sessions have helped build relationships and integrate people from across all strands of our communities. Individuals can build social connections and deal with common themes. This was especially needed following long periods of lockdown and people getting very isolated and lonely. Building social connects helped people stay connected, increases confidence and helps reduce declining health issues.

Social Eating – Improving health, building relationships and reducing social isolation.
We planned to build on our social eating sessions, to bring people together in a lovely community space, build on life skills and help prevent social isolation. These sessions will be customer led and customers will be central to the design and delivery of how this grows. Some of things current service users think would add value to these exciting new sessions would be: Healthy Eating, Cooking on a Budget and Cook and Eat together.
Having consulted with service users, spoken to people across the wider community and explored with local community groups, we know that many people have poor lifestyle eating habits and these lead to isolation and reduced confidence. People tell us they can't be bothers to cook for one, it is too expensive and creates feelings of loneliness too eat alone. The impacts of this leads to weight gain or loss, reduced self-esteem and social isolation.

Outcomes
Sadly, due to Covid we had to change our aims and use a new social eating project to bring about positive life-style changes, build relationships, increase social connections and reduce social isolation. This was all positively embraced, and service users have really enjoyed the new re-designed sessions. We have also been able to enjoy some wonderful mini trips out, in-between lock downs. This helped keep peoples spirits up and gave them something to look forward to.

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Getting Active and Feeling Good

Getting active in the community with be new exercise/ wellbeing sessions, bringing people together, get more active, increased confidence and improve health and wellbeing.
These new sessions are co- designed with our customers in order to meet the needs of current service users and engage the wider community. We already had relationships with a range of community partners who we can help us deliver these.

Outcomes

Again, initial plans had to be re-designed due to Covid, but we have still been able to meet our aims and objectives. Our groups have enjoyed several wonderful outdoor walks and people who wouldn't normally participate in this type of activity have really enjoyed it.
We were able to give people information on how to stay well at home, this included simple meals, easy chair-based exercises and creative activities to help keep them occupied. In addition, they have all participated in help yourself to wellbeing training, this was very valuable to help reduce stress, manage anxiety and help with a range of coping mechanisms. It was great to get our most vulnerable more active in the community and provide them with self-help and coping strategies to keep them keep safe and well.

Improve the places and spaces that matter to communities

When we applied for this grant, we had consulted with a network of community groups who form a local alliance 'Ambition for Moorside' on how we can improve the places and space that matter to the communities we all represent. Clean and tidy, safe spaces are all key priorities for local people; therefore, we planned we would work with others to organise quarterly environmental clean-ups and help promote recycle/reduce/re-use awareness sessions.

Outcomes

We now play a very active role in our community and take a lead role within many of the Ambitions within Moorside. We work closely with other community groups and many of them now come to us for advice, guidance and support. We have been able to build on the skills and experiences of people and community groups within our locality, support and strengthen relationships and have a much greater positive impact on the people and places within our wider community.

We have also managed to hold our first annual Community Celebration Event and it was a truly wonderful day. We are so proud to be able to acknowledge the value of all our volunteers and reflect on all our achievements and the positive difference this has had on the whole community.

Governance and Financial Management

In addition to the above, very ambitious aims and objectives, our funders also asked us to evidence how we will manage the large increase in annual income and explain the long-term sustainability plan in more depth.

Our Response

We initially conducted a Skills Audit of our Trustee Board and have recognised gaps in the skills that we need to manage the large increase in income and allow the Attic Project to grow and become more sustainable.

We recruited additional trustees with IT, Marketing and Finance experience to fill the skills gaps and help strengthen our board.
We have also successfully recruited an additional service user; this is to ensure our services users are fairly represented and have a strong voice in all we say and do at The Attic Project.

Employing additional staff has helped manage daily tasks, keep project plans to agreed timelines and ensure correct governance measures are adhered to.

Developing, delivering and embedding our new volunteer programme from the start of the project will ensure local people are in the lead of our exciting new project and provide us with the additional extra resources to grow the Attic and ensure long term sustainability.

