



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 Wakudyanyaye

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 uncharted 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 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 statutory 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 by 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 people 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 to get a really lot from them as they covered things that mattered to them. Particular attention was paid to discussing barriers and exploring self-coping mechanisms. The sessions helped improve 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.

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 uncharted 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 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 statutory 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 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 by 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 people 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 to 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.

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.

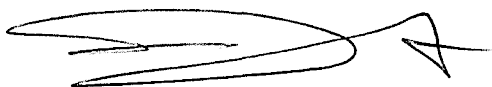
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(S)(b) of the Act.

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 statement 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

		Unrestrict ed funds	Restrict ed funds	Total funds 2023	Total funds 2022
	Notes	2023 £	2023 £	£	£
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		<u>31,994</u>	<u>28,780</u>	<u>60,774</u>	<u>54,119</u>

Attic Project
Statement of assets and
liabilities at 31 March

2023

Charity No. 1158300

	Unrestric ted 2023 £	Restric ted 2023 £	2023 £	2022 £
Current assets				
Cash at bank and in hand	31,994	28,780	60,774	54,119
	<hr/> 31,994	<hr/> 28,780	<hr/> 60,774	<hr/> 54,119
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	-	(6,861)	(6,861)	(2,634)
	<hr/> -	<hr/> (6,861)	<hr/> (6,861)	<hr/> (2,634)
Net current assets	31,994	21,919	53,913	51,485
	<hr/> 31,994	<hr/> 21,919	<hr/> 53,913	<hr/> 51,485
Total assets less current liabilities	<hr/> <hr/> 31,994	<hr/> <hr/> 21,919	<hr/> <hr/> 53,913	<hr/> <hr/> 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 of 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 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.

**Attic Project
Detailed**

**Financial Activities for the
year ended 31 March 2023**

	Unrestrict ed funds 2023 £	Restrict ed funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Receipts from:				
Charitable activities	11,829	52,549	64,377	107,377
	-	-	-	-
Total income	<u>11,829</u>	<u>52,549</u>	<u>64,377</u>	<u>107,377</u>
	11,829	52,549	64,377	107,377
Payments on:				
Charitable activities	5,234	-	5,234	23,000
Total of expenditure on charitable activities	<u>5,234</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,234</u>	<u>23,000</u>
Employee costs				
Salaries/wages	-	42,100	42,100	48,636
Pension costs	-	3,804	3,804	3,051
Temporary staff		-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>45,904</u>	<u>45,904</u>	<u>51,867</u>
Motor and travel costs				
Travel and subsistence	-	240	240	5,942
	<u>-</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>5,942</u>
Premises costs Rent	-	750	750	-
Premises repairs and maintenance	400	112	512	2,098
	<u>400</u>	<u>862</u>	<u>1,262</u>	<u>2,098</u>
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
	<u>95</u>	<u>4,748</u>	<u>4,843</u>	<u>5,602</u>
Legal and professional costs				
Accountancy and bookkeeping	240	-	240	284
Consultancy fees	-	-	-	-

**Attic Project
Detailed**

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

Attic Project**Detailed Statement of****Activities Total expenditure**

Net gains on investments

**Net
income****Net income before other
gains/(losses)**

Other Gains

Net movement in funds**Reconciliation of funds:**

Total funds brought forward

Total funds carried forward

5,969

51,754

57,723

88,613

-

-

-

-

5,860

795

6,655

18,764

5,860

795

6,655

18,764

-

-

-

-

5,860

795

6,655

18,764

26,134

27,985

54,119

35,355

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 uncharted 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 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 statutory 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 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 by 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 people 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 to 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.

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.

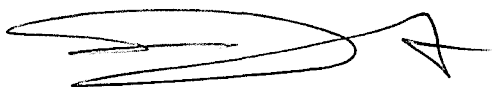
I report in respect of my examination of the charity's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(S)(b) of the Act.

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 statement 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

		Unrestrict ed funds	Restrict ed funds	Total funds	Total funds
	Notes	2023	2023	2023	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		<u>31,994</u>	<u>28,780</u>	<u>60,774</u>	<u>54,119</u>

Attic Project
Statement of assets and
liabilities at 31 March

2023

Charity No. 1158300

	Unrestric ted 2023 £	Restric ted 2023 £	2023 £	2022 £
Current assets				
Cash at bank and in hand	31,994	28,780	60,774	54,119
	<hr/> 31,994	<hr/> 28,780	<hr/> 60,774	<hr/> 54,119
Creditors: Amount falling due within one year	-	(6,861)	(6,861)	(2,634)
	<hr/> -	<hr/> (6,861)	<hr/> (6,861)	<hr/> (2,634)
Net current assets	31,994	21,919	53,913	51,485
	<hr/> 31,994	<hr/> 21,919	<hr/> 53,913	<hr/> 51,485
Total assets less current liabilities	<hr/> <hr/> 31,994	<hr/> <hr/> 21,919	<hr/> <hr/> 53,913	<hr/> <hr/> 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 of 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 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.

**Attic Project
Detailed**

**Financial Activities for the
year ended 31 March 2023**

	Unrestrict ed funds 2023 £	Restrict ed funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Receipts from:				
Charitable activities	11,829	52,549	64,377	107,377
	-	-	-	-
Total income	<u>11,829</u>	<u>52,549</u>	<u>64,377</u>	<u>107,377</u>
	11,829	52,549	64,377	107,377
Payments on:				
Charitable activities	5,234	-	5,234	23,000
Total of expenditure on charitable activities	<u>5,234</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,234</u>	<u>23,000</u>
Employee costs				
Salaries/wages	-	42,100	42,100	48,636
Pension costs	-	3,804	3,804	3,051
Temporary staff		-	-	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>45,904</u>	<u>45,904</u>	<u>51,867</u>
Motor and travel costs				
Travel and subsistence	-	240	240	5,942
	<u>-</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>240</u>	<u>5,942</u>
Premises costs Rent	-	750	750	-
Premises repairs and maintenance	400	112	512	2,098
	<u>400</u>	<u>862</u>	<u>1,262</u>	<u>2,098</u>
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
	<u>95</u>	<u>4,748</u>	<u>4,843</u>	<u>5,602</u>
Legal and professional costs				
Accountancy and bookkeeping	240	-	240	284
Consultancy fees	-	-	-	-

**Attic Project
Detailed**

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

Attic Project**Detailed Statement of****Activities Total expenditure**

Net gains on investments

**Net
income****Net income before other
gains/(losses)**

Other Gains

Net movement in funds**Reconciliation of funds:**

Total funds brought forward

Total funds carried forward

5,969

51,754

57,723

88,613

-

-

-

-

5,860

795

6,655

18,764

5,860

795

6,655

18,764

-

-

-

-

5,860

795

6,655

18,764

26,134

27,985

54,119

35,355

31,994

28,780

60,774

54,119