Learning, sharing and long-term sustainability

Getting this grant funding at the onset of Covid-19 enabled us to reach out into the heart of our communities at the time they needed it the most and we very quickly became a lifeline for many of our most vulnerable people and marginalised groups. The increased resources enable us to bring in the specialised skills needed to deliver these valuable projects that instantly had a positively impact on the people, communities and environments we live in.
By empowering our people, engaging and training a network of volunteers and working with others to build community capacity, we are confident positive change and long term sustainably will be achieved.
We use the progress measures noted in the impacts and outcome sections above, to produce reports which are monitor and evaluated at monthly management meetings. This ensures we are achieving our aims, meeting our objectives and brining about positive change. These are also used to produce regular reports to be scrutinised by our board of trustees.
In line with our Mission and Aims - Our work is about practical help for the most marginalised and hard to reach people that statuary providers are unable to engage in Bury and our neighbouring areas. We are passionate about equality and diversity and specifically target our most at risk and harder to reach groups. We are committed to making sure all current and future activities and projects, meet the varying needs of our diverse communities and are fully accessible to all.

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Progress – Year 2

We were very grateful to achieve so much in such a short period of time, in March 2020 the Covid-19 pandemic hit and everybody's life was about to change. Luckily due to our grant funding we had already secured, The Attic Project was in a much stronger position.

When everyone around us began closing their doors, we were in the position to open our doors even wider. We very quickly adapted to embrace the challenges and support our community at the time they needed us the most.

Our Covid-19 – Our Emergency Response Continues.

How our learning from Covid continues to re-design our services.

With the risks of the virus remaining high for the foreseeable future – We felt it essential to take our learning from the Covid-19 emergency response group we put in place, to build in longer term support for our most vulnerable and support those most at risk within the wider community.

Following the first lockdown we asked all the people we had helped through our emergency Covid-19 response group to complete a feedback survey. This ensured we could capture any learning, re-design existing services and ensure any future services meet the changing needs of our community.

There were a number of ways people told us they need help and we have responded to this learning in the best way we could.

1. We needed to get our highest risk online and socially connected as quickly as possible. This is desperately needed in order to keep our most vulnerable safe and well and prevent significant negative impacts on their physical and mental health. People told us they were unable to access medical help or food shopping as they were not online.
   Our Response – As soon as we were able to re-open safely, we utilised our partnership with Bury Adult Education to design and deliver some basic online training. These were delivered to small numbers of vulnerable people in a Covid safe environment. We also managed to secure a supply of tablets and Wi-Fi top up vouchers to be distributed to our members that were most in need.

2. We have continued to supply food and essential supplies to up to 75 - 200 families and individuals per week during periods of lockdown. People have been extremely grateful, they told us they couldn't have managed without our help and our most vulnerable said we had been an absolute lifeline for them. When we were out of the first lockdown, we assessed what was going on with Covid-19 nationally and could predict there would be a growing need for emergency food and individual support for the long term. With increasing numbers of people struggling as a result of lower income and losing their jobs and further restrictions and lockdowns highly likely.

   We needed to make sure both our building and our services could best meet the growing needs. We also identified how we could create safer spaces and food permanent storage.
   Our Response – We looked at how we could continue being responsive to the changing needs of our community and best support people at the time they needed it the most. We managed to access a small pot of National Lottery Emergency Covid-19 funding and this through this enabled us to make some small renovations to a couple of our rooms. This ensured we were able to build on the emergency food lifeline we have put in place and create a permanent emergency foodbank / food pantry within our local area. The wider community have really supported a local emergency food bank and the people we have helped have been extremely grateful. We have also been able to create more safe office space so we can provide essential face to face debt and welfare support in a covid safe environment.

3. Our most vulnerable and highest risk tell us they have really struggled with lockdown, mental health issues have significantly increased, and people have become very lonely due to the long period of isolation. Once shielding restrictions were lifted, people were very keen to get out of their houses and safely connect with others, but they were also very scared and had completely lost all confidence. Many told us they were too worried to go to a supermarket and did not feel safe travelling on public transport.
   Our Response - We completely understood the importance of reducing the stress and anxiety on our mental health and socially isolated members. We put plans in place to bring them back safely and in small numbers, as soon as possible. With most too worried to get on public transport and also in the high risk of Covid-19 groups, putting safe transportation in place became a priority for us. Luckily throughout the pandemic have been supported by local minibus firm Harveys. All drivers are enhanced DBS checked, buses can all accommodate power chairs, which some of our members have and all are compliant with Covid-19 regulations. We managed to negotiate reduced rates with Harveys and were thrilled to fulfil the needs of our community and re-engage them safely and securely. We saw first-hand the significant positive impact this had on mental and physical health and well-being.

In addition, it gave us a valuable opportunity to help upskill some of our most disadvantaged members. We were able to access valuable online devices which we could distribute to our members. We also worked closely with Bury Adult Learning and based on what we had learned people needed most as a result of the impacts of Covid-19. We re-designed our work club and instead delivered some much-needed simple digital skills support sessions. This was to help people gain life changing skills and allow them to gain access the essential online services and build social contacts. We were also able to support the groups in ways to keep well at home and give them coping strategies should further lockdowns happen.

4. We also wanted to respond to the needs of what our most vulnerable have said will help them going forward. This includes starting some new groups, safely and in small numbers. Building social connections, creating peer to peer support and ensuring these new activities can be continued at home, as future risks of local lockdowns remained very high.
   Our Response – As the predicted additional lock downs happened, we were in a much stronger position having utilised valuable learning from the first lockdown. We are very proud to have been able to respond to the needs of our vulnerable and wider community, re-design services inline with new regulations, create essential new life skills and help individuals build important coping mechanisms. In addition, we have created a range of things to do at home, been able to provide online devices where needed and progressed to start interacting online. In addition, we were fully prepared to continue with weekly welfare checks and essential food deliveries, work in partnership with others to provide weekly hot foods and deliver a virtual welfare support service.

5. As a result of Covid-19 we have had a lot of additional costs to comply with new Covid-19 regulations and ensure we fully compliant, delivering safe services and have Covid safe environment.
   Our Response - We have completed robust Covid-19 risk assessments, adopted new Covid-19 safety measures and ensured we are fully compliant with social distancing. Staff and volunteers have also undergone Covid-19 safety training. Our responsive approach ensured we were able to safely reopen and provide the essential support local people need, at the time they needed it the most.

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How Covid-19 has enabled us to engage, support and connect with the wider community.
Since successfully setting up our emergency Covid-19 response group in April 2020, we are thrilled how we have managed to engage the wider community. Local people were very quick to both refer vulnerable people who needed help to us and our community have also been an amazing support by kindly helping us generate food donations. We have been able to engage some wonderful community volunteers and these will be invaluable to us as we continue to grow. It has been really humbling the number of local people who have taken a lead role in collecting on behalf of their own neighbourhoods and it has provided a fantastic opportunity for us to continue building on these wonderful community resources. We have also had great community support from some small local businesses, who have helped us with donations, deliveries and even emergency transport when needed for people to attend hospital. We are so proud of how The Attic Project has been able to become the heart of our community, bring the community together and provide essential support to anybody who needs it going forward.

How Covid-19 has enabled us to engage, support and connect with community and statutory partners.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic and with no other food bank in Bury East, we have been working closely with the Bury Council, Bury CCG and other statutory agencies to provide additional support for the emergency community hubs they set up. We quickly joined up local provision by working closely with Burys main food provider Porch Boxes and other food banks across the borough. It quickly became clear that coronavirus would have significant impacts locally, nationally and worldwide for the foreseeable future. We formalised our local network of support in Bury and we are very proud to be a founder member of our new high-profile community led initiative "Bury Community Support Network". This brings together Charities and Community Groups and also has senior members from key of services across Bury including Bury Council, Public Health and NHS. Our new community support network has had a number of guests attending meetings, including Andy Burnham, Mayor of Manchester. Andy was so impressed with what we have done in Bury, he has spotlighted our network as best practice and endorsed our joined-up approach to all the other boroughs across Greater Manchester. The plan going forward is to build on this valuable new support network to provide continued support to our most vulnerable and highest risk within our community, help re-design local strategic priorities, create funding opportunities and inform regional best practice going forward.

Communication Tools

Over the last year we have re-designed the way we communicate with people; we have been very successful is raising awareness about what we do, and we have been able to reach a much wider audience.

By setting up a new face book page and being very active online, our followers increased from having 50 at the start of the project to us now having almost than 1000. This has been an invaluable platform for us to engage our grass roots community, let people know how we can support them and also showcase ways local people can get involved with The Attic Project and help us support our wider community.

Our website has been re-designed, this now reflects the valuable help and support available here at The Attic Project. With the new online contact form, people can easily engage with our services. In addition, it is a great way to showcase our valuable services and going forward to will be a great tool to attract potential funders.

All our marketing material has been redesigned and we have had new information leaflets designed and printed, to raise awareness of our services and promote volunteering opportunities. We also have a new referral form, which has been shared across front line statutory services and we now get regular referrals to help struggling families, from partners at NHS, DWP and Bury Council.

A lot of work has been done to raise the profile of The Attic Project and we are very lucky to have successfully engaged the wider community. We have recently had new signage put on the outside of the building, this is amazing to let people know where we are and it has really put us on the map locally. We were absolutely thrilled to get this designed and put up free of charge from an amazing local business who have really supported us over the last 9 months and really value and acknowledge all we do at The Attic Project.

Project Outcomes – Year 2

Empower our people and prevent further problems

Through our telephone advice line, we have helped more than 300 people, get the valuable advice they needed to support with debt, welfare and housing issues.

We delivered over 100 face-to-face appointments to support with debt, benefits and housing issues.

We have also supported with over 10,000 food parcels, 1200 school lunch packs and over 1500 hot meals. These have helped keep our most vulnerable safe and well, prevented social and financial exclusion and provided an essential lifeline when they needed it the most.

Get Online and Access Opportunities.

We have continued working with adult learning to deliver 3 digital skills courses, targeted at those not online and these have helped 22 digitally excluded individuals.

We have supported 20 people from out mental health support group, helped upskill them, enabled them by letting them have our devices to use from home and supported them access essential online health services.

We have trained 30 Community Digital Buddies as peer support within our communities.

In addition, we have provided face to face employment support to over 50 individuals, who were struggling to get online and access employment opportunities.

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Increased Confidence and Personal Growth
All our advisers engaged in some valuable train the trainer Helping Yourself 2 Wellbeing training. This is an accredited course delivered by Bury Council and aimed at promoting the 5 steps to personal wellbeing and achieving personal growth.
In between lockdowns we have safely delivered this valuable 6 session course, in small groups to an additional 15 vulnerable people who were really struggling with their mental health. Things had got a lot worse for them during lock down, so delivering wellbeing training and sharing new coping mechanisms was really valuable for them.

Create Volunteer Opportunities - Gain New Skills, Increased Self Worth and Give Something Back
During the pandemic we were really fortunate in engaging volunteers and very grateful for the tremendous support we received. More than 50 people have volunteered with us here at The Attic Project, some just for a few weeks during our busy times and others are just on hand when we need them. We have a current small group of volunteers who are training to be digital mentors and we have regular volunteers who help prepare our food packs, support with our valuable sessions and some that help with cleaning and gardening. We are very excited to see how our volunteer programme progresses over this next year.

Bring people together and build strong relationships in and across communities
This element of our project has been very different to how we managed delivering this over a year ago before the Covid-19 Pandemic hit.
Our Facebook page has been a critical tool in engaging people and local businesses across our wider community during the pandemic. At the start of the pandemic, we had 50 followers on our Facebook page which had been previously set up by a volunteer. We were unable to access, and the volunteer had dis-engaged from the project some time ago without leaving contact details. We set up a new page and started keeping people up to date on what we were doing. Through this we managed to engage many other people from right across our community and we now have almost 1000 followers. We have now managed to connect to large numbers of people right across our community, help support people where needed and gained some valuable support ourselves.
We were also very excited about holding more community sessions going forward, based on what our community needs and have now successfully achieved it.

Social Eating – Improving health, building relationships and reducing social isolation.
We really value the benefits of social eating and the importance this brings in helping people build connections and reduce isolation. Any social eating event would have been very difficult to deliver this past year. However, thanks to building some fantastic community partners we managed to flip this into weekly home cooked delivered to the homes of our most vulnerable. This ensured we could still have a weekly doorstep catch up, deal with any issues people were struggling with and everyone truly appreciated the lovely

home cooked meal, provided to us from a fabulous local restaurant The Victoria. During the pandemic we are proud to report, we have delivered over 1500 weekly hot meals to our most vulnerable. This has been a very important part of keeping our most vulnerable safe and well and keeping us connected.

In the very dark days, between lockdown 2 and lockdown 3 – We also brought some much-needed sunshine and were able to deliver 3 social eating events in small numbers of 10 people per session. These events were held a few weeks before Christmas, we were able to bring our support groups and we all shared a wonderful Christmas Dinner and some very much need Covid safe, social connection with others. The food was delivered to us by The Victoria, and we are very excited to be working with them going forward on some more wonderful social eating and community cooking sessions.

In-between lock downs we have also managed to design and deliver 3 external social eating activities and arrange a wonderful day out to Blackpool. These were enjoyed by 30 of our most vulnerable beneficiaries, all of whom have been locked down alone and all of whom haven't been out socially in a very long time.

Getting Active and Feeling Good

Promoting people to keep active has also been an important part of us keeping our most vulnerable safe and well during the pandemic. We have checked up on everyone weekly, encouraged them to get out walking if they are able to do so and we have had volunteers go out on social distanced walks, with some of our most vulnerable. This has contributed to getting 12 vulnerable people walking, getting more active and enjoying the health benefits of socialising outdoors.

We have delivered monthly feel-good sessions online which have helped an additional 30 vulnerable people and provided keeping well at home advice and activities.

In addition, we have also trained one of our volunteers, so they are able to help with fitness and nutrition as soon as we are able to socialise again indoors in small numbers.

Improve the places and spaces that matter to communities

In our original proposal we had planned on delivering this strand of our project in association with a network of other local community groups that we worked closely with to form Ambition for Moorside. Sadly, once the pandemic hit, most of these groups closed their doors and stopped delivering their community initiatives. Luckily with our increased resources and a passion to make a difference, The Attic Project took a lead role in supporting all our wider community. We worked with other proactive Charities and Community Groups from right across the borough, to form Bury Community Support Network.

Where we also have senior members from key of services across Bury including Bury Council, Public Health and NHS. Through this amazing network of support, we are able service the needs of all our communities right across the borough. As lead representatives for Bury East, we work closely with our community and local counsellors to improve the spaces we live in.

We have taken a lead in 2 community litter picks, engaging 10 volunteers and targeting the local areas most in need of help to keep our spaces clean.

We have delivered 2 community gardening projects, to improve our places.

We regularly match families with much needed furniture, this not only helps with recycling goods but also really supports those most in need.

We have also managed to host a wonderful Volunteer Celebration event, this enabled us to bring around 50 people who have been volunteering and supporting together. It was truly wonderful for everyone to meet, acknowledge the value they all bring individually and reflect on the tremendous difference we have made within our communities together.

Our Next Steps and Mitigating the impacts of Covid-19

We have designed our next steps based on what people want and what people need within our community. Thanks to the continued funding and the ongoing support of our wider community, we have had an amazing opportunity to maximise help and support within our community - At this very difficult time when people need this help the most.

- Like everyone, it is essential we continue all services up and running in a new safe and controlled environment. We couldn't achieve this without the ongoing help of our funders, especially given all the additional Covid-19 safety costs we had to meet.
- Upskilling those not online, by providing targeted but simple IT awareness and one to one support. This will be specifically tailored it to meet their individual needs and build confidence. Getting some of our most vulnerable online will ensure those most at risk are not left socially and financially isolated and help prevent declining mental and physical health problems.
- Building a pool of communication tools, which can be loaned out where needed to support those most at risk. We know many people struggling do not have the up-to-date devices they need to access online services and if we are able to loan them a device where needed, this will ensure we are able to upskill, build confidence and keep them connected.
- We had never envisaged there would be such an emergency need for food and in supporting the needs of our community we would become a food bank. However, in the absence of any food provision in Bury East food parcels became an emergency need which we very successfully responded to. We know from our feedback forms this provided a valuable lifeline for many.

- Therefore, with darker days ahead and thanks to your amazing funding and the ongoing support of our wider community, we are able to continue providing emergency food supplies to those most in need. This acts as a safety to those we are supporting with debt, welfare and benefit issues and allows us to supply emergency food until the emergency need is removed and their issue is resolved. We are passionate about being a food provider to meet genuine needs but do not want to create any dependency culture which can result in traditional food banks. We are therefore looking at ways of making the emergency food provision sustainable and are exploring a community food pantry model going forward.

- Building on our essential debt, welfare and employment support is also a growing priority to meet the increasing number of people and families struggling. Especially now all debt and benefit advice in Bury has been removed.
- We continue creating new small groups, building social connections and delivering new activities, in compliance with Covid-19 regulations and complying with social distancing. With new variants and infection rates still very high we are continuing as safely as possible, to ensure we are doing our most to keep people well, active and connected. This will help reduce mental health issues and give our most vulnerable new ways of coping.
- We have launched new weekly mother and toddlers' interactive sessions, these are invaluable to the toddlers to help build social skills, as sadly they have not been able to interact with others during long periods of lockdown. These also provide essential support to the parents and allow them to build valuable social connections.
- We set up a new monthly music group, specifically aimed at people with complex disability and/or additional needs. Lockdown sadly saw all face-to-face groups end for these marginalised groups and they are one of the vulnerable groups who have struggled the most. This wonderful group now runs monthly on a Saturday morning with the duel aim of valuable social interaction for the participants and essential peer support for the parents.
- Over the previous months we have very kindly been donated some bookcases and are collecting a wonderful collection of books and we will be launching a new community library in the Spring of this year. This allows the local community to drop by and have a chat with others, build social connections and strengthen our community further.

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Final Summary

When we received our 3-year funding just before the pandemic hit, none of us had any idea that the world as we knew it was about to completely change. Thanks to this amazing funding and belief in The Attic Project, we had the resources and expertise to support our wider community and provide an essential lifeline for so many. Without this valuable funding, we would have had no choice other than to sadly close our doors, like many other charities and community groups had to. Instead, we were able to respond to the immediate needs of our community, we have completely exceeded our expectations within this last year and have achieved so much more than we could have ever hoped for. Both the look and the feel of The Attic Project has changed so much in the couple of years, and it has been a real hive of positive activity within the heart of our community. We are truly grateful to each and every volunteer within the Attic Project, to every community volunteer who supports us and to every small local business who supports us. Every one of them have been truly amazing and we couldn't have done all we have without them. Together we have helps thousands of local people in genuine need, we have supported hundreds of our most vulnerable and we have provided an absolute lifeline for so many families and individuals. We are so proud of how we have brought our whole community together and become the absolute heartbeat of Moorside.

We look forward to positively embracing our next challenges and continuing working together to support our communities through the struggles of this coming year.

We are very proud to have been nominated by local people in the "Pride of Moorside" and extremely touched to be presented this wonderful award.

We are also absolutely thrilled that all the hard work, passion, dedication and commitment of our amazing volunteers, management team and trustees has been recognised at regional level and we have been nominated for the prestigious "Queens Honorary Award for Voluntary Service".

Financial review

The net receipts for the period were £17,334 (unrestricted £21,842, restricted £813,513)
The charity aims to build its unrestricted reserves to cover 6 months running expenses.

Investment powers and policy

Aside from retaining a prudent amount in reserves each year, most of the charity's funds are to be spent in the short term so there are few funds for any long-term investment.

Risk Management

The trustees have conducted a review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed, and systems have been established to mitigate those risks.

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Appointment of trustees

The charity in general meeting shall elect the officers and the other trustees. The trustees may appoint any person who is willing to act as a trustee and they may also appoint trustees to act as officers.

Each of the trustees shall retire with effect from the conclusion of the annual general meeting next after his or her appointment but shall be eligible for re-election at that annual general meeting.

The charity will be managed by regular committee meetings, at least four times a year and preferably monthly and an annual AGM.

Trustee Induction and training:

Attic project has been prepared and forms part of the induction process for all new and potential trustees. There are at least two training and strategic planning days for trustees each year.

Signed on behalf of the board trustees

Date: 30-1-2022

Independent Examiners Report

Report to the trustees of Attic Project

On accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 which are set out on pages 19-21.
Charity number: 1158300

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Responsibilities and basis of the report
As the charity's trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts 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 which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records

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

Signed:

Date: 30/01/2022

Sugra Akbar FCCA
Accountex Pro
16 Cestrian Street
Bolton BL3 2BD

Attic Project

Year ended 31 March 2021

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Year Ended 31.03.2021 Total funds £	Year Ended 31.03.2020 Total funds £
Receipts				
Grants received	-	86,600	86,600	37,190
Room hire	-	-	-	6,690
Donations	17,884		17,884	1,716
Other income		-	-	700
Total receipts	17,884	86,600	104,484	46,296
Payments				
Materials	248	701	949	-
Telephone	-	1,196	1,196	932
Consultancy fees	1,670	-	1,670	1,500
Sessional worker	-	1,668	1,668	3,600
Wages	-	47,097	47,097	6,331
Accountancy	-	360	360	-
Project costs	2,196	15,872	18,068	9,823
Insurance	-	-	-	2,394
Rent	817	2,350	3,167	1,900
Refurbishment costs	-	12,277	12,277	-
Sundries	698	-	698	2,276
Total payments	5,629	81,521	87,150	28,756
Net of receipts	12,255	5,079	17,334	17,540
Cash funds last year end	9,587	8,434	18,021	7,692
Cash funds this year end	21,842	13,513	35,355	25,232

Attic Project

Year ended 31 March 2021

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT THE END OF THE YEAR

CASH FUNDS	Unrestricted	Restricted	Year Ended 31.03.2021 Total Funds	Year Ended 31.03.2020 Total Funds
			£	£
Bank	21,842	13,513	35,355	18,021
Total cash funds	21,842	13,513	35,355	18,021

Assets retained for the charities own use

None held

Liabilities

Accountancy & Independent examination fees	800
Payroll Liabilities	245

Signed on behalf of all the trustees:

	Signature	Print name	Date of approval
Trustee 1		DAWN TURNBULL	29-1-2022
Trustee 2		C FARMER	29-01-2022

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 Basis of preparation

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts and Payments basis in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

2 Fund Accounting

(a) Unrestricted funds are those that can be expended at the discretion of the trustees in the furtherance of the objects of the charity
(b) Restricted funds are those that may only be used for specific purposes.
Restrictions arise when specified by the donor.

3 Taxation

The charity is not liable to tax on its charitable activities.
The charity is not registered for VAT. Irrecoverable VAT is included in the expense to which it relates.

4 Transactions with trustees

No remuneration nor expenses were paid to trustees or any persons connected with them during the year or previous year.